

General Council Elections 2022 *Trustee and Access and Inclusion Portfolio Nomination Form*

Name: Siobhan Doyle



Why are you standing for election to GC?

I would like to stand for election to general council as I believe getting more involved in SCM are the next steps for me. This year I have been undergoing teacher training and so have not been as involved in my new local group as I would liked to have been, but in standing and becoming part of general council I am committing to developing myself and to the continual work of SCM.

What portfolio are you standing for and why?

Access and Inclusion (Disabilities and Neurodiversity).

I would like to stand for this role as a disabled person, and as a young person with a disability, I have faced different challenges and responses from people within churches and other faith groups that haven't always been welcoming. I understand how difficult this makes being a person of faith with a disability and sometimes feeling like you can't offer the full extent of your talents when community members ask for help. In my experience, everything can be made accessible, but more education and understanding needs to happen first in order for this to happen. Whilst I myself have an invisible physical disability, I am aware of, and continuing to learn more about, different disabilities and access needs and aim to strive to raise awareness for these needs so that all can feel comfortable in practising and sharing their faith.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

I am currently a trainee secondary school geography teacher and recently moved down south (definitely feel like an imposter when in school - my favourite imposter moments being discussing the north/south divide with my GCSE class). I spend a lot of time going wild swimming (I'm not mad, I promise) and trying my hand at sewing and soap making.

What skills would you bring to General Council?

The portfolio role that I am nominating myself for is one that I hold a passion for, having completed my dissertation in and around the question of 'can we ever have a truly inclusive space?'. I believe my passion for the area of access and inclusion is one that I am consistently speaking out on and I believe that I can contribute to SCM through my knowledge and awareness by ensuring events are accessible, as well as resources. I think that I could contribute primarily to SCM by working with them to ensure that moving forward, those that work with SCM are increasingly aware of how to make things more accessible.

How have you been involved in SCM as a member?

I have known about SCM for a little while, as my university chapel were involved, and became part of the SCM group that formed at Keele during my undergrad. Upon becoming a member, I attended a couple of online sessions throughout lockdown but my first event was attending the national gathering last year. I have attended a couple of sessions run by Southampton SCM but have found it difficult to attend these due to my course commitments.

What would you like to achieve if you are elected?

If elected, I would like to work with SCM and local groups to ensure that all events are accessible to members, but to create, with those who identify as disabled and/or neurodivergent, or those who

just need help to access spaces, a guide that helps others understand access needs - both for social media and online presences and in person events. This would include small things like how to make image descriptions as alt text or starting points for larger conversations on how to make sermons accessible to all/not isolating members of the church community, as the majority of material that already exists in this area focuses on physical accessibility.