



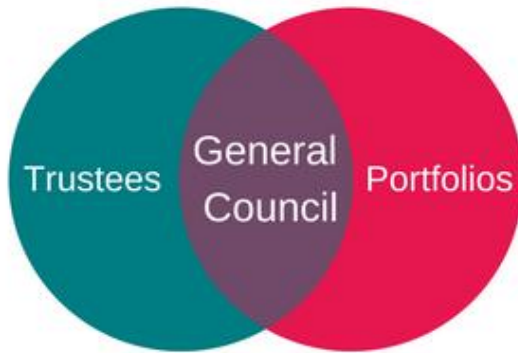
General Council Elections

Candidate Information Pack

What is General Council?

General Council (GC) is the decision making body of the Student Christian Movement. GC are elected by the membership of SCM at the Annual General Meeting, and serve for a two year term beginning in August that year.

General Council is the group that makes sure that all of the different parts of the movement fit together, representing the members of SCM and influencing areas of SCM's work. Some members of General Council have portfolios, which correspond with aspects of SCM's work or represent people within the movement, and some members of General Council are also the trustees of SCM.



Why should I stand for election?

SCM is a member led organisation. The knowledge and experience of our members is important as it helps us to root everything we do in the values held by students, whether they are currently enrolled or recent graduates. By being on General Council you will help to shape the future of SCM.

Being on General Council provides lots of opportunities to develop and learn new skills. You'll learn about what's involved in running a small charity, how to work as part of a team and a whole host of practical skills like budgeting and project planning. Training will be provided and will be ongoing throughout your time on General Council.

Being on General Council

Being on General Council is a big commitment. You'll need to be able to attend the meetings and any training sessions, as well as the Annual General Meeting. You will have a responsibility to the movement, to the rest of General Council and to the staff team.

Meetings

General Council meets three times per year to discuss how things are going, receive updates on projects and make decisions about future work. A typical agenda will include reports from staff, a finance report, project reports and opportunities for each member of General Council to feed back about their own portfolio. There may also be proposals that General Council need to make a decision on. The trustees will also set the budget for the next financial year and monitor income and expenditure, receive updates and make decisions about staffing, and approve policies and strategic plans.

General Council meetings normally take place on Saturdays in Birmingham and begin at 10am. SCM will cover travel expenses and provide lunch too.

From time to time there may be additional meetings relating to your portfolio, such as events planning meetings or editorial meetings for publications. If you are unable to make a meeting in person, arrangements can be made for you to participate via Skype or by telephone.

Keeping in touch

Between GC meetings it is expected that all members of GC keep in touch through a weekly update email sent by the Convenor and National Coordinator. The weekly update contains information to note, action points to complete, and occasionally decisions to be made.

Each member of GC is given an @movement email address to use during their time on GC, and an Outlook calendar shared with other members of GC and the staff team to note events, deadlines and busy periods.

General Council Roles

Portfolios

Portfolio Holders act in a voluntary capacity to assist with aspects of SCM's work, or to represent SCM's members. Portfolios can include:

- **Events** - helping to plan events with staff, including planning the programme and choosing speakers and workshop leaders.
- **Members and Groups** - recruiting new members and assisting with implementing strategies for engaging with groups and members.
- **Access and Inclusion** - helping to make SCMs events and publications accessible, and finding ways of making SCM as inclusive as it can be.
- **International** - coordinating responses from SCM from international appeals and news, and building links with other national SCMs.
- **Media and Publications** - assisting with the publication of *Movement* magazine and any resources, including online content.
- **Campaigns** - assisting with the coordination of SCM's response to and involvement in campaigns that are relevant to SCM.
- **Interfaith** - working to create links with other organisations and to create resources for groups and members.
- **Finance and Fundraising** - helping to plan the budget and fundraising strategy, and monitoring fundraising progress.
- **Representing groups within the movement**, such as mature students, women, LGBTQIA+ members, those with disabilities, international students and students from ethnic minorities.
- **Representing groups and members in regions**, such as the North West or the Midlands.
- **Representing students from different denominations**, such as Catholicism or Methodism.

This list is by no means exhaustive, so if there is an area of SCM's work that you're interested in, you can create a portfolio that draws on your own skills, interests and experience.

