



Becoming a Methodist Local Preacher

via Worship: Leading & Preaching

Initial Stages

An individual (who is a member of the Methodist Church) indicates to their Minister that he or she wishes to explore the call to become a Local Preacher

The individual has an interview with the Superintendent

The individual is recommended to the Local Preachers' Meeting by one of the following:

- The Church Council of local Church
- A Superintendent or another Presbyterian
- A Local Preacher

If the meeting approves the candidate the individual submits a DBS (Safeguarding) form and enrolls on both the Foundation and Leadership Modules of the Safeguarding training.

'On Note' stage (minimum of 3 months)

The individual is put 'on note' by the Local Preachers' Meeting, and issued with a written note from the Superintendent, authorizing them to assist a preacher in the conduct of services within the Circuit. A note lasts for 3 months but may be extended.

A Mentor is appointed to help with practical training and a Tutor is appointed to oversee study. Both remain with the student throughout their training.

The individual assists the Mentor with preparation and leading of services, and works through "*Worship: Foundations*" with their Tutor or Mentor

The individual begins *Worship: Leading and Preaching* and continues to prepare Acts of Worship with their Mentor.

When the Local Preacher meeting feels the time is right, the individual conducts a full service in the presence of two Preachers who evaluate the Worship using the Assessment forms in *Worship: Leading and Preaching*.

The Preacher reports on this service to the Local Preachers' Meeting. If the meeting is satisfied, the individual moves onto the 'On Trial' stage. This can be done at any time during Modules 1-4 but **MUST** be done before an individual moves onto Module 5.

'On Trial' stage (to be completed by the end of year 5)

A Mentor continues to work with the individual. A brief report on a service conducted by the individual 'on trial' will be presented to the Local Preachers' Meeting each quarter. Reports are discussed with the individual before being presented.

At the end of Module 4, Portfolio A is submitted for assessment.
By the end of the 2nd year Safeguarding Leadership training must have been completed.

On completion of the first 4 modules and the submission of Portfolio A, a 'trial' service is conducted in the presence of two Preachers and a Church Steward. The trial service is reported on to the Local Preachers' Meeting by the Local Preachers present at the service.

At the Local Preachers' meeting, following the trial service, the individual is interviewed on their Christian experience, call to preach, and challenges of being 'on trial'. (Guidelines are on the Methodist Church website.) The meeting makes a decision on whether the individual should continue 'On Trial'.

Subject to Portfolio A being assessed as Criteria MET, and the recommendation to continue on trial the individual completes the remaining 4 modules of *Worship: Leading and Preaching*. The Individual submits Portfolio B for assessment.

When the course is completed, the individual conducts a second 'trial' service in the presence of two preachers (one of whom is normally a Minister) and a Church Steward. The trial service is reported on to the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting.

Second Interview – the individual is interviewed on their growth in understanding of Faith and their maturing Christian experience. Individual needs to satisfy Christian and Methodist doctrinal standards and agrees to observe the duties of a Local Preacher.
(Guidelines are on the Methodist Church website).

Subject to Portfolio B being assessed as Criteria MET and if the meeting is satisfied of the individual's call to the office of Local Preachers', then the individual may be recommended to the Circuit Meeting to be admitted as a Local Preacher.

Admission as a Local Preacher

On the recommendation of the Local Preachers' meeting, the Circuit Meeting arranges for the individual to be admitted as a Local Preacher at a public service.
If the Local Preachers' Meeting does not recommend the individual, an appeal may be made to the Circuit Meeting.

The new Local Preacher arranges to present their Continuing Local Preacher Development plan to the Local Preachers' meeting.