

New Advice on Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning (APEL) Worship: Leading and Preaching

We recognise that some people have prior experience and learning in leading worship and preaching before acknowledging a call from God to become a Local Preacher. Standing Order 565B allows for an application in exceptional circumstances to be made for some exemption in training.

Those who believe themselves eligible for APEL will need to complete an application form and submit this along with a detailed reasoned statement approved by their Local Preachers' Meeting. You may also be tested verbally by your Local Preachers' Meeting before they approve a reasoned statement.

APEL applications will be reviewed by the Officer for Worship and Local Preachers based at Methodist Church House.

Applicants who have demonstrated that they have successfully completed preacher training at an appropriate level (this will include extensive coverage of preaching skills and leading creative worship) may be offered an exemption from the 'Prepare' and/or the 'Explore' parts of the course.

All 'persons on trial' – irrespective of APEL status, will be required to submit two portfolios. Within each portfolio you will also need to include:

1. Your APEL application
2. The detailed reasoned statement from your Local Preachers' Meeting
3. A copy of the agreement with Discipleship and Ministries that you follow an APEL route.

It is possible to submit portfolios based partly on work previously submitted elsewhere and partly on new work. You will need to discuss this with your Local Tutor who will mark your portfolio in the first instance.

In an ideal world, we would strongly advise you to do the whole of 'Worship: Leading and Preaching', even if you have completed prior study, as no previous course will be completely equivalent. By following an APEL route you risk missing out on important aspects of individual and group formation.

APEL students are advised that their portfolios will be closely assessed and will always be moderated by a Connexional panel.