

Churches' Ministerial Counselling Service

Appointment of Consultants for the Service

Background

CMCS was founded in 1996, since then it has grown to be the leading national counselling service specifically for church ministers across many of the main denominations. It is currently in a phase of expansion as more Anglican dioceses become partners.

It has long been recognised that ministers and their immediate household sometimes need access to professional counsellors. CMCS provides affordable counselling by working with the each denomination to manage, publicise and fund the service whilst maintaining complete confidentiality for the client.

It is recognised that for a minister to go to a professional counsellor will involve payment. This might be beyond their means. Although ministers are expected to pay for counselling where possible, the denominations have agreed to support those who cannot afford the full amount.

The scheme is run by a Steering Group from the participating denominations with the support of an administrator (the Service Co-ordinator) working within the Ministries Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The Steering Group appoints a group of five Consultants (who are *ex officio* members of the Steering Group) in order to maintain professional standards and to offer expert clinical advice for the various issues which arise in the management and delivery of the Service.

Role Description

1. To hold the integrity of the Service and maintain the relationship between the participating denominations, the church and ministry.
2. To promote the Service among the churches of participating denominations, to other denominations and denominational bodies that are not yet part of the Service, and to the wider counselling community.
3. Consultants are responsible for:
 - assessing application forms from counsellors seeking to join the Service;
 - helping to plan training days for counsellors when required;
 - offering support to the Area Co-ordinators and the Service Co-ordinator;
 - planning and helping to run Area Co-ordinator training days when required;
 - considering extension requests made by counsellors;
 - researching and enlisting new counsellors for temporary registration when a client's locality is not covered by the current register;
 - attending Steering Group meetings.

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The time commitment expected consists of:

- three days per year to attend the meetings of the Steering Group;
- one day per year to attend a Consultants Meeting;
- one day per year for a meeting with the Co-ordinators;
- the above meetings take place on a Monday in either London or Birmingham.
- Each Consultant would also normally attend and Chair one of the five workshops for registered counsellors offered each year by the Service.
- In addition the Consultants operate, by negotiation between themselves, a weekly rotational duty system, so that each Consultant is on duty Monday – Friday 9am – 6pm for one week in every five, plus one week in every five as a deputy / back up consultant.
- This involves responding to queries from Area Co-ordinators and the Service Co-ordinator; looking at applications to join the register; responding to requests for extensions; researching temporary counsellors in localities where our provision is thin on the ground; and the associated administration for these tasks.
- The time for dealing with this ongoing work of the Service amounts to about 2-3 hours per week when on the rota. It can be included as part of professional CPD for re-accreditation purposes.

Area Co-ordinators (ACs) are the regional administrative contacts through whom clients initially approach the Service, and who make the referrals to the counsellors. This layer of administration is in place to ensure that client identity remains unknown in any central offices, either of the Service or of the participating denominations and denominational bodies.

Counselling in CMCS is normally available for a maximum of twelve sessions. In some cases, however, a counsellor requests permission to extend this in order to satisfactorily complete the work. If a Consultant approves the request, the additional counselling sessions may take place within CMCS. There are clear criteria for granting an extension.

Qualities required

Each CMCS Consultant must be:

- committed to the aims of the Service;
- committed to the ideal of providing counselling for ministers and their households;
- an experienced and accredited counsellor currently practising and having a knowledge of different styles of counselling;
- experienced (and preferably qualified) in clinical supervision;
- able to work in a team and work closely with other Consultants, the Steering Group, the Service Co-ordinator, Area Co-ordinators and the counsellors in the Service;
- an active member of a denomination in membership with CTE (Churches Together in England), CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland) or the Free Churches' Group of Churches Together in England - this is a genuine role requirement;
- committed to working ecumenically;
- capable of using fillable pdfs, with good general IT skills for using the website and email, and willing to learn more as the technology develops.

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Financial arrangements

An honorarium is available for this work. This is not a salary payment, and no contract of employment is offered. Rather, our consultants provide their services on a fully voluntary basis. An honorarium of about £1500 a year is given in appreciation of this. All reasonable expenses are reimbursed and it is anticipated that a contribution towards the cost of relevant CPD is available.

Term of Office

Consultants are appointed for a three-year term of office, which may then be renewed at the discretion of the Steering Group.

July 2019

The Churches' Ministerial Counselling Service exists to provide confidential support to ministers and adults in their immediate household through short-term, professional counselling

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