

Paper D1

Governors of Westminster College, Cambridge

Appointment of Tutor in New
Testament Language, Literature
and Theology

United Church 2017
Church 2018
Reformed Church 2018
Church 2018

Paper D1

Governors of Westminster College

Appointment of Tutor in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Nigel Uden nigel.uden@urc.org.uk
Action required	To note the appointment of a New Testament Tutor for Westminster College, Cambridge.
Draft resolution(s)	None

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Informing Mission Council that due process has been completed.
Main points	A successful process of advertising, shortlisting and interview has resulted in an appointment to the post, which will become vacant in summer 2018, when the Revd Dr Yak hwee Tan moves on.
Previous relevant documents	Governance of Westminster College, General Assembly Record, 1996, Appendix 1, College Appointments Committee, 2.2.4.2, page 14.
Consultation has taken place with...	All relevant parties: education and learning committee; URC Human Resources; Cambridge Theological Federation; University of Cambridge Divinity Faculty; Westminster staff and students.

Summary of Impact

Financial	Salary as agreed for a lay post-holder.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	This post will operate, as for the current post-holder, in the ecumenical setting of teaching and learning within the Cambridge Theological Federation and more widely.

Appointment Process

1. After three years in post, the Revd Dr Yak hwee Tan steps down in the summer of 2018 from her post as Tutor in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at Westminster College, Cambridge. The Governors moved to fill the vacancy as soon as possible, eager to avoid a gap in provision of core biblical teaching at Westminster. An Appointment Committee, chaired by the Revd Nigel Uden, Convener of Westminster's Board of Governors, was established. This included representatives of the college teaching staff (the Principal), the convener of the College's Board of Studies, a representative of Westminster's students, a representative of the biblical teachers of the Cambridge Theological Federation, a representative of the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge, the Deputy General Secretary (Administration and Resources) and the Secretary for Education and Learning.
2. The post was advertised widely through the middle of 2017, and a total of 29 applications were received from around the world. Long-listing and short-listing created invitations to four candidates to attend Westminster in late November. All candidates had opportunities to see round the college, meet key administrative staff, talk informally with students and have a meal with other members of the college teaching staff. Each candidate presented teaching material to the entire appointment committee and a number of students, and participated in two interviews with two sets of four members of the appointments committee. The entire committee then met to discuss the outcome.
3. A unanimous decision was taken to appoint Dr Christine Joynes, the founder Director of the Centre for Reception History of the Bible, University of Oxford, since 2002. Dr Joynes, who is an active member of a Baptist church, brings a very strong academic portfolio, rich experience of teaching and tutorial work, and a passion for sharing the New Testament with diverse groups beyond the academy. She was very well received by Senatus, bursarial staff and the student body; believing she will be a rich complement to the college community, Westminster is delighted that Dr Joynes has accepted this appointment.