

39. Authorisations Committee

Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Andrew Lunn, Chair of the Authorisations Committee andrew.lunn@methodist.org.uk
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1. The Authorisations Committee has reviewed applications from Circuits to authorise those who are not ordained presbyters to preside at services of Holy Communion. Careful consideration was given to applications using the established criteria.
2. The Committee considered a total of 106 new applications (including renewals after three years): 35 presbyteral probationers, 2 deacons and 69 lay people. One hundred and one authorisations are recommended without further qualification to the 2016 Conference. Two diaconal applications were recommended due to exceptional circumstances. The Committee declined to recommend one lay application on the basis that the Circuit should explore further the practice of Extended Communion. It declined to recommend one application for a presbyteral probationer as there were sufficient presbyters in the Circuit to preside at the required number of communion services. Further information was requested regarding three applications from one Circuit.
3. The Committee again had the opportunity to consider applications made under the missional criterion approved by the 2012 Conference. The Committee considered one application for a renewal made under this criterion, which was approved. The Committee will be requesting feedback from those Circuits granted authorisations under the missional criterion.
4. Application forms are available for the authorisation of probationer presbyters, deacons, lay persons, missional applications and renewals after the three-year term. These will be available to District Chairs in October. Applications need to be considered by Circuit Meetings, District Policy Committees and Synods before submission.
5. In the case of applications for authorisations for deacons, these should only be submitted following a thorough consultation with the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and on the basis that the Circuit will make every effort to train a lay person to take up the role the following year. Future applications will be subject to the views of the Faith and Order Committee following the interim report on the Theology and Ecclesiology Underpinning the Diaconate (Agenda item 33).
6. All applications for consideration in 2017 should be submitted to the Conference Office by Thursday 6 April 2017. The Committee will meet at the end of April 2017 to consider the applications received.
7. Authorisations, when granted, are for one year and their scope is limited to the Circuit in which the person resides. If the District Policy Committee is satisfied that the person authorised remains suitable and the circumstances of the Circuit have not changed, it may on the application of the Circuit Meeting recommend a renewal of the authorisation for a second or third year, and the Authorisations Committee supports any such recommendation without further investigation (see lists B and C below).
8. The Committee draws attention to the provisions in SO 011(7) whereby in emergencies arising after the meeting of the Conference applications may be referred to the President, or the Vice-President on his or her behalf, who may grant an authorisation having immediate effect and continuing until 31 August following the next meeting of the Conference.

9. The Committee welcomes informal consultations with any Circuit considering making an application for an authorisation.
10. The Committee is grateful to all the Circuits and Districts for supplying this detailed information.

Review of the “Criteria for Authorising Persons other than Presbyters to Preside at the Lord’s Supper” in light of Memorial M1 to the 2015 Conference

11. Memorial M1 to the 2015 Conference (“Authorisation to preside at communion”) was as follows:
The South Bedfordshire (34/4) Circuit Meeting (Present: 61; Voting: unanimous) asks the Conference to amend the ‘Criteria for Authorising Persons other than Presbyters to Preside at the Lord’s Supper’ (CPD 2014, Book VI, Part 3, p750). In paragraph 2, the Circuit Meeting would like the criteria for deprivation be changed from “if the answer is 13 or greater then deprivation is deemed to exist” to “if the answer is either 13 or greater, or, where it is requested, more than half of the Sunday services conducted by presbyters are communion services, then deprivation is deemed to exist”.
12. The Conference adopted the following reply:
The Conference thanks the South Bedfordshire Circuit Meeting for its memorial. The ministry of Methodist presbyters is a ministry of word and sacrament, shared with the One Church of Christ and in which we rejoice. However, it is some time since the criteria for the current deprivation figure were set. It therefore directs the Connexional Authorisations Committee, with the Faith and Order Committee, to reconsider the criteria and to report to the 2016 Conference.
13. The review directed by the 2015 Conference was carried out by telephone conference between members of the Authorisations Committee and a representative of the Faith and Order Committee.
14. It was noted that in 2015, of the significant number of applications received for authorisations to preside, only two had a deprivation figure under thirteen (one of which was declined) and only two were based on missional criteria. The Committee was not aware of any factors in its work over the past few years that would show that change is needed. The memorial that led to this review does not mention a specific reason for asking for a change other than the number of communion services as a proportion of the total which presbyters lead; however, the criteria are already based “on the assumption that a full-time presbyter is able to conduct 26 Sunday services per quarter, half of which will be communion services.” The Committee was particularly cautious on this issue; for presbyters the celebration of Holy Communion is a core aspect of the ministry of word and sacrament, so a suggestion that it might be desired that presbyters do this less often raises some significant issues about vocation. The Committee also noted that deprivation can also be addressed by other means through flexible patterns of worship.
15. Several of the points raised in this review seem to indicate that a broader discussion regarding authorisations (covering more than the criteria alone) may be timely and appropriate. This could take into account, for example, ecumenical considerations, and the training of those who are authorised. However, in response to M1, the Committee, in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee, saw no need to amend the criteria at this time.

