






## Southlands College

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<b>Resolution</b>	27/1. The Council receives the report.
<b>Methodist Council objective that this paper supports</b>	Oversight of connexional institutions

## Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To report to the Council on the activities of Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust as they relate to the mission of the Methodist Church in the context of Higher Education.
<b>Main Points</b>	<p>Introduction and Context</p> <p>Areas of Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southlands College and the University of Roehampton</li> <li>• Southlands as a College Community</li> <li>• Southlands Methodist Trust</li> <li>• Susanna Wesley Foundation</li> </ul> <p>Governance Review</p> <p>Mount Clare Lease</p> <p>Membership of Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust</p>
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	<p>The full annual report from the University of Roehampton on the activities of Southlands College can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community">https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community</a> (scroll down and click)</li> <li>• <a href="https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EXE121021CS-Southlands-College-Report_V53.pdf">https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EXE121021CS-Southlands-College-Report_V53.pdf</a> (direct link)</li> </ul> <p>Annual trustee reviews setting out the work of the Southlands Methodist Trust are available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about">https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about</a> (scroll down and click)</li> <li>• <a href="https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20_21_Trustee_report_FINAL_FULLb.pdf">https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20_21_Trustee_report_FINAL_FULLb.pdf</a> (direct link)</li> </ul> <p>Additional information and documents relating to the life and work of Southlands College and its associated bodies can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college">www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk">www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk">www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>Follow the college's social media:</p>

	  @roe_southlands  Southlands College  @SusannaWesleyFd  @SusannaWesleyFoundation
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## Southlands College

### 1.0 Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Southlands College was founded in 1872 as a teacher training college for Methodist women intending to teach in Methodist schools. The college moved from Battersea to Wimbledon and from Wimbledon to Roehampton – its present location – and progressively became associated more closely with three sister colleges (including Anglican and Roman Catholic colleges), first as part of the Roehampton Institute and, more recently, as a constituent college of the University of Roehampton.
- 1.2 The colleges are the building blocks of the University of Roehampton, and through the Methodist Church's participation in the founding of the university, the Church has unique and privileged access to a major UK University, appointing senior college staff, appointing members to the governing body of the university, and influencing its life and work. The Church has this access in the context of a modern and diverse institution and alongside colleges founded by the Church of England and the Society of the Sacred Heart, and as such participates in a significant educational and ecumenical project, the scale of which is not seen elsewhere in British Methodism. The presence of an excellent, growing and highly-esteemed Theology Department at the University is also a huge asset, and there is deepening and mutually beneficial engagement between it and the Methodist Church.
- 1.3 In 2010 the Methodist Conference granted a 125-year lease of the college estate to the University of Roehampton. As part of that arrangement, commitments to the activities and ethos of Southlands College were made by the university, and the Southlands Liaison Group was established, which has responsibility for ensuring those commitments are honoured and that the relationship between the Church and the university is developed and sustained for the benefit of both. Members of the Liaison Group include representatives of the local Methodist communities, of the London District, and of the Connexional Team, as well as university and college appointments and independent Methodist people. They are occasionally nominated as members of university committees, including two members of the University Council (governing body).
- 1.4 The Methodist Conference stations a chaplain to Southlands College, whose appointment is made in collaboration with the college and wider university chaplaincy team. The university also employs a Head of College through a process conducted in partnership with the Church and the college (through the Liaison Group). The chaplain and Head of College live on site and have responsibilities for the oversight of the college community and, with a supporting team, the wider work of the college. The Chaplain plays a leading role in current conversations within the Church about chaplaincy and chaplaincy support and development. The Head of College represents the college's interests within the wider structures of the university institution, holds appointments across a range of Methodist educational bodies, and has a particular role in facilitating the development of the university's relationship with the Methodist Church, in Britain and globally.
- 1.5 When the college lease was granted, a range of assets was kept under the direct management of the Church. This includes the college's historical archives, a number of paintings and sculptures, musical instruments, ring-fenced funds from alumni bequests, and a separate property, also in Roehampton. These assets and the income received from them are administered by the Southlands Methodist Trust, a registered charity. The trustees of the Southlands Methodist Trust have responsibility for

ensuring their good management, maintenance and use within the terms of the Trust's charitable purposes.

- 1.6 Detailed reporting on the activities of the college takes place annually and the Southlands Liaison Group represents the Church's interests in ensuring these activities comply with the various commitments made. Annually, the Southlands Methodist Trust also reports to the charity commission and produces a detailed trustee report. These two reports are available at:
- <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about> (scroll down and click)
  - <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community> (scroll and click) (direct download links are listed on the cover sheet of this paper)

Paper copies can be sent to Council members on request, by emailing [southlands.college@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:southlands.college@roehampton.ac.uk). For a broader look at the activities of Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust, and indeed the University of Roehampton, please visit the web pages and follow the social media feeds listed on the cover sheet to this paper. The following paper provides a brief summary of the areas of activity taking place at and through Southlands College, which are explained in more detail (and with detailed examples from the past year) in those individual reports.

