

## Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust

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<b>Action Required</b>	For note
<b>Draft Resolutions</b>	63/1. The Council receives the report.

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	To inform the Council of the work of the College, the Liaison Group, and the Methodist Trust and to instigate annual reporting on these
<b>Main Points</b>	Background Southlands College and Southlands Liaison Group The Southlands Methodist Trust Future Reports to the Council
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	Southlands Liaison Group: ToR attached as Appendix 1 Southlands Methodist Trust: charitable purposes attached as Appendix 2 Susanna Wesley Foundation draft planning document: attached as Appendix 3 Gender Diversity Leadership event description: attached as Appendix 4

## Southlands College and the Southlands Methodist Trust

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 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 closer 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.

### 2.0 Southlands College and the Southlands Liaison Group

#### 2.1 The Southlands Liaison Group

Following the decisions of the 2010 Methodist Conference, Southlands College and its activities are now managed directly by the University of Roehampton. The Liaison Group has responsibility for ensuring that the various obligations of the lease are met and that the Church's ambitions for the college, both as an academic institution and as a community of people, are honoured. Their work ensures that the Methodist presence in Higher Education lived out at Southlands is a fruitful one and that the relationship between the Church and the university is sustained. To help with its work, the Group receives regular reports from staff and students of the college, as well from the university's Vice Chancellor.

Membership of the Liaison Group has changed several times in the past year. Papers requesting approval for nominations made by the Group have been received by the Methodist Council at its previous two meetings.

## **2.2 The College**

Southlands is home to around 280 undergraduate students studying a range of subjects, as well as to the university's departments of Music Education, Media, Culture and Languages, and the Business School.

In many ways the college functions like any other university college. However, it seeks proactively to sustain a programme of events, campaigns, activities and a broad culture infused with and encouraging of the values and priorities of the Methodist Church. The university employs staff in the college to manage that work and to ensure a continuing presence of the unique approach to education fostered in the college before the new arrangements of 2010.

## **2.3 The College and the Church**

Part of the work of the Head of Southlands College and the Liaison Group is to assist the Church in making best use of the relationship it has with the University of Roehampton and to gain access to its expertise and resources.

The results of this work will naturally evolve as time goes on, and the Church is actively encouraged by members of the university's administration to continue thinking about how the university can best serve the Church's needs.

In recent years, this relationship has led to increasing links between the university and Methodist Education, with new possibilities for partnership work between Methodist schools and Southlands College to nurture Methodist young people, including the development of bursaries for those entering Higher Education; it has led to the university creating a community of Honorary Research Fellows for Methodist ministers and laypeople, providing them with access to the university library, its online resources, networks, and academic events and communities; it has led to the university making proposals to provide degree validation arrangements for postgraduate awards at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham on a non-profit basis; it has led to discussions about future collaborations with the former Westminster College, now within Oxford Brookes University; it has led to the use of the college as a location for Methodist events (without charge).

## **2.4 The College Chapel and Chaplaincy**

The Chaplain of Southlands College is also Methodist chaplain to the wider university. Along with the assistant chaplain (a fixed-term, developmental post for young people exploring their vocation) they participate in and have a significant role in the development of a single ecumenical and multi-faith, university-wide chaplaincy team. That team offers a diverse range of opportunities for exploring issues of faith and religion in contemporary society; worship opportunities for a range of faith communities; academic-related events exploring issues of faith and spirituality; visits and pilgrimages to places of religious significance; pastoral and support links with all aspects of the university's life; volunteering and community engagement opportunities; support for student campaigns.

Increasingly, the Christian chaplains at Roehampton are developing a specific programme of combined ecumenical activity, committed to living out in a relevant and engaging way the

distinctive foundation of the institution. The university, constituted of Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic-founded colleges (alongside one non-denominational college), represents a unique partnership of these Churches in a common commitment to values-based education. Alongside the Heads of Colleges, the chaplains are placing new energy behind realizing that commitment in a context radically different from the 19<sup>th</sup> century society in which those colleges were established.

The Methodist chaplain and assistant chaplain are also rooted in Southlands, providing pastoral care, learning and worship opportunities, alongside broader support for college community activities in and in association with the college chapel. These activities all sit within the Methodist tradition (widely interpreted) while remaining open to and encouraging of people from all faith traditions and none.

