

Code of Practice 2024 List of Amendments

Changes Throughout

Spelling and grammar mistakes were corrected. Some changes in titles were made, e.g. MOCCs are now identified as Ministers *of* Other Churches and Conferences throughout, changed from Ministers *from* Other Churches and Conferences in some of the references. This will ensure that the terminology on the Methodist Church website matches the Code (at least in this instance). Other references to MOCCs will also become standardised.

Dates have been changed to relate to the current year (important dates highlighted below).

Gendered pronouns (barring quotes from the CPD, which needs to be changed systematically) have been de-gendered.

The hyperlinks have been updated to link to the correct webpages.

Notes for Users

New paragraph explaining rationale for inclusive language, to be in line with CPD.

Changed the address for the Warden of the Diaconal Order to the new Church House.

Section A

Nothing noted.

Section B

A number of dates were changed to coincide with the year.

April/May – The wording has been slightly changed to clarify who the conversation should be with. - the Chair and the Lay Stationing Representative *still involved or the Warden of the Diaconal Order*.

By 29 September – Added the e-mail address of the stationingadministration@methodistchurch.org.uk.

11 October - Added in the date for the Critical Scrutiny Appeal panel. Added in the e-mail address of scrutinygroup@methodistchurch.org.uk

27 Nov – 2 Dec - Dates for the Diaconal Stationing Sub-Committee 1 were changed to

25 March – The date changed and wording has been changed to reflect that Circuits can *seek permission to* withdraw profiles.

Section C

C2 – Clarification for requirement for Unconscious Bias training.

Section D

Nothing noted.

Section E

Intro para 1 – Added a hyperlink about itinerancy ([itinerancy \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk)).

Intro para 2 – Added information regarding the position of MOCCs who are requesting an extension including a hyperlink to the MOCC Handbook.

E17 – A six-week timescale for Letters of Understanding was added.

Section F

F2 – 25 March is the new date for the last day for Circuits to seek to withdraw a profile.

F5 – 21 September is the new date for when presbyters and Circuit Stewards should finalise their respective profiles and send them to the District Chair and the District Lay Stationing Representative. These profiles then need to be sent to the Stationing Administrator by 28 September.

F8 – Inserted a new paragraph: *When a profile is submitted for a presbyteral probationer, if a new manse is being purchased the profile must give clear evidence of the financial strategy for the purchase. The profile must also contain a declaration that the circuit is aware of suitable housing available in the area and have a clear plan if alternative arrangements need to be made.*

Section G

G5 – inserted hyperlink about itinerancy.

Section H

Nothing noted.

Section I

Some of the numbers were changed due to the deletion and insertion of paragraphs (numbers [e.g. **I4**] were also changed throughout the rest of the document.).

I4 – Discussing if a purchased manse is necessary, the purchase must be completed by April. There should also be a satisfactory and up-to-date (within the last five years) Manse Inspection report that must contain information about when any outstanding work will be completed.

I5 – Additional information for when presbyteral and Circuit profiles will be destroyed.

I13 – The addition of clarifying language and a timescale to allow discernment for both members of the Circuit and the presbyter after a visit.

I14 – Added a line about restricting announcements of any matches from social media *Use of social media relating to stationing could be a breach of the Code of Practice (see **A4**).*

I16 – Further information given regarding Letters of Understanding and timescale. Especially how the wording of the Letters of Understanding should not be changed (although additions can be made) – You can also note this section at the beginning of the “Appendices to the Code of Practice” document available on the [Stationing forms and guidelines \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Section J

Introduction – Added hyperlink for itinerancy.

J3 – Added the requirement found in the Standing Order to inform the Warden of the Diaconal Order of extensions.

J17 – The timescale for Letter of Understanding has been clarified as *within six weeks of the visit*.

Section K

K2 – Changed 29 March to 25 March.

K2 – Also changed “determine” to *recommend to the Warden which profiles could be withdrawn* when referring to the April Stationing Action Group as the SAG does not have oversight of the diaconal order- that is the prerogative of the Warden and associates.

K6 – Changed the date when deacons send their profiles to their DCs and LSRs to 21 September to coincide with presbyteral profiles. The Chairs and LSRs then forward these to WDO by 23 September. While this is a Saturday, the Warden has signed off on the date. The Warden will then send the profiles to the Stationing Administrator by 28 September.

Section L

Nothing noted.

Section M

Nothing noted.

Section N

N14 – Inserted a time scale of six weeks for a Letter of Understanding to have been sent after a visit.

End of section - Inserted a line to ensure that matches remain confidential until the stationing process is complete.

Appendix 1(a)

Period of Invitation – Added the following paragraph as the last paragraph of this section:

Please note that when a re-invitation is being sought by a Minister of an Other Church or Conference (MOCC), that re-invitation is subject to the presbyter having secured an extension to their ‘Recognised and Regarded’ status, or been recommended to be received into Full Connexion, through the process specified in the Handbook for Ministers of Other Churches and Conferences 2023/2024: [Induction Handbook \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk). See [Ministers of other Churches \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk) for more information.

Appendix 1(b)(c)

Nothing noted.

Appendix 2(a)(b)

Nothing noted.

Appendix 3

Nothing noted.

Appendix 4

Insertion of e-mail address stationingadministration@methodistchurch.org.uk for where **profiles** should be sent and insertion of e-mail address scrutinygroup@methodistchurch.org.uk for where **appeals** should be sent.

Paragraph added to the end of the Appendix about the Critical Scrutiny Group helping to reconfigure smaller Circuit profiles for another type of appointment if need be.

Appendix 5(a)(b)(c)

Nothing noted.

Appendix 6(a)

Appendix 6(a) clarified who will see the form about a stationing match from the Circuit:

The *Chair with oversight of the Circuit* will then send the form to the Chair of the Stationing Committee, the Chair of the Stationing Matching Group, the Ministerial Coordinator for the Oversight of Ordained Ministries *and the Assistant Secretary of the Conference*. The form will remain confidential to these people.

Also when the form will be destroyed:

If necessary, information on this form may be shared during the adoption of the stations by the Conference. It will be destroyed following Conference.

Appendix 6(b)

Same wording as above - clarified who will see the form about a stationing match from the Circuit, and when it will be destroyed.

Appendix 7

Deleted.

Appendix 8

Deleted.