

— The work of the Foundation has several strands.



01

Exploring the terrain

The interface between the world of the secular organisation and the Church is one which evokes a host of questions: questions about the relevance of professional and business models in the context of faith organisations, about the place of management in ministry, about the relevance of theology for models of organisation and leadership. The Foundation will begin to highlight areas for debate.

02

Encouraging a dialogue

A range of professionals have a potential interest in these lines of enquiry: those involved in education, formation, development and leadership and policy development, as well as academics and researchers from a range of disciplines. The Foundation will encourage an exchange of perspectives through its research, discussion papers, seminars, occasional conferences and partnerships. Such dialogue will determine how the research agenda evolves over time.

03

Establishing partnerships

The Foundation invites collaboration between different departments of the University of Roehampton, with other Universities, educational institutions and charities, and with and between different churches and faith communities... for the purposes of research and enquiry and with a view to applying its findings. Delineating areas of enquiry in response to the declared needs of the Methodist Church and other partners is central to its way of working.

04

Enabling research

The Foundation funds research, in conjunction with the University of Roehampton, through sponsoring part-time dedicated staffing, full and part-time PhD students and Research Fellows. It also provides grants for research by both academics from Roehampton and other institutions, and by scholars, ministers, officers and others associated with the Methodist Church. It aims to nurture a community of scholarship across the Methodist Church, the University and a range of interested partners and to generate interest in these exciting areas of research.

05

Extracting useful insights

The Foundation will aim to impact on practice through creating new connections and through disseminating research outputs which are of practical use in religious institutions and faith communities at a local level, and which can also inform the work of policy-making bodies and teaching institutions.

The Susanna  
Wesley  
Foundation  
for Ministry,  
Management  
& Organisation

———— Exploring understandings of management, leadership and organisation in faith communities and religious institutions

———— The Susanna Wesley Foundation for Ministry, Management & Organisation is a partnership of the Southlands Methodist Trust and the University of Roehampton. Drawing on the resources of the Methodist Church and the University's academic departments, it seeks to identify, support and promote opportunities for research, enquiry and dialogue around questions of management, leadership and organisation in the context of faith communities and religious institutions.

———— The Foundation aims to promote innovative and excellent research which also has direct and practical relevance to faith organisations, focusing particularly on the needs of the Methodist Church and the urban context of the College and University, but always also with the aim of supporting the needs of the broader faith community.

———— The research of the Foundation is organised around four broad overlapping themes.



Learning for management, leadership and ministry

Research within this theme explores adult education and training for ministry, lay and ordained - how people are developed and nurtured to enable them to inhabit their various roles and equipped to perform the tasks required of them for different offices within their institutions.

Work, life and identity

Research within this theme investigates the ways in which those appointed to offices in religious communities shape their ministries and construct and realise their identities. The nature of "retirement" in the context of ministry forms one part of this discussion. The theme also explores how volunteers and lay people shape their contributions to faith communities - their expectations, what motivates them, how their energies and resourcefulness are and can be tapped, or sapped. Issues around stress and work-life balance and the factors impacting on well-being are encompassed within this theme, with a view to determining what interventions can enhance well-being and promote human flourishing. Reflections on the influence and lessons of tradition and language are also addressed.

Diversity and transformation

Research within this theme investigates approaches to difference, conflict and change within faith communities and explores cultural diversity as a resource. How different dimensions of diversity impact on the experience of ministry is also considered as is the extent to which women and those from backgrounds and demographic groups traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles have opportunities to exercise leadership. Issues around participation and age also fall within this theme.

Governance and leadership in faith communities

Research within this theme explores governance as a broad concept, not simply as the formal structures but also as the inter-relationships and norms which lead to the more informal distribution of power and control within the religious institutions and faith communities under study. This theme also investigates leadership, decision-making and change processes and the extent to which faith communities can offer alternative approaches to corporate governance and to public management.

SWF	Where we are	How to contact us
<p>The Susanna Wesley Foundation for Ministry, Management &amp; Organisation</p> <p>A partnership of the Southlands Methodist Trust and the University of Roehampton</p>	<p>The Foundation has its physical presence in the Queen's Building (QB203), Southlands College, University of Roehampton, 80 Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5SL.</p>	<p>Sue Miller is the Foundation's Research Coordinator and can be contacted on Sue.Miller@roehampton.ac.uk</p>

