

Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

Member-Nominated Trustee Director (MND) vacancy (2024)

Vacancies on the MMPS Trustee Board (the Board) have become available for two MNDs. Applications are sought from **active** and **pensioner** members of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (the Scheme).

What is the Trustee Board and what does it do?

The Board is the Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Limited, which is set up to govern the running of the Scheme. The Scheme has assets of over £395 million as of 31 August 2023 and a membership of around 4,000.

The Board has ten Trustee Directors:

- Six appointed by the Methodist Conference.
- Four MNDs made up of three active ministers and one pensioner member.

The current MNDs are:

- Revd Dr John Illsley (pensioner status)
- Revd Sydney Samuel Lake (active status)
- Revd Eleanor Smith (active status)
- Revd Andrew Walker (active status)

Revd Dr John Illsley and Revd Andrew Walker's terms of office end on 31 August 2024. Both have expressed their desire to stand for re-election.

Therefore, the Board is inviting nominations for two posts, one from the active constituency and one from the pensioner constituency, to serve on the Board from 1 September 2024.

What are the main duties and responsibilities?

The main duty of an MND, together with all the other Trustee Directors, is to ensure that the Scheme is run properly (ensuring the correct payment is paid to the right person, at the right time).

MNDs must act in line with the Trust Deed and Rules, ensure that members' benefits are secure and act in the interest of all beneficiaries.

The Pensions Regulator has some useful information, '**An introduction to Trusteeship**' which you may wish to read before applying and which can be found here:

<https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/en/trustees/understanding-your-role>

Why become an MND?

The role of an MND can be interesting and rewarding, however it does involve significant responsibility and complexity, and can be time consuming.

Statements from present MNDs:

The Revd Eleanor Smith

I am a Presbyterian in active circuit ministry; being a Trustee Director is an opportunity to serve both active and supernumerary ministers because we all have an interest in our pensions. My previous experience is in the financial sector, so I have had to learn about pensions, however the Board comprises Trustee Directors with a range of skills, and we have professional advisors to guide us. There are training opportunities organised for Board members and an online training package which I found was really useful as a new Trustee Director.

The Connexion, as employer, is the sponsor of the MMPS and the Board is independent of it, however I have learnt a lot about the relationship between the two and which body is responsible for which decisions.

The Board meets four times a year and for one in-person training day. I really enjoy this opportunity to extend my knowledge for the benefit of members of the pension scheme.

The Revd Sydney Samuel Lake

The value of our investments is well managed, and we remain assured of our ability to meet our obligations towards members now and in the future. We have members of the board with various experience and competencies to provide an effective panel where questions are raised and answers are secured from the contributions of other Trustee Directors, administrators, and our advisers.

Who can apply to be an MND?

Applications are being sought from active and pensioner members of the Scheme.

Do I need any qualifications?

There are some key skills that would be an advantage. MNDs ideally need financial acumen and the ability to listen to and absorb information, as well as challenge that information.

<https://trusteetoolkit.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

What support would I get?

All Trustee Directors receive training and support to help them carry out their duties. The Trustee Board is supported by an in-house team of pensions professionals and experienced external advisers. In the first six months you will attend an external training course explaining the duties and responsibilities of being an MND. Further training is then given at an annual training day and one – off training sessions as required.

What kind of time commitment would be involved?

MNDs serve for three years following which they may choose to stand for re-election if they remain eligible. You would be expected to attend all Trustee meetings (all held in London) and, if appropriate, any Committee meetings. The Board and the Joint Investment Committee each usually meet four times a year. Attendance at training sessions and time spent reading meeting papers would be in addition. Meeting preparation can also be a significant commitment – as a rough rule of thumb it takes as much time to digest the pre-read in advance as the meetings themselves.

Will I get paid?

All your relevant reasonable expenses will be met. No other payments are made.

How do I nominate myself?

If you wish to make a nomination, please contact the Deputy Pensions Manager – Christopher Pottruff by email at:

pottruffc@methodistchurch.org.uk

We shall then send you the appropriate form.

Nominations require the support of **three** members of the Scheme from the **same** constituency (i.e., three active or pensioner members in this case).

All completed nominations must be returned by 31 March 2024.

How does the nomination process work?

There are **two** vacancies to be filled, one in the active constituency and one in the pensioner constituency. If only one nomination is received in a constituency that person will be appointed. However, if more than one nomination is received then an election by postal ballot will be held.

Further Information and contact details.

If you would like any further information or wish to receive an application form, please contact the Deputy Pensions Manager – Christopher Pottruff by:

Email: pottruffc@methodistchurch.org.uk

Telephone: **020 7467 5260**

020 7467 5287