**What is Accredited Prior Experience and Learning?**

The Methodist Church places a high value on the contribution of Local Preachers in mission and ministry. A comprehensive training pathway is provided for Local Preachers which blends two essential elements.

There is a process of **formation**, under the guidance of the Circuit Local Preachers’ Meeting. This includes regular opportunities to receive feedback on services you lead and more formal trial services and interviews – all designed to help you to discern whether you are indeed called by God to be a Local Preacher and to equip you as you develop into that calling.

Alongside this, is a programme of **theological learning** called **Worship: Leading & Preaching**. This consists of eight modules exploring aspects of theology and biblical studies set in a context of Methodist understanding and values.

Many people come to local preaching with a range of knowledge and skills that relate directly to the role of a local preacher. The APEL process allows the church to take account of relevant prior learning and may exempt you from parts of the Worship: Leading & Preaching course that duplicate study you have already undertaken. However, to be a local preacher is to commit to lifelong learning. Even if some exemption from study is granted, you will still be expected to engage in continuing development throughout your service as a local preacher.

Note that APEL does not exempt you from the process of formation as a Local Preacher, and you should expect to have services assessed and take part in interviews and Trial Services, although the whole training process may be quicker, reflecting the reduced time required for study.

**What do I need to do?**

If you already have a Note to Preach, you should discuss your proposed application with your Tutor. If you do not yet have a Note to Preach, but are considering a Call to Preach in the Methodist Church, please discuss this with your Circuit Superintendent. It is important that the Circuit Local Preachers’ Meeting are kept informed, and endorse your application.

If you decide to apply, complete the Application Form attached to this Guidance Note. This can be completed electronically (preferred) and emailed to localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk remembering to attach scanned copies of any evidence to support your application as detailed in Section E.

Alternatively, please post the form and all attachments to the Officer for Worship & Local Preachers at Methodist Church House in London. This address may be changing soon, so please check the Methodist website for the current postal address.

**How are applications assessed?**

Your application will be reviewed by the APEL Review Panel. You will also be invited to a short video meeting so that the panel can clarify any queries they may have with your application, and you can provide further explanation of your previous experience of theological education. There will normally be two members of the Panel at the meeting, and you are welcome to invite a friend or supporter to attend with you.

Once the online meeting has taken place, you should hear the outcome of your application within a calendar month. This will identify specific parts of the Worship: Leading & Preaching course that you need to complete as part of your training. It is very unlikely that you will be exempt from all aspects of the Worship: Leading & Preaching course and you will need to complete the formational aspects of the training, including a period On Trial.

**What evidence do I need to provide?**

Section E asks you to identify relevant prior learning against eight topic areas covered in the Worship: Leading & Preaching course. Against each of these topics, please identify any specific study you have done on this topic. Note that wording may vary – you may have learned about the practice of preaching but not under the title “homiletics”. Include with your application any evidence that will help the panel to assess the relevance of the study you have completed. Note that more recent study will carry more weight with the panel than earlier study; as a guide, study completed more than 10 years ago may not be taken into account by the panel.

Examples of evidence include:

1. An official course transcript obtained from the educational institution
2. A course outline or syllabus for the course concerned
3. Copy of a relevant assessment or feedback for a relevant assignment or project

Please do not supply copies of essays, project work or dissertations. You may however make reference to them if they are directly relevant, and may wish to discuss them at the online meeting.

**What role does my circuit play?**

All training and development of Local Preachers takes place under the oversight of the Local Preachers’ Meeting. We ask that your Local Preachers’ Meeting indicates their support of your application, by a signature from the Secretary or Chair of the meeting on your Application Form.

There is no requirement for the submission of a “Reasoned Statement” from the Local Preachers’ Meeting with your application, but should they wish to add a note supporting your application, it should be included with your application on a separate page (or file).

**Further Information**

The Learning Network Regional Moderator in your region should be able to provide advice with your application. Otherwise, please contact the Local Preachers’ Office at localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk.

**PART A – Personal Details**

Name (surname and first name)

Circuit Number/Name

Current training status: Not yet started / On Note (date?) / On Trial (date?)

If you have already started training as a Local Preacher:

Student PIN (if known)

How many portfolios and/or projects assessed by your Tutor so far?

Name of Tutor

Preferred email address for correspondence:

Preferred phone number for contact regarding this application:

**Part B – Previous Study**

Please list below each course you believe to be relevant to your application.

Make sure you list all those you refer to in Part E below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course** | **Institution** | **Level[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **Result[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **Date started** | **Date completed** | **Evidence provided[[3]](#footnote-3)** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part C – Online Meeting**

An online interview will be arranged – the Local Preachers’ administrator will be in touch using the email address you provide above.

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Please indicate your preferences for meeting time below, noting that it may not always be possible to satisfy your first choice:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Preference** | **1st choice** | **2nd choice** |
| Day of the week |  |  |
| Time of day (morning/afternoon/evening) |  |  |
| Any specific requests regarding date/time? |  |  |

There will normally be two representatives from the Learning Network present, and you may wish to invite a friend or supporter to take part.

**Part D – Local Preachers’ Meeting**

To indicate their support for your application, the Secretary or Chair of the Local Preachers’ Meeting should sign here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Name Date

N.B. A “reasoned statement” is not required, but if the circuit wishes to add a note supporting your application, it should be included with your application on a separate page (or file).

The following are key areas of study in Worship: Leading & Preaching. For each, please identify where you have studied this previously.

| **Topic** | **Course** | **Institution** | **Level[[4]](#footnote-4)** | **Module/Unit** | **Date completed** | **Evidence provided[[5]](#footnote-5)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Biblical Studies** – the origin, development and interpretation of the various kinds of literature of the Bible, including study of particular biblical books. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Exegesis** – the close reading of scripture and its interpretation through history and in contemporary world. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Worship** – the development different traditions of Christian worship from New Testament times to today, and worship in contemporary Methodism. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Preaching** – the communication of the gospel through the spoken word including various forms of preaching today. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Theology** – how we speak of God and God’s actions in the world and relationship with humankind. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mission & Evangelism** – the response of the Church to the gospel in outreach, evangelism and social justice. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Methodist Identity** – the place of Methodism in the story of the Christian church and its particular insights and charisms. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Different Voices** –engagement with a range of diverse theological approaches such as liberation, black, feminist, post-colonial. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spirituality** –awareness of the importance of personal spirituality in discipleship and calling. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. For example, Level 3 (e.g. A level), Level 4 (e.g. HNC), Level 5 (e.g. Diploma), Level 6 (e.g. Bachelor’s Degree). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g Merit, 2(ii), Grade C. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Suitable evidence could include course transcript or syllabus. Evidence should be provided as separate document or image files with your application. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For example, Level 3 (e.g. A level), Level 4 (e.g. HNC), Level 5 (e.g. Foundation Degree), Level 6 (e.g. Bachelor’s Degree). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Suitable evidence could include course transcript, course syllabus, example lecture notes or student assignment with tutor feedback. Please ensure evidence is directly relevant to the topic. Evidence should be provided as separate document or image files with your application. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)