

## TMC Policy over Banners, Posters, Notices, or Other Promotional Material

There is no Methodist Standing Order that gives third party users an automatic right to display banners or use photographs of a Methodist church building. The authority rests with the Managing Trustees (normally the Church Council acting through its trustees), subject to Methodist property law and any licence agreement.

Good Practice under TMCP guidance would be:

1. **Prior permission is required.** If an external user wishes to display any banner, poster, flag, sign, or notice on or within the church premises, they should obtain the prior written consent of the Managing Trustees. TMCP's standard licence for third party users specifically states that a licensee must not display any advertisement, signboard, banner, placard, poster, or notice without the prior written consent of the Managing Trustees.
2. **A room hire or licence agreement should set out the conditions of use.** TMCP encourages regular users of Methodist premises to operate under a written licence that clearly defines what is and is not permitted, including signage, publicity, safeguarding, and use of the premises.
3. **Use of photographs of the church building.** There is no general prohibition on photographing a church building. However, if a user wishes to use photographs of the building in publicity, on websites, social media, or as evidence to support an immigration or Home Office application, the church should not allow any implication that it endorses or sponsors that application unless this has been expressly authorised. If there is any risk that the church's name or image could be misrepresented, the Managing Trustees should require prior approval before such images are used.
4. **Protecting the church's reputation.** The trustees have a legal duty to protect the reputation and charitable purposes of the church. If a banner, notice, or photograph could suggest endorsement of an organisation, campaign, immigration application, or commercial activity, permission should be refused unless the trustees have specifically agreed otherwise. TMCP licences also require users not to do anything that could injure the reputation of the premises or breach applicable laws.

### Suggested TMC Policy

A simple local policy could state:

"No external organisation or room user may display banners, posters, notices, flags, or other promotional material, or use photographs of the church building or church logo in printed or digital media, without the prior written permission of the Managing Trustees. Permission to use the premises does not imply the church's endorsement of any organisation, activity, immigration application, or other purpose."

Such a policy is consistent with TMCP best practice and helps protect the church, its trustees, and its charitable reputation.