candiDating for ordained ministry

APPLICATION FOR PRESBYTERAL CANDIDATES TO SERVE IN A LOCAL OR SPECIFIC CONTEXt C.2

*Please return your completed form with your application form by the deadline listed in document G.9. Due to other processes, we will not be able to accept applications received after this date.*

This form is to be completed in respect of presbyteral candidates who wish to request that (if recommended and following successful completion of training) their initial station at least will be in a **local context** (a circuit or district already identified) or in a **specific type of context**.

Please note, this is not applicable to diaconal candidates.

**Please do not make this application unless you have first met with your Superintendent Minister and your Chair of District to discuss your calling to an already identified circuit or district or to a particular context**. The Circuit and District will need to discern this proposal and they need to be able to complete their sections of this form. Please do not return the form unless all sections are complete.

There are many possibilities which were explored in the ‘Changing Patterns of Ministry’ report (received by the Methodist Conference in 2021), and in particular Section 6 of that report. These include:

* Local contexts. A candidate may feel a call to serve in a particular geographical area, or may have personal reasons why they need to serve in that area.
* Specific contexts (eg pioneering, language, cultural, chaplaincy, sector). A candidate may feel a call to serve within a particular community.

It is possible for candidates to offer under **one or both** of these. Please complete the relevant sections of the form below.

Student ministers continue their processes of discernment through their initial training and formation. Declarations made during candidating are taken into consideration and may develop through training.

Where an initial appointment envisaged for a probationer presbyter will not be under the control of the church, the procedures in Standing Order 723 (3) will be followed.

Please note that this form relates to a local or specific context for itinerant ministry rather than itinerant ministry in a broad range of contexts. All though are offering for itinerant ministry.

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Local context

Whilst it is not likely to be possible for a circuit/district to make a specific and binding commitment at this stage, the content of this form will indicate to the Connexion whether the district anticipates being able to offer an appointment suitable for the person in question.

Assessing local context applications

The District Policy Committee is required to indicate its acceptance of the application which means a general indication that it is willing to provide an appointment in the local context suitable for a probationer. At the point of application, this appointment does not need to be defined in detail.

The reasons for the candidate offering to serve in a particular local situation will form part of the considerations in Stage One and Stage Two of the Discernment of Ordained Vocation. The District’s willingness and likely ability to provide a particular appointment will be reviewed by the Ministerial Candidates’ and Probationers’ Oversight Committee (MCPOC). This review may involve an interview by video conferencing by members of MCPOC. If no adequate assurance can be given that a suitable appointment in the local context can be provided, the candidate may be asked to change the basis of their offer, or withdraw.

Once the application has been accepted, it can be presumed that the particular student presbyter will in due course be stationed to the identified appointment, unless the situation for the student has changed significantly during their training. If circumstances change significantly for the student, that will be reported by Queen’s to MCPOC and then by MCPOC to the circuit/district in general terms. The circuit/district will then be released from any expectation of providing that appointment. This can only happen up to the start of the final year of training and must be a decisive change reported clearly in the students’ end of year reports and the stationing profiles.

This form is initially for the purposes of MCPOC. It may also be made available to the DOV2 Connexional Committee and it will be used by the Allocations Panel in making proposals for training. It will also be passed on to the Queen’s Foundation.

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Specific context

Whilst specific contexts cannot be guaranteed at the point at which a student presbyter is ready to be stationed, the content of this form alerts the Connexion to this vocational discernment. It is expected that this discernment will develop through training, and may be confirmed or adapted as a result.

Assessing specific context applications

Any candidate offering in this context needs to demonstrate on this form that they have had a conversation with someone engaged in that sphere of ministry. The reasons for the candidate offering to serve in a specific context will form part of the considerations in Stage One and Stage Two of the Discernment of Ordained Vocation.

The District Policy Committee (or some other appropriate body) will be asked to express an opinion whether an appointment in the specific context is feasible and one in which a probationer minister can be adequately supported. The application will then be reviewed by the Ministerial Candidates’ and Probationers’ Oversight Committee (MCPOC). This review may involve an interview by video conferencing with members of MCPOC. If no adequate assurance can be given that a suitable appointment in the specific context can be provided, the candidate may be asked to change the basis of their offer, or withdraw.

This form is initially for the purposes of MCPOC. It may also be made available to the DOV2 Connexional Committee and it will be used by the Allocations Panel in making proposals for training. It will also be passed on to the Queen’s Foundation.

