



The Methodist Council

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.


Signed on behalf of:
The Methodist Council

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed: 
Name: The Reverend Loraine N. Mellor

Position: President of the Methodist
Conference

Date: 14 November 2017

Signed: 
Name: The Reverend Canon Gareth J.
Powell

Position: Secretary of the Methodist
Conference

Date: 14 November 2017

Signed: 
Name: The Venerable (Air Vice-Marshal)
Jonathan Chaffey

Position: Chaplain-in-Chief RAF

Date: 14 November 2017

Signed: 
Name: Commodore David Elford RN

Position: Commander Regional Forces,
Royal Navy

Date: 14 November 2017

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We The Methodist Council will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 The Methodist Council recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *seeking to support the appointment of veterans (young and old) in our own recruitment practices by advertising all Methodist Council vacancies through the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), in order to establish a tailored employment pathway for Service Leavers including those with Service related injuries, providing they meet the essential criteria for the job;*
- *looking favourably upon appointment requests for leave and flexible working for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment, and compassionate leave for any bereaved spouses/partners – including attendance at an inquest;*
- *affirming the important work of regular and reserve military chaplaincy and facilitating the transition to and from civilian and military ministry by recognising the transferability of skills and experience of those engaged in military chaplaincy;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, for example by seeking as far as possible to accommodate their training and deployment;*
- *recognising and remembering the sacrifice made by others by marking Remembrance Sunday, and such other occasions, and through the availability of appropriate liturgical material for use throughout the Methodist Church;*

- *ensuring that wherever possible our buildings and facilities have good physical access for all with disabilities and especially Armed Forces veterans;*
- *setting up a dedicated page on the Methodist Church website to alert those who work in relevant areas of Church ministry to the specific needs of the Armed Forces Community.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.