

List of Amendments for Code of Practice 2025

Some amendments, such as dates updated (e.g. 2024 to 2025 or when SMG1 or equivalent is) or hyperlinks for the new Methodist Church website have not been noted.

The following amendments have been ordered into the sections of the Code of Practice.

Notes for Users

Inserted “still” using gendered language when quoting unchanged portions of the CPD.

Table of Contents

Appendix 4 (S4 form) was deleted and the pages renumbered.
Appendices 5 and 6 were renumbered.

Foreword

Inserted a Foreword outlining the Methodist Church’s position on itinerancy based on the *Changing Patterns in Ministry* Report to the Methodist Conference 2021.

Section A

A2 CIC members have “completed” rather than “attended” UB training.
A7 Added a line about when Recognised & Regarded ministers need to apply for extension or for Full Connexion.
A10 SAG1 rather than SMG2 (“could not be earlier than SAG1”).
A11 Inserted final date for application to live in own home and added in an e-mail address for the Manses Group.
A12 The word “normally” has been inserted in the first line.

Section B: Timetable

Dates were updated.
29/9 Changed “Critical Appointments” to Scrutiny Group.”
October: Unconscious Bias training must have been **completed** by members of Circuit Invitation Committees.
Note that SMG3 is no longer occurring and that the Stationing Action Group (SAG) will meet monthly from February to May.

Section C

C2 Changed “in” to “from”.
C2 Third paragraph deleted reference to the *Principles & Protocols*.
C3 Following final bullet point insertion of reference to SO544.
C3 End of clause “in a particular appointment” deleted.
C6 Line five, amended “may be present” to “may be invited to be present”.
C6 Added right of Chair of District to take chair at Circuit Meeting (final sentence).
C7 “Initial” invitation added to the sentence beginning “Delegated powers...” This matches the Standing Order.

Section D

D2 Added presbyters etc. are “expected” to attend briefings.
D2 Added that “spouses/ partners are also warmly invited to attend.”

D2 Added in "Lay" that had dropped out in last year's copy.
D3 New paragraph – requirement for District Chair/Warden to hold conversations with those in their fourth year or working outside the Church, to discuss plans, etc.

Section E

E2 Inserted SO 514 (3)(d) (this used to be the last sentence/paragraph of E14).
E8 Changed from "Appendix 5" to "Appendix 4" due to the deletion of S4 (formerly Appendix 4) from the Code of Practice.

Section F

F2 Rewritten with some new information added, i.e. the requirement to discuss how vacancies can be filled or that one should not assume that presbyter/deacon will be replaced by the same type of minister who was appointed previously.
F2 The paragraph regarding the ministry of Supernumeraries has been moved up.
F2 Insertion of a new paragraph on stipendiary appointments.
F2 The insertion of three new paragraphs in between mention of Section B and "Circuits should be aware..."
F3 Requirement to take notes at meetings with presbyters added.
F6 Added first line and added 'accepted' circuit profile will be sent to presbyters with a profile in the book.
F6 Added "A single hard copy can be requested via District Chair/LSR."
F8 Changed "stationed" to "matched" in the first sentence.
F9 Added a new paragraph - changes in profiles – a clear statement should be submitted giving reasons. This changed the numbering for all subsequent F paragraphs.
F10 Addition of last (bolded) sentence.
F11 Addition of "discrimination" before "bias."
F11 Addition of a paragraph to clarify F12 of last year's Code.
F12 This paragraph is a rewrite of last year's F10.
F14 Reiteration indicative lists are NOT shortlists. Addition of bold text.
F15 SMG changed to "on two occasions."
F15 If Chair of District unable to attend, then the Lay Stationing Representative represents Circuits/presbyters.
F16 Timetable for when Visits must be planned has been extended to 17 days.
F18 An extension for when visits should take place after a name is suggested.
F19 Time for prayer/reflection adjusted (corresponds to last year's F18).
F20 Letters of Understanding to be written within six weeks.
F21 Updated mention of Appendices.
F22 SAG meeting monthly between Feb and May. Also, note date of UMG.

Section G

G2 Bolded the sentence about change in circumstances.
G5 Amended to make clear that if geographical restrictions result in no match being made then this could result in no appointment at presbyter's own expenses.
G6 Replaced "has to" with "must" regarding profiles.

Section H

H1 SMG has been changed from three occasions to two.
H1 Inserted that the SAG meet monthly from Feb to May.
G2 Deletion of a reference to "critical appointments".
H2 Regional stationing groups meet to discuss available appointments and if any could remain vacant or be filled in other ways.

H3 Insertion of a new paragraph to explain what the Scrutiny Group will do. This changes the numbering of the rest of the Section

H6 Changed “less popular” appointments to “more difficult to fill”.

H6 Inserted last sentence to note how useful earlier notes of conversations with presbyters can be when filling less popular appointments.

