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Dear Friends,

The Methodist Church has long understood Christian discipleship as a response to God's generous love, offering all that we can in the service of others. The Methodist commitment to *All We Can* reminds us that each of us is called to use our gifts, skills, experience and resources in the service of God's mission and the flourishing of our communities.

As more Methodist schools become part of academy trusts, there is an increasing need to ensure that Methodist values, ethos and witness continue to be represented within the governance structures that support these schools. Trustees play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of academy trusts, stewarding resources wisely, promoting educational excellence and helping to sustain the distinctive Christian character of Methodist schools. We are therefore seeking to identify Methodists who may feel called to offer their professional expertise through service as trustees of academy trusts that include Methodist schools.

This is an important ministry of stewardship and service. By serving as a trustee, individuals can contribute their skills and experience to the education and wellbeing of children and young people, while helping to ensure that Methodist schools continue to be places where Christian values are lived out and nurtured.

We are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in areas such as:

- Education
- Finance and accountancy
- Law and governance
- Human resources
- Property and estates
- Business leadership and strategic planning
- Risk and compliance
- Audit
- Communications and marketing
- Information technology and digital services

The Department for Education expects academy trust boards to have an appropriate range of skills and expertise. We are therefore hoping to establish a network of Methodist professionals who are willing to be considered for trustee roles when opportunities arise.

At this stage, we are not seeking commitments to specific vacancies. Rather, we wish to create a register of Methodists who are open to exploring future service on academy trust boards. With their consent, we would retain contact details and information about relevant



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skills and experience, enabling us to approach suitable individuals should opportunities become available within trusts that serve Methodist schools.

This initiative is about offering *all we can* for the benefit of future generations. It is an invitation to Christian service, enabling Methodists to use their God-given gifts in ways that strengthen Methodist education, support young people and contribute to the Church's ongoing mission in the world.

We would be grateful if Synod members could help us share this invitation widely and encourage anyone who may be interested to get in touch.

Expressions of interest should include:

- Name and contact details
- Circuit, church or other Methodist affiliation
- Professional skills and experience
- Previous governance, trustee or board experience (if any)

Expressions of interest should be emailed to our MAST administrator, Nimrat Bains:
bainsn@methodistchurch.org.uk

Thank you for helping us identify those who may be called to serve in this important way. Through the gifts, skills and commitment of Methodist people, we can continue to support and strengthen the distinctive contribution of Methodist education for years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Fay Pike

Director of Methodist State Schools



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