

# Criteria for Selection of Candidates (SO 710(5))

MC/24/44

Meeting date	13-15 April 2024
Contact Name and Details	The Revd Michaela A Youngson, Assistant Secretary of the Conference <a href="mailto:asc@methodistchurch.org.uk">asc@methodistchurch.org.uk</a>
Action Required	Decision
Resolutions	44/1. The Council receives the report.  44/2. The Council recommends to the Conference the Criteria for Selection of Candidates under Standing Order 710(5) for presentation to the Conference for adoption and publication.

1. Last year the Ministries Committee examined the revised criteria and competencies for Ministry which reflect the impact of various Conference decisions and the priorities of the Church in recent years, notably the Justice Dignity and Solidarity strategy, Changing Patterns of Ministry and the Review of Candidating, and recommended changes to the Council. The Ministries Team also checked that safeguarding was appropriately included. Further consultations have also been held with the Queen's Foundation.
2. In March 2023 the Council appointed the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling and Dr Hellen Okello with the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order to work with the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, a representative of the Ministries Committee, and the appropriate member(s) of the Connexional Team to revise the wording of the Criteria for Selection of Candidates, in the light of the new candidating process, for presentation to the Conference for adoption and publication.
3. This sub-group of the Council met on 28.09.23 and submits the revised criteria for selection of candidates under Standing Order 710(5)). These are presented to the Council for recommendation to the Conference for adoption and publication.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**44/1. The Council receives the report.**

**44/2. The Council recommends to the Conference the Criteria for Selection of Candidates under Standing Order 710(5) for presentation to the Conference for adoption and publication.**

<b>Criteria for the Selection of Candidates (Standing Order 710(5))</b>	
<b>1 Vocation (call and commitment)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An inner sense of call that is:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. confirmed by others;</li> <li>ii. obedient, based on an understanding of the demands of ordained ministry in terms of training, deployment and sacrifice and the candidate's capacity to be a servant in a community of servants;</li> <li>iii. realistic in terms of the candidate's capacity to meet the expected competencies for reception into Full Connexion and ordination after a period of training and probation;</li> <li>iv. informed by a clear understanding of the representative nature of ordained ministry and the discipline of the Methodist Church;</li> <li>v. transformative, in that the candidate is being changed by this sense of call and is willing to continue to be changed;</li> <li>vi. persistent rather than passing.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Ability to articulate clearly this sense of call to a particular order of ministry and its development:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for presbyters, consonant with the <i>Ordination of Presbyters</i> (MWB p. 298) and <i>What is a Presbyter?</i>;</li> <li>for deacons, consonant with the <i>Ordination of Deacons</i> (MWB p. 313) and <i>The Theology and Ecclesiology of the Diaconate</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Ability to narrate their Christian experience and growth within it.</li> <li>4. For diaconal candidates only: Commitment to membership of the Methodist Diaconal Order as a religious order.</li> </ol>
<b>2 Vocation (ministry in the Methodist Church in Britain)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fidelity to the Methodist doctrinal standards Deed of Union, Clause 4.</li> <li>2. Be a member in good standing of the Methodist Church in Britain for at least one year.</li> <li>3. Knowledge and understanding of the Methodist Church in Britain.</li> <li>4. Demonstrable and enthusiastic commitment to and desire to serve the Methodist Church in Britain.</li> <li>5. Understanding of ministry within the Methodist Church in Britain including the distinctiveness of the two orders of ministry and commitment to, and understanding of, lay vocations and ministries.</li> <li>6. For diaconal candidates: Knowledge and understanding of the diaconate as an order of ministry and religious order.</li> <li>7. Willingness to work with diversity within the Methodist Church in Britain.</li> </ol>
<b>3. Relationship with God</b>	<p>A relationship with God that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child-like and mature with the capacity to grow.</li> <li>2. Grounded in an understanding of God's loving acceptance and a personal commitment to Christ.</li> <li>3. Nourished by a commitment to individual and corporate prayer and worship and engagement with the means of grace.</li> <li>4. A means of sustenance and encouragement in the candidate's daily life and in his or her relationships with others and the wider world.</li> <li>5. Seeking to grow and develop through appropriate means, for example, 'A Methodist Way of Life'.</li> <li>6. For diaconal candidates: knowledge of and a willingness to live by the Methodist Diaconal Order Rule of Life.</li> </ol>
<b>4. Personality and character</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Self-awareness and self-acceptance grounded in God's loving acceptance.</li> <li>2. Emotional stability.</li> <li>3. Maturity, honesty and integrity.</li> <li>4. Appropriate self-confidence and humility including awareness of their own strengths and weaknesses.</li> <li>5. An awareness of boundaries and also of the need for self-discipline in vocation/life balance.</li> <li>6. Stamina, robustness and resilience.</li> <li>7. Potential for self-development and growth.</li> <li>8. Can demonstrate the capacity for a public representative role, in order to promote the glory of God.</li> </ol>

