

ROOTS - Methodist Church Membership

Basic Information

Contact Name and Details	Doug Swanney, Head of Discipleship & Ministries, 020 7467 3791 swanneyd@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolution	The Council resolves to make an application to become a Member of ROOTS for Churches Limited.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	In the wake of the winding up of Methodist Publishing House ROOTS has requested that the Methodist Church regularises its involvement with them. The resolution outlines a way in which this may take place.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROOTS equips and resources churches for worship for all ages across all denominations. • A standardisation of the Church's involvement with ROOTS is required.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The SRC has discussed and supports this proposal.
Consultations	Officers of ROOTS

Summary of Impact

Standing Orders	
Faith and Order	
Financial	Minimal formal obligations
Personnel	
Legal	
Wider Connexional	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	
Risk	Not standardising the Methodist Church's involvement would risk diminishing the Church's influence over an influential resource.

ROOTS – Methodist Church Membership

Background: ROOTS

1. *ROOTS* is an ecumenical publication based on the Revised Common Lectionary, providing material to support the week by week worship and learning of the church communities. It consists of two bi-monthly magazines for leaders – *ROOTS Adult & All Age* and *ROOTS Children & Young People* – supplemented by a website, www.rootsontheweb.com.
2. The Methodist Church has, through MPH, had an involvement with *ROOTS* for many years. Moreover, *ROOTS* is used by many Methodist members, and it is judged by the Discipleship & Ministries cluster of the Connexional Team to be a valuable resource for the worshipping life of the Methodist Church.

Background: Roots for Churches Limited

3. *ROOTS* is published by Roots for Churches Limited.
4. Roots for Churches Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and operates under the terms of a Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14 December 2001, and subsequently amended on 20 February 2003.
5. Membership of Roots for Churches Limited is open to any corporate bodies or organisations which further the aims and objectives of the company. Organisations become Members by making an application to the existing Members, and may resign their Membership at any time. Membership entitles Members to certain privileges (e.g. a vote at the company's annual general meeting), and places upon the Members certain limited liabilities (e.g. making a contribution, limited to £1, in the event of the winding up of the company). Directors are appointed by the AGM and report to the AGM. The Directors meet three to four times a year to conduct all statutory business and make all major financial decisions.
6. MPH was a Member of Roots for Churches Limited. MPH may never have resigned its formal Membership.
7. Other Members include: the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England; the United Reformed Church; Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; The Council for Sunday Schools and Christian Education in Wales; Christian Education.

Request from Roots

8. In the wake of the winding up of MPH, Roots for Churches Limited has requested that the Methodist Church regularises its involvement with Roots for Churches Limited.
9. The Team will check what if anything needs to be done to formally end MPH's membership.

Resolutions

10. The Methodist Council resolves to make an application to become a Member of Roots for Churches Limited.