

34. Stationing Committee

Contact name and details	Jenny Jackson, Chair of the Stationing Committee chairstationing@methodistchurch.org.uk
--------------------------	--

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The report of the Stationing Committee to the 2024 Conference described the breadth of work and its challenges and the responsibilities that confront our connexional Church under the auspices of the Stationing Committee. Since then, the Committee has continued to work apace, seeking to 'smarten' processes without introducing significant new work.
- 1.2. In April, the committee received the recommendations of the Stationing Review Group (SRG) to this Conference, with plans to recommend significant changes to matching processes, to take effect from September 2027. At least 15 months is required to work through our current stationing process, culminating when the stations are called at the Conference. The recommendations put before Conference this year will presumably result in changes to Standing Orders in the future.
- 1.3. The Stationing Committee has sought to honour proposals shared thus far with us by the SRG and has introduced changes and 'tidied' aspects of stationing processes, alongside those required by the Conference.
- 1.4. The committee's work is governed by Standing Orders, specifically SO 260 and SO 780, together with a Code of Practice for invitations and matching, which is reviewed and revised as necessary, annually. The Code of Practice provides structure, detail and direction to circuits and ministers entering into stationing, guiding them through the process to be followed. Revisions to the Code this year were undertaken by Sue Marshall Jennings, Lay Stationing Representative (LSR) for Scotland. She has also revised the resource made available to support briefing sessions in the districts and we are grateful for her work. If the recommendations of the SRG are accepted, the Code of Practice (last issued in April 2025), will require further significant change.
- 1.5. As planned last year, and noted below, the number of Stationing Matching Groups has reduced from three to two a year with one additional Stationing Action Group necessary to manage the matching process that remains active until the Conference, each year. The Stationing Committee recognises that the timing of both SMG and SAG meetings has impacted on some presbyters and circuits and is grateful for the additional support provided to them by the Chairs of District and district Lay Stationing Representatives.
- 1.6. The Stationing Committee expresses thanks to the Revd Jenny Impey, who has continued to guide the work of the Stationing Matching Group and to the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe, who has chaired the work of the Stationing Action Group. Deacon Karen McBride, Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order with the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe and Steve Cooper, a Lay Stationing Representative, have worked as a team, sharing responsibility for guiding the work of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-Committee. Each in their own roles support specific aspects of the stationing of ministers.
- 1.7. The Revd Dr Claire Potter, Ministerial Coordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries has continued to work carefully and prayerfully with MCPOC, the academic staff at Queens Foundation, members of the Initial Stationing Sub Committees, and all candidates, students and probationer ministers. The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle has chaired the Stationing Advisory Committee, and the work of this committee is currently under review. At the end of this connexional year, the Revds David Hinchliffe, Claire Potter and Jongikaya Zihle will return to circuit appointments. The Stationing Committee is grateful to each for their careful work.
- 1.8. By the end of this year, the Stationing Committee hopes to have a complete list of all policies and protocols to underpin the work of the various groups and committees involved in aspects of stationing, ensuring that together ministry is supported in its widest sense, and that the limited resource of people in ministry is deployed, to where ministry is needed most.
- 1.9. To further support the work of the Stationing Committee, a Deputy Chair has been recruited. Christopher Beckett, Lay Stationing Representative for the Bristol District, has been nominated for this voluntary role. If appointed by the Conference, he will specifically focus on all aspects of work involving those preparing to enter their first circuit appointment, currently student ministers becoming Probationers, and ministers entering first appointments as ministers of other Churches or Conferences (MOCCs). The 'deputy' role requires a change to SO 260 which is noted below. The Conference is

asked to accept this change. Mr Beckett already serves as a member of the Stationing Committee but was nominated following an open recruitment process.

- 1.10 Noting the reduction in the number of districts across the Connexion, the importance of equipping both Chair of District and Lay Stationing Representative (LSR) effectively has resulted in some internal (district) restructuring. Each district is required to have one LSR under our Standing Orders, who can deputise for the Chair of District in all stationing matters including Stationing Matching. Just as the continuing work of stationing in districts might be supported by presbyters in addition to the District Chair, the district LSR in the newer and larger districts is increasingly supported by a small LSR team, covering distinct 'geographical areas' within the wider (and larger) district. This intentionally reduces the burden on one Chair and one LSR for a bigger area, however, ultimate responsibility for representing ministers and circuits during Stationing Matching, remains with the District Chair or LSR.

