candiDatating for ordained ministry

APPLICATION FOR PRESBYTERAL CANDIDATES TO SERVE IN A LOCAL OR SPECIFIC CONTEXt C.2

*Please return your completed form with your application form by the deadline listed in document G.9. Due to other processes, we will not be able to accept applications received after this date.*

This form is to be completed in respect of presbyteral candidates who wish to request that (if recommended and following successful completion of training) their initial station at least will be in a circuit or district already identified or in a specific type of context.

Please note, this is not applicable to diaconal candidates.

There are many possibilities which were explored in the ‘Changing Patterns of Ministry’ report (received by the Methodist Conference in 2021). These include:

* Local contexts. A candidate may feel a call to serve in a particular geographical area, or may have personal reasons why they need to serve in that area.
* Specific contexts (eg pioneering, language, cultural, chaplaincy, sector). A candidate may feel a call to serve within a particular community.

It is possible for candidates to offer under one or both of these.

In all situations, the church will continue the process of discernment with all student ministers. Declarations made during candidating are taken into consideration and may develop through training.

All initial appointments for probationer ministers will be appointments which are under the control of the church at least in part, in order for oversight and support to be provided appropriately.

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Local context

Whilst it is not likely to be possible for a circuit to make a specific and binding commitment, the content of this form will indicate to the Connexion whether the circuit anticipates being able to offer an appointment suitable for the person in question.

Assessing local context applications

The District Policy Committee are required to indicate their acceptance of the application which means a general indication that they are willing to provide an appointment in the local context suitable for a probationer. At the point of application, this appointment does not need to be defined in detail.

The application will then be assessed by the Ministerial Candidates’ and Probationers’ Oversight Committee (MCPOC) who will inform the candidate if they can continue candidating for a local context. This assessment may involve an interview by video conferencing by members of MCPOC. The candidate then either continues offering for local context, or changes to offering for itinerancy, or withdraws.

This form is initially for the purposes of MCPOC. It may also be made available to the DOV2 Connexional Committee and it will be used by the allocations committee in making proposals for training. It will also be passed on to the Queen’s Foundation.

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Specific context

Whilst specific contexts cannot be guaranteed at the point at which a student presbyter is ready to be stationed, the content of this form alerts the Connexion to this vocational discernment. It is expected that this discernment will develop through training, and may be confirmed or adapted as a result.

Assessing specific context applications

Any candidate offering in this context needs to demonstrate on this form that they have had a conversation with someone engaged in that sphere of ministry.

The application will then be assessed by the Ministerial Candidates’ and Probationers’ Oversight Committee (MCPOC) who will inform the candidate if they can continue candidating for a specific context. This assessment may involve an interview by video conferencing by members of MCPOC. The candidate then either continues offering for specific context, or changes to offering for itinerancy, or withdraws.

This form is initially for the purposes of MCPOC. It may also be made available to the DOV2 Connexional Committee and it will be used by the allocations committee in making proposals for training. It will also be passed on to the Queen’s Foundation.

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Please see the next page

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| **Personal details** | |
| Name of candidate: |  |
| Email address of candidate: |  |
| Circuit name and number : |  |
| District: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Local context** | **to be completed by the candidate** |

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| Description of the local context (name the circuit, district or geographical area). Please identify the geographical boundaries of the area as clearly as possible. |  |
| Please outline your reasons for making this request and note that these may be due to personal circumstances or may be vocational reasons. |  |
| What impact on you and your family will there be if an appointment in the specific area or context cannot be identified at the point at which you are due to be stationed? |  |
| Are you aware that there is no guarantee that a local context appointment will be available beyond the initial appointment? |  |
| All presbyters in appointments that are in the control of the church are required to live in a manse unless given specific permission to live in their own home.  This is done through a separate application and specific criteria have to be met for this permission to be given.  At the time of initial stationing will you be applying to live in your home? |  |
| At this point, do you envisage becoming itinerant at some point in your ministry? Please give your reasons. |  |
| Please state any other information you wish to share with regard to this application |  |
| **I confirm that the information above is an accurate reflection of my current position.**  **I confirm that i have seen and read the information from the circuit and district below.**  **I understand that an appointment in a local context cannot be guaranteed.** | |
| **Signed**  **Candidate** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |
| Candidates are encouraged to discuss this form with their superintendent minister before signing. The candidate should only sign the form when all elements are complete. | |

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| **Specific context** | **to be completed by the candidate** |

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| Description of the specific context. This should be about the sort of ministry envisaged. If it is located in a local context, then the candidate should also complete the ‘local context’ section above. |  |
| Please outline your reasons for making this request |  |
| Please outline the conversation(s) you have had with someone in this sphere of ministry |  |
| What impact on you will there be if an appointment in the specific area or context cannot be identified at the point at which you are due to be stationed? |  |
| Are you aware that there is no guarantee that a specific context appointment will be available beyond the initial appointment? |  |
| Do you envisage your ministry being entirely focussed in this context? Please give your reasons. |  |
| All presbyters in appointments that are in the control of the church are required to live in a manse unless given specific permission to live in their own home. This is done through a separate application and specific criteria have to be met for this permission to be given. At the time of initial stationing will you be applying to live in your home? |  |
| Please state any other information you wish to share with regard to this application |  |
| **I confirm that the information above is an accurate reflection of my current position.**  **I confirm that i have seen and read the information from the circuit and district below.**  **I understand that an appointment in a specific context cannot be guaranteed.** | |
| **Signed**  **Candidate** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |
| Candidates are encouraged to discuss this form with their superintendent minister before signing. The candidate should only sign the form when all elements are complete. | |

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| **To be completed by the circuit and district**  **Only for applications for an appointment to a local context** |

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| How would you imagine this person being deployed after training, in the local context? Please give as much detail as possible. |  |
| Is the circuit willing to identify a particular appointment for this candidate when they are available for stationing? This will need to be defined in a probationer’s appointment profile at the time of initial stationing. |  |
| How does the district see this appointment as contributing to the mission and life of the circuit and district? |  |
| Please indicate whether the district endorses this application |  |
| **Signed**  **Circuit steward** |  |
| **Signed**  **Superintendent** |  |
| **Signed**  **Chair of district / lay stationing representative** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |

|  |  |
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| **To be completed by the district**  **For all applications** | |
| How does the district see this appointment as contributing to the mission and life of the circuit and district? |  |
| Please indicate how the district policy committee will assist the initial stationing subcommittee, at the time of stationing this student minister, in identifying or creating an appointment in a specific context, noting that this may be within the district or elsewhere in the connexion. |  |
| Please indicate whether the district endorses this application. |  |
| **Signed**  **Chair of district/lay stationing representative** |  |
| *When signing please scan in (or add a photograph of) your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | |
| **Date** |  |
| After completion by all parties, this form should be emailed to [candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk) by the deadline listed in document G.9.  Please note that we can only accept forms in electronic format. | |