<b>Criteria for the Selection of Candidates (Standing Order 710(5))</b>	
<b>5. Being in relationship with others</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ability to see God in others and recognise the equality of all people before God.</li> <li>2. Ability to relate respectfully to a variety of people with an awareness of their own unconscious bias.</li> <li>3. Capacity and willingness to develop open and healthy personal, professional and pastoral relationships across all diversities.</li> <li>4. Capacity to relate to the same people in a number of different roles without confusion and with generosity.</li> <li>5. Potential to exercise effective pastoral care.</li> <li>6. Evidence of an ability to work collaboratively.</li> <li>7. Acceptance of the discipline of the Church and respect for the diversity of views within Methodism.</li> <li>8. Commitment to the Methodist Church's strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.</li> </ol>
<b>6. The Church's ministry in God's world</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An ability to articulate an understanding of 'Our Calling' and the Priorities of the Methodist Church.</li> <li>2. Knowledge and understanding of mission and evangelism, including the variety of approaches within the Methodist Church.</li> <li>3. Personal commitment to mission and evangelism and the Methodist Church as its vehicle.</li> <li>4. Out of engagement with the world of work and contemporary culture in a multicultural society, the ability to make connections imaginatively between today's world and the gospel.</li> <li>5. Ability to work for change, with particular attention to the marginalised.</li> <li>6. Potential to engage with mission-based practices including listening for mission, outreach, and apologetics.</li> <li>7. Commitment to and compliance with the Church's safeguarding requirements.</li> <li>8. A desire to nurture, encourage and build community.</li> </ol>
<b>7. Leadership and collaboration</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ability or potential for leading God's people in worship.</li> <li>2. Ability to exercise appropriate leadership in the Church community and beyond.</li> <li>3. Capacity to offer an example of faith, discipleship and humble service.</li> <li>4. Ability to inspire, enable and empower others.</li> <li>5. Potential for creative leadership.</li> <li>6. Willingness and ability to work collaboratively and capacity to exercise appropriate authority.</li> <li>7. Willingness to receive supervision.</li> <li>8. Organisational and administrative skills or the ability to develop them.</li> <li>9. Flexibility, adaptability and willingness to take risks.</li> </ol>
<b>8. Learning and understanding</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An expressed desire to grow in understanding of the Christian faith.</li> <li>2. Ability to learn and to benefit from theological study.</li> <li>3. Enthusiasm for lifelong learning and formation.</li> <li>4. Curiosity and flexibility of mind.</li> <li>5. Capacity to use a range of ways of thinking and models of reflection and to select the most appropriate for each situation.</li> <li>6. Openness to receive and reflect on feedback.</li> <li>7. Appreciation of the significance of theology to the Church.</li> <li>8. Commitment to ongoing and appropriate training in safeguarding.</li> </ol>

<b>Criteria for the Selection of Candidates (Standing Order 710(5))</b>	
<b>9. Communica tion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ability to express faith naturally and effectively in ways that are appropriate, accessible and sensitive to the situation, using biblical and theological understanding.</li> <li>2. Ability to select and use the most appropriate media and approach for the context.</li> <li>3. Careful and appropriate use of language.</li> <li>4. Understanding and appropriate use of symbols, gestures and space.</li> <li>5. Effective communication skills for mission and evangelism.</li> </ol>