

56. Candidating for Ministry – Standing Order amendments

Contact name and details	Mrs Joanne Anderton Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice and Secretary to the Law and Polity Committee Email: lcp@methodistchurch.org.uk
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The Conference of 2022 (Resolution 17/16) directed the Law and Polity Committee to present to the Conference of 2023 draft revisions of Section 71 of Standing Orders (and of any related Standing Orders) to accommodate the new candidating process. The Committee recommends that the existing text of Section 71 of Standing Orders be deleted and replaced with an entirely new Section 71. The Committee also recommends a number of consequential amendments be made to other Standing Orders as a result. The proposed amendments are set out below.

STANDING ORDER AMENDMENTS

The existing text of Section 71 is to be deleted and replaced with the following text:

Section 71 Presbyteral and Diaconal Candidates

710 General. (1) Candidating for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church is a process of discernment by the candidate and the Church of the call of God upon a person's life and of how the Church may respond to it.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of the relevant member of the Connexional Team to make available a variety of resources to enable and encourage the exploration of vocation.

(3) Following any such exploration every candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church shall engage in a process of discernment of vocation comprising two stages. Stage One is a formal process of accompanied reflection leading up to a decision by the person concerned whether or not to offer as a candidate for ordained ministry. Stage Two is the process of consideration of such an offer once it has been made.

(4) It shall be the responsibility of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee annually to produce Information for Candidates setting out the process, requirements, dates and deadlines for both stages of Discernment of Ordained Vocation.

(5) The Conference shall adopt and publish, and may from time to time amend, discernment criteria to be applied in considering offers by candidates for training as presbyters or deacons.

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711 Appointments. *(1) The Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee shall annually appoint:*

- (i) a pool of people to serve on an Advisory Group as directed by the relevant member of the Connexional Team;*
- (ii) a pool of appropriately gifted people from whom the relevant member of the Connexional Team shall appoint an accompanist for each candidate; and*
- (iii) such other appropriately gifted and experienced people as it thinks necessary for the purpose specified in clause (4) below.*

(2) An Advisory Group Panel of three people selected from the Advisory Group by the relevant member of the Connexional Team and normally comprising a presbyter, a deacon and lay member, will meet with each candidate.

(3) The role of the accompanist is to support the candidate through their journey of vocational discernment, to meet and reflect with the candidate and to produce the agreed record referred to in Standing Order 712(2) below.

(4) The purpose for which additional persons are to be appointed under head (iii) of clause (1) above is the purpose of delivering both stages of the process of discernment of ordained vocation effectively each year and in particular supporting each candidate pastorally throughout the process and, where necessary beyond it, whatever its outcome.

712 Discernment of Ordained Vocation: Stage One. *(1) Any person exploring whether to offer as a candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church in accordance with the Stage One process may engage with any or all of the resources offered to encourage and enable the discernment of vocation but in order to proceed to Stage Two shall at the very least have fulfilled all of the requirements of Stage One as detailed in the Information for Candidates produced annually by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee as required by Standing Order 710(4) above.*

(2) Every person entering Stage One shall be assigned an accompanist from the pool appointed in accordance with Standing Order 711(1)(ii) above by the relevant member of the Connexional Team. The person and the accompanist shall normally meet on at least three occasions either in person or online to review how the person's discernment is progressing and produce an agreed record of it which will form part of a candidate's portfolio.

(3) Unless the person concerned has voluntarily withdrawn every potential candidate shall meet with an Advisory Group Panel drawn from the Advisory Group appointed as detailed in Standing Order 711(1)(i) above to reflect on the potential candidate's progress. The Advisory Group Panel may suggest:

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- (i) continuing to Stage Two to offer as a candidate; or*
- (ii) continuing to Stage Two to offer as a candidate after having undertaken further identified elements of preparation; or*
- (iii) undertaking further exploration of vocation before returning to candidate in a subsequent year; or*
- (iv) the exploration of a different vocation.*

If the suggestion made by the Advisory Group Panel falls within the categories (ii), (iii) or (iv) above, it shall nonetheless be for the potential candidate alone to decide whether or not to continue to offer for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church in the current year, with or without having undertaken any further identified elements of preparation.