2. SO 260 Stationing Committee – amendments to allow for a deputy chair

- 2.1. The Stationing Committee has agreed that there should be a deputy chair of the committee, who shall be a lay person appointed by the Conference in the same way as the chair of the committee.
- 2.2. The proposed amendments to Standing Order 260 to provide for a lay deputy chair and to correct a cross-referencing error are set out below.

260 Stationing Committee. (1) There shall be a connexional Stationing Committee appointed annually by the Conference, which shall consist of:

- (i) a lay chair **and a lay deputy chair**, being the persons for the time being appointed to ~~that~~ **those offices** in accordance with clauses ~~(4A)(2) and (2A)~~, **respectively**, below;
- (ii) the Secretary of the Conference who shall act as convener, and the assistant secretary of the Conference;
- (iii) seven district Chairs, one of whom shall be the district Chair appointed under Standing Order 286 to be a member of the Forces Board, and seven district Lay Stationing Representatives appointed with a view to the representation of suitable regional groupings of Districts;
- (iv) no more than two Team members with responsibility for presbyteral and diaconal selection and training and for the stationing of probationers;
- (v) the chair of the Stationing Advisory Committee;
- (vi) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order;
- (vii) the chair and a lay member of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee;
- (viii) the chair of the group responsible on behalf of the Stationing Committee for overseeing the matching of particular presbyters to appointments;
- (ix) the convener of the Stationing Action Group appointed in accordance with clause ~~(8)~~(7) below.

(2) A lay person shall be appointed by the Conference as chair of the committee. The chair shall be appointed for a period not exceeding six years in the first instance and may be appointed for further periods of one or more years thereafter. Any nomination for appointment beyond six years shall require a resolution of the Ministries Committee carried by a majority of 75% of those present and voting and reported, with a reasoned statement, to the Conference. No person shall hold office as chair for more than nine years consecutively.

(2A) A lay person shall be appointed by the Conference as deputy chair of the committee on such terms as the committee shall agree, but within the principles relating to terms of service set out in (2) above.

(3) The chair of the committee and the Secretary and assistant secretary of the Conference shall attend the committee only in their official character as specially charged with the general interests of the whole Church and shall not be eligible for appointment in any other capacity.

...

(7) The committee shall appoint an Action Group to deal with stationing difficulties and emergencies as they arise.

(8) The committee shall have power to appoint other sub-committees to carry out aspects of its work, but all actions of such sub-committees shall be subject to the approval of the committee.

3. Report of the Initial Stationing Sub-Committee (ISSC)

3.1. Scrutiny

- Fifteen profiles for **presbyteral probationer appointments** were submitted by Circuits;
- Four were not approved by the scrutiny group;
- Eleven were approved. All of these were for full time appointments;
- In December a further three probationer appointments were submitted and approved so a total of 14 were available for the Initial Stationing Subcommittee 1 (ISSC1).
- Five profiles for Ministers of other Churches and Conferences (**MOCC appointments**) were submitted by Circuits, two of which were for a probationer or a MOCC;
- All five were approved. One of these was for a part time circuit appointment and a Fellowship Chaplaincy;
- In January, two further appointments for MOCCs were submitted and approved;
- In February seven further appointments for MOCCs were submitted and approved, so a total of 14 appointments were available for the Initial Stationing Subcommittee 2. Three of these new appointments were reshaped from probationer appointments following ISSC1.
- For all of the approved appointments, a satisfactory district manse report was received and checked, a Chair's reference for the Minister in Oversight and the Supervisor was received and checked, and, where necessary, an ecumenical agreement and reasoned statements were received and checked.

3.2. **Stationing – Presbyteral Probationers**

- Eleven presbyteral probationers were available for initial stationing;
- All 11 were matched at ISSC1 in January;
- All of the matches were confirmed;
- Three profiles were unmatched.

3.3. **Stationing – Diaconal Probationers**

- Four diaconal probationers were in stationing;
- There were several diaconal appointment profiles which could have been suitable for a probationer. All four were matched at Diaconal Stationing in January which were confirmed;
- Confirmation that the Chair's reference for Minister in Oversight and Supervisor and the district manse report had been received by the MDO was provided to the Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee.