***RESOLUTIONS

39/1. The Conference received the Report.

39/2. The Conference adopted the Report as its further reply to M1 (2015).

39/3. The Conference authorised the following persons to preside at the Lord's Supper for the year commencing 1 September 2016 in accordance with the provisions of SO 011:

AUTHORISATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE 2016 CONFERENCE

Key: P = Probationer presbyter
D = Deacon
L = Lay person
M = Approved under missional criterion

LIST A – New applications for authorisations for three years

Circuit No	Circuit Name	Application	Cat
1/1	Cymru (Bathafarn)	Elizabeth Jones	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Philip Davies	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Goronwy Ellis	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Maryl Rees	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Meirion a Dyfi)	Eluned Williams	L
1/1	Cymru (Powys)	John Ellis	L
1/1	Cymru (Powys)	Tom Ellis	L
1/1	Cymru (Dyffryn Clwyd a Dyffryn Conwy)	Jonathan Miller	D
2/3	Bangor and Holyhead	Howard Jackson	L
2/3	Bangor and Holyhead	Royce Warner	L
2/16	Mid-Glamorgan Mission	Stephen Richardson	D
2/13	Gwent Hills and Vales	Stephen Boxall	P
5/1	Birmingham	Ping Ting Chen	P
5/1	Birmingham	Farai Mapamula	P
5/10	Coventry and Nuneaton	Jane Elizabeth Braund	P
5/13	Mid Warwickshire	Trevor Pethick	L
6/5	Wigan	Jim Whelan	L
6/8	Bury	Jeremy Hackett	P
9/4	Whitehaven	David Andrews	L
9/4	Whitehaven	Alan Moore	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	Wilf Capstick	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	Donald Marston	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	David Askew	L
9/14	South Lakes	John Biggs	L
9/14	South Lakes	Bryan Bucknell	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Bob Mantle	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Janet Ladds	L
11/4	Northwich and Winsford	Timothy Simms	P

12/1	Camborne-Redruth	Marquis Honeychurch	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Mike Ely	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Elizabeth Harris	P
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Jenny Lockwood	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Christine Roberts	L
12/7	St Austell	Sheila Allen	L
12/7	St Austell	Bernard Goudge	L
12/7	St Austell	Mary Lightfoot	L
12/7	St Austell	Tony Warren	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Anita Baker	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Val Sterling	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Myra Williams	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Glenton Brown	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Robin Heywood	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Brian Parkman	L
13/17	Barnard Castle and Teesdale	Audrey Williams	L
14/1	Norwich	Deborah Caulk	P
15/1	Isle of Man	Nicholas Owen	L
16/12	Nidd Valley	Ann Fox	P
16/15	Wharfedale and Aireborough	Victoria Jane Atkins	P
16/17	Aire and Calder	Robert John Drost	P
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Deryck Hand	L
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Keith Locke	L
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Roger Maidens	L
18/19	Lancashire West	Susan Guénault	P
20/8	Tynedale	Alexandra Claire Dunstan	P
22/3	Nottingham (East)	Moses K Agyam	P
22/12	National Forest East	Jacqueline Ann Goaten	P
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	John Moorley	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	Valerie Rollisson	L
22/15	Grantham and Vale of Belvoir	Helen Shallow	P
22/23	Sherwood Forest	Simon Hurrell	L
22/23	Sherwood Forest	Barrie Richmond	L
22/26	Newark and Southwell	Peter Hibberts	P
23/1	Oxford	Alison Mares	P
23/8	Leicester (North)	Jo Kay	L
23/8	Leicester (North)	Sue Moore	L
23/8	Leicester (North)	Susan Smith	L
23/12	Melton Mowbray	Jenny Oliver	L
23/13	Northampton	John Atkin	L
23/13	Northampton	Norma Baxter	L
23/13	Northampton	Linda Leathersich	L