713 Discernment of Ordained Vocation: Stage Two. *(1) A candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church shall have been baptized and shall have been a member of the Methodist Church in good standing for at least one year as at 1 September in the connexional year in which the candidate's offer is made.*

(2) A candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church shall submit such forms and supply such references and other documentation as shall from time to time be required by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

(3) Every candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church must have and demonstrate the legal right to work in the United Kingdom.

(4) Every candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church shall meet with the connexional psychologist who shall produce a resilience assessment report which the candidate will be invited to sign before it is submitted.

(5) A candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church shall submit a portfolio in the form and covering the areas of experience from time to time required by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

(6) (a) A candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate shall satisfy the Superintendent that the candidate assents to the doctrinal standards set out in clause 4 of the Deed of Union and indicate willingness, on reception into Full Connexion, to uphold the discipline of the Church and to accept in particular the obligations to be at the disposal of the Conference for stationing which apply to the diaconate or to the presbyterate. In addition, a candidate for the diaconate shall indicate willingness to accept the commitments entailed in becoming a full member of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

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(b) The Superintendent shall also make a preliminary assessment on a connexional proforma of what might reasonably be expected of the candidate's future availability for stationing in circuit or other appointments and the terms and conditions of service under which the candidate might serve.

(7) Every candidate must be prepared to accept the form and length of training prescribed by the Conference.

(8) Unless an exemption is granted in accordance with clause (9) below an offer shall only be accepted if the candidate indicates a willingness to meet such conditions of availability for stationing as are set by the Conference at the time of acceptance and provides in writing an affirmation of willingness to be stationed in the active work for a minimum period of ten years.

(9) The connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee shall make recommendations as to exemptions from the requirements of clause (8) above to the connexional Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, who shall have the power to grant or withhold such exemptions.

(10) A person who was formerly a candidate for the presbyterate or the diaconate may not re-offer for either the presbyterate or the diaconate in the year following that in which the previous offer was declined unless advised to do so in writing by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation when communicating the Conference's decision.

714 The Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation. (1) The Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation shall examine all continuing candidates for the presbyterate and the diaconate and shall report directly to the Presbyteral Session of the Conference in the case of presbyteral candidates and the Conference Diaconal Committee in the case of diaconal candidates.

(2) The committee shall meet on or before the date or dates determined by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and shall take the form and be conducted in the manner detailed in the Information for Candidates referred to in Standing Order 710(4) above.

(3) In order to facilitate the process of discernment of vocation the committee shall have access to all portfolios, documents, references and reports submitted together with any and all such other information as the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee may from time to time determine.

(4) The Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation shall report to the Presbyteral Session or the Conference Diaconal Committee, as the case may be, under

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the classification specified in clause (5) below, the vote for each candidate being recorded and no neutrals being allowed. In reaching its classification the committee shall apply the discernment criteria published under Standing Order 710(5).

(5) The Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation shall have three classes in which it may report on candidates in accordance with clause (4):

- (i) Recommended: those candidates in respect of whom the committee recommends by a majority of 75% or more that, if accepted on that basis, they may proceed immediately or after deferment to pre-ordination training;*
- (ii) Conditionally Recommended: those candidates in respect of whom the committee recommends by a majority of 75% or more that, if accepted on that basis, they must first fulfil a condition but, provided that condition is fulfilled within three years, may then proceed to pre-ordination training;*
- (iii) Not Recommended: those candidates whom the committee does not recommend by a sufficient majority, or whom it judges to be unsuitable or not called to the form of ministry for which they offered.*

The recommendations in classes (i) and (ii) above are subject to there being no obstacle found in the safeguarding check or Occupational Health assessment required by clauses (6) and (7) of this Standing Order. The report and the reasons given shall be made available to the candidate in writing.

