

General Council Elections 2024

Trustee and Diversity and Inclusion (Disability and Neurodivergence) Portfolio Nomination Form



Name: Reuben Jenkins

Why are you standing for election to GC?

Primarily: the work that SCM does is fantastic, and I would love to be a part of the future of the movement.

What portfolio are you standing for?

I would like to stand for the Access and Inclusion (Disability and Neurodiversity) portfolio. I am deaf/HoH and have a Cochlear BAHA implant, and I am interested in the theology of disability as well as practical accessibility. Since graduating, I now work in public fundraising for a Christian-inspired charity that advances disability inclusion in lower income countries, and would therefore bring a developing understanding of disability inclusion and advocacy to this role.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I am a Theology graduate, with a particular interest in queer theology and theology and the creative arts - I can often be found jumping between galleries and churches in my free time! I'm also working my way through an ever-growing queer theology reading list... My current read is Revd Troy Perry's 'Don't Be Afraid Anymore.'

What skills would you bring to General Council?

I have strong written and verbal communication skills, which would serve me well when representing members as part of my portfolio work, and approach working with others with empathy and integrity. I also consider myself to be driven and creative, and would be a highly motivated and dedicated member of General Council. Finally, my own experience of disability, and my experience working alongside others with a disability, means that I would bring relevant specific experience to this role.

How have you been involved in SCM as a member?

Cambridge Student Christian Movement – 'Heartsease,' meaning "peace of mind" - has been my vibrant and sincere spiritual home since my second term of university. In my second year, I joined the Cambridge SCM Committee, with responsibility for publicity and speakers, and had the privilege of organising our weekly gathering and spreading the good news(!) of SCM's progressive presence in a city dominated by non-affirming student churches. Growth in membership brought with it growth in faith and friendship, characterised by celebration of difference, a commitment to inclusion, and, ultimately, heartsease.

What would you like to achieve if you are elected?

- Building relationships with local SCM groups and ensuring the voices of members with disabilities are encouraged, heard and supported.
- Continuing the work of previous portfolio holders to ensure that accessibility and inclusion are prioritised.
- I would also be interested in working alongside other portfolio holders to expand the collection of resources on theology, disability and neurodiversity.