The college and its chaplain act in a number of ways as part of the local Methodist circuit and of wider Methodist bodies. Members of the circuit are invited to college events, both worship in the chapel and also open academic events, including a programme of chaplaincy lectures. The student volunteering project, run by the college's assistant chaplain, makes special efforts to engage with the local community and to have a place within the churches surrounding the university. The chaplain and assistant chaplain attend the local district synod and wider Methodist chaplaincy events, and encourage students to explore involvement in these (one result being a recent student from the chapel being elected Methodist Youth President).

Members of the Methodist Council are actively encouraged to make contact with the college to explore the possibility for future collaborations and to encourage others in the Church to do the same.

### **3.0 The Southlands Methodist Trust (SMT)**

#### **3.1 Charitable Activities to 2013**

After the 2010 handover of the college lease, the Trustees of the SMT worked to provide grants for a range of projects which fulfilled the aims of the charity, with a particular focus on enabling research providing special insights on subjects of importance to the Church and society.

These projects included work on:

- the professional identity and training needs of Methodist ministers;
- the growing problem of online gambling amongst young people;
- the wider social impact of building a new casino;
- the demographics and ecclesiology of new black majority churches;
- the place of women in leadership within Christianity and Islam.

These projects were planned and conducted in communication with the various relevant parts of the Connexional Team, including the then Projects, Research and Development Cluster and JPIT. The outcomes have included reports, events and resources made freely available to those Church officers for wider distribution elsewhere in the Church.

In addition to research grants, the SMT sponsored a range of more practical projects, including:

- three years of funding for a One Programme Participant at the college;

- support for a range of refurbishment, restoration, and maintenance work on the archive and other assets retained by the Church;
- honorarium payments for a volunteer to manage the college archive, ownership of which is retained by the Church;
- small-scale activities to nurture the college community;
- small hardship grants for students with particular needs;
- payment of the assistant chaplain and contributions to the development of the college's community music agenda.

### 3.2 Charitable Activities from 2013

Since 2012 the trustees of the SMT have worked together to take a more targeted approach to their work, ensuring the best use of the income of the Trust within the bounds of its charitable purposes, which were changed in 2013.

The trustees have worked with and consulted various Church bodies and representatives to establish a valuable and viable future for its work. They have aimed to develop a vision for the distinctive and exciting contribution the Trust can make within Methodism. Since 2013, this has included discussion and collaboration with several clusters of the Connexional Team, the SRC, and the Implementation Management Team of the Fruitful Field Project. It has also been heavily influenced by the Church-wide consultation on Scholarship, Research and Innovation priorities, conducted by the research department of the Connexional Team, which asked all Methodist people to identify what areas of research were of critical importance to the future of Methodism. Flowing from this work, the Trustees developed initial ideas about the possibilities for future contributions to the Church at Southlands through the Trust. These were shared with the Connexional Treasurer, which led to an encouraging meeting, asking the Trust to continue in this work with an emphasis on resourcing practical change in local church communities.

Taking these discussions on board and recognising Methodism's unique relationship with a Higher Education institution established through the college and the hopes of the Church to benefit from that (expressed in the Conference documentation in 2010 and the purposes set for the SMT by Methodist Council in 2013), a future vision has been formed with the aim of providing the Church, and particularly local communities, with high levels of access to that facility and the expertise and resources it encompasses. Working with Church stakeholders, the university and external and ecumenical partners, the result was the creation of the *Susanna Wesley Foundation (SWF)* in 2014.

The SWF is still in its formative stages, although a range of projects is underway, two PhD students recruited, and a first conference held in September 2014. Attached to this paper (Appendix 3) is a draft document written recently for discussion at the trustee's next meeting, setting out what the Foundation aims to do and how. We hope this will be of use in providing the Council with a brief summary of our work. At its heart, the SWF aims to do research which is academically robust, but also focused on practical outcomes. It aims to do work which specifically supports the practical, organisational needs of churches and local faith communities, focusing on the broad areas of:

- Work, Life and Identity
- Diversity and Transformation
- Learning for Leadership, Management and Ministry

- Governance and Leadership

The Foundation will be focused firstly and primarily on the various communities of the Methodist Church in Britain, but remain concerned to share its expertise and explore partnerships within a broad ecumenical, international and inter-faith context. It will benefit from and speak into the wider research culture of the university, which supports the venture through the provision of physical resources, staff time and financial contributions.

The SWF has various points of contact with the Church, with circuits and local communities as well as more formal routes into the structures of the Church. The Foundation maintains regular communication with the Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation while the Head of the Discipleship and Ministries Cluster of the Connexional Team is a trustee of the SMT, as is a London District Chair and a DMLN Regional Officer.