(6) Every candidate recommended or conditionally recommended for training and every candidate not recommended for training, but who has appealed against the recommendation of the committee and whose appeal has been upheld, must undertake a safeguarding Disclosure and Barring Service check if based in a home district in England or Wales, or its equivalent if based in a home district in another legal jurisdiction. The check must be completed before the Conference to which the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or the Appeals Committee will report its recommendation.

(7) Every candidate recommended or conditionally recommended for training and every candidate not recommended for training, but who has appealed against the recommendation of the committee and whose appeal has been upheld, must undertake an Occupational Health assessment in accordance with Standing Order 715(2) below. The assessment, and any appeal against the recommendations of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee made in consequence of that assessment, must be completed before the Conference to which the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or the Appeals Committee will report its recommendation.

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(8) The committee may also advise on the desirable length and form of pre-ordination training for all candidates who are Recommended or Conditionally Recommended, shall make a judgment on any applications for deferment of pre-ordination training and, if it thinks fit, may for the purposes of Standing Order 713(10) advise a candidate whose offer is declined to re-offer in the following year.

715 Candidates' Health. (1) The Methodist Council shall adopt and publish, and may from time to time amend, the Candidates Health Policy to be applied by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee when considering and making a determination consequent upon the outcome of the Occupational Health assessment of a candidate recommended for training by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or of a candidate whose appeal against the recommendation of that committee has been upheld.

(2) Every candidate for the diaconate or the presbyterate in the Methodist Church recommended for acceptance for training by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, or whose appeal against the recommendation of that committee in accordance with Standing Order 716(1) below has been upheld, shall undertake an Occupational Health assessment carried out by such external body or company as shall from time to time be appointed for this purpose by the Methodist Council.

(3) The Occupational Health assessment shall take place after the recommendation of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, or the decision of the Appeals Committee, in the case of a candidate whose appeal in accordance with Standing Order 716(1) below has been upheld, has been communicated to the candidate.

(4) The report of the outcome of the Occupational Health assessment shall be made available to the candidate, to the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation and to the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

(5) In the event that the Occupational Health assessment identifies adjustments that, for reasons of physical, mental and/or emotional health, will need to be put in place to enable a candidate to carry out the duties reasonably to be expected of a deacon or presbyter it shall be the responsibility of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee to make one of the following determinations:

- (i) that the candidate be recommended for acceptance unconditionally to the Conference;**
- (ii) that the candidate be recommended for acceptance conditionally to the Conference; or**
- (iii) that the candidate be not recommended for acceptance to the Conference.**

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The committee's determination shall replace the previous recommendation of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or, if applicable, of the Appeals Committee.

(6) In making the determinations required by clause (5) above the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee shall determine only whether any adjustments identified by the Occupational Health assessment are required and, if required, can reasonably and in timely manner be put in place having regard to and in all cases applying the Candidates Health Policy.

(7) Any candidate shall have the right to appeal against any recommendation made under clause (5) above, by following the appeals procedure detailed in Standing Order 716 below.

716 Appeals. (1) The candidate or the relevant member of the Connexional Team, or with the candidate's consent the candidate's Superintendent or Chair, may, by notice given in writing to the secretary of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, or in the case of an appeal against a recommendation of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee in accordance with Standing Order 715(5) above to the secretary of that committee, within fourteen days of notification to the candidate in writing of the decision of the committee, appeal against the recommendation of the committee, on one or more of the following grounds:

- (i) that the procedural provisions of this Section have not been correctly followed;***
- (ii) that there are facts which were not available to the committee and which are such as to make its recommendation inappropriate;***
- (iii) that the judgment of the committee, as conveyed to the candidate in the official letter informing the candidate that the offer made has been declined, is questioned in writing by both the Superintendent and the Chair of the candidate.***

The notice of appeal must specify the grounds of appeal and a reasoned statement to support the appeal shall be supplied by the appellant(s).

