

CONFIDENTIAL

Local preacher and worship leader declaration

Declaration in relation to sexual offences against children and young people

The Methodist Conference has directed that in accordance with Standing Order 010 (2) (i) and (ii), all those who wish to serve as local preachers or worship leaders (or who have been asked to undertake certain specified responsibilities) should complete a declaration concerning certain offences against children, young people under the age of 18, or vulnerable adults.

New local preachers and worship leaders are required to be CRB checked from the outset, before going 'on trial'. All those who currently work with children or vulnerable adults should also be CRB checked. For these two groups Confidential Declaration Form X must be completed instead.

This form is therefore for use only by existing local preachers or worship leaders who have not already completed it, but who are not completing the Confidential Declaration Form X since they are not currently working with children or vulnerable adults.

Because of the nature of the local preaching and worship leading roles in leading, teaching or training children and young people or vulnerable adults within the church community, the provisions of Section 4(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (ROA) do not apply by virtue of the ROA (Exceptions)

Order 1975 as amended by subsequent ROA (Exceptions) (Amendments) Orders. Office holders are therefore not entitled to withhold information about convictions or cautions or any barred status which for other purposes are considered 'spent'.

The relevant matters fall into the following categories:

- vi) Sexual offences against a child/children, young person or vulnerable adults
 - taking or possession of indecent photographs of children, young people or vulnerable adults
 - possession or distribution of pornographic material involving children
 - a person barred by the Independent Safeguarding Authority or equivalent legislation

A full list of the offences covered is available on the Methodist website under 'Safeguarding' or available from the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

Anyone wishing to serve as a local preacher (or who has been asked to undertake one of the specified responsibilities) who is unable to make this declaration and who would like a pastoral conversation should contact their superintendent minister.

Office	Full name
Circuit	Home address
Date commenced training/placed 'on note' (in this role)	Postcode
Date due to finish or renew (for worship leaders)	Date of birth

Declaration	
I have never been convicted of a sexual offence against a child or young person, nor have I ever received a police caution concerning such an offence.	
Signed	Date

THIS FORM WILL BE RETAINED IN A SECURE AND CONFIDENTIAL MANNER BY THE METHODIST CHURCH

This blank form may be photocopied and is also available to download from the website: www.methodistchurch.org.uk