

Local Preachers update September 2009

Basic Information

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| Contact Name and Details | Doug Swanney, Head of Discipleship & Ministries, swanneyd@methodistchurch.org.uk |
| Status of Paper | Final |
| Action Required | Information |
| Draft Resolution | n/a |
| Alternative Options to Consider, if Any | n/a |

Summary of Content

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| Subject and Aims | To update the Council on work on Local Preachers training |
| Main Points | Work is underway to bring proposals to Council in April 2010 |
| Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function) | MC/09/16 – report to Council on need for flexibility in local preacher training Conference 2009 – Connexional Team Report, Memorials M2 – 6, M34-36 |
| Consultations | Local Preachers Committee |

Summary of Impact

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| Standing Orders | n/a |
| Faith and Order | n/a |
| Financial | n/a |
| Personnel | n/a |
| Legal | n/a |
| Wider Connexional | n/a |
| External (e.g. ecumenical) | n/a |
| Risk | n/a |

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders - September 2009

Discipleship & Ministries reported to Council in February 2009 that work was required on the training of Local Preachers (MC/09/16) and subsequently responded to a large number of memorials to Conference which raised a number of concerns relating to local preacher training. The main issues raised were:

- the need for a revision of *Faith & Worship*
- questions regarding those who transfer from other denominations
- better training materials for worship leaders
- the need to engage more young people in local preaching
- the need to value local preachers.

All of these memorials were responded to warmly with the following text being adopted by the Conference in response –

The Methodist Council and the Connexional Leaders' Forum have, during the course of the 2008/2009 connexional year, already discussed the importance of the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders within the life of the Methodist Church. Both bodies have also discussed the need for developments in the nature of connexional support offered to these ministries. Areas of connexional support which require further development include:

- a. initial learning and development for those seeking accreditation as local preachers or seeking to be commissioned as worship leaders, including the modification or replacement of the Faith & Worship course and the provisions made for accreditation of prior experience and learning;*
- b. continuing learning and development for local preachers and worship leaders;*
- c. delivery mechanisms for initial and continuing learning and development, including the role of the new regional training networks;*
- d. suitable ecumenical contexts for initial and continuing learning and development;*
- e. mechanisms for acknowledging and celebrating the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders;*
- f. the links between the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the ministries of presbyters and deacons within circuits;*
- g. the role of local preachers and worship leaders in nurturing and enabling fresh ways of being Church.*

Work on these areas is already being undertaken by the Connexional Team. The Team's work will continue during the 2009/2010 connexional year, and will involve detailed consultation within the Connexion.

As a result we will be working with the various working groups which support the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders to produce a learning framework for local preachers. We will send that framework out to circuit local preachers' secretaries during the autumn. Each Circuit Local Preachers' meeting that would like to engage in the consultation should respond by 5 February 2010. We will then amend the framework following consideration of the comments received. The revised framework will be presented to the Methodist Council in April 2010 for discussion before it goes to Conference. As work progresses we will keep documents updated on the website at www.methodist.org.uk/lp and welcome comments from Council members at any time.