Trustees

The trustees, as a body, have overall legal responsibility for the work of the movement. They act in a voluntary capacity, and the duties of trustees include:

- **Being responsible for the administration of the charity.** This involves making sure that SCM's assets and resources are being used correctly and that SCM is being run in line with its constitution and any relevant laws and regulations.
- **Being responsible for the vision, mission and management of the charity.** This involves ensuring that SCM is working towards the strategic plan.
- **Acting reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to SCM.** This means that trustees must use reasonable care and skill in their role as trustees, using personal skills and experience and seeking advice where it is needed. General Council appoints a Council of Reference, which is a body of advisors that General Council can consult on matters relating to staffing, finance and strategy.
- **Safeguarding and protecting the assets of SCM,** including money, intellectual property, staff and the reputation of SCM. This involves setting and monitoring budgets, being responsible for the employment of staff and mitigating risks.
- **Acting collectively.** All decisions and responsibilities are shared by the trustees, so all trustees should take an active role.
- **Acting in the best interests of SCM.** Trustees should act independently, and not allow their personal views or interests cloud their judgement.
- **Avoiding any conflict between any personal interests and those of the charity.** Trustees cannot influence any decisions in their favour, or receive any benefit from SCM such as money.

The Convenor of General Council, who is also a trustee, also acts as a link between General Council and the staff team. They also represent General Council at Council of Reference meetings alongside another member of GC.

Who can stand for election?

SCM has a commitment to being student led, which is why General Council is made up of students and recent graduates.

To stand for election to General Council you must:

- Be a current member of SCM (therefore you must be a current student or have been a student in the last three years). To find out more about membership, visit www.movement.org.uk/membership.
- Be committed to the values and objectives of SCM.
- Be able to commit to being a member of General Council for at least two years.
- Be able to attend General Council meetings, the Annual General Meeting and any training sessions. You can find a list of dates at the end of this pack.

To stand for election as a trustee, you must also be sure that you are not prevented from acting as a trustee because you:

- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception.
- Are currently declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order).
- Have in individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors.
- Are disqualified from being a company director.
- Have previously been removed as a trustee by the Charity Commission or by the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement.

SCM can make any reasonable adjustments to enable you to be part of General Council, such as ensuring that venues for meetings are accessible, providing large print copies of meeting papers and facilitating involvement in meetings via Skype or telephone. If you have any access needs and wish to discuss these before you submit your nomination, please feel free to contact the office.

How do I stand?

To nominate yourself for election, simply complete the nomination form on the SCM website by no later than **09:00 on Thursday 1st April**.

What happens next?

After the nominations period closes, all SCM members will be sent a copy of the nomination forms by email to enable them to decide who to vote for.

There will be a hustings session before the voting takes place, where members will be able to ask questions about why you're standing and what you hope to achieve if you get elected.

Voting takes place at the AGM, and the result is announced later the same day. Voting is by Single Transferrable Vote, and members will be asked to rank the candidates in order of preference.

For portfolio holder posts there is **one vacancy per portfolio**. To be elected you will need 50%+1 of the votes cast to be elected. If nobody is elected after the first round of counting, then the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated. Their votes are then recounted based on the second preference stated on the ballot papers, and so on. If after all rounds of counting nobody is elected, then the nominations for that position will be reopened. General Council will decide if and when a further election will take place.

For trustee posts where there are **multiple vacancies**, the quota required to be elected will be calculated based on the number of votes received and the number of positions available. After the first round of counting and someone is elected, the quota required will be recalculated and the votes cast in favour of the first person to be elected will be recounted based on the second preferences on the ballot paper. This will continue until all available positions are filled.

Dates for your Diary

Nominations close:	09:00 1st April 2021
Annual General Meeting 2021 and General Council voting	19th April 2021
General Council training	TBC (Summer 2021)
General Council meetings	GC130 October 2021 GC131 January 2022 GC132 March 2022
Annual General Meeting 2022	TBC (2022)

Contact Us

If you have any questions about standing for election, you can contact:

Tom Packer-Stucki, GC Convenor - tom@movement.org.uk

Callum Fisher, Clerk to General Council - callum@movement.org.uk

SCM Office:

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