



EAST MIDLANDS SYNOD COUNCIL

Ordained Ministry & Churches



Your guide to the role and responsibilities of this Synod Council Group

New ways of supporting our Synod Mission in a rapidly changing world

What is the Ordained Ministry and Churches Group?

The Ordained Ministry and Churches Group is a key member of Synod Council. It is authorised by the Council to provide Pastoral Care and oversight for all Ordained Ministers and local churches in the East Midlands Synod. The responsibility is a holistic one and covers every stage of Ministry including responsibility for ensuring identified professional development needs for Ministers are delivered by the appropriate synod group. The role includes the care of retired Ministers, be they in active service or not.

What are its primary responsibilities?

- Taking all decisions related to the **pastoral care of Ministers** – unless it is agreed that a specific issue is to be referred to a full meeting of the Synod Council.
- Taking decisions and making recommendations on **pastorate resourcing**, including a focus on 2025. Decisions taken on authorising a vacancy are to be communicated to the Call Process Team, and to the vacant pastorate, to initiate the agreed processes.
- **Pastoral care of local churches** including those in vacancy.
- **Encouraging early, and local, recognition and resolution of issues** affecting Ministers and local churches.
- **Supporting the work of Pastoral Consultants** in fulfilling their role.
- **Ensuring processes and services provided by other Synod groups** meet the needs of Ordained Ministers and local churches. This includes the identification and delivery of professional development needs for Ministers by the Training and Development Group.
- **Setting and assigning clear actions and responsibilities** to group members to ensure all aspects of the function's role can be delivered and local churches are enabled to focus on their mission.

Who are the members of the group?

- A Synod appointed **convenor** will lead the group.
- **Pastoral Consultants** (Ordained or Lay) will be appointed to specific areas of the Synod. This is currently arranged by County but this may change in the light of the agreed 2025 proposals for deployment of Ministers.
- Each local church will be expected to appoint a **Pastoral Enabler** who will provide the key link between the local church and the Pastoral Consultants.
- The group will be responsible for filling its own vacancies in accordance with Safer Recruitment.

Who will attend the Ordained Ministry and Churches meeting?

In addition to the Convenor and Pastoral Consultants, the Synod Moderator will be present together with a minute taker.

Pastoral enablers and members of other Synod Groups would be invited to attend when a specific item, relevant to their area of expertise or responsibility is included in the meeting agenda.

Quorate: 50% plus one of the members (currently this would be eight.)

How will it work with, and support, local churches?

- The Ordained Ministry and Churches group will be a 'one-stop shop' for all matters related to the pastoral care of Ministers and local churches.
- A dedicated Pastoral Consultant working with locally appointed pastoral enablers will ensure that planned activities are initiated and delivered and when things go wrong they are dealt with rapidly and effectively at a local level by those who understand the local setting for ministry.
- The structure will ensure that other groups which are there to support Ordained Ministry discharge their responsibilities to an agreed timetable.

- The Ordained Ministry and Churches group will have responsibility for churches in vacancy and will provide support to local churches during this important time.

What are the key links with other areas of the Synod?

(1) The Call Process Team

- For providing updates on the filling of vacancies.
- For alerting the Ordained Ministry and Churches group of potential issues in vacant churches.

(2) The Training and Development Group

- For the delivery of all training and development for Ministers specified by the denomination.
- For the identification and delivery of personal development needs for individual Ministers, including external professional support
- For the delivery of Pastoral Supervision to an agreed timetable.

(3) The Synod Mission Focus Group

- For the delivery of Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR) to an agreed schedule.

How can I get involved?

Think about becoming a pastoral enabler and say 'yes' if approached by your church! This is a vital role which is increasing in importance as we plan for 2025. It also offers great job satisfaction!

This leaflet is produced by the Synod Structures and Priorities Review Group, who will be providing a series of leaflets about the new Synod Council and its supporting functions to assist you in understanding the changes.

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