(2) Every such case shall be considered by an Appeals Committee of eight persons, of whom seven shall be a quorum. In the case of an appeal by or on behalf of a candidate for the diaconate the committee shall always include at least two deacons. The members of the committee shall be selected by the convener from the panel appointed by the Methodist Council under Standing Order 326A. The convener shall be present throughout the meeting of the committee in order to advise on procedure and practice but shall not speak on the substance of the case and shall have no vote.

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(3) The Appeals Committee shall be supplied at its meeting with copies of all papers from Stage One and Stage Two of the appellant's Discernment of Ordained Vocation process in the case of every appeal and, where the appeal is under Standing Order 715(7) above, the Occupational Health assessment, whether that appeal is against the recommendation of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, and the secretary of the relevant committee shall expound its case for its recommendation.

(4) The candidate and any other appellant specified in clause (1) above shall have the right to attend the committee, to be present for the presentation of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation's case or that of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (as appropriate) and to reply. The candidate may be accompanied by a presbyter or deacon of the candidate's own choice.

(5) The candidate may be questioned about the grounds of the appeal and, where the appeal is under heads (ii) or (iii) of clause (1) above, the issues cited in the judgment of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee but there shall be no general rehearing of the case or repetition of the assessment procedures, as the case may be, of the relevant Committee.

(6) After the appellants and the secretary of the relevant committee have withdrawn, the Appeals Committee shall decide whether or not to uphold the appeal.

(7) Subject to the above the Appeals Committee shall regulate its own procedure.

(8) The Appeals Committee shall report to the Presbyteral Session of the Conference or the Conference Diaconal Committee, as the case may be, with the number of votes cast for and against its recommendation, no neutrals being allowed. Any recommendation at variance with that of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation or of the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (as appropriate) shall require not less than six votes in favour.

717 The Conference. (1) The Conference in its Presbyteral Session shall first consider those presbyteral candidates in respect of whom there has been an appeal in accordance with Standing Order 716. The convener of the Appeals Committee shall present that committee's recommendation and the Conference shall vote upon each case in turn.

(2) When the cases specified in clause (1) have been dealt with all those candidates who have been recommended or conditionally recommended by a 75% majority or more by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, or by the Ministerial

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Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee in respect of cases dealt with under Standing Order 715(5), shall be proposed to the Conference en bloc.

(3) Those candidates whom the committee has listed as Not Recommended in accordance with Standing Order 714(5) or 715(5) and in respect of whom no appeal has been made under Standing Order 716 shall then be proposed en bloc to be declined by the Conference.

(4) No candidate for the presbyterate shall be recommended or conditionally recommended by the Presbyteral Session to the Representative Session for the presbyterate save by a vote of 75% or more of the members of the Conference present and voting.

(5) The provisions of Clauses (1) to (5) of this Standing Order shall apply to the Conference Diaconal Committee in considering and making its recommendations in respect of diaconal candidates, as if references to the Presbyteral Session were references to that committee.

(6) The candidates for the presbyterate recommended or conditionally recommended by the Presbyteral Session and the candidates for the diaconate recommended or conditionally recommended by the Conference Diaconal Committee shall be proposed respectively en bloc for acceptance or conditional acceptance as the case may be by the Conference in its Representative Session.

(7) No candidate shall be accepted or conditionally accepted save by a vote of 75% or more of the members of the Conference in its Representative Session present and voting.

718 Change of Order of Ministry. (1) A deacon in Full Connexion or diaconal probationer intending to offer as a candidate for the presbyterate shall inform the Superintendent, Chair and the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order. A student deacon intending to offer shall inform the oversight tutor with overall responsibility for the student's training institution and the Warden.

(2) A presbyter in Full Connexion or presbyteral probationer intending to offer as a candidate for the diaconate shall inform the Superintendent and Chair. A student presbyter intending to offer shall inform the oversight tutor with overall responsibility for the student's training institution.

(3) Every such candidate must be prepared to accept the form and length of training prescribed by the Conference.

(4) Every such candidate for the presbyterate shall also be a local preacher.

