**Faith in Later Life – Trustee Job description**

**Why Faith in Later Life?**

The ageing of the UK population is creating significant opportunities for Christian outreach and service.

Older people are already numerically the most significant demographic for the church pastorally and for outreach. Many people face the challenges of ageing and death alone, and at the same time many churches (along with society generally) struggle to recognise, mobilise and support older congregants who can pray, visit, serve, and engage with others.

Faith in Later Life has established itself as a thought leader in equipping and inspiring individual Christians to reach, serve and empower older people in communities everywhere, through the local church.

The charity has grown significantly in reach and impact. It is used 3000 times a month by people to access resources that equip and inspire churches and individual Christians in their service with older people. It has recruited over 700 church champion volunteers who are committed to mobilising their churches in ministry with older people, and it has secured £60,000 of grants (over three years) from trusts to help develop this volunteer network of Church Champions.

Although it has achieved a lot, Faith in Later is still a start up venture with significant growth potential. The charity presently works through its Lead Officer who is our sole full time employee and we need to develop our support for her through a stronger Board and organisation.

We need trustees who have a vison for the gospel amongst older people and the role that Faith in Later Life can play in mobilising church communities and individuals in their engagement with older people.

**Introduction to Faith in Later Life**

Faith in Later Life was launched in October 2017 and is a collaboration between four leading Christian Charities (The “partner charities”) that work with older people: Keychange Charity; London City Mission, Pilgrims Friend Society, The Salvation Army. It was registered as a charity in 2019.

Faith in Later Life exists to inspire and equip Christians to reach, serve and empower older people in every community, through the local Church.

We do this primarily through our network of hundreds of church champions. These are Christians in churches around the UK, who have a heart for older people and are ministering among those in later life in some way. We provide free access to a range of support, training, prayer, and encouragement to equip them in their calling.

Faith in Later Life has achieved significant success and as a result has been approached by others to partner in initiatives including: partnering with Lambeth Palace in the creation and delivery of the ”Daily Hope Line”; partnering with the National Centre for Post-​Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice to provide guidance for churches in their ministry with older people; significant opportunities to speak on BBC local radio; and the co delivery of conferences with Keswick ministries and others.

Faith in Later Life provides a vital Christian voice and narrative to wider society, and last year across the media reached over 3 million people on matters such as ageism and loneliness.

**Our trustees**

We have a committed and experienced group of trustees who enjoy serving Faith in Later Life together. To further develop our charitable offering, we’re now looking to expand our range of expertise and experience by welcoming new trustees.

**What we’re Looking for**

We are looking for Trustees who are passionate and/or experienced in helping others to have faith in later life and who also share our Christian values. We would particularly (but not exclusively) be interested in recruiting trustees who are part of our Church Champion network, as well as someone who has expertise and experience in fundraising and profile raising across denominations.

**Our Beliefs**

As a registered charity, our purpose is:

To advance the Christian faith by inspiring and equipping Christians and churches to serve and equip older people in their Christian service, and to engage effectively with older people in communities everywhere, and to bring older people into Christian faith and community, for the public benefit.

We are members of the Evangelical Alliance and hold to their [Basis of Faith](https://www.eauk.org/about-us/how-we-work/basis-of-faith).

**Trustee Role – Duties**

Our trustees govern the charity so that it advances the Christian faith by inspiring and equipping Christians and churches to serve and equip older people in their Christian service, and to engage effectively with older people in communities everywhere, and to bring older people into Christian faith and community, for the public benefit.

Trustees ensure that the Charity complies with its governing document and relevant legislation and regulations. Trustees attend training as and when available and appropriate.

As part of a team of fellow trustees, you would be appointed for the following:

* To strengthen the charity by helping secure its finances, raise its profile, support its projects, and develop its Board
* To ensure that the Charity pursues its objects as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association
* To ensure the Charity uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects
* To contribute actively to the board of trustees’ role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation through the Chair and Lead Officer, setting overall policy, defining goals, and setting targets, identifying, mitigating, and reducing risks, as well as evaluating performance against agreed indicators and targets
* To safeguard and develop the good name of the organisation, being an ambassador for the Charity and its work where possible. To act as a fiduciary for the charity and its beneficiaries
* To join and fully participate in any Working Groups, depending on your skill and experience
* To support and adhere to the Christian ethos, values and behaviours of Faith in Later Life and to ensure it is maintained and enhanced as appropriate
* To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation through the Lead Officer
* To ensure the financial stability and sustainability of the Charity through the Honorary Treasurer (trustee), and the Lead Officer
* To protect and ensure the proper investment of the charity’s funds
* To monitor the performance of the Lead Officer through the Chair, and to provide support and encouragement where required
* To read papers and to attend Board meetings, submitting apologies in advance if absence is unavoidable

**Trustee Role – Individual specific duties**

In addition to the above duties which are statutory, each trustee should use their specific skills, knowledge, or experience to help the charity progress and the board of trustees to reach sound decisions.

This will typically involve adopting one or more projects for personal involvement, leading discussions, or being an active part of any working groups/discussion forums.

**Person Specification**

* Vision, passion, and enthusiasm for our cause
* An awareness of the issues we are addressing and the urgency of a Christian response
* Track record of leadership and governance of a similar charitable operation or mission-based organisation, particularly in terms of service delivery, quality, team building, professional and personal development
* Experienced in, and committed to, the governance and provision of high-quality charitable offering, and the strengthening of organisations
* Able to demonstrate a clear understanding of equality and diversity and its application to Faith in Later Life strategy, policies, and governance
* Experience of financial management and sustainability to ensure resources are used as effectively
* Able to provide examples of involvement in partnership working and the capacity and capability to represent Faith in Later Life to external organisations and partners
* Committed to and able to articulate, internally and externally, our Christian values and apply them to the leadership and governance of the organisation

**Time commitment**

The Trustee Board meets at 4 times a year, usually in person, and remote participation is available.

In addition to preparing for and attending meetings, trustees participate in occasional working groups and email conversations.

We estimate that trustees need to be able to commit at least 2 days a month to this role.

**Remuneration**

This is a voluntary position, so no salary is provided. Faith in Later Life can reimburse reasonable travel costs for attendance at any in-person meetings.

**Application Process**

Please contact our Chair of Trustees, Stephen Hammersley for an initial conversation and to request further information at stephen@faithinlaterlife.org. Applications are via an application form thereafter.

**More about Faith in Later Life on our website:** <https://faithinlaterlife.org/>