

JOHN WESLEY FEDERATION

2nd Annual Conference held at Mthatha

29th May 2025 to 31st May 2025

MINISTERIAL FORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The formation of a Minister includes many different aspects that hold within academic education, practical experience, and personal growth. It classically includes Seminary training, a period of internship, and underway professional development throughout his or her ministry.

THE JOURNEY TO MINISTRY

The journey of becoming a word and sacrament Minister is a long process and is meticulous as well as diligent. When a person accepts that he or she is called, she/he must meet the resident Minister and share what he/she feels. Then the resident Minister will refer him/her to the superintendent minister who is going to meet him/her in his study office. The Superintendent Minister will listen to him/her when he/she is discussing his/her call to the Superintendent. Then the Superintendent will undergo the process of interrogating him/her about the call.

When the superintendent is interrogating the person, they are checking the spiritual journey of this person such as the Baptism, the confirmation of the person, the membership of him/her and does she/he belong to the Local Preachers' Association (LPA) in the church and also checking the period of being an LPA member, as well as the qualification that a person has.

Then the Superintendent Minister will present him/her to a circuit quarterly meeting. The Circuit quarterly meeting will listen to him/her when she/he is discussing the call, and the quarterly meeting will vote for the person to be nominated as a candidate.

If the person is not an accredited LPA member, he/she has to engage in studies to become a fully accredited local Preacher. After the studies are completed and the accreditation has been received, then the Superintendent Minister nominates the person as a candidate for ministry.

Then the candidate will prepare for a theological education examination through the school of vocation. These examinations take place in October of each year. When the candidate completes their examination, they must proceed to the screening committee of the District. The October examinations are known as written pre-screening. The District screening takes place in February each year.

In the District screening, the person or candidate will be asked questions about the call and his/her readiness for the ministry. It includes psychological assessments, examinations and suitability for ministry. After the screening examinations the candidate is presented to the Synod to be listened to and voted for.

During the process, there were trial services that were conducted and the reports submitted to the Supervisor of studies, then the Supervisor of studies will present at the Synod so that the Synod votes on them. When the Candidate succeeds at the Synod level, his/her name gets forwarded to the Connexional Executive for acceptance.

After three years when the candidate has completed his/her studies, they are placed in a Circuit for further vocational training and assessment. After the minimum of two years in a circuit, the candidate may be nominated as an ordinand. There are some further studies during the period of being an ordinand such as reports, retreats etc. then after that the Church ordains the candidate to the ministry of word and sacrament.

In conclusion, becoming a minister is a long spiritual journey. It needs a prayer warrior.

MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU ALL.