

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR ZONAL TRUSTEES: TRIENNIUM 2025-27

Background:

As the governing body of the central Charity and leaders of the worldwide Movement, the trustees are responsible to the membership for planning strategy for Mothers' Union as a whole, good stewardship in the risk management, safeguarding 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.

For the Triennium 2025-27 the Worldwide Board will comprise:

- Worldwide President (elected)
- 11 Zonal Trustees (elected)
- Up to four appointed trustees, with expertise to complement the skills and experience of the elected Board members.

All Board members have voting rights

Zones: The Zones will remain the same as in the current Triennium, with new provinces added to the relevant Zone. The list of Provinces as allocated to Zones is given in the Appendix

Purpose of all Board Members:

1. To participate actively in Board discussion, to ensure that the Board takes appropriate steps to determine the organisation's vision and mission, by engaging in strategic planning.
2. To ensure that policy is formulated appropriately by consideration of the policies brought to and approved by the Board.
3. To approve and monitor the organisation's operational plans and budgets. To provide effective financial oversight, by the proper consideration of management accounts, audit and risk reviews and comply with current Charity regulations within England.
4. To ensure adequate financial resources are available to carry out the work of the whole organisation by consideration and approval of subscription levels and alternative income streams worldwide.

5. To enhance the organisation's public image by participating in activities that promote a positive image of Mothers' Union, recognising that we need to challenge stereotypes rather than contribute to their perpetuation.

Particular Focus for Zonal Trustees on the Board:

Whilst ensuring that they fulfil their duties to take decisions in the best interests of the whole Charity at all times, Zonal Trustees have a particular responsibility to ensure that the perspective of their Zone is shared with the full Board, and that they share key decisions from the Board and wider movement with their Zones. This will ensure that Board decisions take the full range of needs and views of the worldwide movement into account, and will help to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and understanding across the movement. Key practical responsibilities will include working to ensure that affiliation agreements are in place, and annual contributions sent in to the central charity, for all provinces in their Zone. They will also be asked to encourage the use of reporting systems, such as MU Live, so that the excellent work of the provinces can be shared across the movement and celebrated

Terms:

- a. The Zonal Trustees shall be elected to their position for a term of office of three years, and can be elected for a second term of three years.
- b. The Zonal Trustees shall not hold any other elected role in Mothers' Union and shall be required to resign from any such role when elected as a Zonal Trustee.

Experience and attributes:

To be nominated for Zonal Trustee, Candidates must confirm that they:

- have an active commitment to Christian faith and prayer;
- are committed to the aim and objects of Mothers' Union;
- have been a member of Mothers' Union for at least 2 years;
- can read, write and speak English with confidence;
- are confident with virtual communication and can access an appropriate device and the internet easily;
- can access a phone for communication if required;
- can travel internationally;
- are in a state of health, mental and physical, to enable them to discharge their duties fully and well;
- Can devote the time required to this critical role.

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

- An excellent understanding of Mothers' Union to grassroots level in their own province, and a good appreciation and understanding of the other provinces within their Zone.
- Characteristics of empathy, patience and understanding in working with the provinces within their Zone, with a respect for possible differences of perspective and culture.
- The ability to listen to the different voices and to ensure that these voices are heard at the worldwide Board.
- An appreciation of the wider movement beyond their Zone.
- An understanding of the wider Church.
- The ability to recognise and value the differing roles in the organisation of staff and trustees.
- A network of contacts within the Church and beyond, which could help further the mission of Mothers' Union.
- Good communication skills.
- An understanding of the governance responsibilities and accountabilities of a Board member of a major international Charity

In addition, it would be advantageous if a Zonal Trustee could:

- Draw on their life experience within and outside Mothers' Union and apply it appropriately.
- Evidence experience in one or more areas of professional expertise: budgeting and financial accountability; fundraising; communications/marketing, particularly digital; advocacy; spiritual formation or development; monitoring and evaluation of programmes; initiating or mobilising/developing/managing community projects; IT systems.
- Some understanding of the charity law within England, or equivalent.

Additional Information:

1. What is the time commitment in a three-year period?

- i. In a three-year term of office, Zonal Trustees are expected to attend three residential Trustee meetings (one per year) each lasting around five days, generally in the UK. In addition, at least a further three virtual formal meetings a year, each comprising roughly two x 2.5 hours starting at 12.00 UK time. The Board may also choose to meet informally on a number of further occasions for fellowship or capability development, virtually, by mutual agreement.
- 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.

- iii. A strong Zonal trustee will be proactive in being in contact with the provincial presidents in their zone, sharing feedback from Board meetings, inviting input and facilitating virtual fellowship and engagement across the Zone
- iv. Subject to budgetary availability, and by mutual agreement, the Zonal Trustee will be expected to undertake some travel on behalf of the Board within their Zone, for example to chair periodic meetings of the provincial presidents, to visit programmatic work or to speak at key events. It is likely that they may also be asked to participate in meetings within their Zone virtually.
- v. It is likely that each Zonal Trustee will be expected to join or lead one or more committee of the Board, or time-limited project group. These may do their business by email, virtual meetings or where required face-to-face meetings.

2. Who do the Zonal Trustees work with/relate to in the role?

- i. Worldwide President, Chief Executive, fellow trustees and the Leadership Team.
- ii. Provincial presidents within their zone.
- iii. Mothers' Union members from around the world.
- iv. Key stakeholders and leaders of related bodies, where appropriate and with the agreement of the Board and the relevant provincial president(s).

Relationship to the provincial presidents within their Zone

The Zonal Trustee has no line management responsibility for the Provinces. Rather, they are elected to represent the constituent provinces, and should develop ways of working with the provincial presidents which enable them to form a “bridge” between the provinces and the Worldwide Board, ensuring that key regional matters are brought to the attention of the Board, and that the provinces are kept up to date with the global strategy, key initiatives, and activities in the wider movement.

Zones in 2019-21, to continue for 2022-24
<p>Zone A</p> <p><i>(Korea, Myanmar, North India, South India, Sri Lanka)</i></p>
<p>Zone B</p> <p><i>(Canada, South America, USA, West Indies)</i></p>
<p>Zone C</p> <p><i>(Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea)</i></p>
<p>Zone D</p> <p><i>(Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Jerusalem & The Middle East)</i></p>
<p>Zone E</p> <p><i>(Central Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Southern Africa)</i></p>
<p>Zone F</p> <p><i>(Burundi, Congo, Indian Ocean, West Africa)</i></p>
<p>Zone G</p> <p><i>(Canterbury)</i></p>
<p>Zone H</p> <p><i>(York)</i></p>
<p>Zone I</p> <p><i>(All Ireland)</i></p>
<p>Zone J</p> <p><i>(Scotland)</i></p>
<p>Zone K</p> <p><i>(Wales)</i></p>