



Appointment brief –

Principal

Westminster College, Cambridge

November 2023



**The
United
Reformed
Church**



The Chapel

INTRODUCTION

The Governors of Westminster College intend to appoint a new Principal to be in post by September 2024. Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates* who are members of the United Reformed Church or members of those Churches which belong to one or more of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, the Council for World Mission, the World Council of Churches. **If you are unsure how these categories work in your case, please speak to us.**

* In accordance with the Equality Act 2010: Part 1, Schedule 9, there is a genuine occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian.



The Library

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Presbyterian Church of England moved its theological college from London and it opened in Cambridge as Westminster College in October 1899. This move was largely inspired, and significantly funded, by twin sisters, Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson. They were remarkable biblical scholars and travelled extensively. Westminster takes its name from the Catechisms and Confession of the Westminster Assembly of Divines which met in London from 1643-1653. An original copy of the Westminster Confession, one of Presbyterianism's foundational creeds, is housed at the college. Another strand in our history involves Cheshunt College. Cheshunt's origins lie in the college opened at Trevecka in Wales in 1768 by the Countess of Huntingdon which played a significant part in the English and Welsh Evangelical Revivals. It moved to Cheshunt in Hertfordshire in 1792 and then to purpose-built premises on Bateman Street in Cambridge in 1914. In 1967 Cheshunt joined with Westminster and the Cheshunt buildings were sold. Many of the contents and archives of Cheshunt are housed at Westminster. The Cheshunt Foundation supports a variety of Christian organisations and events. Its current Director is a member of Westminster's Senatus (teaching staff) and the Foundation supports the College in a variety of ways.

In 1972 the birth of the United Reformed Church saw Westminster take its place alongside other colleges training ministers for the new denomination. Westminster is now one of the three Resource Centres for Learning serving the URC (the others being Northern College in Manchester and the Scottish College based in Glasgow). Our brief continues to evolve and expand as we seek to offer education, training and support to candidates preparing for ordained ministry in the URC and other Reformed churches, lay preachers and worship leaders, elders, ministers in service and a wide variety of individuals, groups and churches who want to explore faith and living with us.

Westminster College is part of the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF), which represents many Christian traditions and provides a vibrant ecumenical and interfaith context for our work. The CTF works in partnership with the University of Cambridge (for whom it delivers the BTh and DTM - Theology for Ministry - awards), the University of Durham (which validates the BA and MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission) and Anglia Ruskin University (which validates a suite of MA programmes, a Professional Doctorate in ministry and through which students can be registered for research degrees). Westminster's current students are registered for Durham programmes (known as Common Awards) while staff also contribute to the teaching for BTh and DTM awards. There are about 40 academic staff across the Federation, providing a rich context of collegiality within which we work.

Westminster is a vibrant community, seeking to equip people to minister effectively in the midst of constant change, and to build up the whole Church in its many and varied forms of mission and ministry.

Our teaching staff team currently stands at 5. We have tutors dedicated to the study of the Old Testament and Hebrew, the New Testament and Greek, Church History and Doctrine, Pastoral Theology and Ministerial Formation. We all work with the Director of Church Resource Development who focusses on expanding Westminster's provision of wider learning and nurture for all in the URC. All tutors need to be able to excite and educate candidates for ordained ministry and also members of the wider Church at all points of church life and Christian discipleship. Westminster is also supported by a highly committed and specialised array of support staff who manage the administrative, domestic and business aspects of College life.

The post-holder will give strategic, academic, spiritual and operational leadership to the College. They will work alongside teaching and support staff in delivering programmes for initial ministerial formation (EM1) students and offer training events into the life of the Church. They will also have the opportunity to follow their theological interests as well as opportunities to access other forms of continuing professional development. They will work collegially with teams in the College in order to deliver and develop the current Strategic Plan.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



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Campus Map

This is an exciting time to join life at Westminster. Following extensive redevelopment of our building in 2014, our commercial business developed so that, alongside student and church use, the College became a venue for bed and breakfast guests as well as for conferences and events. Our campus also grew to accommodate the Woolf Institute for the Abrahamic Faiths, the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, the Eastern Region Ministry Course (Church of England), the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, and the offices of the CTF, as well as our own art studio. This makes our location with its varied teaching, learning, library, archival and social facilities a significant hub for the Federation and for the ecumenical and inter-faith study of theology.

However, all the College's commercial activity was interrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The post-holder will join Westminster at a time when our commercial activity has been relaunched and is looking to a promising future. There remain challenges, but commitment to Christ remains central to our ethos and hospitality, and Westminster will continue to stand as a sign of living faith in our diverse and dynamic academic and historic context.

To discover far more about Westminster's exciting, evolving and ongoing story visit:
www.westminster.cam.ac.uk

Other links you might find useful are listed below, in alphabetical order.

Anglia Ruskin University: (ARU)	https://www.anglia.ac.uk/ruskin/en/home.html
Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide: (CCCW - a member of the CTF)	https://www.cccw.cam.ac.uk/
Cambridge Theological Federation: (CTF)	https://www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/
Common Awards website: https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/ministry/ministerial-education-and-development/common-awards-in-theology,-ministry-and-mission.aspx	
Eastern Region Ministry Course: (ERMC - a member of the CTF)	https://www.ermc.cam.ac.uk/
Faraday Institute: (a member of the CTF)	https://faraday.cam.ac.uk/
Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology in Cambridge (a member of the CTF)	https://www.kirbylaingcentre.co.uk/
Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology: (MBIT - a member of the CTF)	https://www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk/
Ridley Hall: (a member of the CTF)	https://www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/
Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies: (IOCS - a member of the CTF)	https://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/
United Reformed Church: (URC)	https://www.urc.org.uk/
University of Cambridge:	https://www.cam.ac.uk/
University of Durham:	https://www.dur.ac.uk/
Visit Cambridge: (for background information on what Cambridge has to offer)	https://www.visitcambridge.org/
Wescott House: (a member of the CTF)	https://www.wescott.cam.ac.uk/
Wesley House: (a member of the CTF)	https://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/
Westfield House (a member of the CTF)	https://www.westfield.cam.ac.uk/
Woolf Institute: (a member of the CTF)	https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/



How to apply

Applications are available on the Westminster College website and should be sent to:

The Tutorial Office
Westminster College
Madingley Road
Cambridge
CB3 0AA

Tel: 01223 330649

Email: tutorial@westminster.cam.ac.uk

Website: www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, 6th January 2024

**Interviews will take place over two days in Cambridge,
week commencing 29th January 2024**