

General Council Elections 2024

Trustee and International Portfolio Nomination Form

Name: Anna Henderson

Why are you standing for election to GC?

Having been deeply involved with my local branch of SCM (Southampton), and from there had the opportunity to travel and participate in the work of SCM national, I have witnessed the scope and impact of SCM's activism and campaigns. More importantly however, I have seen SCM's presence in ordinary students' lives creating an open, inquisitive and loving Christian community. I would like to contribute to running SCM in a way that continues its legacy of activism and wholehearted embracing of Christlike inclusion of all people, especially those marginalised in mainstream Christian spaces. I also want to continue the work being done to make the organisation sustainable for future generations of SCMs.



I would like to support SCM in its outreach and presence, so that no Christian, whether marginalised in church settings or simply feeling out of place in mainstream Christian environments, falls through the cracks. I believe my passion for SCM's work and alignment with the values of ecumenical, theologically diverse and inclusive activism would make me a good fit for the dedicated group on General Council.

What portfolio are you standing for? Comms and Social Media

Since starting university and being involved with a range of hobby groups and charity initiatives, I have discovered the extent to which good communication and marketing dictates what an organisation can achieve. Our comms and social media are the primary way in which ordinary member engages in SCM national, and our best tool for connecting with one another, highlighting activist causes and inspiring our members to feel part of a national community as well as a local group. In our digital age, connections are key, and our accessible, responsive and up-to-date social media allow us to maintain our community across geographical boundaries.

I believe that the beauty and richness of our faith comes from the diversity within God's kingdom! Therefore I wish to use our social media to highlight member's reflections from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. I have run social media for my local branch of SCM for 1.5 years, so I have experience representing SCM's work and reaching out to new and returning members. I believe this portfolio inherently lends itself to ecumenical work which is another key interest of mine, as ecumenism makes us unique from most other university Christian societies.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I am a Maritime Law student, avid sailor and former bookworm before 4 years of steady grinding at my degree turned being able to sit down with a good novel "a proper treat". I volunteer with children and young people in my church and I adore teaching 5 year olds about Elijah and Elisha with the help of a sand tray, tissue paper and stickers. I love reading and learning about theology, my particular interests include the history and theology of the Eucharist, women's ordination and sacramental theology. I enjoy liturgy and traditional Anglican services, as I connect with God most in calm, reflective spaces. I am Welsh and Polish, and going to a very diverse university highlighted to me how my cultural background affects my faith! My favourite saint is St Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers and sick animals. I've devoted a slightly horrifying number of hours to

competitive debating, which I need to participate in to keep my general chattiness and exuberance at bay everywhere else.

Professionally I'm aiming to become a solicitor specialised in maritime law, and I hope to sail across the Atlantic one day.

What skills would you bring to General Council?

I am friendly and outgoing, I find it easy to talk to many different types of people. This makes it easy for me to find my place among new people and contribute to a team. My confidence and communication skills allow me to share my ideas easily, collect feedback from members as well as weigh in on important decisions where I feel my perspective is helpful.

I'm creative and enjoy making things, including blog posts, videos and social media content. I love theological research and I am very excited for the opportunity to showcase some of my research through the national channels. I know the importance of sharing information in a variety of mediums for accessibility and outreach and I would like to use a variety of formats to best showcase the work of SCM.

How have you been involved in SCM as a member?

I have been a member of SCM Southampton for 2 years and on committee for 1.5 years. As co-leader this year, I have been diligent about structuring sessions that fulfil one or more of SCM's objectives of Creating Community, Seeking Justice, Celebrating Diversity and Deepening Faith. I have presented sessions on a variety of topics including "Discovering the Book of Philemon", "Key Black Theologians from History" and "The Bible and Gender". The historical and theological research I do for these presentations has expanded by own knowledge and it is so rewarding sharing what I've learnt with my group. As part of my role I have been the Social Secretary, where I organised local socials like picnics and bowling to help deepen our friendships and meaningful time spent together, as well as a field trip to Chichester Cathedral, where we had a tour of the Cathedral, a talk with the Treasurer Canon, and finally a walk around and lunch in Chichester.

With SCM national, I attended the National Gathering, the Bonhoeffer in Berlin trip and Greenbelt as a volunteer. The N.G. allowed me to make friendships I have kept to this day and provided a perfect educational and creative retreat with like-minded Christians. The Bonhoeffer pilgrimage was reflective and encouraged me to deepen my curiosity of difficult faith questions of suffering and Christlike opposition to injustice. At Greenbelt I felt like I could give back to SCM and the 4 days surrounded by old friends and new consolidated my desire to be as involved in SCM as I possibly can.

What would you like to achieve if you are elected?

I hope showcase a combination of local group activities and contributions, as well as highlight the work of SCMs around the world, either with a dedicated sections on our website, or a monthly shout out on our social media. Our social media should reflect the ongoing work and development of SCM and every local branch should feel they are contributing to what we display as a national organisation. I would like to contribute personal book and media reviews from authors of different theological and cultural backgrounds. I will promote and support blog posts and member contributions, particularly by grouping contributions by topic to make our social media easier to navigate. I hope support cohesive communication across all of our social media platforms, website and podcast.