

BEFORE THE CONSULTATION

REFLECTIVE EXERCISE FOR CIRCUIT STEWARDS

The circuit policy is the essential basis for your thinking and prayers. Policy should include an overview of the different ministries required, presbyters, probationers, deacons, MOCCs, pioneers and lay employees.

Consideration should be given, in consultation with the District Chair and the District Lay Stationing Representative, as to whether a vacancy should be filled immediately.

Consider the following points before and at your meeting with the presbyter

- What skills, gifts and experience does the Circuit most appreciate?
- What ongoing tasks have been identified?
- Have we, with this presbyter, become a confident Circuit which works well as a team?
- Are we too dependent upon this presbyter? (If so what can be done to reduce this dependency?)
- How would change affect ecumenical work or other work done in the wider community?
- What are the personal circumstances of the presbyter that need to be considered e.g. spouse's/partner's employment, children's education, health needs, ease of access to family and support network?
- If an extension were to be offered, what is the appropriate length (up to five years)?

What effect might change have on other staff

- Is change likely to have an effect on staff dynamics?
- What effect would it have on the superintendency?
- Are future opportunities best suited to presbyteral, diaconal or lay ministry?
- Would it afford an opportunity to someone entering into a first appointment in our Connexion, e.g. a probationer presbyter, or a presbyter of another Church or Conference (MOCC) ?
- Is there a need for change to bring fresh impetus and thinking to bear?
- Would a change alter the theological balance in the ministerial team?
- What would we do if a presbyter was not appointed?