

Why are we here?

How did you become a steward?

How long have you been a steward?

Why did you accept?

If you're not yet a steward, what has made you consider the role?

General Responsibilities (shared with the minister)

- 1) To provide pastoral care
- 2) To provide leadership over the whole range of the church's life and activity.
- 3) To uphold and act upon the decisions and policies of the Church Council.
- 4) To draw other members with appropriate gifts and skills into leadership.
- 5) To appoint one of their number to any official meeting of the Local Church

and to send a representative
to circuit meetings.

Particular Duties

- 1) Seeing that all services, and other meetings on the plan, are duly held.
- 2) For welcoming and being in attendance upon the preacher and, arranging hospitality and the payment of his or her expenses.
- 3) In emergency, for seeing that a service or meeting suitable to the occasion is actually held.
- 4) To prepare written notices and make sure the meetings announced are appropriate.
- 5) To take collections, enter the amounts in a book kept for the purpose and without delay remit them to the treasurer.
- 6) To see that all necessary arrangements are made for the administration of the sacrament of baptism.

CASE STUDY 1

Several members of the congregation are complaining about the noise made by the young child of a relatively new member. The mother doesn't want the child to go into the crèche and doesn't want to go out with the child herself unless he gets really upset. The church doesn't get many new members. What should you do about this issue?

CASE STUDY 2

In a year's time your minister will have completed 10 years in your circuit. You know there are different views in your church about whether or not the minister should be asked to stay longer. What is your role? What are the things you should take into account in deciding what to recommend and how to vote at any circuit meetings?

1. Ask the Circuit Stewards when they are going to consult you.
2. DON'T conduct an opinion poll. You have to weight the different views in the light of where you think the church is going.
3. Do you know something about the family/personal concerns of the minister which the circuit stewards might not know?
4. At circuit meetings you need to bear in mind the circuit's policy.

CASE STUDY 3

Someone conducts a service in your church. Afterwards there is considerable unease about some of the things the preacher said. Are they the kind of thing which ought to be said from the pulpit in a Methodist Church? You are not sure, but you doubt it. What do you do?

- 1) Collect the information as impartially and carefully as you can.
- 2) Discuss it with the superintendent.

CASE STUDY 4

The minister has promised to lead a Bible study meeting but, at the last minute, sends apologies saying something has cropped up. This is happening more and more often. What should you do about it?

- 1) Is the minister experiencing personal/family problems?
- 2) Is the minister too busy?
- 3) Do the church and the minister share the same priorities? Should they?

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A CHURCH STEWARD

- 1)Patience of a saint
- 2)Thick skin
- 3)Listening ear
- 4)Fixed grin
- 5)Broad shoulders
- 6)Large pockets
- 7)24 hour availability
- 8)Problem solver
- 9)Bag of tricks
- 10)Ability to rollerskate!