The Foundation welcomes approaches from across the Church and is keen to engage with those whose interests correspond to the areas of focus of the Foundation's research activity. The Foundation has already been able to agree to all requests so far made of it by the Church, an example being a relatively large-scale project looking at practice-based ministerial formation in order to generate findings that will inform policy and practice in the Methodist Church. The scope of the project is being shaped currently with a view to recruiting a researcher who will work with the Church through the Foundation over a significant period.

Partnerships between the SWF and local church communities and regional staff teams are rapidly increasing across the Connexion. The Foundation has instigated an action research programme which looks at the factors enabling transformative change, with a call for interest via the Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network. This has resulted in a number of initiatives, and members of the research team (which includes Theology and Business tutors from the university alongside a Coordinator from the DMLN) are working with six DMLN Regional Teams, with the Church & Community specialism of the DMLN, and with some circuits. The particular methodology exposes participants to approaches which foster collaboration and which enable participatory leadership in order to bring about effective, equitable and durable solutions to critical challenges and issues. This same programme has led to some work with ministers and members in an ecumenical context to uncover shared understandings and shared intent in order to help the group move forward in their ecumenical endeavour.

The Methodist Conference was encouraging of Southlands' desire to host a special event to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of the ordination of women to the presbyterate. This event is booked for June 18-19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There is already a great deal of interest in it, the information about which is attached to this paper as Appendix 4. Members of the Council interested in the event are invited to email [SWF@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:SWF@roehampton.ac.uk) for further details

The Foundation will periodically host such events that are of interest to the wider Church and will ensure that it is responsive to Methodist needs and interests. These events and conferences will also provide opportunities for Methodist scholars who are working on relevant topic areas to showcase their research. It is hoped that the Foundation will be able to host a series of seminars on organisational thinking and Methodism in the coming academic year.

The SWF has developed a range of smaller-scale research projects. These have been designed to capitalise on the advantages offered by being based in a University with particular resources and areas of expertise. It is intended that projects of the SWF emerge out of areas considered by the Church to be ones that are a priority for the Church and that they generate

learning and resources which can be of direct benefit to the Methodist Church in a range of different contexts. Below are some examples of the areas which are being explored:

- The experience of women in presbyteral ministry in the Methodist Church in Britain
- Approaches to conflict in Methodist communities
- Understandings of gender and gender identity and the implications for the Methodist Church – how it engages with ‘pluralism and complexity’
- Women and leadership across the two ‘sectors’ of the Church and Education
- Models for, and implications of, demographic data monitoring amongst faith groups, with reference to practice in the Methodist Church
- Cultural diversity and Methodist circuit ministry
- Theologically rooted methods to help churches creatively explore organisational issues, such as the process of local mission planning

As it develops, the SWF is attracting a range of students and research staff who can help to answer the needs of the Church. While working with the university provides access to high-calibre scholars, the Foundation is also particularly keen to encourage emerging scholars and to provide opportunities for Methodist ministers and laypeople to develop their research skills and portfolios. As well as providing PhD bursaries through the University of Roehampton, the SWF is therefore also instigating a Junior Research Fellowship programme, designed specifically to support postdoctoral researchers. It also plans offer sabbatical placements and special access scholarships for academic events for ministerial students.

The staff of the SWF would be extremely pleased to hear from any members of the Council who are interested in any of its work or who wish to engage in its activities or benefit from them. They can approach the Foundation through Christopher Stephens, Head of Southlands College (email above).

In order to address all its charitable purposes, the SMT also continues to sponsor college-specific work alongside the work of the SWF. This includes employing the Assistant Chaplain and supporting a number of music-related activities, most notably music scholarships, as well as offering hardship grants and project money for community volunteering work. The SMT reports on its activities annually to the Charity Commission and its audited accounts are sent annually to Methodist Church House.

### 3.3. **Mount Clare (MC)**

The primary asset of the SMT is Mount Clare, a large house and student bedrooms near Southlands College. Much of the rental income from MC is currently directed towards paying a mortgage held on the property. The residual funds support the charitable work of the Trust.

The trustees will need to make significant decisions about the future of MC, as it sits in the centre of Wandsworth Council’s redevelopment project for Roehampton village, as well as being in poor condition, in need of modernisation. In October 2014, the trustees commissioned Spring 4 (used by the Church to manage work on a range of its property assets) to assess the options and value of the site as a means for helping make decisions about its future. That report will be received in March and will be a priority amongst Trust business at their March meeting.

