

Membership of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (MCPOC)

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1. The membership of MCPOC is governed by Standing Order 321 which ensures that most members of MCPOC are also current members of a district candidates' or probationers' committee or the student oversight committee, with a few other provisions. This causes difficulties for MCPOC because, if members leave the district or oversight committee (even temporarily in the case of the student oversight committee), then they are required to leave MCPOC. This has meant that MCPOC has lost expertise and continuity in its work.
2. For MCPOC to be able to function most effectively and with a full awareness of inclusion and diversity, there is also a need to ensure that certain members are alert to particular issues. Several members who are on district committees or the student oversight committee might also have a particular awareness of a particular issue, but MCPOC also needs the flexibility to appoint others if there are particular issues that are not represented by the current membership.
3. Therefore the membership structure outlined below is proposed to replace that set out in SO 321. DCC is an abbreviation of District Candidates' Committee, and DPC an abbreviation of District Probationers' Committee.

Skills/experience needed	Length of office	Number of people	Member / consultant	Current members Numbers in bold italics denote those who are already counted in the lists elsewhere (ie they hold dual roles)
Recent ordinand in 3 rd , 4 th or 5 th year of ministry	3 year role	1	Member (presbyter or deacon)	none
DCC recent or current member	Up to 6 year role	3	Member	3
DPC recent or current member	Up to 6 year role	3	Member	2 one of whom retires August 2022
Queen's oversight committee recent or current member	Up to 6 year role	2	Member	2
District Chair	Up to 6 year role	1	Member (presbyter) Chair of MCPOC	1
Connexional team member: Secretary of MCPOC.	Whilst in post	1	Member (presbyter)	1
Connexional team member: Director of Learning for Ministry.	Whilst in post	1	Academic advisor Member (presbyter)	1
Representative deacons	Up to 6 year role	1	Member unless there are sufficient deacons in other	1

			roles (sufficient means more than 1)	
Representative lay people	Up to 6 year role		Member unless there are sufficient lay people in other roles (sufficient means more than 1)	5
Representative presbyters	Up to 6 year role		Member unless there are sufficient presbyters in other roles (sufficient means more than 1)	6
Warden or Deputy Warden	Whilst in post	1	Member (deacon)	1
Lead on disability issues	Up to 6 year role	1	Possibly this person should have a disability. Member unless this is covered by another role.	1
Lead on issues arising from racial diversity	Up to 6 year role	1	Possibly from Global Majority communities (language communities included). Members unless covered by another role.	1
Lead on gender issues	Up to 6 year role	1	Member unless this is covered by another role.	none
Lead on LGBTQ+ issues	Up to 6 year role	1	Possibly from the LGBTQ+ communities. Member unless this is covered by another role.	1
Lead on mental health issues (including impact of trauma, bereavement etc)	Up to 6 year role	1	Member unless this is covered by another role.	1
Safeguarding advisor for the committee	Up to 6 year role	1	Keeps eyes open for these issues. Member unless this is covered by another role.	1
Representative to the Ministries Committee from MCPOC	Up to 6 year role	1	Dual role	1
Representative to MiTC	Up to 6 year role	1	Dual role	1
Representative to DPS annual meeting	Up to 6 year role	1	Dual role	1
Welsh speaker when needed	-	1	Consultant when needed	
Secretary of Stationing Advisory Committee when needed	-	1	Consultant when needed	

NOTES AND PRINCIPLES

- 'Recent' means within 3 years – applied to all roles
- The 'up to 6' year term can be flexible when needed but it can only be extended by a specific minuted decision made by MCPOC.
- At the outset members would be invited to serve for a defined period of 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 years in order to ensure that all will not retire at the same time
- The Chair of MCPOC is always a District Chair
- Two Deputy Chairs are appointed for a period of 3 years (extendable) from among the members of the committee ensuring there is a balance of lay/ordained and gender among the Chair and Deputy Chairs.
- All MCPOC panels are chaired either by the Chair or one of the Deputy Chairs
- The general principle is that members hold one primary role on the committee even if they actually cover more than one
- MCPOC will take care of the balance of age / gender / ethnicity / sexual orientation / order of ministry across the committee and will be intentional in making nominations for new appointments
- Where necessary MCPOC will ask for advice / training from particular people regarding particular issues.
- MCPOC will keep unconscious bias and diversity training up to date for whole committee
- All MCPOC members will have up to date safeguarding foundation module training
- MCPOC is always to be aware of theological difference between members of the committee and students / probationers
- MCPOC will be no smaller than 14 members and no larger than 20 members.
- Nominations for appointment will endeavour to ensure representation from all of the stationing regions:

Region	Districts
North East	Scotland, Shetland, Darlington, Newcastle
North West	Bolton & Rochdale, Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester & Stockport, Liverpool, Isle of Man
Yorkshire	Yorkshire West, Yorkshire North and East, Sheffield
East Midlands	Lincolnshire, Nottingham and Derby, East Anglia, Northampton
Wales & West	Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Chester & Stoke, Wales, Synod Cymru.
South East	London, Beds Essex & Herts, South East
South West	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Plymouth & Exeter, Bristol, Southampton, Channel Islands

STANDING ORDER 321 – PROPOSED CHANGES IN BOLD ITALICS

321 Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

(1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee consisting of:

- (i) no more than ~~three~~**two** representatives of oversight committees of training institutions;
- (ii) ~~eleven representatives of district Candidates Committees and district Probationers Committees, with not less than two from each type of committee within that total;~~ **three members of district Candidates Committees and three members of district Probationers Committees**
- (iii) one district Chair ***who shall be the Chair of the committee***
- (iv) one recent ordinand in their third, fourth or fifth year of ministry (term of office three years)***
- ~~(iv) [deleted]~~
- (v) two of the Team members responsible for presbyteral candidates, initial presbyteral training and presbyteral probationers;
- (vi) one representative of Synod Cymru when the business requires it;
- ~~(vii) [deleted]~~
- ~~(viii)~~ ***(vii) further deacons where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;***
- (viii) further lay people where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;***
- (ix) further presbyters where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;***
- ~~(ix) the secretary of the Stationing Advisory Committee when the business requires it;~~
- (x) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for all business other than the discussion of individual cases;
- (xi) further members to lead on disability issues, racial diversity issues, gender issues, LGBTQ+ issues, mental health issues, if not fulfilled by other members of the committee;***
- (xii) a further member to be the safeguarding advisor to the committee if not fulfilled by another member of the committee.***

(2) The persons under heads (i) and (ii) of clause (1) above shall be nominated by the committees concerned ~~in accordance with a rota approved by the council and include no fewer than six lay persons.~~

(3) The Committee shall be no smaller than 14 members and no larger than 20 members.

(4) The Secretary of the Stationing Advisory Committee and a Welsh Speaker shall be consultants to the committee when the business requires it.

(5) Terms of office are usually up to 6 years (apart from the recent ordinand who serves for 3 years). However members can choose to serve for shorter terms of office.

(6) The District Chair member shall chair the Committee. Two Deputy Chairs shall be appointed from the members of the Committee for the duration of their term of office

(7) All members of MCPOC will have undertaken foundation level safeguarding training.

(8) Members will be appointed from all of the stationing regions where possible.

~~(3)~~ **(9)** Reporting to the Ministries Committee as provided in Standing Order 32A1 the committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of candidates for the presbyterate **ordained ministry**, the administration of the regulations for candidates, and decisions about training requirements. It shall have oversight of the whole period of a person's training from acceptance as a candidate by the Conference until reception into Full Connexion and ordination, and in particular shall perform the functions prescribed in Section 72.

~~(4)~~ **(10)** The committee shall appoint one or more student oversight committees for each training institution.

~~(5)~~ **(11)** (a) The committee shall co-ordinate and guide the work of the oversight tutors of the training institutions in so far as it relates to the oversight of student presbyters and deacons. The oversight tutors shall ensure that reports and other services for the connexional and local committees are provided as required.

b) For every training institution, whether under the authority of the Conference or otherwise, the Conference shall appoint, upon the nomination of the Methodist Council, one or more oversight tutors to assist the student and connexional oversight committees in performing the functions specified in Standing Orders. Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility

(c) In relation to institutions within sub-clause (b) above any reference in these Standing Orders to the principal shall, unless this clause is expressly excluded or the context otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to the relevant Methodist oversight tutor

*****RESOLUTIONS**

23/1. The Council receives the report.

23/2. The Council recommends to the Conference the changes to the membership of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee as set out in the report, and directs that, subject to the scrutiny of the Law and Polity Committee, the amendments to SO 321 to effect this are brought to the 2022 Conference.