

### **CANDIDATING FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY 2022-2023**

##### C.3.1 GUIDANCE FOR WORSHIP REPORTS

*Please see document G.20 for additional guidance for assessed worship services in the light of Covid-19*

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   1. Worship leading and proclamation are at the heart of ministry. This is the element of a candidate’s ministry in which many will already have some training and experience. Assessed acts of worship and proclamation are similar to those for local preachers and worship leaders in training, but you are not assessing their appropriateness as a local preacher or a worship leader; that has been done by means of their previous training and assessment. You are being asked to assess whether this person is demonstrating their experience in these areas, and to determine whether their gifts could be developed further into leading regular worship of diverse forms as an ordained presbyter or deacon in different contexts with consistent skills, creativity and competence.
   2. Please try as far as possible to participate fully in the acts of worship and acts of proclamation (for diaconal candidates), even while you are assessing them.
   3. You may find it helpful to read through document G.4. which outlines the criteria for candidates. This is available on the Methodist Church website here : [Candidating forms and information (methodist.org.uk)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/candidating-for-ministry/candidating-forms-and-information/)
   4. Using these reports, interviewers at the District Candidates’ and Connexional Selection Committees may ask questions of the candidate to determine that they can reflect upon the nature of worship and the role of the presbyter or deacon as a preacher/facilitator/leader of worship and in proclamation.
   5. The Conference report ‘The Theology and Ecclesiology of the Diaconate’ was received by Conference 2019. This highlighted the element of proclamation in the ministry of deacons and therefore that is now assessed during candidating.
2. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SERVICES**
   1. Two acts of worship/proclamation, in different locations, are to be assessed (on two forms). One of these should be outside of the candidate’s home circuit, and, if that is impossible, outside their home context in a completely different part of the circuit. Please make the context clear on the form.
   2. The context of worship should differ between the two acts of worship. These must be two completely different acts of worship. They may not be held on the same day. They may not use the same lectionary or any of the same material. Please see below for the differences for diaconal and presbyteral candidates in this regard.
   3. Although it is good to see how the candidate uses the gifts of other people in worship, both acts of worship/proclamation should be those in which the candidate takes the leading role and for which she or he holds overall responsibility.
   4. The co-ordinator of the panel of assessors should contact the candidate prior to the dates of the acts of worship/proclamation to be assessed, to introduce themselves and to agree the process. The candidate should be advised to look at the form on the website so they know what is to be assessed.
   5. The co-ordinator of the panel is responsible for communicating arrangements for the service to the other panel members and for ensuring that they have copies of the relevant reporting forms: C.3.2, C.3.3a or C.3.3b.
   6. Immediately after the act of worship/proclamation, the panel should meet (without the candidate) and collaboratively compile a consolidated report on which they are all agreed. Where there are boxes to tick, all three assessors’ individual ticks can be included on the final form, but comments should be those agreed by the whole panel.
   7. The coordinator will meet with the candidate, not later than five days after the assessed act of worship/proclamation to discuss the report with them. The candidate should be invited to add any written response that they wish to make and to sign the report.
   8. Neither of the acts of worship should take place during a candidate’s placement. This is to ensure that candidates are able to receive as full an experience on the placement as possible.
3. **PRESBYTERAL CANDIDATES** 
   1. At least one of the two acts of worship shall be a preaching service where the candidate is responsible for planning the worship and is the preacher. If the other service is all-age, café-style or another form of worship, the candidate should still be responsible for the whole act of worship. It is the responsibility of the candidate and the Superintendent to ensure that arrangements are made to comply with this requirement*.*
   2. Presbyteral candidates are assessed on form C.3.2 for both services (two copies of the form).
   3. For each act of worship, the panel of assessors (one of whom coordinates the work of the panel) will normally be comprised of:
      * A presbyter or deacon (who is an accredited preacher).
      * An experienced Local Preacher, designated by the Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting.
      * A lay office holder
   4. Please bear in mind that the interviewing committees want as objective and independent a view of the candidate as possible, so none of the assessors should be related to the candidate, or be a close friend of the candidate.
4. **DIACONAL CANDIDATES** 
   1. Diaconal candidates shall be assessed on one act of worship and one act of proclamation. Each report will be a formal assessment of the candidate’s leadership of the acts of worship / proclamation.
   2. Diaconal candidates are assessed on form C.3.3a for their leadership in an act of worship and on form C.3.3b for their leadership in an act of proclamation.
   3. The candidate shall have had significant responsibility for the planning of the act of worship / proclamation. It is the responsibility of the candidate and the Superintendent to ensure that arrangements are made to comply with this requirement.
   4. The act of worship does not have to be a formal Sunday Service but it does need to be a substantial act of worship led by the candidate.
   5. The act of proclamation assesses the diaconal candidate’s calling to proclaim. The Conference report: ‘The ‘Theology and Ecclesiology of the Diaconate (2019)’ (which can be found as guidance document G.1) explains:
      * *A ministry of proclamation involves more than ways of being, or personal or social actions. It involves the broader task of communicating the gospel message, of evangelism, and of appropriately engaging in public discourse. It requires commitment to theological reflection, and the knowledge and ability to speak about God and faith in a wide variety of contexts.*
      * *The diaconal ordination prayer speaks of a people gathered for obedience, for the proclamation of the greatness of God's name, and of a God who sends messengers recalling God’s people to service. It recalls the incarnation and the servant nature of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Some general conclusions about the liturgical role of deacons can therefore be taken from the ordination liturgy:*
        + *it is a role which assists God's people;*
        + *it is one in which the needs and concerns of the world are brought to the attention and prayer of the whole church;*
        + *it is one which will proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed, model the love and compassion of Christ and give particular attention to those who are most vulnerable;*
        + *above all, it will draw all those in worship, and beyond it, to a consecration of their lives to God.*
   6. The act of proclamation needs to be chosen carefully in order to be able to demonstrate the elements listed in 4.5 above. The candidate must have a leadership role in the act of proclamation. Examples of acts of proclamation are: discipleship course, membership course, a situation of faith sharing, messy church, an evangelistic event, a public debate, a school assembly (if the school is content for this to be assessed). A funeral would not be regarded as appropriate for this assessed act of proclamation. The diaconal candidate, in conjunction with the superintendent, will need to choose the act of proclamation wisely to ensure that the required elements can be discerned from it (see the assessment form C.3.3b).
   7. For the act of worship and the act of proclamation, the panel of assessors (one of whom coordinates the work of the panel) will normally be comprised of:
      * A presbyter or deacon.
      * An experienced Worship Leader or Local Preacher, designated by the Circuit Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Meeting.
      * A lay office holder
   8. Please bear in mind that the interviewing committees want as objective and independent a view of the candidate as possible, so none of the assessors should be related to the candidate, or be a close friend of the candidate.
5. **CRITERIA**

The whole of the Candidating process involves assessing a series of nine criteria, each of which has sub-criteria. Some of these will be evidenced through the acts of worship and acts of proclamation. Those carrying out the assessments will be asked to make comments and give a grade on each of these at the end of the report, but the whole of the report will be considered by the district and Connexional candidates’ committees.

1. **SUBMITTING THE REPORTS**

Please ensure that in all cases these reports are typed. They will need to be read, copied and collated with other material through the candidating process, so clarity is essential.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent or a person identified by them to return this signed form to the Candidates’ Office by noon on **1 December 2022** as a signed electronic copy (in Word) by email to [candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Please note that we cannot accept paper copies of the documents.

When signing please scan in your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.