

Role Description

VOLUNTEER ROLE

Chair of the Strategy and Policy Group of the Joint Public Issues Team

ROLE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The **Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT)** is a partnership, with the core partners currently being the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. The purpose of JPIT is to help the Churches to work together for peace and justice through listening, learning, praying, speaking and acting on public policy issues. It comprises a team of around ten staff from the partner denominations.

JPIT is overseen by a **Strategy and Policy Group (SPG)** made up of senior representatives from each of the three core partner denominations, plus observer representatives from our associate partner, the Church of Scotland. This group meets regularly with the JPIT Team Leader and has responsibility for agreeing the workplan, priorities, and policy positions co-ordinated by the Joint Public Issues Team, and for overseeing the delivery of the workplan. The SPG currently holds three in-person meetings a year, one of them being a 24-hour residential with the whole staff team, and two online meetings a year.

The purpose of this role is to Chair this group. Therefore, the Chair does not act as the public face of JPIT but rather facilitates the working together of the denominations to achieve JPIT's purposes.

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair of SPG will be expected:

1. To work collaboratively with the JPIT Team Leader, deputy team leader(s) and members of the SPG to keep in constant review the life of JPIT and its strategic role within our denominations.
2. To prepare for and chair meetings of the SPG, including setting the agenda with the JPIT Team Leader, ensuring papers are prepared and circulated, and minutes kept and agreed.
3. To be responsible for ensuring all SPG members are using their own unique skills, as far as they are able, for the good of JPIT, enabling them to contribute to discussions and decision making at the meetings.
4. To work collaboratively with the JPIT Team Leader in a supportive capacity between meetings, not acting as line manager but as coach and mentor as appropriate.
5. To ensure each denominational member is able to express their views, even if they conflict with the views of others.
6. To participate in e-mail correspondence and electronic decision-making between meetings.
7. To uphold the collective responsibility of the SPG in any reporting of the work of SPG.
8. Not to speak for 'their' denomination, but rather to encourage the SPG to come to a collective view, even if that view is that the denominations may differ in their responses to an issue.
9. To support and encourage good partnership working between the core and associate partners in JPIT, ensuring SPG regularly reviews and develops its own working practices.
10. To support the JPIT Team Leader in making decisions and judgements between SPG meetings and in relating well to SPG.

PERSON SPECIFICATION		
	Essential	Desirable
Experience		
Experience of serving as Chair on a board, trustee or church body	X	
Evidence of collaborative working with senior managers and other staff	X	
Experience in mission, public theology, political engagement, campaigning, and project management	X	
Experience of ecumenical working	X	
Experience of drafting and scrutiny of policy documents		X
Abilities, Knowledge and Skills		
Ability to absorb quickly a wide-range of detailed issues	X	
Ability to confer about how the vision and policies might be implemented by JPIT denominations		X
Demonstrably emotionally intelligent	X	
Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.	X	
Good knowledge of UK political systems	X	
Experience in local church leadership in one of the 3 denominations		X
Ability to navigate and hold in balance the theological, ecclesiological and political diversity of the three denominations	X	
Personal Qualities		
Demonstrates an understanding of and is supportive of the work and mission of the core JPIT partner denominations	X	
Member in good standing of one of the core JPIT partner denominations (Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church)	X	
Demonstrates innovative leadership skills with the ability to encourage new ways of thinking by the SPG to support the Church.		X

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Partner Church members of SPG will recruit and appoint an independent chair for SPG to serve for a 3 year period, which, subject to review and consultation which will be led by the Partner Church members of SPG, can be extended for a further 3 years.

This is a volunteer appointment and not remunerated, although all agreed travel costs and related expenses will be reimbursed.

For more information about JPIT, visit its website at www.jpit.uk.

For more information about each Churches' internal structures and governance arrangements, visit their websites.

