

GUIDANCE

G.10

FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF THOSE DISCERNING ORDAINED VOCATION THROUGH DOV1 AND DOV2

DOV = Discerning Ordained Vocation

Please see Document G.9 for all dates and deadlines for the current year. This and all guidance documents can be found here: [Guidance for candidating \(2026-2027\) - The Methodist Church](#)

DOV1 documents are here: [Discerning Ordained Ministry - DOV1 - The Methodist Church](#)

DOV2 documents are here: [Discerning Ordained Ministry - DOV2 - The Methodist Church](#)

As a Superintendent, you will have a unique role with any potential candidate. These notes give you some guidance but you are also encouraged to support them in whatever ways feel appropriate.

Element	Information and guidance	Suggestions to help with this element
Initial conversations	When a person applies for DOV1, they are asked on the application form to state the name of the church where their membership is currently held, and to enclose a letter from the leader of their worshipping community supporting the application and confirming that they have been a member of a Methodist Church for at least the last year (up to 1 September in that calendar year) . Please ensure your colleagues are aware of this. They are also asked to provide evidence of their baptism and membership. They may need help with this. Document G.1.1 explains the evidence that can be accepted. When you are aware that someone is in DOV1, please inform your District Chair, but the information should not be shared any wider because at this stage it is a personal journey of discernment.	Read D.1 – the DOV1 application form and the guidance notes G.1.1
Shadowing opportunities	Accompanists could be working with applicants from January to July on DOV1 (or at least from April to July). If they identify that a shadowing	Talk in advance to colleagues and Regional Learning

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	opportunity would be beneficial, this can be arranged before or after the DOV1 retreat. In addition the DOV1 Advisory Group may suggest that a shadowing opportunity would be helpful before the person starts DOV2 (June-September). The applicant should come to you to ask for this but superintendents are then asked to make arrangements for these shadowing opportunities which could be in person or online. If a superintendent is not able to find a suitable colleague to offer a shadowing experience, they are asked to contact the Learning Network for suggestions. If help is needed to identify a shadowing opportunity with a deacon, the Methodist Diaconal Order are willing to help. Please contact mdosupport@methodistchurch.org.uk	Network teams in order to identify possible opportunities.
Accompanists	Superintendents receive a copy of the agreed record (D.4) which is drawn up between the accompanist and the applicant during DOV1. Please check this record and discuss it with the applicant as they prepare their portfolio. The record forms an element in the candidate's portfolio.	
DOV1 Advisory group	The Accompanist, Local Minister, Superintendent and District Chair receive a copy of the letter from the Advisory Group, giving guidance to the applicant for their next steps. Please support the applicant as they receive this and help them to reflect on the contents. This letter forms an element in the candidate's portfolio.	
Sharing information	When a person candidates, any information about their discernment journey is for them to share. There is <u>no requirement</u> for the news about a candidate to be declared in the September circuit meeting or at any other circuit event. You are advised not to tell the circuit that a person is candidating until early October when they will actually have applied for DOV2. At that point please ask the candidate if they are content to share the news with the circuit, perhaps through a newsletter. Then the circuit will be able to offer them prayer support.	

Formal declarations	If a person completing DOV1 chooses to candidate and apply for DOV2, superintendents are required to have a formal conversation with them to cover the areas listed on the DOV2 application form C.1 under the heading 'Superintendent's Declarations' Documents: 1. You will need to see both application forms D.1 and C.1 2. You will need to see and certify their passport (see document G7 for the required form of words). 3. You will need to complete form C.3 (future availability for stationing).	There is a lot of material to cover in this conversation and it usually works best in a face to face discussion. This will enable candidate to be clear about what they are assenting to. Please try to have this conversation as early as possible once you know their intention to candidate.
Local or specific context	If the candidate is offering for a local or specific context they must complete form C.2. It is important that they discuss their intention at the earliest opportunity with their Superintendent and District Chair. This form also requires district input and the district will need time to consider how (or if) this intention will fit with their mission policies.	This form must be submitted with their candidating application so these conversations need to take place as soon as the person decides to candidate or even before that.
Circuit Leadership Team reference	Form C.4 is the reference from the Circuit Leadership Team. For the deadline date when this must be returned, please see document G.9. This is the circuit's opportunity to give their endorsement and views about the candidate.	Please collaborate in creating this with the whole of the CLT so that it provides as wide a picture of the person as possible.

Experience of leading worship and preaching	As the candidate begins the process, you will know if they are not already an accredited preacher (presbyteral candidates) or worship leader (diaconal candidates). These candidates are required to build up experience of preaching and worship leading in the months between being recommended and starting their training at Queen's. Please therefore appoint them a 'preaching and worship leading mentor' early in the process. This needs to be someone who is preaching and leading worship frequently between February and July who is prepared to work with the recommended candidate in order to give them experience both of preparing and leading worship. They should have one mentor but they can share in services with others. The wider the range of worship they can experience, the better. It is also strongly suggested that you ask them to work through the 'Worship Foundations' workbook which can be found here: Worship: Foundations	
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