

## **Redundancy policy of the Lincolnshire Methodist District (the District)**

### **Introduction**

This policy sets out the approach of the District to dealing with potential redundancies. It does not form part of employees' terms and conditions of employment and may be subject to change at the discretion of the District Council.

Although the District's policy is to avoid redundancies wherever possible, the needs of the District may from time to time require a reduction in the overall number of staff employed or organisational changes that result in some employees being made redundant.

Where this is necessary, the District will ensure that:

- the total number of redundancies made is kept to a minimum;
- employees and, where appropriate, their representatives are fully consulted on any proposals and their implementation;
- selection for redundancy is based on clear criteria that will, as far as possible, be objectively and fairly applied;
- every effort is made to redeploy or find alternative work for employees selected for redundancy; and
- support and advice is provided to employees selected for redundancy to help them find suitable work when their employment has come to an end.

### **Consultation**

Consultations will be carried out with individual employees as appropriate and in line with statutory requirements.

### **Voluntary redundancy**

In order to minimise the need for compulsory redundancies, the District may consider requests from employees for voluntary redundancies. Whether or not additional payments will be offered in relation to voluntary redundancies will be a matter for consultation and will depend on the circumstances.

The District reserves the right at its absolute discretion to decline requests for voluntary redundancy.

### **Redundancy selection**

The criteria used in selecting employees for redundancy will depend on the existing circumstances and the particular needs of the District at the time. However, every effort will be made to construct a fair and robust set of criteria following appropriate consultations.

Individual employees who are provisionally selected for redundancy following the application of the criteria will be informed of the fact and invited to a meeting, at which they will be given an opportunity to make representations that the application of the criteria results in unfairness to them or if they feel that there has been a mistake in the application of the criteria.

### **Alternative work**

The District will make every effort to redeploy to suitable alternative work any employee who is selected for redundancy. Such employees will be informed of all the available vacancies in the organisation at the time of their selection and will be given an opportunity to discuss with their line manager which vacancies are likely to be suitable for them. While priority will be given wherever possible to employees under threat of redundancy, the District reserves the right to select the best available candidate in relation to any given vacancy.

Employees have a separate legal entitlement to be offered any suitable alternative work that is available if they are made redundant while on maternity leave.

### **Time off work**

An employee under notice of redundancy will be entitled to a reasonable amount of paid time off to look for alternative work, attend interviews, etc. Employees wishing to take advantage of this right should make the appropriate arrangements with their line manager.

### **Termination of employment**

Depending on the circumstances, the District may waive its right to insist on employees working their notice and instead give a payment in lieu of notice. Employees with two or more years' service will be entitled to a statutory redundancy payment which is free of tax and National Insurance. The amount of this payment will be confirmed when the employee is selected for redundancy and the sum will be paid along with the employee's final salary payment or payment in lieu of notice.