

MinistryMatch System Release Notice

Release Version: 26.04

Deployment Date: August 26, 2026

1. Overview

Release 26.04 introduces several important improvements to MinistryMatch, including standardized Candidate Profile and Position Requirements Profile questionnaires, a new and more guided Church Profile experience, and additional platform improvements focused on performance, stability, and usability.

The standardization of Candidate Profile and Position Requirements Profile information is an important step forward for the MinistryMatch matching process. It allows candidates and ministry opportunities to be considered across a broader pool while simplifying the underlying system and creating a stronger foundation for delivering future improvements.

This release also moves the Church Profile, previously called “Church History,” out of the Church Survey and makes it a separate area of MinistryMatch that can be accessed directly from the main menu.

Details

- **Planned rollout:** Single deployment
- **Deployment window:** Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 11:00 PM CT
- **Expected downtime:** Approximately 3 hours
- **Support:** Email support at support@theministrymatch.com

2. Audience

This release notice applies to:

- Candidates with an active MinistryMatch Candidate Profile
- Churches and organizations using MinistryMatch for a pastoral search
- Church and organization administrators
- Denominational administrators and consultants who oversee or support candidates and churches

3. Summary of Enhancements

A. Standardized Candidate Profile Questionnaire

MinistryMatch is moving from denomination-specific versions of the Candidate Profile Questionnaire to a single, standard Candidate Profile Questionnaire.

The vast majority of Candidate Profile questions remain the same. Some wording has been updated for clarity, but where the meaning of a question has not changed, existing candidate responses have been retained.

The vast majority of candidates will see one or two new questions that require a response, though all questions should be reviewed.

Key Enhancements

- A single, standard Candidate Profile Questionnaire across MinistryMatch
- Existing responses retained when the meaning of the question remains unchanged
- Selected wording updated for greater clarity and consistency
- A small number of additional questions for some candidates, depending on their previous questionnaire

Why This Matters

Standardizing the Candidate Profile allows candidates to be considered for a broader range of ministry opportunities rather than limiting potential matches based on different questionnaire versions.

It also simplifies the MinistryMatch platform and matching process, providing a stronger foundation for delivering new features and improvements more quickly.

Recommended Action for Candidates

All candidates should review their Candidate Profile following the release.

Most existing responses will remain unchanged. Candidates should review their information for accuracy and complete any new questions that appear.

B. Standardized Position Requirements Questionnaire

MinistryMatch is also moving to a single, standard Position Requirements Questionnaire for ministry positions.

As with the Candidate Profile, the vast majority of questions and existing selections remain the same for churches. Some wording has been updated for clarity while preserving the meaning of the original questions and responses.

The specific changes a church sees in the Position Requirements will depend on the questionnaire originally used for its position.

Key Enhancements

- A single, standard Position Requirements Questionnaire across MinistryMatch
- Existing selections and priorities retained when the meaning of the requirement remains unchanged
- Updated questionnaire wording for greater clarity and consistency

Why This Matters

Using a standard set of Candidate Profile and Position Requirements questions allows MinistryMatch to compare candidates and ministry opportunities more consistently across the platform.

For churches, this can expand the pool of candidates who may qualify as potential matches. For candidates, it can expand the number of ministry opportunities for which they may be considered.

Recommended Action for Churches

Every church currently engaged in an active pastoral search should review its Position Requirements following the release.

Confirm that existing selections remain accurate and complete or update any new or changed requirements as necessary.

C. New Church Profile Experience

The **Church Profile**, previously called **Church History** and located within the Church Survey, is now a separate area of MinistryMatch that can be accessed directly from the main menu.

The Church Profile contains important information about the church and its ministry context. Separating this information from the Church Survey makes the profile easier to find, complete, maintain, and update independently of the congregation's survey process.

The Church Profile also introduces a more guided experience for entering and maintaining church information.

Key Enhancements

- Church Profile is now accessible directly from the main MinistryMatch menu
- Information is organized into clearer, easier-to-follow sections
- Section-by-section saving allows churches to complete the profile over time
- Improved navigation makes it easier to move through and maintain church information
- Safeguards help prevent users from accidentally leaving a section with unsaved changes

Impact for Churches

The Church Profile is now easier to complete during the pastoral search process and easier to maintain as church information changes.

Separating the Church Profile from the Church Survey also provides a clearer distinction between information about the church and information gathered from the congregation through the Church Survey.

Recommended Action

Churches with an active pastoral search should review their Church Profile after the release and update any information that is incomplete or no longer current.

D. Performance, Stability, and Usability Improvements

Release 26.04 also includes a number of behind-the-scenes and user-facing improvements designed to make MinistryMatch more reliable and easier to use.

These include improvements to:

- Page and form behavior
- Data validation and saving
- Administrative workflows
- English and Spanish system wording
- Platform performance and stability
- Church Survey administration
- Navigation for a Position's MinistryMatch Assessment Requirements

These improvements support a more consistent experience across MinistryMatch and strengthen the platform for future development.

4. Notes for Denominations and Consultants

The move to standard Candidate Profile and Position Requirements questionnaires is intended to expand matching opportunities while creating greater consistency across MinistryMatch.

Because previous questionnaires varied by denomination, the exact changes seen by candidates and churches may differ.

Denominational leaders and consultants are encouraged to:

- Encourage candidates to review their Candidate Profile and complete any new questions
- Encourage churches with active pastoral searches to review their Position Requirements
- Encourage churches to review their new Church Profile
- Search the Help Center for assistance with system features

5. Support and Resources

Email: support@theministrymatch.com

Release Notices:

<https://theministrymatch.com/releases>

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need to complete my entire Candidate Profile again?

No. The vast majority of Candidate Profile questions remain the same, and existing responses have been retained when the meaning of the question remains unchanged. Some candidates may see 1 or 2 new questions based on the questionnaire they previously completed.

Do churches need to recreate their Position Requirements?

No. Existing selections have been retained when the meaning of the requirement remains unchanged. However, churches with an active pastoral search should review their Position Requirements and make any necessary updates.

Why is MinistryMatch standardizing these questionnaires?

A standard Candidate Profile and Position Requirements Questionnaire allows candidates and ministry opportunities to be compared more consistently across MinistryMatch. This expands the potential matching pool for candidates and churches and simplifies the platform so MinistryMatch can deliver future improvements more efficiently.

What happened to the Church History section of the Church Survey?

Church History has become the **Church Profile** and is now a separate area accessible from the main MinistryMatch menu. The new Church Profile provides a more guided experience for completing and maintaining information about your church.

Has the Church Survey changed?

The Church Profile information (previously named Church History) that was previously included within the Church Survey has been moved into its own module. The new guided experience described in this release applies to the Church Profile rather than to the Church Survey itself.

7. Release Readiness Checklist

Candidates

- Review your Candidate Profile after the release
- Confirm that your existing information remains accurate
- Complete any new questions that appear

Churches with Active Pastoral Searches

- Review your Position Requirements
- Confirm that existing selections remain accurate
- Update requirements as necessary

Denominational Administrators and Consultants

- Become familiar with the standardized Candidate Profile and Position Requirements questionnaires
- Encourage active candidates to review their profiles
- Encourage churches with active searches to review their Position Requirements and Church Profile