



Community of Christ

British Isles Policy on Priesthood and Cohabitation

Reference: Doctrine and Covenants 163: 6a-d, 164:6a-b, 165: 3b, 4 **Policy Number: 40.29**
Covenant Principles for Faithful Priesthood Ministry **Effective Date: 09/30/2025**
World Conference Resolution 1327 – Resolution on Marriage
2016 First Presidency Commentary on Principles
2019 Sexual Ethics Statement
2019 First Presidency Statement on Marriage and Cohabitation

Distribution: General

Introduction:

“Marriage is a sacrament and sacred covenant relationship of love and equality between two people and recognized as a valued institution in the cultures of the world.” (World Conference Resolution 1327).

“Priesthood is a sacred covenant involving the highest form of stewardship of body, mind, spirit, and relationships” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a).

Relationship principles in Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a guide all disciples and priesthood.

As revealed in Christ, the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and protect the most vulnerable. Such relationships are to be rooted in the principles of Christ-like love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness against which there is no law.

Policy:

The church in the British Isles promotes ethical relationship principles, including for persons in committed, monogamous, cohabiting partnerships.

The sacrament of marriage is the model for long-term relationships in Community of Christ but living in a committed, monogamous, cohabiting partnership is not sufficient reason for removing active priesthood status, or deferring priesthood calling or approval, if all other church policy expectations are met.

This policy applies to persons with membership and residence in the British Isles. It applies to persons providing priesthood ministry in the British Isles and those approved for guest ministry outside the British Isles.