

Candidates Tutoring

Process and Role of the SSS





Who are the
Candidates?

Prospective Candidate

Process to Candidature

Discernment

- Local Church through the Superintendent
- School of Vocation
- Affirmations

Nomination

- Theological Studies (Diploma/Degree)
- Fully Accredited Local Preacher
 - School of Vocation Certificate (≥2yrs)
 - Circuit Quarterly Meeting Vote

School of Vocation

Preparing Prospective Candidates



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School of Vocation

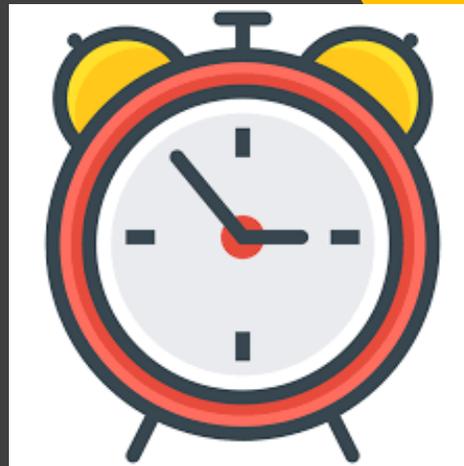
- ❖ All Prospective Candidates attend SoV a year before the year of Nomination
- ✓ SSS books the venue
- ✓ SSS designs the program
- ✓ SSS finds speakers/facilitators
- ✓ SSS notifies the Bishop & Superintendents
- ✓ SSS sends out the Registration Form
- ✓ SSS Keeps the Register of Attendees
- ✓ SSS Prepares the Certificates on the last session.

Tutorial

Preparing Prospective Candidates

Candidates Tutoring

- ❖ All Prospective Candidates attend Candidates Tutorial/s
 - ✓ SSS books the venue
 - ✓ SSS designs the program
 - ✓ SSS finds speakers/facilitators
 - ✓ SSS notifies the Bishop & Superintendents
 - ✓ SSS Keeps the Register of Attendees



❖ When?

- ✓ At least Twice a year before the Exams
- ✓ (**Aug** - Deal with Reading Material & **September** - Revision)

Tutorial

Preparing Prospective Candidates

What works better?

- Synod SSS to work together Regionally
- Online better in covering the Connexion
- No Spoon-Feeding of Candidates