## **2.0 Areas of Activity**

### **2.1 Southlands College and the University of Roehampton**

Southlands College is one of four constituent colleges of the University of Roehampton. The college is home to 300 resident undergraduate students studying across a range of subject areas. It is also home to around 2,500 commuting students, from Foundation level to postgraduate, studying at the Faculty of Business and Law and the School of Education's Applied Music Research Centre. The university has around 20,000 students, of which 10,000 ordinarily study on campus.

Southlands retains its Methodist identity in the context of a modern and dynamic university. Methodist values and approaches to education, alongside those of our Anglican and Roman Catholic sister colleges, play an important part in the life of the university, impacting decision making at all levels, institutional strategic planning, course development, staff configurations, student life, college events, and the practicalities of our work and activities on a day to day basis.

The influence of our values-based approach to education based on our Christian foundations has tangible effects on the university's community as whole. It is particularly evident in our inclusive approach to access and participation. The majority of our students come from demographic groups underrepresented in higher education. Significantly more than half are of BAME heritage and the first in their families to attend university. Our Christian foundations are also evident in our strong focus on providing well-being support, pastoral care and chaplaincy across the college and university communities.

Roehampton offers a number of courses which reflect our Methodist understanding of education as a means for improving the lives of the less advantaged and for encouraging commitment to social action. In this, an exploratory dialogue is under way in relation to ways in which the University might engage with the Church at the Margins priority of the Connexion. The university remains a national leader in teacher training and has a new and growing programme in nursing, including mental health nursing.

- 2.2 We are committed to the teaching of Theology and Religious Studies, as well as to offering courses in Ministerial Theology, including a growing DTh programme for people in ministry roles. This

programme is fast becoming an especially attractive option for lay and ordained Methodists, and is one key element in helping to fulfil some of the CDiM aims which the Ministries Committee adopted in 2021. Several Methodists are currently in receipt of connexional awards on this course. Another example of current collaboration is the recent research into Learning in a Methodist Context conducted through the Theological Action Research Network based at Roehampton. Several exploratory forums have taken place to begin to learn from that work, as the Church continues to think deeply about its own strategies and priorities in learning and training across the Connexion. Alongside this, Roehampton has a number of departments high on national league tables for research and teaching quality, and is the most research-intensive modern university in the UK. The Faculty of Business and Law, which is based at Southlands, is heavily focused on the development of practice which is socially responsible, engaging our students in areas including business ethics, sustainability and human rights.

### 2.3 Southlands as a College Community

The ways by which Southlands functions as a community within the university are set out in the college's annual report to the Southlands Liaison Group, which is accessible at <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/enriching-the-college-community>

Briefly, these areas of activity include:

- A diverse range of educational and community activities for staff and students, focused on offering welcome, hospitality and belonging, engaging our community in critical issues facing society, encouraging the exploration of identity, and celebrating achievement.
- Enabling and developing chaplaincy as a core function at the college and across the university campus. This includes the provision of a Methodist presbyter and a Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker as part of the university's multi-faith chaplaincy team, and the co-creation of a Methodist-Roman Catholic student community house on campus.
- The management of student leadership programmes, development opportunities and volunteering roles, designed to have a positive impact on the university and the local community.
- The sustaining of positive relationships with the college's dispersed alumni, which include students who attended the college as long ago as the 1930s.
- Helping to nurture scholarship and learning addressing questions of importance to the Church and supporting Methodist Higher Education across the British Connexion and through wider global Methodist educational networks.

### 2.4 Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT)

The SMT exists to promote scholarship and research of significance to Church and society, through and with Southlands College and the University of Roehampton; to provide access for the Church to the facilities and resources of the university; to nurture the relationship between the Church and the University; to enrich the college community, especially in ways which promote Methodist values; and to promote further charitable work in the Church.

Working collaboratively with the college's staff team and with colleagues across the university's academic departments and central administration, the SMT aims to live out the identities of Southlands both as Methodism's university college and also as the university's Methodist college.

A full report of the charity's activities is provided every year to the Charity Commission and produced in a report, which can be accessed here: <https://southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk/about>

Some examples from amongst that work include:

- Supporting research and research-related projects across the university's academic departments and more widely in the Church and across HE institutions. These investigate issues of importance to society and which support the mission and work of the Methodist Church, and exploring the best ways to share those with wider audiences.
- Sponsoring student bursaries and the Susanna Wesley Visiting Fellowship as a means of supporting overseas scholars from Methodist institutions to conduct research at Southlands.
- Exploring and developing opportunities for greater collaboration with and between Methodist schools, colleges and universities in the UK and overseas. As part of this, the SMT has led and sponsored Connexional work to bring together a new forum of British Methodist and Methodist-related HE and research institutions, a goal of the Continuing Development in Ministry (CDiM) strategy. This has been undertaken in partnership with the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee and the Director of Learning for Ministry who convene the gathering, and it is chaired by the SMT/SLG Chair.
- Sponsoring a young person to explore their Christian vocation as the college's Methodist Chaplaincy Community Worker, to live and work alongside a Roman Catholic Community Worker in our Methodist-Roman Catholic chaplaincy community house, and to co-support that house's annual pilgrimage.
- The *Southlands Venture*: work which evolved out of a One Programme initiative at Southlands, turning student ideas into practical action of benefit to the local community.
- Providing financial resources for the appointment of the Head of Service for Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, supporting the development of the work of Methodist Schools and Methodist Education more generally through participation in national and international networks, and developing the support for Methodist schools from within the university's School of Education. In the light of the Conference's adoption of the *Transforming Lives* schools strategy in 2021, the SMT hopes to continue to play a leading role in this area of mission, and in resourcing and informing this ongoing work.
- Maintaining, preserving and developing the college's historic archives (ownership of which is held by the Trust), and employing a part-time archivist

