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200x200 Churches Giving Campaign

Dear

The Student Christian Movement needs help from progressive, open churches so that we can keep serving young people from churches like yours.

We are a student-led movement of Christian students past and present. We exist to ensure a space in student Christianity which is open to all. Open to those with deep questions and to those with doubt. Open to activists for justice who want to take to the streets and to those who see something of how God's world could be fairer but don't know how to take the first step. SCM is probably best known for being fully open to LGBTQ+ people, but it is more than that, it is open to students who want to grow in affirming Christian contexts, where God's love for all is expressed and celebrated.

Our aims are to create community, seek justice, deepen faith and celebrate diversity. We do this by offering a place to just be and belong and, for those who want more, a place to grow as thoughtful disciples, become progressive leaders, gain confidence as radical theologians and develop into passionate activists.

One student's story from last year

"The pandemic shook us all up, but SCM online community provided a safe place each weekday evening where we could share in our brokenness and anxiety together. We could bond over the fact that NOTHING had happened since the last time we had gathered the previous night and enjoyed the company each other brought. We were united by tragedy, and we stayed because of friendship. I volunteered to coordinate Monday evening bible studies, whether leading them myself or recruiting members for one-off sessions on a topic of their fancy. Upon reflection, this opportunity has granted me the enthusiasm to uphold

my personal and spiritual growth, overthrowing the lockdown's mentally destabilising grasp. Organising SCM online has often been challenging, but the skills I have acquired has primed me for the unusual university year ahead (a hybrid of online and socially distanced events). I am thankful to God for SCM and the inspirational people I have met over lockdown, who have served as inspiration and comfort. Over this lockdown period my faith has matured, my friendship circle has grown, and my mental health has certainly reaped the benefit of sharing in the experiences of others.

The hard truth is that conservative youth organisations are well supported by like-minded churches. In more open and progressive churches, we have much less of a tradition of that kind of support and SCM is going to struggle to keep going if that doesn't change.

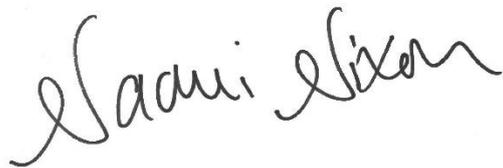
So how can you help?

We've got a big target of convincing 200 churches to give us £200 a year. If we can do this SCM will be there for the young people your church see go off to university; it will be there to send graduates into the churches like yours and, even more importantly, into the world to make a difference.

Would you consider making a pledge to give SCM £200 a year to help secure a future for progressive Christianity in Britain?

Thank you so much for considering this plea.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Revd Naomi Nixon CEO