



LEEDS DIOCESAN TRUSTEE

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

WELCOME

“Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others.” (1 Peter 4:10).

Stewardship is one of the key principles of good ecclesiastical governance; it is integral to the Church’s mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples, and to the Bishop’s role as the shepherd and leader of the People of God in his diocese.

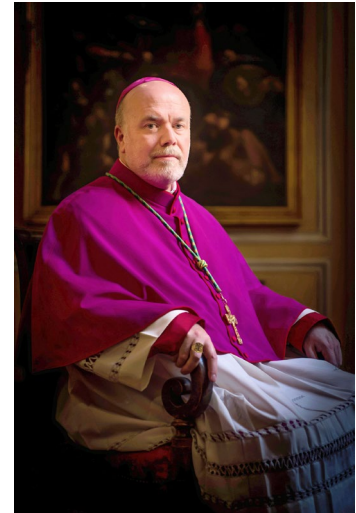
Indeed, all the members of the Church, clergy, religious and lay faithful, are called to be stewards of the graces entrusted to them by the Holy Spirit for the effective exercise of their ministry and their life of discipleship. Good stewardship requires astute and efficient governance in the administration of the Church’s resources, assets and finances.

As Bishop of the Diocese and as the Chair of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee, the charitable company limited by guarantee which assists in the stewardship of our Diocese, I am keen to ensure that the diverse communities and people which our Diocese serves are included and centred in the decision making of the charity’s Board of Trustees. I would welcome therefore applications for the role of Trustee from Catholic lay faithful that will enrich the diversity of the Board’s membership.

The Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee is currently comprised of both clergy and lay members. The membership and contribution of Lay Trustees helps to harness a broad range of skills and expertise which strengthens the stewardship and synodality of the Church’s mission in our Diocese. To enhance this stewardship further and benefit from the diversity of the Board’s membership, we are seeking to appoint additional new Lay Trustees to our number.

The process for the appointment of members to the Board of Trustees is open, fair and objective in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.

I thank you for expressing your interest in this work of stewardship and for giving thought to joining me and my fellow Trustees in serving Our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church in this unique way within our Diocese. I look forward to hearing from you.



✠ **MARCUS STOCK**
BISHOP OF LEEDS

Lay Trustee Role Description

Under its Chair, the Bishop of Leeds, the Board holds responsibility for ensuring good governance and strives to work as an effective team, using the appropriate balance of skills, experience, backgrounds and knowledge to make informed decisions and deliver the charity's purposes effectively.

The role is voluntary and unpaid, but all reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. The function of Trustees is to provide guidance in a non-executive capacity. Accordingly, Trustees will not be expected to become involved in the day-to-day management of the Diocese but rather to provide strategic advice on policy making and planning concerning its obligations as a charity.

As Chair, the Bishop is recruiting amongst the laity for an additional five Lay Trustees to join the Board of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee. The Board is seeking to secure the appointment of individuals with one or more of the following specific skillsets:

- Catholic Education
- Finance
- Property
- Governance
- Human Resources
- Communications & Digital Media
- Hospitality
- Health & Safety

It is important that candidates are able to demonstrate an understanding of the accountabilities of the Diocese as a charity and an appreciation of its spiritual and pastoral role in the lives of the people and communities it serves.

It is essential that Lay Trustees are able to demonstrate a highly credible level of understanding of the beliefs, traditions and structures of the Catholic Church. Clause 6 of the Articles of Association of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee, concerning requirements for lay trustees ('members'), states: *"The persons qualified to be admitted as members of the Corporation are any persons professing the Catholic faith who shall in the absolute discretion of the Bishop be considered a fit and proper person."*

Our Trustees

In line with contemporary Corporate Governance practice and expectations, both Clergy and Lay Board Members serve a possible maximum of nine years. Trustees are appointed initially for a three-year term of office, with a potential second term of three years, subject to a review by the Chair, with a potential third and final term of office to be determined by the Chair after a further thorough review. The Board meets 4 times a year, with some further time commitment for specialist Committee Members.

Our Charity

The Diocese of Leeds is a registered charity, called the Leeds Diocesan Trust (Charity N^o: 249404); it has the following charitable purposes: the advancement of the Catholic Religion; the promotion of Catholic Teaching; the provision and care of Priests; and the provision and maintenance of churches, presbyteries and schools. The fiduciary responsibilities of the Diocese are overseen by the Board of Trustees of the 'Diocese of Leeds Trustee', a registered company limited by guarantee (Company N^o: 2886244)

which is the sole Trustee of the Leeds Diocesan Trust. The Bishop is assisted in matters of governance, finance, directing pastoral activity and the exercise of juridical (canonical) power by the Diocesan Curia, consisting of clergy, officers and full-time professionals whose role is to ensure our future is financially sustainable and that we meet our statutory obligations as a charity.

Specific to the responsibilities within our Diocese is the Trusteeship of the St John's Catholic School for the Deaf Trust (school premises and land holdings) and oversight of Hinsley Properties Ltd, which includes our Diocesan Pastoral Centre at Hinsley Hall and Wheeler Hall at Leeds Cathedral.

In the Diocese of Leeds, the functions of the Finance Council (Can. 492 §1 of the Code of Canon Law) are invested in the Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Leeds Trustee. The latest Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2022 may be downloaded here: <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-ANNUAL-REPORT-CURRENT.pdf>

Our Diocese

The Diocese of Leeds comprises all of West Yorkshire, together with areas in North and East Yorkshire, as well as parts of Lancashire. The 1,500 square miles of this territory include some of the most deprived former industrial inner-city areas as well as more affluent districts and remote rural regions.

The population of lay Catholics in the Diocese numbers around 170,000. We come from diverse backgrounds and traditions, with around 40 languages spoken. Pastoral care is provided in 82 parishes including Leeds Cathedral, with 111 churches served by 104 priests holding parochial office or engaged in pastoral ministry, 45 retired priests, 14 permanent deacons in active ministry and 12 different Religious Orders, Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The diocese has 94 Catholic schools, the majority of which make up five Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts; together with a Sixth Form College, a Catholic University (Leeds Trinity University) and 5 University Chaplaincies.

Our Music Department runs a National Schools Singing Programme covering most of the Catholic Dioceses in Great Britain (and now in some Anglican Dioceses) and our Diocese has the country's only 'state' Cathedral Choir School.

How to apply

For more information and to have an informal conversation prior to making an application, please contact:

Rev Mgr Andrew Summersgill, Moderator of the Curia

Tel: 0771 262 2635 or Email: andrew.summersgill@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Applicants may be invited to an initial informal discussion at Hinsley Hall about the role and its requirements. If short-listed, applicants will be asked to follow safer

recruitment procedures and will be asked to attend a further, formal interview with Members of the Board.

Please apply at any time on or before **5th May 2023**, sending your CV and a covering letter providing a brief resume of your skills and experience to:

By post:

The Moderator of the Curia

Curial Offices

Hinsley Hall

62 Headingley Lane

LEEDS

LS6 2BX

or

Email: moderator@dioceseofleeds.org.uk