3.4 **Stationing – Ministers of other Churches and Conferences**

- Eighteen MOCCs were recommended (or conditionally recommended) through the transfer panels in November, one of whom was transferring as a supernumerary and was therefore not available to the stations.
- One MOCC was nominated by their home church to become a fellowship group chaplain. They attended a reduced discernment panel with members of the transfer panel in November online and were recommended.
- Eighteen MOCC ministers were therefore available to be stationed. Two are transferring into Full Connexion, one is to be an ordained probationer for two years before being received into full connexion and fifteen are to become Recognised and Regarded.
- The Stationing Committee in January confirmed the cap on MOCC appointments at 12, with an additional one permitted for a Fellowship Group chaplain.
- At ISSC2 on 6 February, thirteen ministers were matched with appointments. One of these was to a part time appointment in circuit and part time to a profile for a fellowship group chaplain/coordinator. All matches were confirmed.
- The remaining appointment submitted for a MOCC was matched with a probationer, who it is expected will be ordained at the 2025 Conference.
- So all appointments were matched.
- Five MOCC ministers recommended to be Recognised and Regarded were not matched to appointments. They will have the right to re-enter stationing in 2026.
- Four MOCC ministers currently serving the Methodist Church in Britain attended changing status panels in October (3 from R&R to Full Connexion, one to extend R&R). Three were recommended. The fourth was advised to reapply in 2025-2026.

3.5 Induction

- An induction day in person was held for two members of each Circuit Leadership Team for Circuits who will be receiving probationers, in Nottingham on 27 February. Thirteen of the fifteen Circuits were represented. It was a helpful day of sharing information and good practice. The leadership team comprised: two recent ordinands, a superintendent and a circuit steward who have wide experience of welcoming probationers, the Queen's Foundation Director for Continuing Ministerial Development and the Ministerial Coordinator in the Connexional Team.
- The Ministerial Coordinator visited one of the Circuits who had not been able to attend and went through the induction with the Circuit Leadership Team. They also went through the induction in an online meeting with the acting superintendent of the other Circuit who had not been able to attend.
- Further meetings will be held later in the summer at the Queen's Foundation between ministers in oversight, superintendents and probationers.
- An induction day on Zoom was held on 3 April for two members of each Circuit Leadership Team for Circuits who will be receiving MOCCs. Each Circuit was represented.
- The MOCCs themselves will engage with induction events at various points throughout their first year. The MOCC Handbook has been updated and has been provided for all of them. It can also be found on the Methodist Church website here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/ministers-of-other-churches/induction-handbook/>.

4. Report of Diaconal Stationing

- 4.1. The diaconal stationing process began with eight ordained deacons, four diaconal probationers and 20 circuit profiles. Following the start of the matching process one deacon was matched to a connexional post, and one circuit profile identified a level of instability that made it difficult to match anyone to it.
- 4.2. The Diaconal Stationing Sub-Committee (DSSC), working with the Warden, took extreme care to seek to understand and honour both the hopes and needs of all those in matching process, whether it be a deacon or a Circuit, and sought to make the matches which, through prayer they discerned would best enable the Church to join in with the service of God to the world.
- 4.3. All circuit and deacon profiles were carefully scrutinised, with 'in person' visits by the Warden to circuits continuing to be an essential part of the diaconal direct stationing process. In November, the DSSC met in person with the ordained deacons and those to be stationed as probationers and their households, for stationing conversations.
- 4.4. In January, the DSSC2 matched all ordained and diaconal probationers to 11 of the 19 Circuit profiles available. Due to the high number of circuit profiles the DSSC was aware as it worked that a number of appointments would not be filled for SMG2. As a consequence they identified the following areas as guidance for their work in assisting the Warden in matching: diaconal probationers, appointments where the deacon was part of a small team of two ordained staff, and appointments with significant specialisms. The matches were called at SMG2. At the end of January, all these matches were confirmed.
- 4.5. Following on from DSSC2/SMG2 in January, the DSSC has continued to work in collaboration with the Stationing Action Group, with Circuits and with members of the Order. This ongoing work has enabled two further appointments to receive a match, which will start mid-year in March 2026. We are grateful to the deacons who have agreed to move early and to the circuits who will be holding a six month vacancy for part of the year. At the time of writing, one profile has been withdrawn and five circuit profiles remain unfilled. However, the prayerful work of discernment continues between these circuits, Deacons and DSSC, and we are hopeful of at least one further match.
- 4.6. The DSSC recognises and appreciates that its work has been enabled by the willingness of Circuits to discern diaconal appointments. In addition, the DSSC is thankful for the faithfulness of deacons and their households in living out the diaconal principles of itinerancy and direct stationing, and their generosity in embracing the invitations and opportunities these bring to join in with the work of God in the world.
- 4.7. The DSSC membership will see substantial change in the coming year, as three members finish

their appointments. Each member has brought unique gifts to the work of the DSSC and we record our thanks to each of them.

