

## **THE CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FROM MINISTERS OF OTHER CHURCHES AND CONFERENCES TO SERVE IN THE BRITISH METHODIST CHURCH**

Ministers from other churches and conferences bring enormous riches to the British Methodist church and are greatly appreciated. They bring new perspectives and energy and help to deepen our understanding of the global nature of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The application period opened in January 2020 for those applying to transfer with a view to starting in a British Methodist appointment from September 2021.

However in March 2020, the coronavirus was beginning to have a significant affect in Britain. The impacts of the lock-down have necessitated some significant decisions by the British Methodist Church.

It has been decided that the British Methodist Church will not process any new applications from ministers seeking to transfer in the 2020-2021 Connexional year. This means that those who have begun the process of application will be asked to postpone their application for one year. Their completed forms will be carried forward and will be processed in the January to March 2021 application period.

This decision was taken carefully and prayerfully. It has been taken for the following reasons:

1. The uncertainty around international travel following the coronavirus outbreak. Those who are due to start their appointments in September 2020 may be delayed, leading to additional administration and adjustments in the circuits they were due to move to.
2. The difficulties of doing the necessary work with circuits with appointments in stationing due to the lock down.
3. The selection committee needed additional administrative resources in March 2020 in order to carry out the selection conference for candidates and for transferring ministers effectively. A pause in the process of discerning with applicants for transfer will enable a release of administrative pressure.
4. This will allow the immigration team a chance to take stock of the current visas sponsored by the Methodist Church, especially as there could be an impact on these due to the virus.

Any Ministers of Other Churches and Conferences who are currently serving in the British Methodist Church who wish to apply to change their status, may still apply by the deadline of August 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 and will be processed in the 2020-2021 Connexional year.

The British Methodist Church remains committed to our strong historic and current relationships with our partner churches around the world. This decision is not intended to undermine that in any way.

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