

## ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT

### Background:

The Worldwide President (WWP) is the most senior elected member/volunteer within Mothers' Union, and the role is broad. It includes 3 key areas: acting as a figurehead for members within, and an ambassador beyond Mothers' Union, in particular, but not exclusively, within the Anglican Communion; Chairing the Board of the Central Charity, which is subject to the laws of England and Wales; and line managing the Chief Executive and their staff.

To be an effective leader and ambassador of the worldwide Mothers' Union entails a very substantial commitment of time and energy. In common with all the elected posts within Mothers' Union, this position is unpaid, although necessarily and properly incurred expenditure is reimbursed.

All Trustees, as the governing body of the Central Charity, are responsible to the membership for planning strategy for Mothers' Union as a whole, good stewardship in the risk management, oversight of assets and finances of the organisation, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating its work, and ensuring good governance.

All Trustees are expected to devote considerable time and energy to the role, not only in terms of attendance at the full Trustee meetings but also by way of preparation for those meetings and possibly membership of one or more sub-groups of the Board, and associated activity.

### Unique features for Triennium 2025-27:

The Board will continue to further the vision established in the Worldwide Council in 2019, for a world where every individual can thrive, by working to stop violence, injustice and poverty

The Board will be leading appropriate celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the movement in 1876. They will also be creating a new strategic plan, to follow on the one created by the Worldwide Council in 2019. They will continue to develop ways of working, as an inter-connected network of equals, learning from and supporting one another across cultures and continents.

The Board, under the leadership of the Worldwide President, will have a strong focus on ensuring that the central charity and movement is supported by provinces across the world, in growing the profile of Mothers' Union and ensuring that sufficient resources are generated through a range of sources to support the excellent ongoing programme work of the membership.

There will be a significant level of ongoing change, as Mothers' Union locally, nationally and globally adapts to ensure that it can deliver against its aim and objects in a way that is as relevant to the needs of modern society. The role of the WWP will be critical in leading the membership through this.

**Purpose:**

**Ambassadorial:**

1 To enhance the organisation's public image by participating in activities that promote a positive image of Mothers' Union, within and beyond the Anglican Communion, engaging in appropriate forums and speaking at key member and non-member events.

2 If and as required, to represent Mothers' Union in events with major donors, partners and grant givers, to facilitate access to resources and funds to enable members to lead transformational change in their communities.

**To Chair the Board of the Central Charity:**

3 To ensure that the Board take appropriate steps to determine the organisation's vision and mission, by engaging in strategic planning.

2. To ensure that organisational policies which are compliant with current charity regulations, are brought to and approved by the Board, in areas of governance, finance and safeguarding.

3. To approve and monitor the organisation's operational plans and budgets. To provide effective financial oversight, for example by the proper consideration of management accounts and audit and risk reviews.

4. To approve and monitor the organisation's programmes and services.

5. To ensure adequate financial resources are available to carry out the work of the organisation by consideration and approval of a diverse range of income streams, including affiliation contributions and subscriptions.

6. To ensure that the organisation carefully encourages and inducts new Board members, including training in the responsibilities of trustees of a major international charity registered under Charity Regulations in England.

8. To ensure that the Board carries out its duties efficiently and effectively, ensuring that meetings are productive, decisions are followed up and, once taken, are supported by all members of the Board.

**Link to, and oversight of, the Secretariat:**

11. To select and line manage the CEO, and review his or her performance

12. To ensure that trustees understand and respect the relationship between Board and staff, ensuring that the different roles and responsibilities of oversight and management are fully understood

13. To ensure that management has the support of the Board in dealing with personnel issues, and thus acts as a responsible employer.

### Experience and attributes

**To be eligible for candidacy, an individual must have an active commitment to the Christian faith and a focussed prayer life; be committed to the aim and objects of Mothers' Union; have been a member of Mothers' Union for more than 5 years; be confident to operate in English, and in the use of online communication; be able to travel extensively, sometimes for long periods of time; be in a state of health, mental and physical, which enables them to undertake the role to the full.**

**A really strong candidate would have many of the following values, and attributes:**

- An excellent understanding of how Mothers' Union works internationally at grass roots level.
- Characteristics of empathy, patience and understanding in dealing with members and staff.
- To have trust and confidence in the ability of fellow trustees to draw on their particular skills and expertise, to work on special issues and report back.
- Ability to recognise and value the differing roles in the organisation between staff and trustees.
- Expertise and confidence to lead a Board with diverse cultural backgrounds

**Given the particular opportunities and challenges facing Mothers' Union, the ideal candidate for the Worldwide President would evidence the following skills and experience:**

- Successful leadership through change
- An existing network of contacts which will act as a foundation upon which to build and will be relevant to the movement
- Knowledge of, and connections with, relevant Church networks
- Proven advocacy skills
- Confident public speaking
- Having made a demonstrable difference as a senior leader within Mothers' Union, in community work and spiritual as well as administrative leadership
- Having acted as an effective ambassador for Mothers' Union or other similarly substantial organisation
- Confident to provide spiritual leadership to a global movement, which may hold different cultural perspectives
- Confident as a Chair to create a culture of healthy debate and mutual respect, in the interests of achieving the best possible outcomes for Mothers' Union
- Confident to respect and listen to diverse views, and to ensure that decisions are based on the best interests of the Charity

## Additional Information

### 1. What is the time commitment each year?

To exercise the role to the full, the commitment is very substantial, equating to in excess of 60% of a person's time. Aspects include:

i. Board Meetings: one 5 day residential global board meeting, and 3 online meetings, each for 2 days, 3 hours each and additional meetings as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees and the Chief Executive.

Two online global gatherings each year, one of which includes a formal Worldwide Council meeting.

At least one in person Worldwide Council Meeting in each 6 year cycle.

A range of other online meetings, for cross-provincial networking, to discuss key issues (as was the case during COVID) and for pastoral care with trustees.

ii. A significant amount of written material is circulated to trustees prior to each meeting. Trustees are expected to read and study the material before the meeting and any follow up material after the meeting. The CEO and Chair will discuss and agree the agendas in advance of Board meetings, and major items are also likely to be discussed with the Chair between meetings.

iii. At least one visit in each 6-year cycle to each Zone. These will include running a retreat for the provincial presidents in the Zone, as well as visiting members and programmes in one or more province. This may mean travelling for in excess of three months of the year.

iv. Acting as an ambassador with key bodies and stakeholders.

v. Providing virtual support to provinces around the world for special occasions, for example, online or pre-recorded addresses; writing messages of greeting; and preparing and delivering in-person addresses and sermons, sometimes, during visits, at very short notice.

vi. For Britain and Ireland, which is the birthplace of the movement and is the primary funder for the central charity, the Worldwide President will have a closer relationship, for example, aiming to visit members more frequently when in the UK engaging with the secretariat or for external ambassadorial purposes; signing anniversary, long service and special birthday cards; sending special greetings to indoor members; connecting with the group of provincial presidents.

### 2. Who does the Worldwide President work with/relate to in the role?

i. Chief Executive, Trustee Board, Senior Staff.

ii. Staff at MSH.

iii. Mothers' Union elected members and leadership from around the world.

iv. Many outside contacts within and outside of the church, on a global basis.