H12 Inserted last paragraph of this Section to emphasise that *The Principles and Protocols of Stationing Matching* will be published on the Methodist Church stationing forms and guidance webpage.

Section I

I3 Second paragraph, the “ten days” of last year’s Code has been lengthened to “three weeks.”

I4 Reminder that the telephone call is the beginning of building a relationship (bolded sentence).

I4 Insertion of reference to a PVG for Scotland.

I4 Reminder that those accompanying presbyters i.e. their family) should not be subjected to Intrusive questions and no assumptions should be made about the involvement of presbyter’s family.

I4 The fourth paragraph has inserted a section on the EPC rating – if below C, how can this be improved?

I4 In paragraph six, the sentence starting with “Regardless of whether...” has been inserted.

I4 Last sentence (bolded) notes that visits MUST include a meeting with Circuitry Invitation Committee

I5 Profiles must be destroyed following a visit (may be kept by the Chair).

I9 Insertion of “a video” and a PowerPoint.

I10 “if necessary” changed to “if they are not available on the day of the visit” when discussing a telephone conversation with the Superintendent.

I11 has become subsumed into I10. This shifts all subsequent paragraphs back one, I12 becomes I11, etc.

I12 (formerly I13) The length of time for a presbyter to respond to a Circuit invitation has been extended from 24 to 48 hours to allow for greater discernment, discussion and prayer.

I13 Changed “Appendix 6” to “Appendix 5”.

I14 Inserted “When a presbyter of another Church or Conference is outside of the country the circuit should make use of video conferencing, this ‘visit’ would take place in February.”

I14 The last sentence has been changed to “Circuit stewards should contact the District Chair following the visit to confirm that it has happened and to offer their reflections of the visit.”

I15 Insertion of “or **four** weeks when concerning a probationer” regarding Letters of Understanding being sent out.

Section J

Nothing amended.

Section K

K2 Amended to read same as F2 (first two paragraphs).

K8 Last sentence deleted.

K10 New paragraph inserted. Changes numbering for the rest of the Section.

K10 Changes in profile reason to be submitted to DC/LSR/Warden.

K11 This paragraph has been amended to more accurately reflect the process.

K11 References indicative lists.

K 12 This paragraph has been amended to more accurately reflect the process
K14 Removed mention of SMG3, changed to SMG2.
K16 Timetable for when Visits must be planned has been extended to 17 days.
K17 Timetable for when feedback must be given has been extended to 48 hours.
K19 Amended paragraph (formerly K18). This now notes that deacons who were not matched at DSSC2 enter matching in the SAG. This paragraph also mentions the newly published *Principles and Protocols of Stationing Matching*.

Section L

Nothing amended.

Section M

M1 An additional sentence has been added to bullet point two to correspond with wording from the CPD.
M1 Reference to SMG3 has been removed from bullet points seven and eight.

Section N

Foreword - Mention of SMG2 in January (change from December in CofP 2024).
N3 Change of SMG3 to SMG2.
N4 Insertion about the phone call as the first step in building a relationship.
N4 PVG check added for Scotland.
N4 Added in a line about EPC ratings.
N4 Inserted last paragraph as a reminder that those accompanying the deacon should not be judged.
N5 Profile to be destroyed once matched.
N6 Final sentence added regarding warnings about announcements on social media.
N9 Final sentence added.
N10 Telephone the Superintendent if they are not available on the day of the visit.
N11 "style" inserted.
N13 The timetable for when a Circuit must give feedback to the Warden et al has been extended to 48 hours to allow more time for discernment.
N13 Last sentence reiterates a warning about posting on social media.

Appendix 1(a)

Updated the CPD reference on guidelines for manses.

Appendix 1(b)

Inserted the word "six" to match 1(a) and 1(c) when discussing 1:1 supervision.
Updated the CPD reference on guidelines for manses.

Appendix 1(c).

Updated the CPD reference on guidelines for manses.

Appendix 2(a)

Nothing noted.

Appendix 2(b)

Nothing noted.

Appendix 3

Nothing noted.

Appendix 4

Deleted, subsequent Appendices moved back.

Appendix 4(a) (formerly Appendix 5(a))

Changed renumbered appendix references, i.e. "Got to 5c" became "Go to 4c".

Appendix 4(b) (formerly Appendix 5(b))

Changed renumbered appendix references, i.e. "Got to 5c" became "Go to 4c".

Appendix 4(c) (formerly Appendix 5(c))

Nothing noted.

Appendix 5(a) (formerly Appendix 6(a))

Stationing Form S5. There is greater clarity on who is responsible for what, who will see the form and when it will be destroyed.

Appendix 5(b) (formerly Appendix 6(b))

Stationing Form S6. There is greater clarity on who is responsible for what, who will see the form and when it will be destroyed.