

CONSULTATION IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Why is it so important?

Consultation is necessary because the Circuit Invitation Committee needs to understand

- ✓ the ministry and work being done within the church and community.
- ✓ how the local people view its further development.
- ✓ how best that can be achieved.

How is it carried out?

Consultations should be carried out **sensitively and unobtrusively** so as not to add to the stress of the presbyter and the family.

All answers are given in confidence. A list of those consulted is kept together with a copy of the responses.

Who carries out the consultation?

The Circuit Stewards.

The task of consultation in local churches can be delegated to **church stewards** but **they must be briefed by the circuit stewards** as to how to carry out the consultation.

What does the consultation involve?

The consultation is carried out over a period of not more than 3 weeks, agreed with the presbyter. **It involves** one-to-one discussions with a mix of people in terms of age, gender, ethnicity. e.g chairs/secretaries of main committees, leaders of youth organisations, junior church, also ecumenical partners, community workers etc. The Circuit Stewards should prepare open questions to use to elicit the feedback, such as:

- ✓ Is the ministry of word and sacrament offered by the presbyter appropriate to your context?
- ✓ Are the particular pastoral needs of the church community being responded to effectively?
- ✓ Has the ministry exercised by the presbyter encouraged and developed outreach in the community?
- ✓ In what ways would a change of ministry affect the ongoing work in your context?
- ✓ In what ways might a change of ministry affect ecumenical work and work done with organisations in the community?
- ✓ What are the ministerial gifts and skills that your context requires now?