A separate paper on the future of Mount Clare will come to the Council from the trustees at a later date, when they have digested the report and conducted appropriate work to consider the best possible future options. The Council has instructed the SMT that major decisions

regarding the future of the asset should be made after approval from the Council, and so any proposals will come to the Council in that separate paper, rather than as part of a broader paper similar to this one.

#### 4. **Future Reports to the Council**

In the future, the Southlands Liaison Group and the Southlands Methodist Trust will report to the Methodist Council annually, commenting on developments over the previous year. Any specific reports on Mount Clare are likely to come separately to these.

Any members of the Methodist Council wishing to discuss or engage with the life of the college or the Trust in other ways is invited to contact the Head of College, Dr Christopher Stephens on [christopher.stephens@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.stephens@roehampton.ac.uk).

#### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**63/1. The Council receives the report.**



## Appendix 1

### Southlands Liaison Group – Terms of Reference

- 1 The Liaison Group is the link between Roehampton University and the Methodist Church.
- 2 The members of the Liaison Group are appointed by the Methodist Council. The Council shall appoint between six and ten people, one of whom shall be the Chair (who shall usually also be the Chair of the trustees of the Southlands Methodist Trust), the Head of Southlands College, the College Chaplain and, on the nomination of the University, a senior member of the academic staff based in the College. The Southlands Deputy President of the Students Union (the Student Representative) shall be invited to attend as a participant observer, provided that at the discretion of the Chair, he/she shall withdraw if sensitive matters are to be considered. The Chair shall also be entitled to direct that the Student Representative should not be supplied with any papers in respect of which confidentiality needs to be maintained.
- 3 The Chair of the Trustees and Liaison Group shall normally be one of the Methodist Church's representatives on the University Council.
- 3 The Liaison Group shall meet at least annually, and normally three times a year or otherwise as its members deem necessary.
- 4 The Liaison Group will receive the Vice-Chancellor's annual report referred to in 6.4.1 of the Governance Deed setting out, among other things, the College and University activities that have supported the objectives of the Methodist Church and how the role of the College, as described in the Governance Deed, has been fulfilled. The report will also cover the maintenance and development of the College property and other aspects referred to in the Governance Deed and in the Lease.
- 5 A meeting will take place annually between the Vice-Chancellor and the Liaison Group to review the Vice-Chancellor's annual report and to verify that the terms of the Lease and Governance Deed have been complied with by both parties and that the relationship is working well. This meeting will provide the opportunity for both parties to raise and address any issues of mutual concern.
- 6 The Liaison Group shall undertake a thorough clause by clause review of how the Lease and Governance Deed are being implemented at least once every ten years, and more often if deemed appropriate.
- 7 The Liaison Group may raise any matter of urgent concern with the Vice-Chancellor or with the Methodist Council at any time.
- 8 The Liaison Group shall normally receive at each meeting reports from the Head of College, the College Chaplain and such other persons as may be appropriate.
- 10 The Liaison Group shall keep the Methodist Council aware, as it deems necessary or as it is requested, of the evolving life of the College and University, and shall provide the Methodist Council with an annual report.
- 11 The Liaison Group will undertake its responsibilities under the Governance Deed regarding the appointment of the Head of College. This will include consulting with the Managing Trustees or their representatives, and conducting jointly with the University the interview and appointment processes.

- 12 Those members of the Liaison Group who are members of the Methodist Church shall carry out all of the functions which, in the case of a circuit appointment (the usual form of stationing of ministers in the Methodist Church), would be carried out by the circuit stewards, circuit meeting or invitation committee in respect of the appointment, extension or curtailment of the College Chaplain, and in regard to appointment shall seek normally to proceed by advertisement and interview.
- 13 A right to use the College Chapel is reserved in the Lease to the Methodist Council. The University and any other users including the Methodist Council are only permitted to use the Chapel in accordance with the Policy for the Use of the Chapel. A copy of the initial Policy is attached to the Lease. Until it determines otherwise, the Methodist Council has delegated responsibility for the Policy, including its operation and review, to the Liaison Group, who will act in accordance with the principles and purposes set out in the Policy (and, where relevant, in the Lease and Governance Deed).
- 14 The Liaison Group will, at least annually, advise the Head of College's line manager of their assessment of the performance of the Head of College, who shall withdraw when that business is under discussion.
- 15 The Liaison Group will collaborate with the University and the Head of College in maintaining and developing the College's ethos and values in accordance with the Governance Deed.
- 16 The details of these Terms of Reference may be periodically amended if necessary and appropriate by agreement with the Methodist Council or any equivalent successor body, provided that the principles contained in the initial Terms of Reference continue to be reflected and maintained.