4.8. The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe has served as the Chair of DSSC for six years. David's discerning leadership, wise counsel and gentle humour have been appreciated and have enabled the DSSC to work prayerfully, faithfully and with joy.

4.9. Deacon Janet Heys has served for three years, the DSSC has greatly benefited in its work from Janet's deep listening and insightful understanding.

4.10 The Revd Dr Claire Potter has supported the DSSC work especially in the matching of diaconal students to their first appointment. Her diligent care to ensure the flourishing of others, has brought much to the work of DSSC.

4.11 The fulfilling of DSSC membership is in the process of being discerned. The Convocation will discern a further diaconal representative in May and report to the stationing committee in June. The Revd Gill Newton as the incoming Coordinator for the Oversight of Ordained Ministries will also join DSSC.

4.12 The Warden has had the privilege of being able to journey with and be a part of the Stationing Review Group. Much of the group's work and recommendations focus around the presbyteral matching/stationing process. Therefore, except for matters related to the reinvitation process, no significant change is anticipated in the SRG to the diaconal matching/stationing process. The Conference in 2019 continued to uphold the need for a commitment to the discipline of direct stationing and itinerancy for deacons and all candidates for ordained diaconal ministry. However, the Stationing Review Group has expressed its gratitude to the members of the MDO who have engaged with and who continue to pray for its work.

5. Stationing Matching Group (SMG)

5.1. Stationing matching is a process in which the Church attempts to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the circuits and presbyters. This year the Group was able to meet in person for both rounds which enhanced the sense of the whole Connexion being present in one place, with each minister and circuit known. The work was, as always, conducted carefully and prayerfully with time being taken to consider each presbyter and circuit as the group sought to make matches which would enable presbyters and circuits to flourish in mission and ministry and ensure ministry was spread across the Connexion in response to the greatest need.

5.2. Changes to the process for this connexional year

A number of changes were implemented as a result of the Stationing Committee's own reflections on the progress and the feedback from the responses to the Stationing Review Group:

- There was an earlier deadline for receipt of profiles to be considered at any round of matching, enabling necessary checks to be undertaken and the profiles to be circulated to all who needed to see and consider them. Unfortunately, IT issues prevented some individuals from seeing them in a timely manner. Assurances have been given that these issues will be addressed before next year.
- There were only two meetings of the Matching Group rather than three. SMG 2 felt like SMG 3 in terms of a lack of flexibility as to where the remaining presbyters could be stationed and therefore the group faced some challenges in making matches for some of the appointments that the Districts had identified as being key appointments. Care will need to be taken moving forward to ensure that the fewer rounds do not result in the group being reluctant to make challenging matches which might stretch presbyters in round 1 to ensure that ministry is deployed where it is needed rather than where it is comfortable. The possibility of flexible patterns of ministry is being highlighted in the Code of Practice this year.
- The removal of the critical designation for selected appointments was seen to be fairer and helpful to the work of the group, allowing Districts to prioritise for themselves which appointments were called.
- The need for reasoned statements and connexional scrutiny for all appointments that had fewer than 150 members and/or could be considered to be less challenging than those that could be accepted for

Initial MOCC stationing led to a smaller mismatch between the number of presbyters and number of appointments, enabling more circuits to make alternative arrangements earlier in the process and greater ability to match to greater need. It also resulted in a greater number of part-time appointments, matching an increased number of presbyters offering for part-time appointments. Thirty appointments fell into this category. Of these, 17 were accepted and 13 were invited to consider revising their profile to part time, MOCC or probationer appointments or looking at developing the work in other ways. It is important to note that membership is not the only, nor even prime, criteria used by the Scrutiny Group.

5.3 Matching of Members of SMG

Two members of SMG were matched to appointments via the agreed process in advance of SMG1. It is worth observing that far from giving them any advantage there were only a very limited number of circuit profiles submitted for consideration which severely limited their capacity to offer indicative lists.