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| **PERSONAL DETAILS** | |
| Name of candidate: |  |
| Email address of candidate: |  |
| Circuit name and number : |  |
| District name and number : |  |

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| **LOCAL CONTEXT to be completed by the candidate** |

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| Description of the local context (name the circuit, district or geographical area). Please identify the geographical boundaries of the area as clearly as possible. | |
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| Please outline your reasons for making this request. These may be due to personal circumstances or may be vocational reasons. | |
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| What impact on you and your family will there be if an appointment in the specific area or context cannot be identified at the point at which you are due to be stationed? | |
|  | |
| Are you aware that there is no guarantee that a local context appointment will be available beyond the initial appointment? | |
|  | |
| All presbyters in appointments that are in the control of the church are required to live in a manse unless given specific permission to live in their own home.  This is done through a separate application and specific criteria have to be met for this permission to be given.  At the time of initial stationing will you be applying to live in your home? | |
|  | |
| Do you envisage offering to serve in a broad range of contexts at some point in your ministry? Please give your reasons for your answer. | |
|  | |
| Are you envisaging offering part time or full time ministry? If part time, please ~~give~~ ~~outline~~ indicate the amount of time per week. | |
|  | |
| All probationers are provided with a stipend unless they choose not to take one. If you are able to, please indicate if you are choosing not to take a stipend. If you are not able to declare this at the moment, please explain that. | |
|  | |
| Please state any other information you wish to share with regard to this application | |
|  | |
| **I confirm that the information above is an accurate reflection of my current position.**  **I confirm that I have seen and read the information from the circuit and district below.**  **I understand that an appointment in a local context cannot be guaranteed.** | |
| **Signed**  **Candidate** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |
| Candidates must discuss this form with their superintendent minister and chair of district before signing. The candidate should only sign the form when all elements are complete. | |

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| **SPECIFIC CONTEXT to be completed by the candidate** |

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| Description of the specific context. This should be about the sort of ministry envisaged. If it is located in a local context, then the candidate should also complete the ‘local context’ section above. | |
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| Please outline your reasons for making this request | |
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| Please outline the conversation(s) you have had with someone in this sphere of ministry, and please name the person consulted. | |
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| Please outline evidence that a suitable appointment either exists or can be created, or identify someone who can give such evidence. | |
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| Do you envisage any part of your ministry in this context taking place in an employment environment that is outside the control of the church? If so please outline the conversations you have had with that (actual or potential) employing body regarding their view of your ministry there and their willingness to provide appropriate oversight. | |
|  | |
| What impact on you will there be if an appointment in the specific area or context cannot be identified at the point at which you are due to be stationed? | |
|  | |
| Are you aware that there is no guarantee that a specific context appointment will be available beyond the initial appointment? | |
|  | |
| Do you envisage all of your ministry being entirely focussed in this context? Please give your reasons. | |
|  | |
| Are you envisaging offering part time or full time ministry? If part time, please ~~give~~ ~~outline~~ indicate the amount of time per week. | |
|  | |
| All presbyters in appointments that are in the control of the church are required to live in a manse unless given specific permission to live in their own home. This is done through a separate application and specific criteria have to be met for this permission to be given.  At the time of initial stationing will you be applying to live in your home? | |
|  | |
| All probationers are provided with a stipend unless they choose not to take one. If you are able to, please indicate if you are choosing not to take a stipend. If you are not able to declare this at the moment, please explain that. | |
|  | |
| Please state any other information you wish to share with regard to this application | |
|  | |
| **I confirm that the information above is an accurate reflection of my current position.**  **I confirm that I have seen and read the information from the circuit and district below.**  **I understand that an appointment in a specific context cannot be guaranteed.** | |
| **Signed**  **Candidate** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |
| Candidates are encouraged to discuss this form with their superintendent minister before signing. The candidate should only sign the form when all elements are complete. | |

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| **TO BE COMPLETED BY DISTRICT**  **FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO A LOCAL CONTEXT** |

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| How would you imagine this person being deployed after training in the local context? Please give as much detail as possible. | |
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| Is the district willing to identify a particular appointment for this candidate when they are available for stationing? This will need to be defined in a probationer’s appointment profile at the time of initial stationing. | |
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| How does the district see this appointment as contributing to the mission and life of the circuit and district? | |
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| Please give an assurance that a manse is available for this appointment, if required. | |
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| Please give an assurance that an appropriate stipend will be offered if required. | |
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| Please indicate whether the district endorses this application | |
|  | |
| **Signed**  **Circuit steward** |  |
| **Signed**  **Superintendent** |  |
| **Signed**  **Chair of district** |  |
| **Signed**  **Lay Stationing Representative** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |

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| **TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DISTRICT**  **FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO A SPECIFIC CONTEXT** | |
| How does the district see this appointment as contributing to the mission and life of a circuit and/or district? | |
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| Please indicate how the district policy committee will assist the initial stationing subcommittee, at the time of stationing this student minister, in identifying or creating an appointment in a specific context, noting that this may be within the district or elsewhere in the connexion. | |
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| Please give an assurance that an appropriate stipend will be offered, if required. | |
|  | |
| Please indicate whether the district endorses this application. This means the district supports the application and will work with a circuit or another district to develop a suitable stationing profile at the appropriate time. | |
|  | |
| **Signed**  **Chair of district** |  |
| **Signed**  **Lay Stationing Representative** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |

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| After completion by all parties, this form should be emailed to [candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk) by the deadline listed in document G.9.  Please note that we can only accept forms in electronic format. |