

STATIONING COMMITTEE: FACE OF STATIONS: AMENDMENT TO S.O. 737(2)

Summary

The Methodist Council recommends the revision of S.O. 737(2) so as to provide for the "face of stations" - the way in which ministers are listed under circuits in the stations adopted by the Conference [and subsequently printed in the Minutes of Conference] - to be arranged under five headings, with ministers listed alphabetically rather than by seniority, the first listed being the Superintendent.

5.1 Introduction

This recommendation has been developed by the Conference Office in close liaison with the Information Management and Technology Project, which is developing the integrated computer system throughout the Connexional Team. It also takes account of the developing proposals from Formation in Ministry which will be brought to the Conference of 2002 in the light of responses to the 1999 Report *Flexible Patterns of Ministry*.

5.2 Background

The current Standing Order 737(2) deals with the way in which the circuit stations are arranged. It lists no fewer than eighteen categories of minister or deacon and requires that names be listed in strict order of seniority within each of these categories.

It is also becoming increasingly apparent that in many cases, the face of stations gives confusing messages about what is actually happening in a circuit, including which ministers have been appointed to the circuit to exercise pastoral charge collectively in it and who else (ministers, supernumerary ministers, deacons, supernumerary deacons, lay workers) may be exercising pastoral responsibility. It is therefore difficult to understand fully the true nature or size of the shortage of ministers in pastoral charge and the degree to which circuits are developing positive solutions to the challenge of ministry.

5.3 Proposal

To provide a system that will be easier to administer and therefore less prone to error and which will give clearer information, we propose arranging the lists under circuits under five headings:

- i) Appointed ministers, deacons and probationers - for the definition of "appointed" see S.O. 005 (vi). This category will include Ministers in Local Appointment [MLA] and recognised and regarded ministers [RR].
- ii) Authorised Ministers and Deacons (AMs).
- iii) Other ministries:

- connexional appointments
- sector and other appointments
- those residing in the circuit

iv) Without appointment

v) Supernumeraries

5.4 How are the names to be arranged in each category?

With the Superintendent first and then alphabetically - this will tie in with the spirit of *Releasing Ministers for Ministry*. (It is also the most straightforward way of doing it, but it loses the concept of seniority on the face of stations, although a minister's/deacon's seniority (i.e. years of travel) is unaffected, and will continue to be recorded in the full list of ministers and deacons in the Minutes of Conference.)

5.5. Outcomes of Proposal

- The Superintendent would in every case be the first listed in the first section.
- In each section the names (with the exception of that of the Superintendent) would be printed alphabetically with a suffix indicating their position and, where appropriate, a brief description (e.g. title of post; Connexional Team; without appointment).
- Schools or other Methodist institutions within circuit boundaries would be listed as they are now, but the ministerial staff would be listed alphabetically, followed by their job title.
- The practice whereby the name of a section of a circuit or church is quoted after the name of a minister should cease.

5.6 These proposals will:

- give the reader a clearer view of the role individuals play within the circuit, and the link with the establishment figure;
- remove the concept of seniority within a circuit;
- enable the Church to utilise more easily and benefit from the efficiencies offered by modern technology.

RESOLUTION

55/1 The Conference amends Standing Order 737(2)(a) as follows:

737 Arrangement and Effect. (1) [Unchanged]

(2) (a) In the circuit stations, after the name of the Superintendent, the names of other ministers, deacons, probationers and other persons shall be printed in the following order of categories and in strict order of seniority by date of entry **alphabetical order** within each category:

(i) ministers in the full work appointed to the Circuit;

(ii) ministerial probationers appointed to the Circuit;

(iii) deacons in the full work appointed to the Circuit;

(iv) diaconal probationers appointed to the Circuit;

(v) ministers and ministerial probationers in other appointments;

(vi) ministers and ministerial probationers in sector appointments;

(vii) ministers and ministerial probationers without appointment;

(viii) ministers and ministerial probationers residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations under clause (6)(d) below;

(ix) ministers and ministerial probationers stationed in another Circuit who have elected to reside in the Circuit under clause (6)(c) below;

(x) persons residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations who are authorised to serve the Church as ministers under Standing Order 766;

(xi) deacons and diaconal probationers in other appointments;

(xii) deacons and diaconal probationers in sector appointments;

(xiii) deacons and diaconal probationers without appointment;

(xiv) deacons and diaconal probationers residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations under clause (6)(d) below;

(xv) deacons and diaconal probationers stationed in another Circuit who have elected to reside in the Circuit under clause (6)(c) below;

(xvi) persons residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations who are authorised to serve the Church as deacons under Standing Order 843;

(xvii) supernumerary ministers;

(xviii) supernumerary deacons.

(i) ministers and deacons in the full work and probationers appointed to the Circuit;

(ii) persons residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations who are authorised to serve the Church as ministers under Standing Order 766 or deacons under Standing Order 843;

(iii) ministers, deacons and probationers in other appointments and sector appointments, those residing in the Circuit for the purposes of the stations under clause (6)(d) below and those stationed in another Circuit who have elected to reside in the Circuit under clause (6)(c) below;

(iv) ministers, deacons and probationers without appointment;

(v) supernumerary ministers and deacons.

Consequential amendments.

RESOLUTION

55/2 The Conference amends Standing Order 005(v), (vA) and (vi) as follows:

005 (v) 'circuit ministers' means ministers who are appointed to a Circuit to discharge the responsibilities specified in Standing Order 520, being the ministers in full work whose names are the first to appear, in accordance with sub-clause (2)(a) of Standing Order 737, under the heading of a Circuit in the stations appointed by the Conference, before the names of persons in category (ii) ***(i)*** and the following categories in ***of*** that sub-clause;

(vA) 'circuit deacons' means deacons who are appointed to exercise diaconal ministry in a Circuit, being the deacons in the active work whose names appear, in accordance with sub-clause (2)(a) of Standing Order 737, under the heading of a Circuit in the stations appointed by the Conference, in category (iii) ***(i)*** of that sub-clause.

(vi) the circuit ministers and circuit deacons of a Circuit, and the probationers appointed to fulfil ministerial or diaconal duty in circuit work in that Circuit ***whose names also appear in the stations in the category referred to in heads (v) and (vA) above,*** are referred to as being 'appointed to' that Circuit.