



# Free Methodist Church - USA

## DIVORCE CLEARANCE CHECKLIST FOR MINISTRY

**Annual Conference THE RIVER CONFERENCE**

**Name of Divorced Person** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The MEG board has approved the individual as suitable for ministry in the Free Methodist Church, considering gifts, doctrine and educational background and recommends divorce clearance.

\_\_\_\_\_ An assessment has been made of the impact of divorce, the emotional stability and state of healing, the status of present marriage, and viewpoint regarding marriage.

**The following items are attached:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Request for Clearance (based on formal MEG board action) including a copy of MEG Board Minutes with the action.

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed applicable questionnaire or questionnaires

*Questionnaire A* ..... Divorcee Seeking Ministry in the Free Methodist Church

*Questionnaire B* ..... Candidate Seeking Ministry in the Free Methodist Church who has not Divorced but whose Spouse has been Divorced

*Questionnaire C* ..... Divorced Spouse of Candidate Seeking Ministry in the Free Methodist Church

\_\_\_\_\_ Copy of the divorce decree

\_\_\_\_\_ Account by the divorced person of marital history, giving relevant information bearing on the divorce, and present viewpoint on the whole issue.

\_\_\_\_\_ Written testimony of candidate's conversion and call to ministry, including reasons for desiring ministry in the Free Methodist Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ The candidate's present view on marriage and divorce as he/she would offer them in preaching and in potential future counseling situations with persons in a troubled or broken marriage.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of MEG board interview: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Send copy of checklist to the assigned bishop and to the Board of Bishops office in Indianapolis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEG Board Chair Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NOTE:** All materials must normally be processed at least 30 days in advance of the Annual Conference for the divorce clearance to be considered and acted on for that conference year.



# Free Methodist Church - USA

## QUESTIONNAIRE "A"

DIVORCEE SEEKING MINISTRY IN THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Board of Bishops needs the following information before considering for clearance any person currently in relationship to a conference, seeking ministerial candidacy, transfer of ordination, or ministry appointment in the Free Methodist Church who has experienced divorce. *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 5340.C, 5650.

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board is responsible for seeing that the following form is completed and presented to the Board of Bishops when the divorced person is being recommended for clearance. In cases of multiple divorces, complete information is required for each divorcee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conversion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of first marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Date of separation \_\_\_\_\_

First spouse's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of divorce \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff in divorce \_\_\_\_\_

If children in first marriage, who has custody? \_\_\_\_\_

Legal reason for divorce in the decree \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of divorce decree is attached \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Present address of former spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Is former spouse remarried? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, give date \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of your present marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of present spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Has present spouse been divorced? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, separate Questionnaire "B" must be completed by present spouse

The MEG may request references. If so, you shall secure a minimum of two letters of character reference by persons, preferably non-related, who knew you at the time of divorce. Letters should include an account of your marriage and subsequent divorce. If the divorce took place prior to conversion, how does the writer view your conversion making a difference in your life? If the divorce took place after conversion, how does the writer view the role of your faith through the divorce? If presently married, how does the writer view the health of your present marriage.

**On separate sheets of paper, please submit the following:**

1. A narrative account of your marital history, including dates of marriage and divorce giving relevant information bearing on the divorce, and your present viewpoint on the whole issue.
2. Any testimony or documentation of infidelity and/or desertion (abandonment) on the part of the former spouse.
3. A testimony of your conversion and call to ministry. Reason for desiring ministry in the Free Methodist Church.
4. Your present view on marriage and divorce as you would offer them in preaching, and in potential future counseling situations with persons in a troubled or broken marriage.
5. You (and your spouse, if married) will be required to have an interview (in person or via telephone) with the bishop assigned to your area if the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board approves you for ministry and recommends divorce clearance.

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Signature

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Date

Annual Conference **THE RIVER CONFERENCE**



# Free Methodist Church - USA

## QUESTIONNAIRE "B"

CANDIDATE SEEKING MINISTRY IN THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH WHO HAS NOT DIVORCED, BUT WHOSE SPOUSE HAS BEEN DIVORCED. (*The spouse shall complete Questionnaire "C"*)

As orientation, please read Paragraph 3311 of the *Book of Discipline*.

The assigned bishop needs the following information before considering for clearance any person currently in relationship to a conference, seeking ministerial candidacy, transfer of ordination, or ministry appointment in the Free Methodist Church who has not experienced divorce, but whose spouse has experienced divorce (see *Book of Discipline* ¶5340.C, ¶5650).

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board is responsible for seeing that the following form is completed and presented to the assigned bishop when the spouse of the candidate being recommended for clearance has experienced divorce. In cases of multiple divorces, complete information is required for each divorcee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conversion \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of your present marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of present spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Date of present spouse's conversion \_\_\_\_\_

### **On separate sheets of paper, please submit the following:**

1. A testimony of your conversion and call to ministry. Reason for desiring ministry in the Free Methodist Church.
2. Your present view on marriage and divorce as you would offer them in preaching, and in potential future counseling situations with persons in a troubled or broken marriage.
3. The ministerial education and guidance board will examine your case and make a recommendation regarding divorce clearance for ministry to the bishop assigned to your conference.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Annual Conference **THE RIVER CONFERENCE**



# Free Methodist Church - USA

## QUESTIONNAIRE "C"

DIVORCED SPOUSE OF CANDIDATE SEEKING MINISTRY IN THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Board of Bishops needs the following information before considering for clearance any person currently in relationship to a conference, seeking ministerial candidacy, transfer of ordination, or ministry appointment in the Free Methodist Church whose spouse has experienced divorce. Book of Discipline, ¶ 5340.C, 5650.

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board is responsible for seeing that the following form is completed and presented to the Board of Bishops when the spouse of the person being recommended for clearance has experienced divorce. In cases of multiple divorces, complete information is required for each divorcee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of conversion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of first marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Date of separation \_\_\_\_\_

First spouse's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of divorce \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff in divorce \_\_\_\_\_

If children in first marriage, who has custody? \_\_\_\_\_

Legal reason for divorce in the decree \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of divorce decree is attached \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Present address of former spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Is former spouse remarried? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No      If yes, give date \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of your present marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of present spouse \_\_\_\_\_

The MEG may request references. If so, you shall secure a minimum of two letters of character reference by persons, preferably non-related, who knew you at the time of divorce. Letters should include an account of your marriage and subsequent divorce. If the divorce took place prior to conversion, how does the writer view your conversion making a difference in your life? If the divorce took place after conversion, how does the writer view the role of your faith through the divorce? How does the writer view the health of your present marriage?

**On separate sheets, please submit the following:**

1. A narrative account of your marital history, including dates of marriage and divorce giving relevant information bearing on the divorce, and your present viewpoint on the whole issue.
2. Any testimony or documentation of infidelity and/or desertion (abandonment) on the part of the former spouse.
3. Your present view on marriage and divorce as you would offer them in potential future counseling situations with persons in a troubled or broken marriage.

You and your spouse will be required to have an interview (in person or via telephone) with the bishop assigned to your area if the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board approves your spouse for ministry and recommends divorce clearance.

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Signature

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Date

Annual Conference **THE RIVER CONFERENCE**