## Appendix 2

### Southlands Methodist Trust Charitable Objectives

1. as part of the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network, to support in association with the College and University the development of Christian, and specifically Methodist, scholarship, research and innovation, of local, national and global significance and to facilitate the public dissemination of such developments.
2. to enable members of the Methodist community and wider public in Britain and internationally to benefit from the academic and other expertise and experience within the College and the University and the facilities available within them.
3. to enrich the community life of the College and the work of its Chaplaincy in ways that reflect its Methodist values and ethos.
4. to maintain and develop the relationship between the Methodist Church, the College and the University in the context of developing the contribution made to the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network.
5. to further the wider charitable purposes of the Methodist Church through close working with the other persons and bodies responsible for the work carried out through the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network

### Appendix 3: The Susanna Wesley Foundation – DRAFT planning document

———— The Susanna Wesley Foundation exists to help faith communities and religious institutions to flourish by equipping them to understand and to develop their practice.

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The SWF will serve the needs of the Methodist Church in Britain, while nurturing partnerships and sharing its learning and expertise with ecumenical, international and inter-faith communities.

The SWF will achieve its purposes through enabling research in aspects of organizational practice and development which:

- Applies a breadth of academic disciplines to questions of relevance to faith communities
- Enables faith communities to learn from a range of non-religious organizations
- Results in resources which will be accessible and directly beneficial to faith communities

In doing this it will aim also to:

- Contribute to academic discourses in disciplines relevant to the interests of the Foundation and the needs of the Methodist Church
- Facilitate partnerships, conversations and networks of communication, becoming a focal point for a community of scholarship and practice
- Offer development and learning opportunities for communities and organizations
- Enable a range of non-religious organizations to learn from faith communities and to develop new ways of thinking and being

The Foundation will be committed to the mission of the Church, to placing God at the heart of all its work, and to upholding the values of the University of Roehampton and the Methodist ethos of Southlands College

The Foundation will be alert in developing its work to the practical needs of the Methodist Church, and in particular the needs of its local communities.

The Foundation will work with and alongside the academic departments of the University of Roehampton.

The Foundation will work with other organizations and networks, being conscious always of the need to think globally, ecumenically and with reference to other faiths.

The Foundation will model professional and academic excellence and best practice.

In order to achieve this, the SWF will encompass:

- An in-house staff team, directly recruited by the SMT with responsibility for the core research and activities of the Foundation
- Shared staff appointments with partner institutions, managing specific areas and projects and enabling a broader reach of the work and activities of the Foundation
- Honorary Research Fellowships, Junior Research Fellowships and sabbatical placements, providing resources for scholars to work with the Foundation for limited periods to complete relevant research projects
- The award of significant grants to partners and associates for the design and delivery of major research projects and resource production
- The sponsorship of PhD students of subjects relevant to the Foundation's aims
- A body of trustees who are equipped and encouraged to engage in the activities of the Foundation and to promote its work



**A forthcoming conference**

Thursday 18 June 2015  
and Friday 19 June 2015

The Susanna Wesley Foundation  
at  
Southlands College  
The University of Roehampton  
London  
80 Roehampton Lane  
SW15 5SE

# Gender Diversity Leadership

**During 2014, we marked the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women to the presbyterate by the Methodist Church. The Church of England marked the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood, and decided to allow the ordination of women as bishops. Pope Francis stated this year that “women must have a greater presence in the decision-making areas” of the Catholic Church.**

To aid our reflection on the significance of these notable anniversaries and ongoing developments, the Susanna Wesley Foundation is hosting a major residential conference in 2015.

Our focus will be **contemporary**, exploring the interplay between gender, diversity and leadership within the life of the churches in the United Kingdom today.

Our focus will also be **ecumenical**. The University of Roehampton is a unique ecumenical federation of four colleges - including Southlands College (established by the Methodist Church), Whitelands College (an Anglican foundation) and Digby Stuart College (a college of the Catholic sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart). True to this history, the conference will be ecumenical, drawing speakers from across the Christian traditions.

Southlands College's founding mission was the education and formation of Methodist women as teachers. True to these pioneering and practical roots, we also hope that the conference will allow **emerging leaders** within the churches to reflect on very contemporary challenges in ways that will nurture and support their ministry, and to enable this we will be offering bursaried places to ordinands and recently ordained ministers.

To register your interest in attending the conference, email [SWF@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:SWF@roehampton.ac.uk)



The Susanna Wesley Foundation for  
Ministry, Management & Organisation  
A partnership of the Southlands Methodist  
Trust and the University of Roehampton