



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE -
TRUSTEE ROLE

THE BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Introduction

As a Union of churches, associations and colleges our life together continues to be rich and varied. In all aspects of Baptists Together, including Council, trustee boards, committees and teams, we look to bring together groups and teams of people who can serve in this way in order to make real our mission.

In the first quarter of 2021, a trustee role will become available on the BUGB trustee board. This short document outlines the role and provides information on our selection process. Please note that this role is carried out on a voluntary basis.

TRUSTEE, BAPTIST UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Trustee Board holds the governance responsibilities for the Baptist Union of Great Britain as a charitable organisation. This includes ensuring that the Core Leadership Team (CLT) is able to meet its strategic direction, and that Council and CLT remain accountable to the churches, as well as the financial and risk management obligations of BUGB as a charitable organisation.

The Trustee Board is made up of the Moderator, the General Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, and nine other trustees from across the Baptist family, and includes representation from churches, associations and colleges.

We are looking for someone with a wide range of experience to bring to the Board, and we are particularly seeking someone with a legal background to complement and augment the skills of the whole trustee group. In terms of time, we expect this role to require at least one day each month. The appointment is for a three-year term.

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

Could you offer to serve in Union life by putting yourself forward?

We hope that you will take time to consider prayerfully whether God may be calling you to serve in this role. If you choose to express your interest, please know that we will be praying for you throughout the process of discernment and appointment. We know from our past experiences that God is faithful in bringing the right people forward at the right time in our Union life.



Lynn Green
General Secretary
February 2021

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our vision, culture, values and current priorities



“TO GROW HEALTHY CHURCHES IN RELATIONSHIP
FOR GOD’S MISSION.”

CURRENT PRIORITIES FOR BAPTISTS TOGETHER

In the second half of 2018 the Baptist Steering Group (now developed into the Core Leadership Team) and Baptist Union Council began to review our existing priorities and projects in order to identify what is important for us to focus on now and in the future.

Whilst continuing to develop our ongoing work in our four key areas, we highlighted a number of issues which we felt needed particular focus for the next three to five years. These were:

- Given the urgent need to pursue God’s mission in our UK context, we believe that we need to focus on our value: **‘Embrace adventure: Being serious about discipleship, willing to take risks, pioneer and move out of the comfort zone of familiar ways of doing things (Matthew 28:18-20)’**. Council particularly wanted to embody this value in the context of mission, evangelism and discipleship. Our Mission Forum is particularly key to developing work in this area.
- To work through the remaining recommendations of the Ignite report into **the future of ministry**. Developing leadership in all its forms, together with a focus on equipping the whole body of Christ.
- **Children Young People and Families** – our CYF Round Table is offering leadership in this area.
- A similar but separate focus on **Emerging Adults aged 18-35** – a group which is largely missing from our churches.
- **Digital revolution** – not only our own digital capacity but reflecting on the implications of the digital revolution on mission, ministry and society.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We seek to deliver our vision through four key roles:



OUR CULTURE

The Baptist Union of Great Britain is committed to *intentionally* developing a culture where we...

- **SEEK TO BE A MOVEMENT OF SPIRIT LED COMMUNITIES.** As those who have encountered the living Christ, to intentionally seek his will and purpose for our local churches and every expression of our shared life. (Galatians 5:22-25)
- **FEEL LIKE ONE TEAM** – celebrating diversity; valuing, respecting and trusting each other as we work together in partnerships - making sure everyone feels included and listened to. (I Corinthians 12:24b-27)
- **EMBRACE ADVENTURE** – being serious about discipleship, willing to take risks, pioneer and move out of the comfort zone of familiar ways of doing things. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- **INSPIRE OTHERS** – with a generosity of spirit, to energise and motivate people to be all that God created them to be. (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- **SHARE A HUNGER FOR GOD'S COMING KINGDOM** – nurturing a 'holy discontent' that arises from our desire to give practical expression to our vision of God's purpose for creation - confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly attitudes to power, wealth, status and security both within and beyond our Union. (Matthew 6:9-10)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Trustee, the BUGB Trustee Board

BACKGROUND

The BUGB Trustee Board hold responsibility for the governance of BUGB as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), including all matters relating to financial standing, risk management and legal obligations. Trustees serve for terms of three years, renewable on two further occasions for a maximum of nine years.

