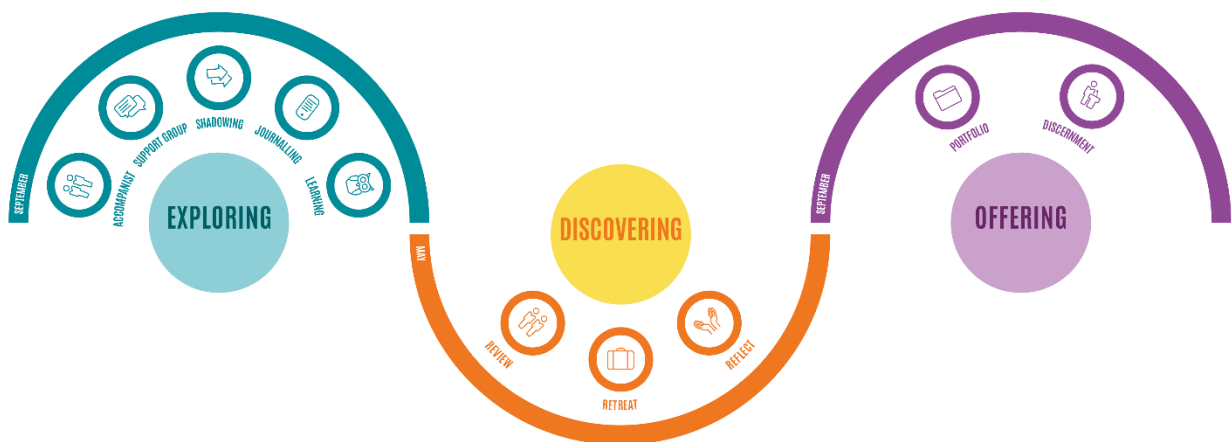


OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PROCESSES OF DISCERNING VOCATION



EXPLORING

EXPLORE COURSE FACILITATORS

The role

- The 9 month, online, course element to this role is being led by the Learning Network and volunteers from around the Connexion.
- Facilitators will have a passion for supporting adults to learn, and specifically to explore vocations in a group context.
- Facilitators will be confident and skilled in facilitating small groups, online, to engage with an activity and to ensure the whole group can participate.
- Facilitators will be open and willing to share their own discipleship and vocation journeys as it is appropriate to support the Explorers.
- Further information can be found here: [Exploring - Methodist Church](#)

The time commitment

- It is ideal if volunteers can offer a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 years.
- Each course runs for 9 months with a session each month.
- Courses start in June and September each year.

What is good about it?

- The opportunity to help people exploring a vocation to any form of church leadership to deepen their understanding and experience.

How to apply.

- Please contact explore@methodistchurch.org.uk

BEING PART OF THE TEAM RUNNING EXPLORING ORDAINED MINISTRY EVENTS

The role

- Each year there are 3-4 opportunities for people to gather, online for a half-day session, to learn more about ordained ministry in the Methodist Church in Britain.
- Half of the time is spent answering questions with a panel of people.
- Volunteers form a pool of people from whom the panel are selected for each event.
- During the session, panel members also facilitate a small group to engage with some vocation exploration activities.
- The panel is open to Presbyters, Deacons and Lay people who can articulate their vocation, and have a heart to enable others to explore.
- Further information can be found here: [Ordination Exploration Days - Methodist Church](#)

The time commitment

- You would be approached to be part of an event no more than once a year.
- The event will be online often for a Saturday morning but sometimes for a weekday evening.
- For your first event, there will be some films to watch so that you have seen what the participants have seen.

What is good about it?

- You will have the experience of hearing people who are exploring a call from God and trying to respond to it, often right at the start of this journey.
- This also gives a rare opportunity to share your own vocational call (appropriately) in order to help others.

How to apply

- Please contact explore@methodistchurch.org.uk

DISCOVERING

ACCOMPANISTS

The role

- Walking alongside those exploring their vocation as a church leader through the Explore programme and potentially also through the Discerning Ordained Vocation (DOV)¹ process.
- Explore:
 - This involves setting up a covenant to agree how you will work together, and then meeting at regular intervals online or in person to hear their developing discernment of vocation and help them to find resources and new experiences.
- DOV¹:
 - This involves setting up the covenant if it is a new relationship.
 - There is then a structured conversation which leads to an agreed record to help the applicant to think through elements such as the implications of candidating, the order of ministry, the context to which they are being called, and the ethos of Methodism.
 - They reflect more deeply on their call during the retreat.
 - You then meet again with them after the retreat to hear what they have discerned there.
 - If possible you then accompany them to the meeting with the advisory panel in early June (1 hour conversation on zoom) and reflect with them afterwards when they receive their advisory letter, helping them as they decide on their next steps.
 - Accompanists do not have a formal role in DOV² (candidating), because the idea of the accompanist role is to walk alongside people while they are discerning a call to ordained ministry and that point is reached at the end of DOV¹. An informal role may, however, continue.

The time commitment

- 1-2 years meeting every 4-6 weeks for those starting at Explore.
- Meetings through a period of 3-6 months, meeting 5-6 times for those starting at DOV¹
- Three refresher/training meetings with the other accompanists each year.

What is good about it?

- An opportunity to be alongside people as they discover more about their faith, God's call and their response.
- Belonging to a community of practice with other accompanists.

- Hearing from a wide variety of people about God's activity in their lives
- Developing your own faith alongside the development of others.

How to apply

- Further information and the application forms can be found here: [Become an accompanist \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/become-an-accompanist)

DOV1 RETREAT TEAM LEADERS

The role

- As part of a team, designing, planning and running the DOV1 retreat annually. This is an in-depth retreat enabling the applicants to pay attention to the calling they are responding to.

