

Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust: Report on Academic Year 2014-15

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Dr David G Deeks: Chair, Southlands Liaison Group, Southlands Methodist Trust david.deeks@gmail.com Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College Christopher.stephens@roehampton.ac.uk
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	To receive the report. To request that the Council approves nominations of new members to the Southlands Liaison Group and Southlands Methodist Trust by e-vote.
Draft Resolutions	60/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To inform the Council of the work of the College, the Liaison Group, and the Methodist Trust. To enable progress towards developing the membership of the Liaison Group and Trustees to take place before the next meeting of the Council.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The following additional papers are available on request from Jane Bates, batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk : 2014-15 Annual Report of the Southlands Methodist Trust: to summarise the work of the Trust 2014-15 Annual Report of Roehampton University to the Methodist Church: to provide information on the activities of the College and University in the context of the commitments made through the leasing of the College to the University in 2010 Glimpses of Faith: to summarise the work of chaplaincy within the College and University during 2014-15 Websites: www.susannawesleyfoundation.org.uk and www.roehampton.ac.uk/Colleges/Southlands-College

1 Southlands College

Southlands College was founded in 1876 as a teacher training college for women intending to work in Methodist schools. The college moved from Battersea to Wimbledon and from Wimbledon to Roehampton – its present location – and became progressively more closely associated 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. The university has recently celebrated its tenth year.

2. Southlands Liaison Group (SLG)

In 2010 the Methodist Conference granted a 125-year lease of the college to the University of Roehampton, which manages the majority of the buildings and estate, as well as the day-to-day functioning of the college. As part of that arrangement, a series of commitments to the activities and ethos of the college were made by the university, and a body called 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 are nominated members of university committees, including its Council (governing body). The Methodist Conference stations a chaplain to the college, the appointment of which 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 oversight of the college community. The Head of College represents the college's interests within the wider structures of the institution.

3. Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT)

When the college lease was granted, a range of assets was excluded from it, for which the Church has continued management and responsibility. This includes the college's historical archives, a range of paintings and sculptures, musical instruments, funds from alumni bequests, and a separate property, also in Roehampton, which is leased to the University under different arrangements, bringing an annual income. These assets and the income received from them are administered by the Southlands Methodist Trust, a registered charity, the trustees of which have responsibility for ensuring their good management, maintenance and use within the terms of the Trust's charitable purposes. Those charitable purposes were changed by the Methodist Council in April 2013.

4. Reporting to the Council

This is the second of the annual reports to the Methodist Council from Southlands College. The report aims on one level to inform the Council of the activities of the College, the SLG and the SMT that fulfil both the commitments of the University to the Church and also the charitable purposes of the Trust. More than this, though, it is the hope of the Liaison Group and the University that reports to the Council can enthuse members with the energy of activity at Southlands and provide an insight into the exciting work that goes on there because of and on behalf of the Methodist Church. Southlands is a vibrant, diverse, extremely modern university college which contributes to the life of one of the country's most successful higher education establishments. At the same time it holds to and demonstrates a real commitment to its Christian, Methodist roots, lived out in new, fresh and engaging ways every year as thousands of young people come through its doors to learn and to grow.

Three documents are available on request from Jane Bates (batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk), which we hope will go a long way towards sharing some of the excitement and energy of Southlands with members of the Council. However, written reports show a limited view of reality and we warmly invite all members to visit Southlands and to see this for themselves and to get involved with the work of the college and the Trust. You would be extremely welcome.

5. Available reporting documents

The following documents are available:

i. The Annual Report of the Southlands Methodist Trust:

This sets out the work of the Trust over the academic year 2014-15 and forms the main part of the trustees' statutory reporting to the Charity Commission.

ii. The Annual Report from Roehampton University to the Methodist Church

This details how the University has lived out its commitments made to the college and the Church (set out in various lease arrangements in 2010) through its activities over the academic year 2014-15.

iii. Glimpses of Faith

An informal document created by the university's chaplaincy team giving a flavour of the work of chaplains at Roehampton University. This offers an impression of the special nature of the institution within the sector as a church-founded university.

6. Membership

The members of the SLG and SMT are appointed by the Methodist Council. At the time of writing (February 2016) members are:

The Revd Dr David G Deeks (Chair)*
Dr Christopher W B Stephens (Head of College, ex officio)
Ms Jude Levermore
The Revd Michaela A Youngson
Mr Nigel Fairhurst*
Mr John Logan
Ms Elizabeth Ovey*
Dr Clive Norris
The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling

The Revd David Innes (SLG only: college chaplain, ex officio)
Dr Lourdes Melcion (SLG only: university academic, ex officio)

At the close of the current academic year (August 2016), members marked with * above will end their terms on both groups. Remaining members are currently conducting an appointment process for new members, and specifically for a new Chair.

In order to make the proper appointments in time for the individuals to begin in September 2016, the Methodist Council will be asked to deal with the appointments by e-vote.

*****RESOLUTION**

60/1. The Council receives the report.