SMG1

- 5.4. During the first meeting of the Stationing Matching Group (SMG1) at Yarnfield Park, at the beginning of November, there were 107 Circuits seeking presbyters and 86 presbyters of whom 81 were available for matching. Seventy-seven matches were made and 66 of the visits made resulted in invitations being issued and accepted. Of the eleven that were declined, three were declined only by the presbyter and six only by the circuit, two by both. Overall 86% (last year 75%) of the visits resulted in invitations being issued and accepted.
- 5.5. All report forms were received for matches which did not stick and issues contained within them taken up with presbyters and Circuits.
- 5.6. Once again we can see from the figures the matching group seems to give priority to those matches identified by the presbyter or both. Whether or not the presbyter identified it also seems to greatly influence whether a match is agreed.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agreed</i>	<i>Dec Presbyter</i>	<i>Circuit Dec</i>	<i>Declined both</i>	<i>% agreed</i>
<i>Total matches</i>	77	66	3	6	2	86%
<i>Double match</i>	33	29	2	2	0	88%
<i>Identified presbyter only</i>	25	24	0	1	0	96%
<i>Identified circuit only</i>	7	6	0	1	0	86%
<i>Identified neither</i>	11	5	1	3	2	45%

- 5.7. To support the work of the Stationing Review Group, the indicative lists were reviewed to see how many presbyters indicated each appointment on their indicative lists of up to five appointments. Whilst they only offer a snapshot of one particular year, and would vary from year the year, the following tables offers some insights of the situation for SMG1 this year.

SMG1 Indicative lists

# of presbyters indicating	How many circuits	Agreed matches of a particular circuit
0	13	2
1	23	9
2	14	12
3	19	14
4	14	12
5	9	6
6	3	1
7	3	1
8	4	3
9	4	4

10	0	0
11	0	0
12	1	1
District	Number of distinct presbyters who expressed an interest	Average per appointment
NW England	30	1.76
Wales Synod Cymru	7	3.5
Birmingham	22	2.2
Bristol	2	1
Channel Islands	2	2
Chester and Stoke	4	2
Darlington	0	0
East Anglia	15	2.5
Lincolnshire	6	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	8	2.7
Nottingham and Derby	19	3.8
Northampton	10	1.7
Sheffield	5	2.5
Southampton	11	1.6
Yorkshire West	14	2
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	12	2.4
Yorkshire North and East	10	2.5
Scotland	3	3
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire	4	1.3
London	17	2.1
South East	17	3.4
SW Peninsula	6	1

SMG2

- 5.8. At the beginning of January, the SMG met at the Kents Hill Park Conference Centre, Milton Keynes. There were 48 circuit profiles to be considered and, in theory, 26 presbyters available. However, six of these had indicated in advance that they would not be available as they were exploring other options. A further three became unavailable for matching owing to other processes needing to be undertaken, which left 17 presbyters available for matching. Fourteen matches were made, of which nine were agreed and five declined. One presbyter could not be matching owing to their being married to a diaconal student and the outcome of diaconal stationing needing to be confirmed. No matches could be made for the other two presbyters as they had very limited geographical restrictions.
- 5.9. There was a large change in membership of SMG this year with six new Chairs around the table and two new Districts. Training was offered by the Chairs of the Stationing Committee and Stationing Matching Group. The timing of appointments meant that two Chairs had not been able to shadow the process. The Lay Stationing Reps for the new Districts and new Chairs were encouraged to be present for SMG 1 to support the new members.
- 5.10. The Stationing Matching Group is grateful for the engagement of presbyters and Circuits in exploring the matches, all those who prepared profiles, drew up lists to indicate the kinds of presbyters and circuits they could see themselves working with and flourishing in, prepared for visits and travelled out of their comfort zones to engage prayerfully in discernment conversations. The final recommendations to the Conference come not from the SMG but from the presbyters and circuits who say yes to one another and begin the journey of discovering gifts and opportunities for mission and who will commit themselves at welcome services to “join together in the work to which God has called us.” (*Methodist Worship Book* page 361).

6. The Stationing Action Group

- 6.1. The Stationing Action Group (SAG) commenced its work on 10 February 2025 and will continue its work through to the meeting of the Unmatched Ministers Group which meets in June, prior to the Conference.

In February, there were 37 unmatched presbyteral and eight unmatched diaconal appointments. There were at that point eleven ordained presbyters and one probationer presbyter available to be stationed.

