

# Summary of the Invitation and Stationing Process for appointments commencing September 2022

Please use this summary as a quick reference as to what is usually done and when for the invitation and stationing of ministers in circuit appointments.

For more information, please look in the publication *Code of Practice for all involved in the Invitation and Stationing Process 2022*. The figures shown below in the 'Ref' column indicate the appropriate sections of that document where you will find more details of each stage.

References to the process for presbyteral appointments are in sections E-I.

References to the process for diaconal appointments are in sections J-N.

'Minister' is used to mean both presbyters and deacons.

## 1 FIRST STAGES

Timing	Action	Who is involved	Ref
March 2021	Appoint circuit Invitation Committee (which may have delegated powers to offer initial invitations)	Circuit Meeting	C1-6
April	Application for grant funding for appointments to the Connexional Grants Committee	District Chair Superintendents Circuit stewards	A13
May	District briefing meeting to explain the process Code of Practice is distributed	District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Ministers involved in reviews/moves and their partners Superintendents Circuit stewards Church stewards	D1-2
	Period of reflection on circuit's policy and future needs	Circuit stewards	D4, D6
	Period of reflection and discernment conversations to establish whether minister wishes an extension to be considered If 'Yes', go to 2 If 'No', go to 3	Minister  Circuit stewards	D3, D5 - D8  D6

## 2 NEXT STAGES – if an Extension is Sought (for new appointments see Part 3)

Timing	Action	Who is involved	Ref
May–July 2021	Meet to consider any personal or family issues	Minister and household members Circuit stewards	E3, J4
	Meet to plan and agree the consultation process (District Chair or her/his representative is invited if a Superintendency is being considered)	Circuit Invitation Committee  Superintendent Minister (District Chair)	E2, E4, J5,
	Briefing on how to conduct the consultation (where appropriate)	Circuit stewards, church stewards	E5, J6
July–August	Consultation in local churches (max. 3 weeks)	Circuit stewards, church stewards	E5, E18-25, J6, J18-23
	Consultation in other circuit churches (if for a Superintendent's extension)	Circuit stewards, church stewards at other churches in the Circuit	E6
	Consultation in other areas of minister's work e.g. ecumenical work; chaplaincies; community	Circuit stewards	E7, J7
	Gather all responses and prepare written report which is shared with minister; minister decides whether to seek an extension	Circuit stewards Minister	E8, J8
	Meets (with minister present) to receive circuit stewards' report; decides its recommendation to September Circuit Meeting; decision conveyed to minister. Minister confirms decision on seeking an extension	Circuit Invitation Committee  Minister	E9, J9
	Prepares a reasoned statement and sends it to District Chair, Lay Stationing Representative and Warden of the Diaconal Order (if appropriate) at least 3 weeks before the Circuit Meeting	Circuit Invitation Committee	E9, J9
	Approve reasoned statement (and amend it if necessary)	District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Warden of the Diaconal Order	E9, J9
	If the minister does not agree the recommendation, she/he may prepare her/his own reasoned statement.	Minister	E10, J10
	Distributes reasoned statement(s) to members of Circuit Meeting before the meeting with an explanation of the voting procedure	Circuit Meeting Secretary	E10, E11, J10, J11
On or before 20 Sept	Considers the extension	Circuit Meeting	E2, E12-15, J12-15
After the Circuit Meeting	Reports the Circuit Meeting's decision to the District Chair and Warden of the Diaconal Order if the decision is about a deacon	Chair of Circuit Meeting	E16, J16
	If an extension is offered and accepted, prepare and issue a Letter of Understanding.	Circuit stewards Minister	E17, J17
	If decision is against an extension, proceed as for 'New Appointment' – see 3	Circuit stewards	F, K

### 3 NEXT STAGES – New Appointment

Timing	Action	Who is involved	Ref
May–Sept 2021	Vacancy is notified to the District Chair and, for diaconal appointments, the Warden of the Diaconal Order	Circuit stewards	F1 K1
	Consultation and decisions about the appointment(s) to be filled	Circuit Invitation Committee Circuit Leadership Team Superintendent District Chair Warden of the Diaconal Order Lay Stationing Representative Ministers	F2, K2, K3
	Profile forms sent to ministers and circuit stewards; application forms for initial appointments (i.e. probationer presbyters or presbyters taking up first appointments in the British Methodist Church) sent to circuit stewards	District Chair or Lay Stationing Representative	F3, K4
	Prepare draft profiles and application forms as above	Ministers Circuit stewards	F3, G, K4, L
	Meet to discuss minister's profile	District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Minister (and family member(s))	F3-5, K4, K5
	Meet to discuss draft circuit profiles and application forms for initial appointments	District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Circuit stewards	F4, F5, K4, K5
	By 8 Sept	Application forms for presbyteral probationer appointments, Ministers from Other Churches and Conferences (MOCC) to the District Chair and Lay Stationing Representative	Circuit stewards
By 10 Sept	Application forms for above appointments to the Conference Office	District Chair or Lay Stationing Representative	F2
By 23 Sept	Circuit profiles for ordained presbyters to be with the District Chair and the Lay Stationing Representative.	Circuit Stewards	F5
	Profiles of ordained presbyters and ordained deacons to be with the District Chair and the Lay Stationing Representative	Ministers	F5, K6
	Profiles of ordained deacons forwarded to the Warden of the Diaconal Order	District Chair or Lay Stationing representative	K6
By 28 Sept	Forward circuit profiles for presbyters and deacons and profiles of ordained ministers to Stationing Administration	District Chair or Lay Stationing Representative or, in the case of a deacon, the Warden of the Diaconal Order	F7, K6