Tutorial

Preparing Prospective Candidates

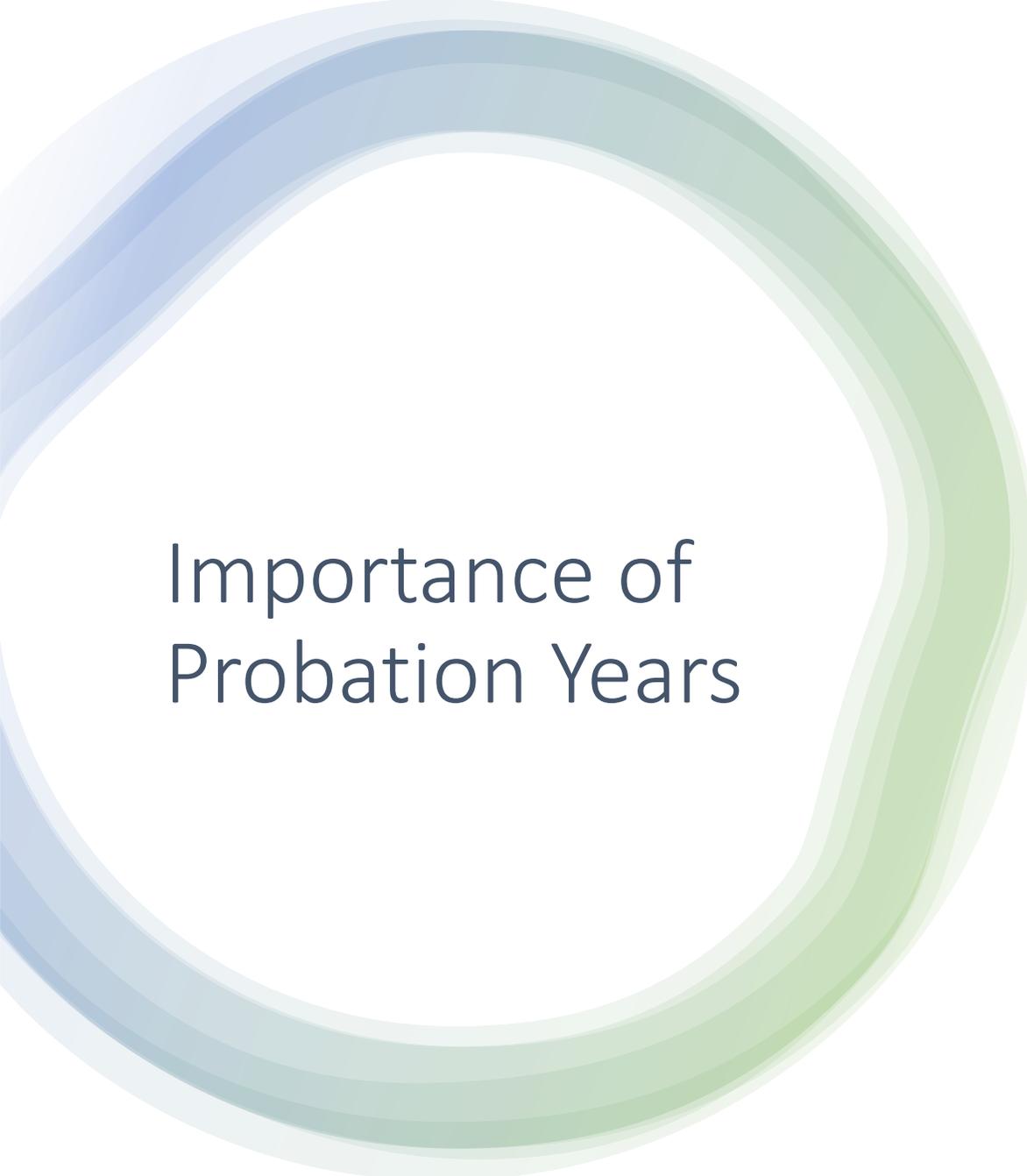
Syllabus

- **Christian Doctrine**
- **Methodist Doctrine**
 - **Conference Matters (Resolutions and PB's Address)**
 - **Polity (Sacraments, Membership, Structures, Orders, etc.)**
 - **Current Issues**

Probationer – SSS Relationship

A journey towards Ordination





Importance of Probation Years

Testing of :

The Call

Suitability for the Order

Suitability for the Ministry

Gifts and Talents

Importance of Probation Years

- **Testing the Call:**

- Can we sense the love for God?
- Can we see the evidence of being sent God?
- Can we feel inspired by the fire within the Probationer to effect our own Convictions about God's love and grace for us?
- Is there a sense of growth in the character of the Probationer to help the congregation to also grow?

Importance of Probation Years

- **Testing the Suitability for the Order**
- The Ministry of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service is within particular Orders:
 - Presbytery – Chapter 4 (4.2 & 4.3)
 - Diaconate – Chapter 13 (13.1 ff.)
 - Question 1 (Convocation)

- **Testing the Suitability for the Ministry**
- Matters of one's service are critical
 - IST (Circuit Work and Academic Competencies)
 - Teachability (Personal Growth)

Importance of Probation Years

Importance of
Probation Years

Testing the Gifts and Talents

- Application and
Influence

Oversight



SSS's Role



Oversight



SSS's Role

- General Committee Rules are observed
- Training of Stakeholders (PMC, Superintendents, Probationers)

Administration



SSS's Role



Safe Keeping of
Records



Drawing up a Program
for the Year



Planning for
Assessments and
Committees



Preparing for Synod &
General Committee

Pastoral Care

SSS's Role

- Accountability
- Personal Needs
- Spiritual Needs
- Advise General Committee on Formation needs



Probationer Mentoring Committees Training

SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR THE PROBATIONERS

Definition of Mentoring?



