

REFLECTIVE EXERCISE FOR PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS

Time should be taken to reflect and pray about the direction of your ministry. You may have been considering a call to a new area/scope for your ministry in which case it is important that you seek guidance and support in making sense of your call. The Stationing Advisory Committee exists to meet with ministers who wish to explore opportunities for ministry in various areas of society and community life outside the circuit system, and to give advice and recommend permission if appropriate and necessary.

- Any minister considering a move into full time chaplaincy, or an appointment not within the control of the church, or wishing to return to circuit work must contact the committee's panels' convenor.
- Deacons are encouraged to consult with the Warden of the Diaconal Order on the direction of their vocation.

Taking into account circuit policy and your aspirations

- What skills, gifts and abilities do you feel you have that make your contribution valuable?
- Have you been able to utilise your gifts in the way you would have wished?
- Do you want to stay because of developing work, which you wish to see completed?
- Have you completed everything that you could have realistically hoped to achieve?
- Is your vision for the churches or community becoming a reality; are there areas of work still needing developing?
- Are there new initiatives that excite you and in which you feel you have the gifts to participate?

The life of the whole circuit and your contribution within the ministerial team needs careful consideration

- Would you wish an extension to be considered because it seems right for the circuit?
- By staying are you providing continuity?
- Do you feel that staying in the circuit would continue to stretch you in new and exciting ways or are there signs of dryness?
- How do your skills, gifts and abilities complement the current team?
- Has the appointment become comfortable and you fear the unknown?
- Are you prepared to be surprised by God?

Consider personal and support needs where relevant

- Children's education
- Partner's employment
- Special health needs
- Ease of access to family
- Needs of vulnerable family members
- Established friendships and support networks

For Deacons - Rule of Life

- Deacons should also take into account their Rule of Life which includes a commitment to itinerancy and direct stationing.