

Paper D2

Governors of Westminster College
Appointment of Tutor

United Reformed Church 2017
Church 2017
Church 2017



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Governors of Westminster College, Cambridge

Appointment of Tutor in Church History and Doctrine

Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Nigel Uden nigel.uden@urc.org.uk
Action required	To note the appointment of a new tutor at Westminster College
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 that will become vacant upon the departure in mid-2017 of the Revd Dr John Bradbury following his acceptance of the call to be minister of Emmanuel United Reformed Church, Cambridge and of Duxford and Whittlesford United Reformed Churches, with effect from June 2017.
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	Stipend and other provisions for a United Reformed Church minister according to the Plan for Partnership.
External (e.g. ecumenical)	This post will operate, as for the current post-holder, in the fully ecumenical setting of teaching and learning within the Cambridge Theological Federation and more widely.

Appointment process

1. After some 10 years in post as Tutor in Church History and Doctrine at Westminster College, Cambridge, the Revd Dr John Bradbury accepted the call of Emmanuel, Cambridge, Duxford and Whittlesford United Reformed Churches to be their minister with effect from the summer of 2017. There is much appreciation of Dr Bradbury's ministry at Westminster, to which he has brought both academic excellence and administrative acuity. An appointment committee, chaired by the Revd Nigel Uden, convenor of Westminster's Board of Governors, was established. This included representatives of the college teaching staff (the Principal), the convenor of the Board of Studies, a representative of Westminster's students, a representative of the doctrine 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 during early 2017, and a total of 22 applications were received. Long-listing and short-listing created invitations to four candidates to attend Westminster in early April. 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. Candidates presented teaching material to the 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 The Revd Dr Robert Philip Pope. An alumnus of Westminster, and a minister of the United Reformed Church since 2001, Dr Pope is currently Reader in Theology, University of Wales: Trinity St David; from 2012 to 2016 he was Joint Head of School of Theology, Religious Studies and Islamic Studies. Dr Pope has considerable familiarity with the United Reformed Church, as, inter alia, a local minister, a former member of the Education and Learning Committee, a former convenor of the Faith and Order Committee, and a governor of Northern College (Chair from 2008-2017). His very strong academic portfolio is complemented by wide teaching involvement both in tertiary education and in local churches as well as with key administrative acumen. Westminster is delighted that Dr Pope has accepted this appointment.

