



Trustee Academy #5: follow ancient future paths

Description

Trustees Learning and Development Programme

Always striving to find a better way through lifelong learning



Introduction

Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Converse sparingly and cautiously with women, particularly young women. Believe evil of no one unless fully proved; take heed how you credit it. Speak evil of no one; else your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Tell everyone what you think wrong in him, lovingly and plainly; and as soon as maybe, else it will fester in your own heart. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore, spend and be spent in this work.

This is an extract from *Twelve Rules Of A Helper*. Formulated in the early years of John Wesley's Methodist movement, this document was adopted at the Methodist Conference of 1753 for the discipline of itinerant preachers, forebears of modern Methodist ministers.

From then to now it has often been a rocky road with many conflicts of interest. It is much the same today as the Church responds to the *God In Love Unites Us* report, especially the question of same sex marriages conducted in Methodist churches.

Since 1948, MMHS has accompanied this journey of ministry in the Methodist Church, offering bespoke housing support to those who have travelled along this way. The pattern of ministry and the nature of the contemporary Church has much resonance with the 18th century Methodist movement and yet it is vastly different.

By engaging with learning and development, how might we trustees of today envision a MMHS of the future that resonates with the vision of our founding forebears?

Alan

Legal and Governance

Managing conflicts of interest

This is a serious matter. But the key word in the phrase is “managing”. Conflicts of interest commonly occur. They can be the foundation of constructive progress or an unnecessary toxic influence. A board must choose and be vigilant about its management of them. All decisions must be made in the best interest of the charity. There is an order in what to do:

- identify the conflict;
- declare it;
- consider if it needs to be removed;
- if it doesn’t need to be removed, manage it;
- keep a record of it.

Simples!

The guidance note from the Chartered Governance Institute is a very informative document.

I am sure we will learn something new as well as brush up on old understanding.



Guidance note

Managing conflicts of interest in a charity (England & Wales)

April 2021

MMHS has a particular challenge with managing conflicts, as several of our trustees are direct beneficiaries of the charity. Further, for a meeting to be quorate, no fewer than two of the trustees in the count must be ministerial residents.



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Our [articles of association](#) go into much detail on management of conflicts.

A copy of it is attached so we can have a read of clause 25. We will also find the basic quorum requirements in clause 20.

Finance

Fraud

For this, I would like us all to visit the website of the [Charities Aid Foundation](#). On this particular page, we can watch three short videos by Senior Manager of Technology and Governance Mark Sykes on *staying secure*. In the videos, he answers three questions:

- Has fraud increased during the COVID-19 crisis?
- What cyber security trends are you seeing that charity leaders should be aware of?
- What can charity leaders do to reduce their risk of digital fraud?

Personal Development

Chunking

Alas, itâ??s not about chocolate!

Here is [a short read about techniques](#) to communicate complex, lengthy information in a bite-sized way which will have maximum impact.

Chunking

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Too much information can cause people to get bored and forget. Use chunking to break down information into manageable "chunks," to make it more digestible, memorable and communicable.



Think about the amount of information that you have to process each day. You read reports and emails, discuss problems, hold team briefings, and watch webinars.

Some of the information that you receive is easy to understand and remember; some of it is not. The difference is often in how the information is presented.

As an example, imagine that you're playing the memory game, "What's Missing?" You have to memorize all the items that are presented to you on a tray – and then work out which one has been removed.

First, imagine that the tray is presented with all the items in a jumble. Can you figure out what's missing? Next, imagine what it's like if the items are organized according to size, color or shape. It's so much easier to spot what's missing this time!

When the items are categorized, the "information" on the tray is much easier to understand and retain. And there's no need to look at each item individually, as you can skim the tray and see exactly what's being presented.

What is chunking?

"Chunking" is the process of grouping different bits of information together into more manageable or meaningful chunks. Do that and you make information clearer and easier to remember for yourself and others.

Skillbook Read Smarter



Read smarter

We can all feel overwhelmed with the amount of information we need to absorb. This can be especially true for MMHS trustees.

Learn to read faster and more efficiently and retain key information with [these practical tips and exercises in technique.](#)

Category

1. Bulletins

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