

GUIDANCE

CANDIDATING FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY 2026-2027

G.9

DATES AND DEADLINES FOR DOV1 AND DOV2

DOV = Discerning Ordained Vocation

Date	Element of the Process
January 1 - March 31 2026	Application form for DOV1 available on the website.
January to March 2026	Applicants are advised to start journaling if they have not already done so.
31 March 2026	Deadline for return of DOV1 application form (D1) with attached documents, and Equalities and Diversity Monitoring form (D2) and letter from church leader.
Before 8 May 2026	Meetings with accompanist begin with setting up the Covenant (form D3) and leading to production of the agreed record (D4) which is sent by the accompanist to the candidates' office. The office sends the D4 to the candidate's superintendent.
15-17 May 2026	Retreat for those discerning ordained vocation. This will be from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime at Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa. Programme details will be provided.
18 May - 3 June 2026	Meetings with accompanist to reflect on retreat.



The **Methodist Church** 

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

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4-6 June 2026	Conversation of up to one hour with DOV1 Advisory Group by video conferencing leading to a guidance letter (D5). Each person will be sent the time of their conversation and the zoom link. If any of these three dates are completely impossible for you to attend, please email candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk to inform the office. The guidance letter is sent by the Advisory Group to the applicant and copied to the accompanist, the local minister, the Superintendent and the District Chair.
June and July 2026	Preparation for candidating – this may include shadowing experiences and starting work on the portfolio.
June and September 2026	Portfolio support groups are provided by the Learning Network. You can attend either session on 10 th June or 13 th July 2026. For details and to book your place please visit the Eventbrite pages here: 10th June 2026 and 13th July 2026
January to the end of September 2026	Application form for DOV2 is available on the website (and associated forms). These should not be submitted until DOV1 is complete.
September 2026	Candidates meet with Superintendents to discuss and agree to the doctrinal standards, to uphold the discipline of the Methodist Church, and to accept the obligations to be at the disposal of the Conference for stationing.
30 September 2026	Deadline for return of DOV2 application form (C1), Local/Specific context application form (C2) and Superintendent's form (C3).
September – November 2026	Superintendents of candidates who are not local preachers or worship leaders appoint a mentor who is ready to provide intensive worship preparation experience if the candidate is recommended in February 2027.
10 October 2026	Candidates' Open Day at the Queen's Foundation which should be attended by all candidates. Please book a place at Methodist Candidates' Open Day. Please email knighk@queens.ac.uk between 1 July and 30 September 2026 for further details and to book a place.
31 October 2026	Deadline for references to be received from Circuit Leadership Team (C4), Employer (C5) and Critical Friend (C6). The Superintendent submits C4. C5 and C6 are requested by the Candidates' office but the candidate needs to ensure they are submitted by the deadline date.

	Please note that there is an opportunity on the C.1 application form to request that your employer is not contacted until after you have been recommended.
During October 2026	The presentation topic and guidance will be sent to all candidates with details about the DOV2 Connexional committee. The presentation is given during the DOV2 committee in February 2027.
October to November 2026	Diaconal candidates meet the Warden and Deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order. Appointments will be made with diaconal candidates by the Order.
October to November 2026	Assessment of C2 applications. Candidates who have submitted a C.2 form will be informed of the outcome during this period.
October to December 2026	The Connexional Psycho-Social Advisor carries out resilience assessments through online conversations.
20 November 2026	Deadline for submission of portfolio.
7 January 2027	Advice from portfolio readers is sent to candidates and copied to Superintendents and District Chairs.
29-31 January and 1-3 February 2027	DOV2 Connexional Committee for all candidates. Candidates will be invited to • EITHER 29-31 January. • OR 1-3 February. The process starts at 1.30pm on the first day and ends after lunch on the third day. Exact timings and details will be sent to candidates nearer the time.
By 5 February 2027	Candidates receive outcome letters. Recommended candidates receive the Occupational Health questionnaire. Candidates who are not recommended are given information about the 'Where Now' retreat.

February to March 2027	DBS check with barring is carried out for all recommended candidates. Occupational Health assessments are carried out for all recommended candidates. Details about these will be sent to recommended candidates.
March to April 2027	Any candidates for whom Occupational Health reports show concern may be contacted for further conversation and decision.
February to July 2027	Recommended candidates prepare for training: • Take up the offer for a 'preparation for formation and training' conversation with Methodist tutor from Queen's. • Reading • Learning needs assessments where necessary and available • Worship leading and preaching practice where needed with the previously appointed mentor. They are also encouraged to follow the guidance in the 'Worship Foundations' workbook : Worship: Foundations
March or April 2027	Appeals are held if required.
Between March and May 2027	'Where Now' retreat for those who are not recommended. The date, venue and arrangements will be sent to those who need them.
Early April 2027	Allocations forms are sent to recommended candidates. Please return these within two weeks.
Early May 2027	Recommendations for those candidating for Diaconal ministry are brought to the Conference Diaconal Committee.
15-16th May (For allocation conversations) 18th May (Allocations Committee meet)	Allocations to training pathways. Allocations conversations with each recommended candidate take place on two days (usually a Friday and Saturday). The Allocations Committee meets to agree the allocated training pathways following the conversations. Recommended candidates are informed of their pathway soon after the Committee has met.
24 June-30 June 2027	Recommendations are presented to the Methodist Conference.
Late September 2027	Start of training and formation