23/13	Northampton	Maggie Munday	L
23/13	Northampton	Paul Wilson	L
23/14	Rugby and Daventry	Christine Herrington	L
23/23	Nene Valley	Kim Shorley	P
23/28	Amersham	John Poston	L
23/28	Amersham	Pamela A Sitford	L
24/3	Exeter, Coast and Country	Yangsun Yi	P
24/7	Tavistock	Philip Griffin	P
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Geoff Harding	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Brenda Prentice	L
24/23	Torrige	David Ley	L
25/1	Sheffield	Keith Blinston	L
25/1	Sheffield	Jill Pullan	P
25/14	Doncaster	Sue Pickering	L
25/14	Doncaster	Christine Sutherby	P
25/17	Rotherham and Dearne Valley	Anne Holmes	L
26/2	Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey	Ruth Fry	P
26/2	Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey	Fay Spencer	L
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Patricia Jose	L
26/5	Yeovil and Blackmore Vale	Margaret Whitford	L
26/16	Isle of Wight	Margaret Potts	L
26/16	Isle of Wight	Jeff Ryall	L
26/16	Isle of Wight	John Wells	L
27/18	Skipton and Grassington	Jane Jolly	L
27/31	Airedale	David McAloon	P
27/35	Huddersfield	Nancy Ndoho	P
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Christopher John Hardy	P
28/4	Walsall	Liam Dacre-Davis	P
28/8	Cannock Chase	Jacob Donkoh	P
29/33	York	Charles John Schofield	P
29/37	Hull (Centre and West)	David John Speirs	P
31/10	North of Scotland Mission	Christopher A Jackson	P
34/1	North Bedfordshire	Charles Connor	P
34/1	North Bedfordshire	Lorna Valentine	P
34/10	Southend and Leigh	Christopher Sandy	P
36/21	North Kent	Bart Woodhouse	L M

LIST B – Renewals after one year for applications granted in 2015

Circuit No	Circuit Name	Application	Cat
2/7	Buckley and Deeside	Robert A Balfour	P
2/12	Conwy and Prestatyn	Judith Holliman	P
2/16	Mid-Glamorgan Mission	Eileen Gardiner	L
2/19	Newport and Lower Wye	Ruth Lownsbrough	P
5/10	Coventry and Nuneaton	Penelope J Thorne	P
5/18	Bromsgrove and Redditch	Ruth Wilson	P
7/2	Bristol and South Gloucestershire	Patrick D Stonehewer	P
7/13	North East Somerset and Bath	Martin Slocombe	P
7/16	Somerset Mendip	H Craig Manley	P
7/20	Wiltshire United Area	Wendy J Tucker	P
9/9	Penrith	Timothy M Cooke	P
10/1	Bailiwick of Guernsey	Karen Le Mouton	P
11/24	Staffordshire Moorlands	Don Haslam	L
11/24	Staffordshire Moorlands	Jean Forrester	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwenapp	W Gerald Triggs	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	David Parker	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Michael Fairhead	L
12/7	St Austell	John Keast	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Jill Garbett	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Penny Manders	L
12/11	St Ives and Hayle	William Rodney Orr	L
12/14	The Lizard and Mounts Bay	William T Reed	L
12/14	The Lizard and Mounts Bay	Paul M Benney	P
12/17	Launceston Area	Johanna C Smart	P
12/19	Liskeard and Looe	David Nicholls	L
17/1	Epworth and Scunthorpe	Helen Croft	P
17/7	Wolds and Trent	Sarah J Parkin	P
19/7	Stretford and Urmston	Margaret Curtis	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	Geraldine Stamp	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	Keith Bryan	L
22/23	Sherwood Forest	John Yarrien	P
23/11	Hinckley	Judith Cooke	L
23/14	Rugby and Daventry	Charity D Madenyika	P
23/26	Milton Keynes	Nicola Martyn-Beck	P
23/26	Milton Keynes	Rob Winn	L M
23/29	Vale of Aylesbury	Arthur Sara	L
24/1	Plymouth and Devonport	Donna A Leigh	P
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Muriel Hodges	L

