

Sabbaticals FAQ

Q: How does service as a Mission Partner affect sabbatical entitlement?

A: Ministerial Mission Partners are not entitled to take sabbaticals during their overseas service or UK leave. It should be noted as well that in line with Standing Orders ministers are not able to take a sabbatical during the first year of an appointment after returning to the UK. The years as a Mission Partner do however count toward a sabbatical, so even if they can't take a sabbatical whilst overseas or on UK leave, they will be entitled to one on the normal sequence if they return to a circuit role.

See Section 8.2 in the Mission Partner Handbook (2016)

Q: How does time spent as a “Minister in Local Appointment” (MLA) factor in to sabbatical calculation?

A: Someone who has spent time as a “Minister in Local Appointment” is treated like any other minister, i.e. the year spent as an MLA count towards their sabbatical entitlement.

Q: How does time spent doing sector work (non-stipendiary) factor into the sabbatical calculation?

A: Although sector ministers are employed and paid by a different source, there is still an expectation of a proportion of circuit duties and that the sector minister represent the Methodist Church in the sector in which they work. Therefore, sector ministers are treated the same as any other minister in terms of sabbatical entitlement. Unless negotiated with their sector working agreement, they most likely would not be able to take a sabbatical from their sector work, but would be able to take a sabbatical from their commitments that are in control of the church.

Q: How does time spent in an appointment outside the control of the church factor in to sabbatical calculation?

A: Any time spent in an appointment outside the control of the church may not be included in the sabbatical calculation, i.e. the sabbatical ‘clock’ stops.

Q: How do sabbatical expenses get reimbursed?

A: A completed ‘Sabbatical expense form’ (found on the main Sabbaticals webpage of the Methodist Church website) along with any receipts need to be sent to the Payroll & Benefits Section at the Methodist Church House.

Payroll & Benefits Section
Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
London
NW1 5JR

Q: Does travel begin at probation or at ordination?

A: Traveling begins when first stationed. The date for the start of travel can be found next to the minister's name in the Minutes of Conference.

Q: What is the sabbatical calculation for ministers from the Irish Conference who serve the Methodist Church in Britain?

A: Ministers from the Irish Conference serving in the Methodist Church in Britain are entitled to a sabbatical in the 7th year after their last sabbatical (or in their 7th year of ministry if they serve in Britain in their early years of ministry). The same is reciprocal for British Ministers serving in Ireland.