- 6.2. Stationing Action Group 1 was able to match ten ordained and one probationer presbyter, of which all but one ordained appointment held.
- 6.3. Stationing Action Group 2 matched one presbyteral appointment and two diaconal appointments. The presbyteral appointment held as did the diaconal appointments – the latter are directly stationed.
- 6.4. Stationing Action Group 3 matched four presbyteral appointments and the outcome of those visits is awaited at the time of writing.
- 6.5. At the meeting of SAG 3, eight Circuits applied for permission to withdraw their profiles from stationing; six were given permission.
- 6.6. Since the work of the Stationing Action Group commenced, SAG has so far accepted four new circuit profiles for presbyters, four new profiles for presbyters, and two new profiles for deacons.
- 6.7. At the time of writing there are 19 presbyteral appointments remaining unfilled including seven superintendencies and five diaconal appointments, with one presbyter available to be stationed.
- 6.8. The Stationing Action Group will meet for a final time on 12 May.

7. Stationing Code of Practice

- 7.1. Amendments have been made to the Stationing Code of Practice for 2026 that reflect changes in Standing Orders and other matters which the Stationing Committee wish to emphasise in the light of experience from year to year. Particular attention is directed to the need for advanced mission planning and consideration of the changing needs for ministry within circuits, holding in mind the impact of decisions made which reduce the numbers of presbyteral appointments. This year, wording has been amended to reflect the nomenclature in Standing Orders, particularly those concerned with Invitation Committees and Lay Stationing Representatives. Whilst acknowledging the impact on family members, their employment and schooling, affirmation has been made of centrality of itinerancy in presbyteral ministry. Changes in the templates for the Letters of Understanding have also been made to provide greater clarity.

8. Projections

8.1 Number of Methodist presbyters and probationers in the active work

Connexional Year	Actual 2021/2022	Actual 2022/2023	Actual 2023/2024	Estimate 2024/2025	Estimate 2025/2026
Start of Year	1228	1167	1122	1062	1016
Normal Retirements	74	65	74	60	60
Early Retirements	7	4	7	5	5
Resignations	7	6	5	5	5
Other Losses	2	1	4	1	1
TOTAL LOSSES	90	76	90	71	71
New Probationers	23	21	17	20	20
Other Gains	6	11	13	5	5
TOTAL GAINS	29	31	30	25	25
END OF YEAR	1167	1122	1062	1016	970

8.2 Number of Methodist deacons and probationers in the active work

Connexional Year	Actual 2021/2022	Actual 2022/2023	Actual 2023/2024	Estimate 2024/2025	Estimate 2025/2026
Start of Year	134	139	132	120	121

Retirements	3	11	13	4	5
Resignations	0	0	0	0	0
Other Losses	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL LOSSES	3	11	13	4	5
New Probationers	7	4	1	5	3
Other Gains	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL GAINS	8	4	1	5	3
END OF YEAR	139	132	120	121	119

9. Going Forward

- 9.1. In conclusion, the Stationing Committee recognises with appreciation lay and ordained colleagues in circuits and Districts who already regularly review local ministry requirements, reconfiguring appointments and encouraging alternative expressions of ministry. This continuing review of mission and ministry in the local area is vital and enables ministry to remain alive and fluid.
- 9.2. Likewise, membership of the various structures overseeing stationing changes annually, and we note with thanks, members of each committee and group, recognising the years of service offered by members. This year, some will pass responsibility for their current work to new colleagues. In addition to committee meetings, the majority of which are now held online, many additional hours of work are undertaken, as lay and ordained members work in partnership, together. The Stationing Committee is appreciative of the many hours of dedicated work undertaken by many people.
- 9.3. As we move into the connexional year 2025/26, Conference will note all existing processes already underway for matching will continue as now, however, it will be necessary to begin implementation of any additional recommendations proposed by the Stationing Review Group, if these result in changes to Standing Orders in 2026.
- 9.4. The Stationing Committee is grateful to all ministers, presbyters and deacons and their families for their commitment to furthering the work of the church. The Stationing Committee will endeavour to ensure that they are supported as far as possible through the transition period, valuing the work of all ministers and the needs of circuits, across the connexion equally.

***RESOLUTIONS

34/1. The Conference received the Report.

34/2. The Conference amended Standing Order 260 as set out in paragraph 2.2 above.