1. “ A professional relationship established between two people where a more experienced person guides a less experienced through the subject, where professional development is desired”. Zachary L.J., “ The Mentor’s Guide: Facilitating Effective Learning Relationship”.

Definition



2. “ A dynamic, intentional relationship of trust in which a mentor enables a mentee by sharing their God-given experiences and resources, to maximize the grace of God in their life in the service of God”. (Sophia Network, “ Mentoring to Transform lives”.)
3. “ Christian mentoring is a process of acknowledging and discerning what God is doing in the life of the one who is mentored.

Definition

MENTORSHIP



It is taking a responsibility of creating a safe place, a sanctuary for reflection and growth” (Mark Fowler, “ Mentoring into Vocation”.

4. “ is accompanying the learner on a pilgrimage of making meaning of the call and practice of ministry.” (EMMU Field Education Handbook)

5. “ a mystery in which the Holy Spirit is at work, a pilgrimage in which both the mentor and the mentee are in a process of becoming”. (EFEH)

Why Mentoring?



- ▶ “ A person trying to make it on their own is an accident waiting to happen”. (Howard Hendricks) Every person needs a mentor in life or sometimes in life.
- ▶ Mentoring is Biblical e.g. Jethro & Moses, Elijah & Elisha, Modecai & Esther, Nathan & David, Naomi & Ruth, Elizabeth & Mary, Paul and Timothy etc.
- ▶ It is a Methodist ethos of “ watching over one another in love” e.g. in Class Meetings.

Mentoring in the Church

- ▶ It is a sacred role (not a status)
- ▶ Mentors in the church are entrusted with the confidence of God and the church.
- ▶ Entrusted with the responsibility to be a companion for growth in discipleship/ Christlikeness.



The content of Mentoring



LISTENING



CLARIFYING
EXPERIENCE AND
UNDERSTANDING



ADVISING/ GUIDING



SHARING
RESOURCES



FOLLOW UP ON
AGREED UPON
TASKS

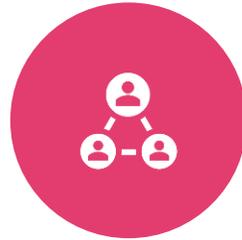


ENCOURAGEMENT/
AFFIRMATION

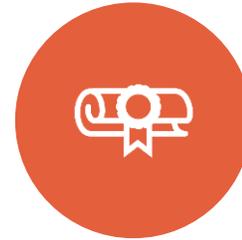


CHALLENGING
UNDERSTANDING/
THINKING OR
ACTIONS WHEN
NECESSARY.

Probationer Mentoring Committees



ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF ACCOMPANYING, SUPPORTING AND GUIDING PROBATIONERS IN THEIR CHARACTER FORMATION.



APPOINTED BY SUPERINTENDENTS.



WHEREVER POSSIBLE THE COMMITTEES ARE TO BE CHAIRED BY ORDAINED MINISTERS, INCLUDING WILLING SUPERNUMERARIES AND/ OR CUC MINISTERS.

Character Formation



The
focus
is on
six
areas
:

Personal Relationship with God (practice of spiritual disciplines)

Inter-personal attributes (dignity)

Stewardship of self (self-care)

Stewardship of God's resources (property, environment, money,time etc,)

Leadership ability (servant leadership)

Moral integrity

What kind of people can be appointed for this task?

- ▶ People of mature spirituality and wisdom.
- ▶ With listening and reflecting skills.
- ▶ Genuine Christian character (not pretending)
- ▶ Have appropriate boundaries.
- ▶ Having courage to encourage , affirm and to challenge when necessary.
- ▶ Committed to the task and available. The Committee is to journey with the Probationer until s/he ordains or moves from the circuit.

Things to be aware of in the Process of Mentoring



Clarifying the task/ expectations for the Committee and the Mentee- Focus is reflection & support towards growth.



