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## A message from Tom Hart, Youth President 2023-2024



Hello!

It is brilliant that you are considering applying to be the Youth President 2025-2026. Being the Youth President is a really exciting and enjoyable job, as there are so many highlights throughout the year, but needless to say, there are some challenging bits too.

As the Youth President, you are an advocate for the voices of children and young people and you represent those voices both within the Methodist Church in Britain and outside of the church. This creates some really amazing opportunities, hearing the voices of children and young people to find out what they're passionate about, and then going to some really exciting meetings with lots of different people. In my year, I've had the joy of going to an international conference to represent children and young people, I've spoken with the Archbishop of Canterbury about their concerns, hosted 3Generate and visited youth events up and down the country – to name just a few cool things. This means a lot of independent travel, a lot of trains and buses, and packing and unpacking of bags, so you need to be resilient at times... and when your train is delayed, very patient!

Representing children and young people and being an advocate for them, requires a level of responsibility. You will have to read and write a number of reports to ensure that their voices are represented across the work of the Methodist Church, and will attend a number of meetings - some of those meetings can be challenging. The Youth President is also involved in some quite challenging conversations around the wider work of the church. Having said this, you will have an amazing support network around you throughout the year from your line manager, the Children, Youth and Family Team, and the Youth Reps.

I really hope that you feel encouraged to continue to discern where God is at work in your life and where God calls you to be!

Best wishes,