

Protocols for the reinvitation or stationing of ‘recognised and regarded’ ministers currently serving in an appointment in the Methodist Church in Britain | April 2016

To be read in conjunction with the Code of Practice for All Involved in the Invitation and Stationing Process.

Introduction

1. The Ministries Committee has requested guidance for District Chairs with regard to the stationing or reinvitation of ministers who are recognised and regarded as ministers of the Methodist Church admitted into Full Connexion (R&R) and who are currently serving in an appointment in the Methodist Church in Britain.
2. The following protocols were revised and approved by the meeting of the Stationing Committee on 30 March 2016.
3. R&R ministers are recognised and regarded as ministers of the Methodist Church admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference under Clauses 44 and 45 of the Deed of Union and under Standing Order 732.
4. Appointment as someone recognised and regarded as a minister of the Methodist Church admitted into Full Connexion is annual and places such ministers under the discipline of the Conference.
5. The Conference last reviewed its procedures for recognising ordained ministers of other communions in 2005, when it adopted a report on Recognition of Ordained Ministries and amended Standing Orders concerning the status of those “recognised and regarded as presbyters or deacons admitted into full Connexion” or “authorised to serve as presbyters and deacons” and created a third category of “associate presbyter or deacon”. These amendments are to be found in subsequent editions of “Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church”.
6. Further information about these various categories of recognised ministries is also available at www.methodist.org.uk/ministersofotherchurches

Protocols

7. If an R&R minister who is currently serving in an appointment in the Methodist Church in Britain wishes to continue in that appointment or enter the stationing process to begin a new appointment as R&R, he or she must speak with his or her Superintendent and Chair of District. The Chair of District should then contact the relevant officer within the Connexional Team. These conversations must begin during the final quarter of the third year of the appointment.
8. The connexional officer will ascertain the following:
 - a) whether the minister’s home church or conference is willing for the minister to continue to serve in the Methodist Church in Britain;
 - b) whether the minister underwent a suitable discernment process when he or she first applied to be R&R (ie a transfer panel constituting members of the Candidates’ Selection Committee);
 - c) whether their Superintendent and Chair of District believe that it would be appropriate for the minister to continue to serve as R&R in the Methodist Church in Britain.
9. If the response to a) is negative, the minister will be unable to offer an extension in his or her present appointment or enter the stationing process for a new appointment.


The Methodist Church

The Connexional Team

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10. If the response to c) is that the minister's application is not supported by the Superintendent and Chair of District, the minister will be unable to offer an extension or enter the stationing process for a new appointment. (The Superintendent and Chair of District may, however, respond that while it is not possible for the minister to continue in his or her present appointment – eg if the appointment is closing for financial reasons – the minister would be suitable to serve elsewhere in the Connexion.)
11. If the minister wishes to have the view of the Superintendent and Chair of District reviewed, then he or she is required to submit an application to meet with a connexional transfer panel.
12. Similarly, if the response to b) is negative, the minister must meet with a connexional transfer panel.
13. **Applications must be submitted before 15 January and the panel usually meets in July** (see timeline below).
14. If the response to all three questions is positive, the minister may offer an extension or submit their profile for stationing, in accordance with the process and timeline outlined in the Code of Practice and Summary of the Invitation and Stationing Process. If a profile is submitted, it will be entered into stationing matching at a point determined annually by the Stationing Committee. (R&R ministers entering their first appointment will continue to be stationed by the Initial Stationing Sub-Committee. However, it is recognised that for those who have already served in one or more appointments, the initial stationing process is no longer necessary.)
15. If a suitable appointment is not found by the Stationing Matching Group, the minister's profile will be passed to the Stationing Action Group.
16. Please note that R&R ministers who apply to be received into Full Connexion and are not recommended cannot continue to serve as R&R.

Timeline (for an R&R minister in a five-year appointment)

Year of appointment	Person responsible	Action	Deadline
3	R&R minister	Decide whether the minister wishes to offer an extension/enter the stationing process and communicate this with Superintendent and Chair of District	<i>Sufficient time must be left for these conversations that, if necessary, an application could be submitted by the R&R minister before 15 January. Therefore conversations must begin in the final quarter of Year 3</i>
3	Chair of District	If so, communicate this to the relevant connexional officer	
3 – 4	Connexional officer	Ascertain: a) whether the minister's home church or conference is willing for him or her to continue to serve in the Methodist Church in Britain; b) whether the minister underwent a suitable discernment process when he or she first applied to be R&R and c) whether his or her Superintendent and Chair of District believe that it would be appropriate for the minister to continue to serve in his or her present appointment, or alternatively elsewhere in the Connexion	
4	R&R minister	Apply to be seen by transfer panel, if required	Before 15 January
4	Connexional officer	Transfer panel	July

If the necessary requirements have been met, the process and timescale as outlined in the Code of Practice for All Involved in the Invitation and Stationing Process are to be followed. If the minister wishes to be stationed to a new appointment, he or she must submit a stationing profile

5	Stationing Matching Group	If a profile has been submitted, match profile with appointment (if available) – if a match is not made, pass profile to Stationing Action Group	January (for SMG)
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