ROLE PURPOSE

The role of each trustee, working as part of the Trustee Board, is:

- To ensure that the Core Leadership Team (CLT) fulfils the strategic direction for our Union set by Council
- To ensure that the Council and the CLT together remain accountable to the churches and true to governing documents and other agreements
- To ensure that the Union as a CIO remains financially sound as a going concern, manages risk, meets the requirements of the law and the regulatory bodies, and meets high standards as an employer
- To ensure that those taking on roles for the BUGB are fully aware of the extent and limits of their responsibilities and are properly inducted and trained for their role.

RESPONSIBILITIES

As part of the Trustee Board:

- Ensuring that a sound strategic plan is in place and that appropriate policies for fulfilling it have been adopted
- Ensuring that the work of the Union is soundly managed
- Holding specific financial, fiduciary and property responsibilities for the Union
- Managing the relationships between the various companies and charities associated with the Union
- Holding the power to appoint sub-committees where needed, including the current finance and audit sub-committee and the investment sub-committee
- To engage professional advisers for legal, audit and similar purposes
- To formally appoint the Core Leadership Team

SKILLS AND STYLE

Each Trustee brings a unique set of skills and experiences to the Trustee Board. We are particularly interested in individuals with deep experience of Baptist life, and who have wide connections and relationships within our Union. Based on the current blend of skills and experiences we would be keen to see more Trustees with professional knowledge and experience of legal and financial matters.

You will need to be able to commit to our regular Trustee meetings which are held four times a year at venues across the UK, and to preparation time for these meetings. It is usual for most Trustees to also be involved in at least one sub-committee or working group. During the coronavirus pandemic, all of our meetings are held virtually.

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Previous experience at Trustee level would be valuable but is not essential.

TIME COMMITMENT

In terms of time, we expect this role to require at least one day each month, with additional time commitments if you are asked to participate in a sub-committee or working group. The appointment is for a three-year term, with Trustee Board meetings taking place four times each year.

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Next steps

EXPRESSING YOUR INTEREST

If you would like to express your interest in the trustee role, please send a letter outlining your interest by email to Rachel Stone, the Union's HR and Safeguarding Team Leader, who will be coordinating the appointment process on behalf of the Key Roles Nominations Group. Electronic responses will make it easier for us to share information amongst those involved in the discernment process.

We would be particularly keen to understand:

- Your current situation and employment and/or ministry roles
- Your involvement to date in the wider life of the Union
- Why you feel that this role might be part of your future ministry and service

We would encourage you to discuss these roles with Christian leaders you know and trust, and to ask for prayer as you consider whether or not to express your interest.

If you would find it helpful to speak to someone in more detail before deciding whether to express an interest, please contact Rachel Stone, our HR and Safeguarding Team Leader, on the number below, and she will be able to put you in contact with those already serving in these roles.

Contact details: opportunities@baptist.org.uk

Telephone: 01235 517730

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION

Once expressions of interest are received, we arrange to meet with those who appear to meet our skills and knowledge requirements. At least two members of the Key Roles Team will speak with you to understand more about your background, your sense of call to service in this way, and to pray with you.

The outcome of these meetings will be shared with the full Key Roles Nominations Team so that prayerful decisions can be made about which individuals to put forward for these available roles. You will also be invited to meet with the Moderators of the Trustee Board and the Key Roles Nominations Team for a more in-depth discussion of the trustee agenda and your own governance experience.

The names of potential new trustees will go to the next scheduled Council for approval (Council meetings usually take place in March and November each year).

INDUCTION

Recognising the complex nature of our Union and the need for good support as individuals take up their roles, a full induction programme will be put in place to make sure that new appointees have good background information and understanding before the new appointments begin.



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