24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Clive Smale	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Martin Reardon	L
25/11	Bolsover and Staveley	Kevin Laming	L
25/14	Doncaster	Barry Parker	L
25/14	Doncaster	Susanna Brooks	L
26/3	Kennet and Test Valley	Muriel Wood	L
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Ruth K Midcalf	P
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Peter Frank	L
26/5	Yeovil and Blackmore Vale	Denise Binks	P
26/16	Isle of Wight	Mary White	L
26/21	Weymouth	Tim Wells	L
26/21	Weymouth	Pam Woodland	L
26/23	Salisbury	Stephen M Hawkes	P
27/21	Settle	Wendy Holt	L
28/2	Brownhills and Willenhall	Mike Smith	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	James I Eaton-Challinor	P
28/12	The Black Country	Patricia Mukorombindo	P
29/37	Hull (Centre and West)	Iain M Ballard	P
31/1	Edinburgh and Forth	Stephanie A Njeru	P
34/4	South Bedfordshire	J Stephen Jones	L
34/4	South Bedfordshire	Roger J Owers	L
34/9	Chelmsford	Alberta A Konadu-Yiadom	P
35/31	Barking, Dagenham and Ilford	Angela Potheary	P
35/35	Barnet and Queensbury	Benjamin Twumasi	P
36/1	Hants-Surrey Border	Gina A Hoff	P
36/5	Staines and Feltham	Paul Murphy	L
36/9	Worthing	Gabriele E Britton-Voss	P
36/21	North Kent	Kan W-C Yu	P
36/25	South Kent	Hugh Burnham	L
36/25	South Kent	Joy P Brumwell	L
36/27	Canterbury and East Kent	Miriam S Moul	P

LIST C: Renewals after two years initially granted in 2014

Circuit No	Circuit Name	Application	Cat
2/18	Neath Port Talbot	Clement Raymond	L
5/6	Birmingham (West) and Oldbury	Michael Hall	L
9/14	South Lakes	Joanna R Rand	P
11/15	Stoke-on-Trent North	Paul Owen	L
12/1	Camborne-Redruth	John Bailey	L
12/11	St Ives and Hayle	Kenneth Bassett	L
12/12	St Ives (Fore Street)	William Rodney Orr	L
13/17	Barnard Castle and Teesdale	William Bartle	L
22/3	Nottingham (East)	Tim Nash	L M
22/11	Ashbourne	Merle Wilde	D
22/13	Borders Mission	David Hopkinson	L
22/13	Borders Mission	Harry Smith	L
23/5	Banbury	Hazel Stagg	L
23/11	Hinckley	Neville Spark	L
24/3	Exeter, Coast and Country	Margaret Cole	L
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Michael Reeves	L
24/16	Tiverton and Wellington	Anne Browse	L
24/16	Tiverton and Wellington	Hilary Young	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Sylvia Edwards	L
24/22	South Molton and Ringsash	Gloria Manning	L
24/22	South Molton and Ringsash	Arthur Mildon	L
24/23	Torrige	Elsie Potter	L
24/25	West Somerset	Margaret Lintern	L
24/27	Ringsash	Colin Rice	L
25/17	Rotherham and Dearne Valley	Wayne Ashton	L
26/5	Yeovil and Blackmore Vale	Jennifer Gardner	L
26/6	Meon Valley	Grace Westerduin	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Sue Mathews	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Christine Jones	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Brian Wallace	L
28/14	Gornal and Sedgley	William Caldwell	L
29/31	North Yorkshire Coast	Rosemary E Coles	P
29/34	Ryedale	Tanya Short	P