## 2.5 Susanna Wesley Foundation

A major activity of the SMT is the Susanna Wesley Foundation (SWF). The Foundation funds research and knowledge exchange projects, runs conferences and workshops, and produces practical resources. Issues around diversity, learning, and the processes of change within the churches, along with questions about leadership and organisation, are its key themes. Its work is informed by a commitment to conversation and dialogue, interdisciplinary study, and bringing together theory and practice. This is reflected in the participatory methodologies adopted for its research and the conversational approaches used in its events, together with its association with different academic disciplines.

The Foundation's community, which extends beyond its employed staff, involves academics from the University of Roehampton and also other institutions, together with practitioners from Methodism and other denominations. It also includes doctoral students, both lay and ordained Methodists, who are sponsored by the Foundation, a number of whom are taking Roehampton's DTh (professional doctorate in theology).

As part of its programme of work, the Foundation responds to direct questions and issues raised by the Methodist Church, whether in local contexts or in connexional bodies and committees, or from the Connexional Team. In recent months, its staff and wider community have been engaged with and greatly helpful to current conversations around several areas of Connexional priority:

- The Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity has been helped in its formulation by the work of the SWF in this area, which is significant and deeply-rooted. SWF personnel are on the steering group for the work.

- Ongoing SWF research into the processes and realities of change in the life of the Church has formed the focus of several conversations with Connexional and local church representatives of late, and, as the Church continues to navigate a rapidly changing world and ministry context, it is anticipated that more such conversations can continue to inform approaches to key areas of mission.
- The Connexional Task Group for the Action for Hope project, working on the Conference commitment to be at net zero in carbon emissions by 2030, has met already with SWF members. Here too there is considerable expertise on which to draw, and the planned 2022 Conference of the SWF relates to this area. Further collaboration is planned and anticipated.
- SWF work on clergy well-being has also been shared with members of the Ministries Team as they pursue some clear priorities in this area. Further sharing of wisdom and insight will continue into the future.

Details about the work of the Foundation can be found at [www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk](http://www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk)

### **3 Governance Review**

The Terms of Reference for the Southlands Liaison Group ask for its membership to conduct a detailed review every ten years, to establish that the terms of the Lease and Governance Deed are being implemented. This review began in 2020 (the first ten year marker since the establishment of the SLG) and was completed in October 2021, when the SLG received a full report from the university about its compliance.

The Liaison Group was satisfied that the terms of those documents remained relevant and that they would not seek to implement any amendments.

On receipt of the report from the university, the Liaison Group was also satisfied that the terms of both documents are and have been implemented satisfactorily. In two areas the provision of commitments were not currently in place. This related to aspects of the supply of food and the level of budget provided for college activities. Both of these were a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic, and senior university staff expressed a full commitment to restoring both when finances permit. The Liaison Group asked for a report on those matters at a meeting in the next academic year.

### **4 Mount Clare Lease**

In 2026 the present lease with the University of Roehampton on the Mount Clare estate will come to an end. This lease brings in the significant majority of the Trust's income. As the university has signalled a desire not to renew the lease beyond 2026, the trustees anticipate a significantly changed function for the site after 2026, requiring a new lease, development plan, or the sale of the site. The trustees have now begun the process of identifying the professional support needed to progress these explorations, both within the church and externally, and reported on this as part of the Council's Methodist Entities Review. More will be done in 2022 to bring a focus to this work, and resources have been allocated for that purpose.

### **5 Membership of the Liaison Group and Trust Board 2021-22**

The memberships of our groups are as follows:

Southlands Methodist Trust:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling
- Mr Alan Davies

- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean (in attendance, nominated connexional representative)
- The Revd Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Colin A Smith
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Smith (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Christopher Stephens (in attendance, ex officio)

Southlands Liaison Group:

- The Revd Stan Brown
- Mr Alan Davies
- The Revd Dr Jonathan Dean
- The Revd Geoffrey Farrar (Circuit nominated)
- The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban (Chair)
- The Revd Nicola Morrison, chaplain
- Prof Sunitha Nerandran (university nominated)
- Dr Clive Norris
- The Revd Colin A Smith
- The Revd Dr Jennifer Smith (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Christopher Stephens, Head of College

With the appointment of the Revd Michaela Youngson as Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the SLG and SMT are now seeking a new representative from amongst the District Chairs to sit on both. Work is underway with the Connexional Team to identify a suitable candidate, who will be proposed to the Methodist Council as a new nominee at the appropriate point.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**27/1. The Council receives the report.**