

Role Description

ROLE TITLE	Chair of the Methodist Forces Board	GRADE	Voluntary role; expenses paid
REPORTS TO	Conference Office/Connexional Council	LOCATION	Flexible depending on appointee

ROLE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

- (i) To support the flourishing of the Methodist Church’s ministry to the Armed Forces through the work of the Methodist Forces Board (MFB)
- (ii) Working with others to develop the future of Methodist Chaplaincies in all three armed services
- (iii) To encourage the links between the chaplains and the wider church
- (iv) To nurture the relationship between the Methodist Church and the three Chaplaincy services and ecumenical, other faith and non-religious partners
- (v) To encourage the links between the Methodist Church and the Armed Forces in support of the Armed Forces Covenant
- (vi) To develop the relationship between the Methodist Forces Board and the Aldershot Methodist Military Trust to provide coherent support of Methodist work with the armed forces

ROLE DIMENSIONS

RESOURCES UNDER CONTROL

Working with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Secretary of the Forces Board (SFB; 0.5 FTE) ii. Forces Development Officer iii. MFB Administrator (currently vacant) <p>Responsible to the Secretary of Conference, or their deputy.</p>
Resources	Responsible for guiding strategy to assist the Board to utilise its considerable resources for Methodist ministry in the armed forces

ROLE ACCOUNTABILITIES

Ethos and working style:

The Chair of the Methodist Forces Board is expected to embrace fully and advocate the ethos of the Methodist Church Connexional Team as expressed through *Our Calling*, together with the collaborative working style as expressed in the Shared Values of the Connexional Team.

Main tasks:

1. to promote and support chaplaincy by the Methodist Church across the armed forces; to encourage good practice and to advocate this ministry to the wider church. This will be achieved by:

- 1.1. chairing the Methodist Forces Board (SO 1007) three times per year (currently once in person, twice online);
 - 1.2. providing strategic direction to the work of the Board in fulfilment of the Methodist Church's calling and the agreed aims for this work;
 - 1.3. maintaining effective oversight of the Board's agenda and proactively considering matters that require the Board's attention;
 - 1.4. reporting the work and recommendations of the Board to the Connexional Council and/or Methodist Conference;
 - 1.5. acting as a representative of the Methodist Church when liaising with HM Forces;
 - 1.6. ensuring the development of Methodist policy on military chaplaincy issues through the work of the Board;
 - 1.7. engaging with the chaplains, where appropriate;
 - 1.8. championing chaplaincy ministry amongst colleagues who may not fully perceive the value of ministry amongst the Armed Forces and/or cadets, where necessary.
2. to support the work which encourages and resources local Methodist Churches and Methodists within the Armed Forces in fulfilment of the Church's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.

This appointment will be made subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable	Assessment Method
EXPERIENCE			
Proven ability of leading a senior strategic team or committee (in or out of the Church)	x		A & I
Proven ability of work in a variety of ecumenical and multi-faith contexts	x		A & I
Proven experience in chaplaincy in one or more discipline		x	A & I
Proven experience of the armed forces, another uniformed organisation or another form of public service		x	A & I
PROVEN ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS			
Ability to connect vision, aims and strategies through theological reflection	x		A & I
Ability to ensure participation and progress towards agreed priorities	x		A & I
Ability to comprehend and digest high level policies and reports	x		A & I

Understanding of, and empathy with, the culture and practise of life in the armed forces	x		A & I
Understanding of ecumenical and inter-faith engagement	x		A & I
Excellent oral and written communication	x		A & I
Excellent influencing and negotiating skills	x		A & I
Ability to engage diplomatically on sensitive issues	x		A & I
Ability to present occasionally controversial material with clarity, sensitivity and conviction	x		A & I
Ability to work well as part of a team	x		A & I
Ability to use tools for meeting online	x		A & I
Administrative and management skills, including budget planning and monitoring		x	A & I
PERSONAL QUALITIES			
Member in good standing of the Methodist Church in Britain	x		A & I
Passionate about the place of chaplaincy as a model of mission and ministry for the whole people of God	x		A & I
Passionate about and supportive of The Methodist Church's ministry to the Armed Forces	x		A & I
Commitment to The Methodist Church being a justice-seeking church	x		A & I
Exercises sound judgement in decision making	x		A & I
Willingness to take on new challenges and responsibilities	x		A & I
Good interpersonal skills	x		A & I
Able to hold sensitive matters in confidence	x		A & I
Prayerful and pastoral approach	x		A & I
Accuracy and attention to detail	x		I

Method of Assessment: A – Application Form; I – Interview; W – Written exercise; P – Presentation;
G – Group exercise; Q – Proof of qualification (certificates or transcripts)