

Church Leader's Name and position

I recommend (name of candidate)

for consideration by the Panel.

Signed

Date

A brief statement from the church leader on the candidate's circumstances and why this panel might be helpful.

On receiving an application form further details will be sent out about the next stage of the process. This will include:

- The Dates & Venue
- The Timetable
- The Cost
- The Candidate's Application (which will need to include a cassette/CD of a recent live talk or sermon)
- Sponsoring papers from the parish and referees
- Guidelines for preparing for the panel

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the process contact Jonathan Lockwood on 0114 2309256.

RECOMMENDED READING

Freed to Serve // Michael Green

The Christian Priest Today // Michael Ramsey

Ministry Issues for the Church Today // Gordon Kuhrt

Whose Church Is It Anyway? // ed. Hugh Balfour
(Good Book Company)

The Reformed Pastor // Richard Baxter

Sent by Jesus // DB. Knox

Elders in Every City // Roger Beckwith

Workers for the Harvest Field // ed. Vaughan Roberts and Tim Thornborough

Ordination for What? // Alec Motyer (available on the web – www.fows.org/html/ordination_for_what.html)

Anglican and Evangelical? // Richard Turnbull

MINISTRY PANEL OF REFERENCE

Recognising, Training and Equipping Ministers
for Today's Church

"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" Ephesians 4.12

Our overall aim is to win the nation for Christ



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Ephesians 4.12

WHAT IS THE PANEL, AND WHAT IS IT FOR?

The Panel has been set up at the request of parishes to supplement the existing Board of Ministry process to help men and women test their calling to authorised Church of England ministry.

WHO SHOULD USE THE PANEL?

Anyone committed to the Anglican Church may use the Panel with the support of their parish, to discern their call to ministry. This may be for a number of reasons, such as:

1. A person, sponsored by their parish, seeking to discover the way forward in ministry
2. Cases of delay where theological training has already begun
3. A situation arising out of impaired communion with the bishop
4. A non-recommendation at a previous selection conference raising concern for the need of supplementary advice
5. A variety of situations where the selection process does not cater for the particular needs: for example, for a youth worker, or for an evangelist, or a woman wishing to train for ordination, but not for headship of a local congregation
6. Issues to do with the candidate’s age or background, for example, a candidate from overseas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE PANEL?

Four assessors, two lay and two clergy, will assess a person’s suitability for ministry training. It will take place over one day at

a venue in London. The criteria for assessment will be:

- Personal faith and life of discipleship and prayer
- Understanding of the faith
- Evangelistic and mission concern
- Aptitude for teaching
- Leadership ability
- Educational learning ability
- Relational aptitude

WHAT WILL RECOMMENDATION ACHIEVE?

The recommendation of the panel will indicate to the wider church a person’s suitability for ordained ministry. This will be helpful if alternative routes to ordination or ministry have to be considered as a way of ensuring due responsibility in the process and giving proper assurance to bishops involved. This will also be helpful to congregations who need to appoint their own ministers. The recommendation could also give valuable confidence to a congregation wishing to send a candidate to theological training.

WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT STEPS AFTER THE PANEL?

A report will be written for the vicar and church leadership to use locally, or with the diocese, or wider afield, as is necessary or helpful. It will conclude with a recommendation, or a non-recommendation, or a suggestion of further work in the process of discernment. It will offer guidance to the candidate and to the parish on how to take forward the Panel’s advice.

Complete and return to: Ministry Panel of Reference, PO Box 1183, Sheffield S10 3YA.

APPLICATION TO THE MINISTRY PANEL OF REFERENCE

Candidate’s Name

Date of Birth

Married or Single

Local Church Attended

Existing Ministry Experience

Address

Telephone

E-mail