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(5) The candidate shall arrange for the provision of such documentation and other information, and fulfil such other requirements as may be directed by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, including in the case of a presbyteral candidate such reports on the candidate's ability to lead worship and to preach as may be appropriate. The candidate must also demonstrate an adequate ability to benefit from study and to apply what has been learnt. In the case of a student or probationer this shall include reports from the relevant training institution.

(6) The provisions of Standing Orders 713 to 717 shall apply, and the period of pre-ordination training and probation shall be determined by the Presbyteral Session of the Conference or Conference Diaconal Committee when the candidate is accepted.

(7) A candidate who is a deacon shall cease to be in Full Connexion as a deacon and to be a member of the Methodist Diaconal Order on the commencement of pre-ordination training or on entry upon probation, whichever is the earlier. If for any reason pre-ordination training or probation for the presbyterate is not completed, the candidate shall be entitled to apply for reinstatement as a deacon under the provisions of Standing Order 761.

(8) A candidate who is a presbyter shall cease to be in Full Connexion as a presbyter on the commencement of pre-ordination training or on entry upon probation, whichever is the earlier. If for any reason pre-ordination training or probation for the diaconate is not completed, the candidate shall be entitled to apply for reinstatement as a presbyter under the provisions of Standing Order 761.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

320 Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation. (1) There shall be a connexional Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** appointed annually by the Conference and consisting of:

- (i) two Team members responsible for initial presbyteral and diaconal training and candidates, and
- (ii) not more than eighty other persons nominated by the Methodist Council of whom not more than twelve shall be involved in initial ministerial training.

In addition the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order shall have the right to attend meetings of the committee but shall have no vote.

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321 Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee consisting of:

- (i) no more than two representatives of oversight committees of training institutions;
- (ii) three persons each of whom is was a ~~current or~~ recent member of a district Candidates Committee and three persons each of whom is a current or recent member of a district Probationers Committee;

326A Appeals. The **Methodist Council** ~~council~~ shall appoint an Appeals Panel consisting of persons who are not members of the ~~Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee~~ **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** to deal with appeals under Standing Order ~~715~~ **718** or 722(3). The council shall also appoint a convener of Appeals Committees.

402 District Committees

~~...(6) Subject to Standing Order 451 the~~ **The** persons who are eligible to be members of district committees are those who, if ministers or probationers, are members of or (in the case of forces chaplains and chaplains' assistants) entitled to attend the Synod or, if not ministers or probationers, are members in the District or members of other communions involved in partnership schemes within the District which have been approved by the Conference.

Section 45 District Candidates Committee: This section is to be revoked in its entirety.

48A5 Further provisions relating to modified constitutions.

(2) The provisions referred to in clause (1) above are the following:

- (i) *[revoked]*
- (ii) Section 43 (District Policy Committee);
- (iii) Standing Order 442 (chaplaincies);
- (iv) *[revoked]*
- (v) Standing Order 444 (formal education);
- (vi) ~~Section 45 (district Candidates Committee);~~ and
- (vii) Section 47 (property).

722 Pre-ordination Training.

(2) In the case of each person who is recommended by the ~~Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee~~ **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** for acceptance as a

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candidate the Connexional Team member responsible for pre-ordination training shall ensure that any training recommendations made by the ~~district Candidates Committee~~ or the Selection Committee are reviewed by a connexional allocations panel in the discharge of its responsibilities under clause (3) below.

730 Ministerial Transfer between Churches.

... (2) (a) Persons ordained to the ministry of word and sacraments in other conferences or other Christian churches, ordained deacons of the United Methodist Church or of a church with a three-fold order of ministry and officers of the Salvation Army who wish to be admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference as presbyters shall apply in writing to the President, by the date annually determined by the Ministerial Candidates Selection **and Probationers Oversight** Committee, and the President or the Vice-President on his or her behalf shall arrange for the application to be considered as set out in the following clauses.

(b) Ordained deacons of other conferences or Christian churches or officers of the Salvation Army who wish to be admitted as deacons in Full Connexion with the Conference shall apply in writing to the President, by the date annually determined by the Ministerial Candidates Selection **and Probationers Oversight** Committee, and the President or the Vice-President on his or her behalf shall arrange for the application to be considered as set out in the following clauses.

