

FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF THOSE DISCERNING ORDAINED VOCATION THROUGH DOV1 AND DOV2

DOV = Discerning Ordained Vocation

Please see Document G.9 for all dates and deadlines for the current year

As a Superintendent, you will have a unique role with any potential candidate. These notes give you some guidance but you are also encouraged to support them in whatever ways feel appropriate.

Element	Information and guidance	Suggestions to help with this element
<p>Initial conversations</p>	<p>When a person applies for DOV1, they are asked on the application form to state the name of the church where their membership is currently held, and to enclose a letter from the leader of their worshipping community supporting the application and confirming that they are a member for at least one year (up to September in that calendar year). Please ensure your colleagues are aware of this.</p> <p>They are also asked to provide evidence of their baptism and membership. They may need help with this. It is helpful if they can provide a copy of their membership card but the letter from the leader of their worshipping community is acceptable evidence if they do not have the card.</p> <p>When you are aware that someone is in DOV1, please inform your District Chair, but the information should not be shared any wider because at this stage it is a personal journey of discernment.</p>	<p>Read D.1 – the DOV1 application form and the guidance notes G.1.1</p>
<p>Shadowing opportunities</p>	<p>Accompanists could be working with applicants from January to July on DOV1 (or at least from April to July). If they identify that a shadowing</p>	<p>Talk in advance to colleagues and Regional Learning Network teams in</p>

	<p>opportunity would be beneficial, this can be arranged before or after the DOV1 retreat.</p> <p>In addition the DOV1 Advisory Group may suggest that a shadowing opportunity would be helpful before the person starts DOV2 (June-September). Superintendents are asked to make arrangements for these shadowing opportunities which could be in person or online. If a superintendent is not able to find a suitable colleague to offer a shadowing experience, they are asked to contact the Learning Network for suggestions. If help is needed to identify a shadowing opportunity with a deacon, the Methodist Diaconal Order are willing to help. Please contact mdosupport@methodistchurch.org.uk</p>	<p>order to identify possible opportunities.</p>
Accompanists	<p>Superintendents receive a copy of the agreed record (D.4) which is drawn up between the accompanist and the applicant during DOV1. Please check this record and discuss it with the applicant as they prepare their portfolio. The record forms an element in the candidate's portfolio.</p>	
DOV1 Advisory group	<p>Local Ministers, Superintendents and District Chairs receive a copy of the letter from the Advisory Group, giving guidance to the applicant for their next steps. Please support the applicant as they receive this and help them to reflect on the contents. This letter forms an element in the candidate's portfolio.</p>	
Sharing information	<p>When a person candidates, any information about their discernment journey is for them to share. There is <u>no requirement</u> for the news about a candidate to be declared in the September circuit meeting or at any other circuit event.</p> <p>You are advised not to tell the circuit that a person is candidating until early October when they will actually have applied for DOV2. At that point please ask the candidate if they are content to share the news with the circuit, perhaps through a newsletter. Then the circuit will be able to offer them prayer support.</p>	

<p>Formal declarations</p>	<p>If a person completing DOV1 chooses to candidate and apply for DOV2, Superintendents are required to have a formal conversation with them to cover the areas listed on the DOV2 application form C.1 under the heading ‘Superintendent’s Declarations’</p> <p>Documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You will need to see both application forms D.1 and C.1 2. You will need to see and verify their passport 3. You will need to complete form C.3 (future availability for stationing). 	<p>There is a lot of material to cover in this conversation. It is much better to have a discussion and explain the elements in order to help the candidate know what they are assenting to.</p> <p>Please try to have this conversation as early as possible once you know their intention to candidate.</p>
<p>Local or specific context</p>	<p>If the candidate is offering for a local or specific context they must complete form C.2.</p> <p>It is important that they discuss their intention at the earliest opportunity with their Superintendent and District Chair. This form also requires circuit and district input and both circuit and district will need time to consider how (or if) this intention will fit with their mission policies.</p>	<p>This form must be submitted with their candidating application so these conversations need to take place as soon as the person decides to candidate.</p>
<p>Circuit Leadership Team reference</p>	<p>Form C.4 is the reference from the Circuit Leadership Team. For the deadline date when this must be returned, please see document G.9. This is the circuit’s opportunity to give their endorsement and views about the candidate.</p>	<p>Please collaborate in creating this with the whole of the CLT so that it provides as wide a picture of the person as possible.</p>

<p>Experience of leading worship and preaching</p>	<p>As the candidate begins the process, you will know if they are not already an accredited preacher (presbyteral candidates) or worship leader (diaconal candidates).</p> <p>These candidates are required to build up experience of preaching and worship leading in the months between being recommended and starting their training at Queen's.</p> <p>Please therefore appoint them a 'preaching and worship leading mentor' early in the process. This needs to be someone who is preaching and leading worship frequently between February and July who is prepared to work with the recommended candidate in order to give them experience both of preparing and leading worship. They should have one mentor but they can share in services with others. The wider the range of worship they can experience, the better.</p> <p>It is also strongly suggested that you ask them to do the 'Worship Foundations' course – details of which can be found here: Worship: Foundations (methodist.org.uk)</p>	
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