



Background Information

For the volunteer role of Member of the Ministries Committee of the Methodist Council

Two Lay Volunteer Positions

Two new lay members are required for the Ministries Committee. The appointments shall initially be for a period of three years, renewable for a further 3 years if desired.

In line with our commitment to the Justice Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) Strategy, applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people are especially very welcome. All applications will be assessed on merit.

Abilities and gifts sought in Ministries Committee members

Applications are invited from lay members of the Methodist Church in Britain, who have an understanding of the range of ministries across the Church and commitment to supporting effective processes. Applications are welcome from Local Preachers and Worship Leaders.

Competence in one or more of the following areas would be very helpful:

- Capacity to contribute to strategic planning;
- Some experience of serving on a church body;
- Ability to confer about how the policies for ministries adopted by the Conference might be implemented in the Circuits and Districts
- Ability to bring a range of circuit experiences or other experiences of the Methodist Church to the work of the Ministries Committee;
- Experience or interest in cross-cultural ministry, stationing, candidating or training.

The Ministries Committee will meet in person at its weekend residential on 14-15 February 2026 at Cliff College in Derbyshire. It will meet for a full day (9.30-16.30) online in October and May (dates to be agreed) and there will also be two or three ‘twilight’ meetings in the early evening online during the year, as the need arises.

The work and membership of the Committee are laid down in the following Standing Orders

310 [32A0(20) Ministries Committee: Appointment. In exercising its power of appointment of the Ministries Committee under Standing Order 300, the Connexional Council shall ensure that as far as possible the members of the committee between them represent the interests of:

- (i) the ordained and lay ministries and offices of the Church, including local preachers and stewards;
- (ii) the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocations and the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the Stationing Committee.

311 [32A1] Ministries Committee: General Responsibilities: (1) The committee shall **seek [...]** to enable the Church to develop and maintain a strategic vision for the use of ordained, accredited, commissioned and informal ministries and offices throughout the Connexion.

(2) The committee shall be accountable to the Conference through the **Connexional Council** for:

- i. developing and supporting the processes relating to the oversight, accountability and professional development of those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
- ii. developing and supporting programmes for nourishing, equipping and resourcing those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
- iii. developing and supporting the Church's structures, partnerships and resources for learning, training, quality assurance, scholarship, research and development;
- iv. in collaboration with other bodies, supporting the development of structures that enable the use of various forms of ministry as resources for mission within Circuits and Districts;
- v. overseeing connexional policy regarding its ordained ministries, including that relating to the processes for offering as a candidate, the oversight of students and probationers, and stationing, but without adjudicating on individual cases, which shall remain the task of the bodies appointed to fulfil that responsibility.

(3) The committee may, after consultation with the **[...]** council, report to the Conference on matters of policy or process requiring the attention of the Conference that have been identified by the committee or by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, the Stationing Committee or the Stationing Advisory Committee.

(4) The committee shall recommend to the Conference, through the council, **[...]** **discernment** criteria for adoption under Standing Order **[...]****710(5)** and, as required, amendments to those criteria.

312 Ministerial and Lay Education and Training. (1) [340A] The **[...]** **Connexional Council**, **acting through the Ministries Committee**, is responsible for the oversight of theological colleges and other training institutions and shall bring nominations to the Conference for the appointment of oversight tutors to carry out the functions described in Standing Order 252(12).

For the definition of 'theological college', 'training institution' and 'oversight tutor', see S.O. 007(ii).

The Conference of 2024 (Daily Record 5/3/3) received a report about the review of the resourcing of learning for ministry and authorised those responsible to make recommendations to the Ministries Committee for report to the Connexional Council and the Conference (which will receive an interim report in 2025).

There are other areas of training elsewhere in Standing Orders which come under the aegis of the Ministries Committee. See in particular Section 56 on Local Preachers and 56A on Local Lay-Pastors.

(2) [341] The **[...]** council shall appoint the Cliff College Committee to serve as the governing body of the college. The council and the committee shall maintain, administer and develop the work of the college in all its aspects in accordance with their respective powers under the trusts applying to the college and its associated property and funds.

The college, with associated property and funds, is held upon the trusts of two deeds dated the 30th December 1903 and 30th November 1930.

