Explore

A Vocational exploration Programme to explore church leadership and ministry e.4

EXPLORERS’ AND ACCOMPANISTS’ COVENANT FORM

*This is an agreement between Explorer and accompanist which outlines the ways they commit to working together. It is a covenant for both parties to commit to.*

*Please discuss each section together and add comments to the form that both of you have agreed. The examples are given to help you understand the question, not to direct your answers.*

*When completed, a copy of this form is kept by the explorer and the accompanist. The accompanist is also asked to send a copy of this form to* [*explore@methodistchurch.org.uk*](mailto:explore@methodistchurch.org.uk)

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| **The purpose and function of accompaniment** | | | |
| *Usually we would expect the length of time you are committing to this relationship to be whilst the Explorer is registered on the programme – around one year, on the understanding that it may end sooner or be extended.* | | | |
| **What is the purpose of the relationship?**  e*g allowing the Explorer to reflect on all areas of their Christian life and help them to discern the call of God****.*** | | | |
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| **What is not the purpose of this relationship?**  *eg it is not spiritual direction or counselling or any form of decision making by the accompanist.* | | | |
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| **What will the accompanist be attentive to and encourage?**  *eg vocational discernment that the explorer may not have noticed. New avenues of exploration that they could consider.* | | | |
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| **Time, frequency and place** | | | |
| *It is expected that the accompanist and the explorer will meet at the outset of ‘Explore’ and will meet to reflect after each significant moment in the year.*  *Once times of meetings are agreed, both the explorer and the accompanist agree to be prepared, committed to, and fully focussed on these meetings.* | | | |
| **How often are you going to meet in person? (the expectation is 5 or 6 sessions)** | | | |
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| **Where will you meet when in person?**  *This should be a confidential and uninterrupted space. You need to agree which of you will travel on each occasion****.*** | | | |
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| **How often are you going to meet through video conferencing?** | | | |
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| **Who will set up and send the link for the meeting?** | | | |
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| **How long will each of your meetings be?**  *It is suggested that you should meet for between 1 and 2 hours on any occasion.* | | | |
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| **Please list the agreed times and dates for your meetings** | | | |
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| **Date** | **Start and end time** | | **Format and venue** |
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| **Is the accompanist prepared to be available to the explorer at other times?** | | | |
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| **If so, please state the preferred method of contact** | | | |
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| **If so, please list any restrictions to this availability and note response times that the explorer can expect** | | | |
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| **Please identify anything that could impact the availability of the accompanist** *(eg work patterns, booked holidays, other foreseen commitments)* | | | |
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| **Ways of working together and the shape of meetings** | | | |
| **Discuss and agree the place of prayer in your meetings, and its format and leading** | | | |
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| **Discuss and agree what level of preparation you expect of each other** | | | |
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| **Discuss and identify the different purposes of various meetings –** some will be for guidance, some for reflection and consider the methods you might prefer for each | | | |
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| **Boundaries, expectations and dual relationships** | | | |
| **Confidentiality –** agree that all conversations are confidential unless safeguarding risks are identified in which case the accompanist will take appropriate action | | | |
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| **Dual relationships –** please name these, discuss their impact, and state how you plan to manage them | | | |
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| **Please explore together the expectations each of you has of the other person, and be clear about your boundaries** | | | |
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| **Please explore carefully any reservations the explorer has at this stage** | | | |
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| **Endings** | | | |
| **This relationship is expected to last until the end of the ‘Explore’ programme at which point the explorer and accompanist will have discerned God’s calling for the explorer’s next steps. Discuss and note how you will mark and celebrate this ending together** | | | |
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| **If the explorer decides to candidate for ordained ministry, a new covenant form will be completed with this accompanist, or a different accompanist.** Please make a note that you both understand that there is the expectation that the relationship will continue but either party can declare they wish it not to continue at that point. Please agree with each other that this will be done without blame or disrespect. | | | |
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| **If at any point the relationship between you feels not to be as helpful as it could be, discuss how you would together address that** | | | |
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| **Signatures** | | | |
| **Signature of Explorer** | |  | |
| **Signature of accompanist** | |  | |
| *When signing please scan in your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* | | | |
| **Date** | |  | |