

Southlands College

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Resolution	85/1. The Council receives the report.
Methodist Council objective that this paper supports	Oversight of connexional institutions

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To provide information about Southlands College and its associated bodies
Main Points	<p>Introduction and Context</p> <p>Areas of Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southlands College • Southlands Methodist Trust • Susanna Wesley Foundation <p>Membership of College bodies</p>
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<p>Further, more detailed information about the activities summarised in this report, alongside more about the identity of the Southlands as a Methodist-founded institution, can be requested by emailing Southlands College office (southlands.college@roehampton.ac.uk).</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Reports from the University of Roehampton on the activities of Southlands College in respect of the lease with the Methodist Church • Annual Report of the Southlands Methodist Trust to the Charity Commission • New publication: <i>Southlands College: The Methodist College of the University of Roehampton</i> <p>Additional information and documents can also be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.roehampton.ac.uk/colleges/southlands-college • www.southlandsmethodisttrust.org.uk • www.susannawesleyfoundation.org

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 an Anglican and a Roman Catholic colleges), first as part of the Roehampton Institute and, more recently, as a constituent college of the University of Roehampton.
- 1.2 In 2010, the Methodist Conference granted a 125-year lease of the college 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 are nominated members of university committees, including its Council (governing body). The Methodist Conference stations a chaplain to the 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 oversight of the college community. The Head of College represents the college's interests within the wider structures of the university institution.
- 1.3 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 range of paintings and sculptures, musical instruments, 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.
- 1.4 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 reports to the charity commission and produces a detailed trustee report.
- 1.5 Members of the Methodist Council are warmly invited to request copies of these detailed reports, and to visit our websites for further information (details 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.

2.0 Areas of Activity

2.1 Southlands College

Southlands College is one of four constituent colleges of the University of Roehampton. The college is home to 300 resident undergraduate students and around 2,000 commuting students, from Foundation level to postgraduate, studying across 10 academic departments. The university has around 20,000 students, of which 10,000 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, which draws on our Christian foundations, has tangible effects on the university community. It is particularly evident in our inclusive approach to access and participation. Three quarters of our students come from demographic groups underrepresented in higher education, and over half are the first in their families to attend university. It is also evident in our strong focus on providing wellbeing 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 the social action. It remains a leader in teacher training, 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. It is committed to the teaching of Theology and Religious Studies, as well as offering courses in Ministerial Theology and a growing DTh programme for people in ministry roles.

2.2 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.

A full report of the charity's activities is provided every year to the Charity Commission and produced in a report, made available to the wider Church. Some examples from that work include:

- An annual grants process to support academics pursuing research and practice in subjects which are of demonstrable value to society and which support the mission and work of the Methodist Church.
- 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.
- 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 a Methodist-Roman Catholic chaplaincy community house, and co-support that house's annual pilgrimage.
- Sponsoring a project to examine human diversity and images of disability, generating work with students for a major exhibition at Southlands.
- 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.
- Supporting research into practical ecumenism

- Supporting the chaplaincy life of Southlands College, and its development as a centre of the creative arts in worship and community living
- Maintaining, preserving and developing the college's historic archives, and sponsoring a part-time archivist.

2.3 The Susanna Wesley Foundation

A major activity of the SMT is the Susanna Wesley Foundation (SWF). The Foundation funds research 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, as reflected in the participatory methodologies adopted for its research, and the conversational approaches used in its events, together with its association with different academic departments in the University.

The Foundation's community, which extends beyond its employed staff of six (one of whom works full-time for SWF and the rest on part-time contracts), 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 (a professional doctorate in theology).

The Foundation responds to questions and issues raised by those in the Methodist Church, whether in local contexts or in the Connexional Team. Over the past year, SWF has offered input into Methodist working parties and initiatives, been a conversation partner for individual Methodist leaders, run action research projects in locations across Methodism, and organised the Church's annual research conference.

3.0 Membership of the Liaison Group and Trust Board

An appointment process relating to membership of these bodies is currently underway, and updated lists for confirmation by the Council will be provided in future meetings. The current lists are included in the Committee Appointments paper.

*****RESOLUTION**

85/1. The Council receives the Report