

Standing Orders for them.

(2) The Methodist Church welcomes everyone, whether or not a member, who enquires about an intended marriage in any of its places of worship.

011B Divorce, Remarriage, Marriage of Same Sex Couples and Respect for Conscience

(2) Under no circumstances does the Conference require any person who is subject to the discipline of the Church as a minister, probationer, officer or member to officiate at or participate in the marriage of a particular couple, should it be contrary to the dictates of his or her conscience to do so.

(3) When: (i) a minister or, probationer is stationed in a new appointment; or (ii) it is proposed that a member should become authorised to conduct marriages and he or she for reasons of conscience will never officiate at the marriages of couples in particular circumstances, the person concerned shall participate in a pastoral conversation on the matter with the District Chair and the Superintendent of the relevant Circuit (if he or she is not the Superintendent). Every effort shall be made to ensure that no individual is placed under any pressure to act against the dictates of conscience.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS STILL PROVISIONAL LEGISLATION AND NOW PASSES TO THE DISTRICT SYNODS FOR DISCUSSION, AMENDMENT AND VOTE BEFORE RETURNING TO CONFERENCE IN 2020.

The Methodist Conference 2019 discussed Marriage and Relationships and this has raised a number of questions across the Church.

1. What has changed?

Nothing - yet. The vote was provisional which means the Synods have a chance to discuss, change and vote on the proposals and the Conference must vote again in 2020.

2. How will my local Church be affected?

If the proposals pass in 2020, your local Church will be able to decide whether or not to allow marriages of same-sex couples in your building. It will be entirely up to the members of the church council whether or not to do this and it will not affect your standing with the rest of the Connexion, no matter what you decide.

3. What if I disagree with same-sex marriage?

The proposals recognise that Methodists hold different views on the subject of marriage. A key principle is that no one is coerced into acting against their conscience. The proposed new rules on marriage affirm that belief in marriage only between one man and one woman is perfectly acceptable. Opposing the marriage of same-sex couples will not affect, in any way, your ability to be a member, hold office or exercise ministry.

4. How will registration work?

Under the current proposals, it will be up to local Managing Trustees to agree whether to register buildings for same-sex