The time commitment

- The retreat is 3 days Friday to Sunday once a year usually in May.
- Planning meetings – 3-4 meetings on zoom.
- Preparation of any materials
- Review meeting – 1 meeting on zoom after the event.
- Each year the team is drawn from a pool of people. This is to ensure the group is diverse each year. This also means that the size of the team can vary depending on the number of applicants.

What is good about it?

- An opportunity to use skills of enabling reflection for others, enabling deep listening and tools of theological reflection.
- The joy of witnessing transformative encounters with God.
- The opportunity to work with, and learn from, a diverse team of other committed retreat leaders.
- It is intense work but focussed at one period of time in the year.

How to apply

- Please contact candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk and you will then be put in touch with the retreat team themselves to discuss this further.

DOV1 ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

The role

- Being part of a panel of three people interviewing applicants after their discernment retreat in DOV1.
- Carrying out a series of zoom conversations of up to one hour with applicants.
- Listening to their discernment journeys and reaching a decision as a panel regarding the guidance to be given.

The time commitment

- 2-3 consecutive days of zoom conversations in June each year
- One to two preparation meetings with the panel of three
- 1 review meeting with the whole Advisory Group each year

What is good about it?

- Being part of a team
- Playing a significant part in an applicant's discernment journey.
- It is intense work but focussed at one period of time in the year.

How to apply

- Please contact candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk and you will then be sent an application form, which includes a reference.

OFFERING

DOV2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The roles

- Being a member of the DOV2 Connexional discernment committee
- Working as part of a panel to discern with candidates and make recommendations to the Conference regarding their acceptance for training.
- Working as part of a panel to discern with ministers applying to transfer to serve in the British Methodist church.
- Being a chaplain to the DOV2 Committee, candidates and applicants.

The time commitment

- Up to one week (Monday-Friday) in November each year for transfer panels.
- Two days for DOV2 Committee training in November each year.
- Between 3 and 6 days in early February (Friday-Sunday and Monday-Wednesday) for the candidates' panels. The second cycle (Monday – Wednesday) is only used if there are high numbers of candidates.
- Preparation individually
- Panel preparation meetings

What is good about it?

- Playing a major role in the discernment of ordained vocation
- Working with a large team of varied and very committed people.

How to apply

- Please complete the application form which you can find here: [Become a member of the Discerning Ordained Vocation \(DOV\) Connexional Committee - Methodist Church](#)

DISTRICT VOCATIONS CHAMPIONS

The role

- Someone to keep alive the exploration of vocations across the District, encouraging circuits to hold events and to make resources available. This is to encourage all forms of vocation including, but not limited to, ordained ministry.
- The person will need to be proactive and seek invitations to meet church leaders to equip them to equip others, for example at superintendents' meetings, circuit preachers and leaders of worship meetings, synods, circuit and church events.
- It will involve regularly checking resources that are available connexionally and making others in your district aware of these.
- It could also involve establishing a list or database of a range of opportunities for people, who are exploring vocations in church leadership and ministry, to shadow others. Then the champion can share this and make connections when needed.

The time commitment

- A minimum of 20 hours a year; for example this could be
 - Attending events
 - Research and staying up to date
 - Sharing resources via email and other communication channels
 - 1:1 conversations
 - Communicating with others in a District Vocations Champions network
 - Supporting others in and beyond your District

What is good about it?

- Taking joy in increasing conversations across your District which encourage vocation.
- Meeting new people and seeing people grow in confidence as they articulate their understanding of their vocation
- Encouraging others

How to apply

- Speak with your District Chair

RESOURCES

Prayer

- Simple Prayer Guide [asimpleprayerguidebooka5_VdSNEu1.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)
- Pray As You Go [Pray as you go - \(pray-as-you-go.org\)](#)

Discernment activities

- This Time: This Place – a vocational journaling resource
 - Golden Circles – finding your ‘why’
 - Sailboat – a model for balance and discernment
 - Postcards – considering a range of ministries
- All these and more can be found at [Discernment resources - Methodist Church](#)
- Pick and Mix planning resource available from Methodist Publishing here: [Pick and Mix: A Vocation Planning Resource - A4 booklet - MVWMAG21 \(methodistpublishing.org.uk\)](#)

Films

- Discernment for Dummies x 4 [Discernment For Dummies Part 1: What is Discernment \(youtube.com\)](#)
- One Minute Discernment playlist [Process vs. Outcome | One-Minute Discernment \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Love This Calling films [Love This Calling - YouTube](#)
- Called to be a Local Preacher films [The Call to Preach - My Story - YouTube](#)
- What’s great about ordained ministry films [The call to ordained ministry - my story - Methodist Church](#)

Events

- **Ordination Exploration Days** (methodist.org.uk) Once registered, people are sent these films to prepare. You might find them helpful to watch and please also share them with people who are exploring ordained ministries. [Candidating | The Methodist Church - YouTube](#)
- **Explore.** This is an opportunity for any member of the Methodist Church in Britain who is feeling called to church leadership to take a breath, step back, and consider how they can respond to God's call. You can sign up at any time of year and when you do so you will be offered: Reflecting with an Accompanist, support in Journaling your experiences, opportunities to Shadow people involved in work of the kingdom of God, a range of learning & development resources and support to dip in and out of and being part of a group who learn together on a 9 month course. More information can be found here: [Exploring - Methodist Church](#)
- **Encounter.** This is a place to deepen your awareness of God. More information can be found here: [Encounter - Methodist Church](#)

UPDATED JULY 2024