

D&M/MJ | Guide to the work of SAC | 04 November 2008

GUIDE TO THE WORK OF THE STATIONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIS GUIDE IS FOR:

Chairs of District: your attention is especially drawn to section 7, and to the need to alert others to the relevant sections

Superintendents: your attention is especially drawn to section 2

Presbyters in circuit appointments: your attention is especially drawn to sections 2 to 5 inclusive

Presbyters not in circuit appointments: your attention is especially drawn to sections 6 and 7

1. The work of the SAC is essentially that of giving permission for presbyters to serve outside the regular framework of circuit appointments. It is governed by SO 323 which refers in turn to others, particularly to SOs 774 (without appointment), 790(3) (supernumerary on compassionate grounds), 793(1) (return to the active work) & 802(part-time appointments). Although SO 323 refers to both presbyters and deacons, diaconal stationing permissions are dealt with by the Pastoral Committee of the Methodist Diaconal Order. The SAC merely functions (at present) as a channel of reference to the Stationing Committee for diaconal matters. The SAC deals with all presbyteral appointments that are not part of circuit ministry.
2. It follows therefore that **any presbyter, probationer or student presbyter planning to (or just thinking about) undertaking a form of ministry that falls outside the regular circuit framework should contact the Convenor of the SAC panels, Revd Ian Yates: iysac@btinternet.com**. Initial conversations with the

Superintendent and Chair should already have taken place, giving attention to the implications for the circuit of the presbyter's plans.

An initial contact does not necessarily lead to an interview with a panel. Ian is available to offer advice and guidance at any stage.

3. Please note that the requirement to contact the SAC includes **all** those interested in appointments that are either (a) with churches other than the British Methodist Church (b) with other bodies (c) Methodist Church appointments but open to lay and ordained alike. This is the current working definition of 'appointments not within the control of the Church': please be aware that the Stationing Committee is keeping this under review.
4. The status of some appointments is not easy to determine. All posts in theological education fall under one of the categories above. Some school chaplaincies are on the stations while others are not. The rule of thumb must be, 'If in doubt contact the SAC.'
5. The SAC also deals with permission to reside or serve abroad.
6. Presbyters coming back into the stationing matching process for circuit appointments should contact the SAC even if their permission was for a fixed term. This applies to those returning from abroad as well as those with permission to serve in the UK.
7. As presbyteral appointments become more diverse it will be increasingly important to keep track of people who have been given permission either (a) to be in an appointment not within the control of the Church or (b) to be

without appointment. The responsibility for doing this falls on circuits and Districts and in its pastoral aspects is an important element of the Chair's work. The following guidelines should be observed to enable this to be done effectively:

- a. Chairs should maintain a list of all the presbyters in the District who have permissions from the SAC as above. The Chair should have received a copy of the SAC report and may obtain a duplicate if necessary.
- b. Some permissions are time-limited. In such cases the Chair should have a pastoral conversation with the presbyter during the connexional year before the end of that period (the familiar 'penultimate year').
- c. Some permissions are without time-limit. In such cases the Chair should have the pastoral conversation in the fourth year and at five-year intervals thereafter.
- d. The list described in a. above should also contain the future dates for these conversations.
- e. Lay stationing representatives may be involved in compiling and maintaining the lists, spreadsheets etc.
- f. Effective follow-up is particularly important for those given permission to be 'without appointment'. Chairs should make every effort to keep in touch with them (although the SAC fully recognises the difficulties that arise).
- g. When a presbyter with a permission from the SAC moves from one District to another, if the first Chair knows about it they should send a copy of the SAC report to the receiving Chair.