#### 4 FINAL STAGES – Matching of Presbyters, Direct Stationing and Visits

Timing	Action	Who is involved	Ref
During Oct	Preparation to explain procedure for visits of ministers	District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Circuit stewards Other members of the CIC Church stewards involved in visits	I1, N1
By 29 Sept	Regional Stationing Groups meet to identify critical appointments and forward to Scrutiny Panel	District Chairs and District Lay Representatives from the Region	H2
5-6 Oct	Connexional Scrutiny Panel meets		H2
After 14 Oct	Circulation of circuit profiles and profiles of ordained presbyters and deacons	Stationing Administration	F7, K8
Mid-late Oct	Discuss possible suitable matches and possibly those which should not be matched for serious pastoral reasons	Circuit Stewards, ministers, District Chair Lay Stationing Representative Warden of the Diaconal Order	F10, K10
Nov	Identifies deacons with exceptional circumstances and identifies appropriate appointments for them	Warden of the Diaconal Order in consultation with the Diaconal Stationing Sub- committee	K12, M1
Oct–Dec	Preparation for possible visits	Circuit Stewards	I, N
1 - 4 Nov	Considers all presbyteral appointments	Stationing Matching Group 1	H
4 Nov	District Chair notifies presbyters and Circuit whether a 'match' has been made	District Chair Circuit Stewards and Ministers	F14, I3,
5 Nov	Circuit stewards contact presbyter to arrange a visit to the Circuit	Circuit Stewards Minister	I4,
5-15 Nov	Information pack sent to presbyter	Circuit stewards	I6,
	Presbyter's visit to Circuit	Circuit stewards and presbyter/Superintendent Others in the Circuit, as appropriate	I
Within 2 days after visit	Separately: prayer, reflection, consultation, then decision on whether to accept the match Together: share decisions and agree outcome	Circuit Invitation Committee Presbyter	F16,I15
	Circuit stewards and presbyters report the outcome (with feedback form if declined) to their own District Chair	Circuit stewards and presbyter /District Chair	F17,F18 I15
In the next few days	Issues formal invitation to presbyter	Circuit Invitation Committee	F17
	If accepted, Letter of Understanding agreed with presbyter	Circuit stewards	F17
	Reports outcomes to Stationing Administration for circuit appointments in their District	District Chair	F17

#### 4 FINAL STAGES (continued) – Matching of Presbyters, Direct Stationing and Visits

29-30 Nov	Deals with as many of the remaining vacancies as possible and notes any necessary diaconal appointments	Stationing Matching Group 2	F12, H, M1
	Matching reports and visits (see above steps following SMG 1)	(See above)	(See above)
5-6 Jan 2022	Meets to consider appointments for probationer presbyters.	Initial Stationing Sub-committee	
6-9 Jan	Meets to consider appointments for deacons and diaconal probationers	Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee	
10 Jan	SMG 3 – deals with as many of the remaining vacancies as possible	Stationing Matching Group 3	F12, H, M2
11–21 Jan	Matching reports and visits (see above steps following SMG 1)	(See above)	(See above)
Following SMG 3	Informs ordained deacons, circuit stewards of diaconal appointments	Warden of the Diaconal Order District Chair	K14
	Circuit stewards contact deacons to arrange a visit to the Circuit	Circuit Stewards Deacon	M1, N4
	Deacons visit Circuits and Letter of Understanding agreed	Circuit Stewards Deacons	N
	Probationer presbyters and deacons and identified Circuits informed of their appointments	Tutors District Chair	I16, M1
	Visits to Circuits planned for probationer ministers followed by Letters of Understanding.	Circuit stewards Minister Superintendent /supervisor Others as appropriate	I16, N15
	Informs Stationing Administration of all diaconal appointments <b>after all visits</b> of ordained and probationer deacons have taken place	Warden of the Diaconal Order	K16
8 Feb	Stationing of ministers of other churches or Conferences (ISCC2)	Initial Stationing Sub Committee	
Feb–June	Tries to resolve unfilled stations	Stationing Action Group	H11,M2
March	Appoints Circuit Invitation Committee	Circuit Meeting	C1–6
April	Application for grant funding for appointments for next year to the Connexional Grants Committee	District Chair Superintendents Circuit stewards	A13
April/May	Recommends the stations to Conference	Stationing Committee	
June/July	Stations approved	Methodist Conference	

All Stationing forms and guidance available from:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/ministry/stationing/stationing-forms-and-guidelines/>