



The cost will be in the region of £200. In most dioceses the CMD budget will cover this, but may deduct part of this from your CMD allowance. Check with your CMD office.

Church of England Cancellation Policy

The costs of this CMD regional conference are met according to the number of clergy attending from participating dioceses. The largest element of this cost is the charge for residential accommodation. Once a booking has been accepted the conference usually becomes liable for a cancellation fee (up to 100%) for anyone who does not attend. Your CMD officer will normally charge (except in case of valid emergency) any cancellation fee to your personal CMD allowance (even though conference fees for those attending are not all taken from this individual budget allowance.)

Methodist Cancellation Policy

Methodist participants may generally be responsible for one-third of any cancellation fee if the remainder can be claimed from Connexion and District where the late cancellation has been caused by a pastoral necessity. In other cases, the participant may be liable for the full cost.

Preparing for Retirement

16 - 18 May 2023
High Leigh Conference Centre

Many people look forward to retirement as a time when they can at last be in charge of their diaries. Some dread the thought of moving away from activities and relationships that have given their lives a sense of purpose for decades.

For clergy, and especially those who have been in full-time ministry for many years, retirement raises questions about identity and meaning. Some are very happy to retire and hang up their cassocks. Others look forward to assisting in parish and other ministry, but with less responsibility. Many churches, particularly in rural areas, would be in a difficult position without the commitment of active, retired ministers.

This residential event is designed to look at the more personal and spiritual issues around the question: *What do I hope for in retirement?*

Those approaching retirement will also have to face many practical issues around pensions and housing. Peterborough Diocese is organising a regional one-day event on 10 May 2023 looking at these, and spouses will be very welcome to attend. More information [here](#). The Methodist Church also organises a national Pre-Retirement Conference. A one-day retreat for clergy and their spouses will run on 27 November 2023 at Pleshey House of Retreat, Chelmsford. To book click [here](#).

This event – which blends elements of conference and retreat – is designed for those who expect to retire within the next three years or so. If you are planning to stay in post for longer than this, please let us know and we will remove your name from the list of potential members of this event. However, if you are thinking of retiring within this period we encourage you to come along.

The programme is designed around your expectations and needs as much as possible. If you intend to come, please let us know your particular personal and pastoral concerns so that they can be reflected in the programme.

The programme has a liturgical framework and will include a mixture of large and small group sessions. Input will be provided by Gwyneth Hellewell (psychotherapist, supervisor, trainer, and member of the Quakers), Simon Hill (retired priest and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Clergy Retirement Officer) and Dave Gardner (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Director of Mission and Ministry).

Before you come to the conference, you will benefit from asking these questions, with your spouse if appropriate:

- *What am I looking forward to about retirement?*
- *What am I not looking forward to?*

(If you and your spouse ask these questions separately, how do your answers compare?).

If you'd like to come please register by clicking this [link](#) by **Thursday 20 April 2023 at the latest**. Enquiries to Mrs Lesley Steed at lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or phone 07485 348889.

You will receive a full programme nearer the time, along with directions to the venue. In the meantime, if you have any questions, speak to your local CMD Office or ring the Revd Canon Dave Gardner on 07394 559887.