

Role Description

VOLUNTEER ROLE

Lay Members of the Ministries Committee (2 vacancies)

ROLE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Ministries Committee is one of the four committees reporting to the Connexional Council which (under the authority of the Conference as governing body) is the trustee of the Methodist Church in Britain. The Ministries Committee seeks to enable the Church to develop and maintain a strategic vision for the use of ordained, accredited, commissioned and informal ministries and offices throughout the Connexion, to indicate what changes are necessary or what steps should be taken to make the work of the Church more effective, and to review the formational and support needs of those who exercise ministry on behalf of the Church. See Standing Orders 310, 311 and 312 in the 2024 edition of CPD.

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

- To prepare for and attend in person meetings of the Committee (currently one weekend residential for 24 hours).
- To prepare for and attend online meetings of the Committee (currently two full days per year).
- To contribute to discussions and decision making at the meetings having scrutinised reports presented to it and to serve on task groups of the Committee.
- To participate in e-mail correspondence and, exceptionally, electronic decision-making between meetings.
- To hold the collective accountability of the Committee in reporting to the Council and giving direction to other bodies.
- To work collaboratively with other members of the committee to keep in constant review the life of the Methodist Church as it relates to Ministries. The work of the Committee involves:
 - developing and supporting the processes relating to the oversight, accountability and professional development of those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
 - developing and supporting programmes for nourishing, equipping and resourcing those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
 - developing and supporting the Church's structures and resources for learning, training, scholarship, research and development;
 - in collaboration with other bodies, supporting the development of structures that enable the use of various forms of ministry as resources for mission within Circuits and Districts;

- overseeing connexional policy regarding its ordained ministries, including that relating to the processes for offering as a candidate, the oversight of students and probationers, and stationing, but without adjudicating on individual cases, which shall remain the task of the bodies appointed to fulfil that responsibility.
- After consultation with the council, reporting to the Conference on matters of policy or process requiring the attention of the Conference that have been identified by the committee or by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, the Stationing Committee or the Stationing Advisory Committee.
- Reporting to the Council on the partnership between the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) and the Queen's Foundation under an agreement including processes of communication, accountability and quality assurance. The Connexional Council, acting through the Ministries Committee, is responsible for the oversight of theological colleges and other training institutions and shall bring nominations to the Conference for the appointment of oversight tutors to carry out the functions described in Standing Order 252(12).
- Keeping in view the relationship between the MCB and Cliff College which will be under an agreement which it will have seen and discussed. It will receive annual reports from the Principal of the college who will advise the committee on matters of policy.
- Recommending to the Conference, through the council, discernment criteria for adoption under Standing Order 710(5) and, as required, amendments to those criteria.
- Keeping in view the use of resources that are deployed to deliver learning for ministry across the Connexion and particularly encourage the articulation of the work of the Learning Network with that of the learning institutions.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
Experience			
Experience of serving on a committee of the Methodist Church (local, circuit, district or connexional).		X	A, I
Evidence of collaborative working.	X		A, I
Experience or interest in cross-cultural ministry, stationing, candidating or training.		X	A, I
Experience of scrutiny of policy documents		X	A, I
Abilities, Knowledge and Skills			
Ability to absorb quickly a wide-range of detailed issues.	X		A, I

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.	X		A, I
Good knowledge of the constitutional and organisational arrangements of the Methodist Church.		X	A, I
Ability to enjoy and to relish learning from and celebrating difference and diversity, and a desire to encourage diversity in leadership.	X		A, I
Capacity to contribute to strategic planning.		X	A, I

Personal Qualities			
Demonstrates an understanding and is supportive of the work and mission of the Methodist Church.	X		A, I
Member in good standing of the Methodist Church in Britain.	X		A, I
Theological understanding in areas such as: Biblical studies, Ecclesiology/Methodist identity, Doctrine, Systematic theology, Methodist liturgy.		X	A, I
Demonstrates innovative leadership skills with the ability to encourage new ways of thinking by the committee to support the Church.		X	A, I

Method of Assessment: A – Application Form/CV; I – Interview; P – Presentation;

DURATION OF APPOINTMENT

Nomination is by the Nominations Committee with appointment confirmed by the Connexional Committee. Committee members shall serve for an initial term of 3 years, possibly renewable for a further 3 years. No Committee member shall serve for a continuous duration of more than 6 years.