

CANDIDATING FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

G.19 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PLACEMENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID19 2020-2021

1. USUAL GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES' PLACEMENTS (as outlined in form C.2)

- To complete Section 2 of the portfolio, you will need to undertake a placement with a minister exercising the ministry for which you are intending to candidate.
- The placement should be sufficient in length and scope to enable a real appreciation of the work (normally about 30 hours – including 10 hours' writing up time).
- For presbyteral candidates, the placement should include the opportunity for you to discuss the sacramental role of a presbyter and to be present for a service of Holy Communion (where possible).
- The placement should not be in your own church or Circuit and should ideally be in a context unfamiliar to you. Your placement will be identified during the 4-way meeting with your Superintendent, District Candidates' Secretary (DCS) and Regional Learning Officer.

2. ADJUSTMENTS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY FOR 2020-2021

- Where it is possible, placements should follow the guidelines above and should involve the candidate being physically present within a circuit, accompanying the minister acting as their supervisor and other ministers.
- If the Government's guidance and the guidance of the Methodist Church is such at the time that a physical presence on a placement is impossible, the following processes may operate.
- At the 4-way meeting, a decision should be made as to whether the normal placement is possible or whether it needs to be in virtual form. It might be possible for it to be partly in physical form (for example, if restrictions are lifted on small meetings which could make pastoral visits possible), and partly in virtual form (for example, if restrictions remain for larger gatherings).
- The placement should be arranged with a circuit where the internet is being used regularly to maintain the work of the churches, with services, meetings and other events and activities being held virtually.
- It is strongly advised that, if necessary, the candidate does some preparation work with the circuit to get used to the technology so that they can get the most out of their placement without being limited by technical issues.
- Candidates may attend a range of church services and church and community meetings which are held by zoom or other forms of video conferencing. The same is true of other church and community events, such as bible studies, fellowship groups, community support groups etc. They can also be part of pastoral encounters such as funeral visits through telephone or video conferencing.

- A virtual form of placement may add breadth to what is usually possible in a placement, such as giving the candidate opportunities to experience different forms of ministry. They could spend some time with a minister from the other order of ministry from the one they are candidating for, as well as with people exercising forms of lay ministry in the church and in the world.
- A virtual placement also can give the opportunity for the placement to be further away from the candidate's home area than might have been possible had they needed to travel there. So at the 4-way meeting, a placement in a very different sort of area could be identified to enable the candidate to broaden their experience.
- The placement should still involve the candidate spending some time in one-to-one conversation with the supervisor to reflect on the experiences of ministry they have encountered.
- Although this is very different form of placement, candidates and supervisors are encouraged to see it as a creative opportunity to give a broader experience of ministry than might be possible on a physical placement.
- The placement should still be about 30 hours' duration with 10 hours writing up time.

3. REPORTING

- Candidates are asked to explain clearly the form that their placement took and to ensure that it was still of the same length and depth as it would have been in physical form.
- If a candidate engaged with another order of ministry to the one they are candidating for, the candidate should reflect on what insights they gained from that encounter.
- Placement supervisors still need to report on the candidate following the guidance in form G.11. In creating their report, they might want to reflect with others who worked with the candidate on the placement.
- Supervisors and candidates who are unclear about any aspect of the setting up of a placement are asked to raise questions at the 4-way meeting, and, if questions arise subsequently, to contact the District Candidates' Secretary.