(3) So far as judged desirable, in each case, by the Ministerial Candidates Selection **and Probationers Oversight** Committee, the requirements of clauses ~~(4)-(7)~~ and ~~(5) (8)~~ of Standing Order ~~710~~ **714** shall apply as if the applicant were a candidate offering for the presbyterate or the diaconate. ...

.....

(5) Subject to clause (5B) below the Team member shall also:

- (i) ~~require the applicant, not later than the date determined by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees, to complete and return to the Team member the medical questionnaire provided for that purpose, for consideration and report by a doctor specified by the Team member in consultation with the medical committee appointed by the Methodist Council;~~
- (ii) appoint and obtain a report from a connexional assessor, who shall meet the applicant and make such other enquiries as to the applicant's effectiveness in ministry as he or she thinks fit;

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- (iii) obtain a ‘fitness to minister’ assessment covering both physical and psychological wellbeing conducted by a provider of occupational health services.

(5A) The results of this assessment shall be disclosed to the Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee only after it has made its recommendation. The medical committee of the Methodist Council shall be consulted if the recommendation of the ‘fitness’ assessor contradicts a ‘recommended’ or ‘conditionally recommended’ report from the committee.

(5B) In the case of an applicant who is recognised and regarded as a presbyter or a deacon under clause 43(b), 44(b), 45(a) or 45A(a) of the Deed of Union the requirements of clauses (4) and (5) above shall apply only to the extent determined by the Ministerial Candidates Selection **and Probationers Oversight** Committee.

(6) The application shall be considered by the Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation**, meeting specially, if necessary, for the purpose. Clauses ~~(1) (2) to (9) (4) and (1) to (7)~~ of Standing Orders ~~713 714 and 715 respectively, and the whole of Standing Order 717~~ shall apply with any necessary modifications and, in particular, substituting ‘applicant’ for ‘candidate’ throughout, adapting clause (3) in the light of clause 5(iii) above, and adapting clause (9) **(5) of Standing Order 715** as set out in clause (7) below.

.....

(8)

- (ii) the Stationing Committee has approved outline provisions for the stationing of the minister including proposals about how she or he will exercise his or her ministry and the terms and conditions of service under which she or he will serve, and the Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** is satisfied that the applicant is willing and able to fulfil them.

(10) The applicant may, by notice in writing to the appropriate Team member responsible for candidates for the presbyterate or the diaconate, apply for a review of the recommendation of the committee, specifying the grounds of appeal. The notice shall be given so as to reach the Team member within fourteen days of notification in writing to the applicant of the decision of the committee. The appeal shall be dealt with under Standing Order ~~715 718~~(2) to (9) **(8)** except that there shall be no other appellant than the applicant.

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(13) (a) If the Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** recommends that an application be accepted

(14) The Presbyteral Session of the Conference and the Conference Diaconal Committee shall consider the reports received from the Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** and (if applicable) the Appeal Committee on all applications for transfer under this Standing Order and make recommendations

731 Former Ministers of other Churches applying to be received into Full Connexion.

(2) Where such a person applies to be received into Full Connexion then the procedures of Standing Order 730 shall apply with the following variations:

- (i) The Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee **for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** shall inquire into the reasons why the applicant is no longer regarded as a presbyteral minister or deacon, and shall be satisfied that, if he or she had been applying for reinstatement under Standing Order 761, the application would have been granted.

.....

- (iii) shall in no case be omitted, unless for good reason, stated in the Selection Committee's report **of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation** to the Conference.

732 Persons Recognised and Regarded as Presbyters or Deacons.

(3).....

(d) and in either case by the date annually determined by the Ministerial Candidates Selection **and Probationers Oversight** Committee under Standing Order 730(2)(a) or (b), as applicable.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

56/1. The Conference receives the Report.

56/2. The Conference amends Standing Orders as set out above.