

CHAPTER 24

EDGEHILL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

24.01 Under the provisions of the Methodist College Act (Northern Ireland), 1928, the Governors of the Edgehill Theological College have become an Incorporated Body acting under Statutory Regulations.

The members of the Board of Governors will be trustees of Edgehill Theological College under the provisions of the Charities regulations for Northern Ireland

Constitution of the Governing Body

24.02 The Governors of the College shall consist of the ex-officio Governors and of eighteen elected Governors who shall be appointed by the Conference and shall hold office for three years. These shall include the Secretary of the Home Mission Department and the Ministerial Treasurer of the Ministerial Training Fund, who shall be members of the Board for so long as they hold these offices. In electing governors the Conference will pay regard to the balance of membership of the Board with respect to lay and ordained, gender, geography and skills and experience of value to the College.

The ex-officio Governors shall be:

The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

The Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland

The Senior Secretary of the Board of Examiners

The Principal of the Edgehill Theological College

At every yearly meeting of the Conference one-third of the elected Governors shall retire from office. Each retiring Governor shall be eligible for re-election for a second term of three years, provided that during the twelve months previous to her/his retirement he/she shall have attended at least two meetings of the Governors, or of a Committee of the Governors. After two terms of service a Governor will not be eligible for re-election until at least one further year has elapsed.

24.03 Whenever any elected member shall die, or resign by writing under his/her hand, or become bankrupt, or refuse to act or become incapable of acting, or shall permanently cease to reside in Ireland, or shall cease to profess himself/herself a member of the Methodist Church, or shall during the twelve months ending on the first day of June in any year have failed to attend as in Section Five of this Act mentioned, or being at the time of his/her appointment a minister in connection with the said Church shall cease to be or to be recognised as a minister in connection therewith, his/her office shall thereupon become vacant, and the fact of every such vacancy with the cause thereof shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Governors, and shall be by them reported to the Conference at its next yearly meeting.

24.04 Whenever the number of elected members shall from any cause be reduced below eighteen the remaining Governors for the time being shall co-opt such and so many duly qualified persons to be Governors as may be required to make up the number of eighteen elected Governors but every Governor so co-opted shall hold office only for the unexpired

residue of the term of three years for which the elected Governor to whose place he/she has been co-opted was elected.

The Officers of the Board of Governors shall be the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and the Lay Treasurer of the Ministerial Training Fund. The Officers shall be elected by the Board from among its members for a term of office of three years. They shall be eligible for re-election for a second and final term of up to three years. The office-bearers will continue to serve their existing term of office as members of the Board and be eligible for re-election for one further term of three years.

The Officers and the Principal, meeting together, shall have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board in urgent matters which arise between Board meetings and shall report these to the next meeting of the Board. The Board may delegate to the officers and Principal, meeting together, authority to take decisions on its behalf on specified matters. Any such decisions shall be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

The Board may set up such Sub Committees and Working Groups as it sees fit and set out the terms of reference of the Sub Committees and Working Groups. The Chair/Convener of each Sub Committee or Working Group shall be a member of the Board and shall report on the business of the Sub Committee or Working Group to the Board. The Board may co-opt members to Working Groups who are not members of the Board.

The Board shall adopt Standing Orders for the conduct of business at its meetings.

Purposes of Edgehill Theological College and its Endowments

24.05 The endowments of the College are held for the following trusts and purposes:

- (a) to maintain the Edgehill Theological College for the purpose of the theological and general education of candidates and probationers for the ministry of the Methodist Church in Ireland.
- (b) so long as the Edgehill Theological College is maintained for the purpose aforesaid, to permit the said College to be used for the board residence and education of such other students as may be approved by the Edgehill Governors.
- (c) with the previous sanction of the Conference to apply or expend any part of the Edgehill endowments as occasion shall require for the purpose of adding to, improving, repairing or beautifying the Edgehill Theological College and premises occupied therewith or otherwise for the benefit of the same, or in building upon, laying out, or otherwise permanently improving the Edgehill Theological College and premises in such manner as the Governors shall deem to be advantageous or profitable.
- (d) to apply endowments of the College held upon any special trusts according to the terms of such trusts.

Principal and Tutors

- 24.06** (a) The Principal of the Edgehill Theological College shall be a minister in connection with the Methodist Church in Ireland. Remuneration and allowances, and the conditions of the appointment shall be determined from time to time by the Edgehill Governors. The appointment of the Principal shall be made by the Conference. He/she shall hold office for the term of one year, and the appointment or re-appointment shall be made by the Conference in accordance with its rules and regulations for such appointments. Should the Principal die, resign, be suspended, or dismissed during the course of the year, the Edgehill Governors shall, if they think proper, nominate to the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland some other fit, proper and qualified person for appointment to act in his/her stead until the ensuing Conference. If and whenever any Principal of the Edgehill Theological College shall cease to be a minister in connection with the Methodist Church he/she shall thereupon vacate the office and a vacancy shall thereupon be considered to have occurred in such office in the same manner as if the Principal had then died.
- (b) Any tutor who shall be a minister of the Methodist Church shall be appointed and re-appointed in like manner and subject to the same conditions as the Principal.

Appointment of Principal and Tutors

24.07 In accordance with provisions in paragraph 43 (1), (2) of the Methodist College Act, the Conference has made the following regulations for the appointment of the Principal and tutors:

- (a) The appointment of the Principal, and any tutors who are ministers of the Methodist Church, shall be in accordance with the regulations set out in paragraph 4C.23 of the Manual of Laws.
- (b) The extension of the appointment of the Principal, and any tutors who are ministers of the Methodist Church, shall be in accordance with the regulations set out in paragraph 4C.05 of the Manual of Laws.

Annual Report

24.08 A report covering the management of the College, the financial position, and the education of the students, shall be made each year to the Conference by the Principal or a member of the Governing Board of the College.

Management of the College

24.09 For the regulations regarding students at the Edgehill Theological College see paragraphs 4B.22 – 4B.28.

For the Statutory Regulations which govern Edgehill Theological College see the Methodist College Act (Northern Ireland), 1928