

## General Council Elections 2021

This form outlines the details of the nominee.  
Voting will take place during the AGM.



### Joshua House – Trustee & Portfolio Holder

#### Why would you like to stand for election to General Council?

Having been Secretary at SCM Leeds, 2019/20 (now Inclusive Christian Movement Leeds), I witnessed the growth of our small society. Reflecting on this time I now realise how much value SCM brought, and brings, to the life of young Christians at Universities – I want to contribute to this important mission.

I want to support the steering of the Movement by facilitating our expansion to make sure that we are sustainable in supporting future young Christians – SCM is a vital space for young Christians on University campuses and we must make sure we support current groups and enable them to flourish.

As Secretary in 2019/20, I saw the fruits of enthusiasm combined with a focussed strategy and direction. As a result we won Best Faith Society 2019/20 and were shortlisted for Most Inclusive Society 2019/20 at Leeds University Union. I have frontline experience of expanding and supporting SCM groups and I would love to utilise this experience on a national level.

#### What portfolio would you like to stand for? Why would you like to stand for this portfolio?

I would like to stand for Members and Groups. I want to ensure that all groups are fully supported and remain sustainable for future generations of young Christians, whilst also offering an important Christian presence at University Campuses in the UK.

#### Tell us a bit about yourself

I have fallen into teaching RE, after a panicked job hunt graduating during a pandemic – so I am currently a student RE teacher. Not long ago, I was completing a BA in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leeds, where I was an active member of SCM Leeds. I'm still a member of SCM and plan on returning to University in the near future to complete a Masters in a currently unknown discipline.

During lockdown I took up a number of hobbies. However, the only one which stuck was running (a shock for me too!) – despite some short-lived flings with sourdough baking, gardening, journalism (for Movement magazine) and even pottery for a while.

#### How have you been involved with SCM as a member?

I have been a member of SCM Leeds since my first year of University, but became particularly engaged in my final year as Secretary on a Committee of two people. We managed to quickly rebuild the group (having lost members due to graduations and placement years) and managed to create a small community in that final year. Likewise I

got closely involved with the SCM national work, by attending a national event held in Leeds and also participating in joint events with York Focus. I also interviewed Prof Adriaan Van Klinken for Movement Magazine in Summer 2020.

I have worked a lot with SCM and been given a wide range of support. I am now actively seeking to repay this amazing organisation which I have found to be invaluable.

### **What skills would you bring to General Council?**

I would bring a number of skills to General Council. I am pragmatic, but also focussed on a wider vision. By focussing on this important vision of SCM I am able to make sure that the Movement is steered in the right direction. All the while, my pragmatism allows me to make sure solutions to these challenges are going to be rooted in realistic, effective and actionable responses.

As a teacher I have learnt a number how to, unsurprisingly, teach. I would be able to bring this to supporting training of groups, but also bring a wider understanding of how to effectively engage different people.

I work well in a team, making me ideal for General Committee. Whilst I stand up for the ideas that I think are important and need defending, I am not stubborn. I listen and when necessary I change my views.

Most of all, I am passionate about the values and the vision of SCM. This energy and enthusiasm will be seen in all of my work for the Movement, ensuring that we continue this important work.

### **What would you like to achieve if you are elected?**

I would aim to achieve three things:

1) Sustainability – Ensuring that respective groups remain or become sustainable (through sustainable growth) so that SCM can continue providing invaluable support for young Christians across UK University Campuses.

2) Enhancing Guidance – Guidance and support to member groups is superb already, but what can we do to further support members and groups? Guidance in the form of training is fantastic, but how can we ensure that we engage as many leaders as possible? We should consider how we can best support Members and Groups, maintaining that hands-off approach whilst giving groups the guidance they need.

3) Enhancing Engagement – Groups and Members can only draw on that expert guidance if we effectively engage them. One way we can increase engagement is through simplifying, we can ensure we have clarity as an organisation by having one clear vision when we work with groups.

All of these three work together – we cannot achieve sustainability without that effective guidance, which needs to be responded to with effective engagement. All of these work together and all members should have the opportunity to draw upon the support of the Movement.

