DISCERNING ORDAINED VOCATION 1

Candidating for ordained ministry D.3

Covenant form between accompanists and those   
discerning and applying for DOV 1

*This is an agreement between applicant and accompanist which outlines the ways they commit to working together. It is a covenant for both parties to commit to. Even if you completed a covenant form for ‘Explore’ and both parties remain the same, you still need to complete this new covenant form as this is a different process.*

*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 both parties. The accompanist is also asked to send a copy of this form to* [candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:candidates@methodistchurch.org.uk)

The purpose and function of accompaniment

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| The length of time you are committing to this relationship.  *Usually we would expect this to be for the duration of DOV1 – which is a minimum of four months, on the understanding that it may start earlier and it could be extended depending on their decisions after DOV1.* |
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| What is the purpose of the relationship?  eg – allowing the applicant 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 applicant may not have noticed. |
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Time, frequency and place

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| *It is expected that the accompanist and the applicant will meet for at least three 90 minute sessions before the DOV1 retreat and then for a further meeting after the retreat. If possible, the accompanist will also be present with the applicant at the DOV1 Advisory Group conversation.* | | |
| How often are you going to meet in person? | | |
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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. Please note that travel costs cannot be reimbursed by the Connexion, but, if necessary, please ask your Circuit if they could contribute. | | |
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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 one and two 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 applicant 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 applicant can expect  Please identify anything that could impact the availability of the accompanist (eg. work patterns, booked holidays, other foreseen commitments). | | |
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| *Once times of meetings are agreed, both parties agree to be prepared, committed to, and fully focussed on these meetings.* | | |

Ways of working together and the shape of meetings

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| 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

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| 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 applicant has at this stage |
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Endings

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| This relationship is expected to last until the end of DOV1 at which point the applicant will have discerned either to candidate for ordained ministry or to investigate another form of vocation. Discuss and note how you will mark and celebrate this ending together |
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| If both parties want the relationship to continue informally, discuss what that will mean and what any expectations will be  For example, the accompanist might check in with a candidate through the stages of the process as a form of pastoral support but please note that it is not appropriate for the accompanist to become the critical friend referee for the candidate in DOV2 |
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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

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| Signature of applicant |
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| Signature of accompanist |
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| *When signing please scan in your actual signature. We cannot accept a typed name in place of a signature.* |
| Date |
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