**To: Employing Churches and Circuits in Southampton Methodist District**

Covid-19 update no. 7

9th November 2020

1. The Government has postponed the Job Support Scheme which was due to be introduced from 1st November, and has extended the Job Retention (Furlough) Scheme until 31st March 2021. Advice and guidance have changed and continues to be updated concerning the Job Retention Scheme. Please ensure you keep up with these changes. The following link may help:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extension-to-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Please have a read through these pages for general information, advice and guidance. If you can’t find a solution to your particular situation do contact me by phone or email. I will do my best to help.

2. An important **non-virus-related change** to employment law as of 6th April 2020 concerns the requirement for an employer to provide a written statement of particulars (usually via a contract of employment) **on or before the first day of employment.** This replaces the previous time frame of the first two months of employment.

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