Mutual respect of the process and the understanding of power dynamics.



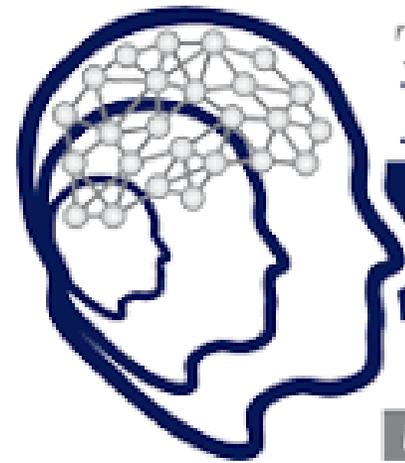
Agreements about confidentiality.



Setting dates, venue and time and honoring those as far as possible.



NB. Committees and the mentee are to agree on how often they meet- once a quarter is prescribed as a minimum



The
Methodist Church

EMMU

of Southern Africa

Education for Healing and Transformation

Continued
Ministerial
Formation



What is CMF?

Christianity in Africa has exploded through Non-University Theological and Seminary Formation.

- “Recently, educated and professional Pentecostals engaged in inter-regional mission have developed new models of “theological education by engagement” to supplement the mushrooming Bible colleges that hardly seek accreditation. Other title-loving “men of God” acquire doctorates from offshore agents and some fake ones.
- Old hands can hardly recognize the vibrant terrain anymore!
- Inheriting “the mantle of Elijah” became a metaphor for short-circuiting long years of ministerial formation.”

**ELIJAH'S MANTLE: MINISTERIAL FORMATION
IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY**

[Ogbu U. Kalu](#)

What is CMF?

Theology and Church Life need to be constantly reviewed

- “Globally, theological education and ministerial formation were in a state of flux and uncertainty for a number of years in the latter part of the twentieth century. Some would go further to suggest that this area of the church's life and witness had been in crisis for some time now. Whether in crisis or merely in painful transition, the fact is that many, if not most, churches, Christian groupings and theological institutions are realising the need for a radical review of their theological education and ministerial formation programmes.”

TRANSFORMING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL FORMATION

[Desmond P. van der Water](#)

What is CMF?

Context and Theology shape the life of the Church

- “In seeking to identify values essential to effective Christian witness, we find a good summary in Pobee, who who mentions six “guide-posts” or “kingdom values”: sacrificial love, truth, righteousness-justice, freedom, reconciliation, and peace. Without these, Christian witness may be so far off the mark that it is fit only to be compared with the religiosity of those who crucified Christ or conceived apartheid.
- The apartheid era has done severe damage to the kingdom values,” and theological education must grapple with the task of rebuilding the church, if there is to be meaningful Christian witness.”

CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN RELATION TO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL FORMATION

[Brian Banwell](#)

Facilitating CMF

- ❑ SSS encourage Ministers to register short courses or further studies.
- ❑ SSS discuss with the Bishop sessions in Ministerial Retreats that are Formational and Educative
- ❑ SSS Plan together with the Mission Unit Secretary Ministerial Empowerment Sessions on Missional Work
- ❑ SSS discuss with the Bishop the shape of the Convocation on Formative work – speakers, discussion papers, etc.
- ❑ Encourage Synods to have Budgets to support this work.

Myths about CMF

- Only Certified courses can shape us.
- Only Academic work is about CMF
- Informal Education is not the best
(Indigenous Education offers more
than Western Education)

Synod EMMU Committees

Formation at various levels:

- Youth and Children
- Local Preachers
- Membership – Confirmation
- Commissioned Orders
- Ordained Orders



Synod EMMU Committees

Members

- MYU Co-ordinator
- Local Preachers Department Secretary
- Order of Evangelism
- Order of **Presbyters** & Deacons (**SSS, IST, SoV**
Convenor, Candidates Tutor)
- Connexional Reps in the Synod (Ex-Officio)

At least 7 members of the committee if Candidates Tutor different from the SSS.



Synod EMMU Committees

