

## Volunteer Role Description

### ROLE

#### FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE MEMBER

### PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The purpose, role and remit of the Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Church can be found in SO330. Members of the Committee are appointed annually by the Conference and would usually serve for a period of six years.

The Committee considers and reports upon matters of faith and order on behalf of the Methodist Church. In reflecting theologically it seeks to discern a Methodist perspective. Individual members, whilst working in a Faith and Order capacity, are bound by decisions of the whole Committee.

### EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance at 3-5 meetings per year (at least 1 of which will be residential, with the others taking place on Zoom). The Committee's current pattern includes a 24 hour residential meeting in late November, with other shorter meetings on Zoom, usually on Saturdays;
2. Willing and able to read, analyse and offer constructive critiques of a wide range of complex documents both in preparation for meetings (or to help the development of work) and for scrutiny purposes. Before meetings there is sometimes the need to process a large volume of documents in a short space of time;
3. Knowledge of, or willingness to develop understanding of, Methodist doctrine, theology and polity so as to be able to identify and comment on issues of faith and order;
4. Willing and able to take responsibility for, or support, significant pieces of work within given time frames;
5. Willing to share particular expertise and nurture their development in others.

### ATTRIBUTES AND EXPERIENCE

Members of the Faith and Order Committee are required to be a member of the Methodist Church.

The member will demonstrate:

1. An ability to think critically;
2. A good understanding of Methodist theology, doctrine and polity;
3. An ability to participate in open critical debate and listen to the diversity of perspectives found within Methodism;
4. An ability to work collegially and collaboratively;
5. A good understanding of the governance structures and processes of the Methodist church;
6. An ability to critically engage with a variety of documents.
7. Skills in drafting or scrutinizing materials (including Conference and Council reports).

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE TYPICALLY NEEDED WITHIN THE COMMITTEE

- Methodism: history and theology
- Ecclesiology
- Ministry
- Biblical studies
- Liturgy and worship
- Ecumenism
- Social and political issues
- New and emerging expressions of church
- Pastoral theology
- Practical theology
- Systematic theology
- Contextual theologies, for example Black theology, feminist theology and disability theology
- Missiology and Evangelism
- Interfaith
- Theological education
- Apologetics
- Law and Polity
- World church