



WESLEY HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

Appointment of a Director of Practical/Contextual Theology

A Director of Practical/Contextual theology is sought for appointment by the Wesley House Trustee/Directors from 1 September 2020. Applications are invited from practical/contextual theologians with experience of qualitative research. The successful applicant will be committed to developing leadership and scholarship with/in the global Methodist family.

- Supervise international and UK research students working on contextual theological projects
- Play a key strategic role in the development of the college's work resourcing leadership and scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition
- Play a key role in the core staff team of the college as a College Officer
- Teach on the programmes of the college (online, short courses and programmes validated through the Cambridge Theological Federation and by other partners)

Applications

The deadline for applications is 26 March 2020.

Please send applications to: ai022@cam.ac.uk

Applications should include a full academic CV, details of 3 referees and a letter referencing the job description and person specification.

Wesley House is an equal opportunities employer.

Interviews

Interviews will be held at Wesley House Cambridge towards the end of April/at the beginning of May and will involve an overnight stay from 4pm on the day before. Visits are welcome beforehand and can be arranged via office@wesley.cam.ac.uk. A preliminary interview may be held by phone or Skype. Those invited to interview will be informed by email by Friday 3 April.

General Information

[Wesley House, Cambridge](#) is a Methodist Theological College which is an approved house of residence within the [University of Cambridge](#) and a founder member of the [Cambridge Theological Federation](#) (CTF).

Our mission is to be a globally significant resource for leadership and scholarship in the Wesleyan tradition for the sake of a church and world enriched as it responds to God's grace. To that end we:

1. Curate actual and virtual academic communities that pray, confer, research, learn and share their work and life as part of the body of Christ.
2. Invest in academic, global and ecumenical partnerships that share our aims in fulfilment of the connexional principle.
3. Create and disseminate research in the areas of *Global Wesleyan Theology, Leadership, Ministry and Supervision, and Faith in Public Life*.
4. Develop and teach validated and non-validated programmes in these areas.
5. Seek to work sustainably and ethically within the horizons of God's kingdom of love and justice.

The college is located on Jesus Lane in the centre of Cambridge. In 2017 we completely refurbished our 1920s premises and constructed two entirely new buildings, adding a new library and archive facility, new teaching rooms and 15 new ensuite study bedrooms. During 2020 we will complete the final phase of refurbishment to add 3 flats and additional teaching and office space within existing Georgian premises.

The academic staff of the college (from 1 September totalling 5 FTE including the Principal) form a close team within the resident cross-cultural community of prayer and study. Responsible to the Principal, staff collaborate to deliver the strategic goals of the college. Students and sabbatical visitors are drawn from across the world as well as from the UK. They study full time and part time. Some are resident and some work at a distance. They are funded independently and through a variety of denominational grant bodies and through Wesley House's own bursary fund. Current students on validated programmes come from Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hong Kong, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States, and Zimbabwe. Last year, in addition to the 54 students on validated programmes we engaged with 72 participants on our short courses and online programmes. We host an online, peer reviewed journal, entitled [Holiness](#) that provides a global platform for the exploration of holy living in the Wesleyan tradition.

As part of the CTF we deliver degree programmes together with the [University of Cambridge](#) and on behalf of [Durham University](#) and [Anglia Ruskin University](#). Through these partnership we are able to offer undergraduate programmes, masters programmes and doctoral degrees. Wesley House also works with [Wesley Theological Seminary](#) in Washington DC to deliver an international DMin programme in Cambridge and collaborates with [Africa University, Zimbabwe](#) and [Kenya Methodist University](#) to deliver graduate programmes in theological and religious research.

The work of the college is focused in three areas: *Global Wesleyan Theology, Leadership, Ministry and Supervision*, and *Faith in Public Life*. Our work in the area of leadership, ministry and supervision includes research, the supervision of research, teaching and the provision of professional standard training. We recruit students directly, and through funded partnerships. We currently have such partnerships with The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC (GBHEM), Africa University, Zimbabwe, and Kenya Methodist University.

The partnership with GBHEM is supporting the piloting of reflective supervision in the UMC. The college is in the process of appointing a reflective supervision specialist to develop its ability to meet demand in this fast growing area of church life and to help the Principal in developing Wesley House as *the leading global resource for research, consultancy and training for reflective and pastoral supervision*.

The African partnerships involve recruiting and supervising strategically identified PhD students who teach in the African context. Many of these students are asking research questions that require qualitative research design and may be characterised as practical and contextual theology. In Kenya the funded partnership also involves consultancy and collaboration in designing and delivering a post-ordination diploma in leadership for Kenyan Methodist clergy. In the future we hope to develop successor projects with partners in other parts of the world, including in the UK.

Wesley House currently has three other core members of academic staff in addition to this post. The Principal oversees the life of the college, acts as the Director of GBHEM's global hub for Leadership, Education and Development in Britain, supervises doctoral students in the field of practical theology and offers specialist consultancy and training in the area of reflective and pastoral supervision. The Director of Research recruits and directs the studies of doctoral students and oversees our work in Global Wesleyan Theology. The Director of Studies recruits and directs the studies of undergraduate and masters' students and oversees our work in *Faith in Public Life*. In addition to core staff the college works with a network of academic supervisors and specialist staff. This new role is being created to help develop the college as a globally respected Wesleyan centre for contextually situated qualitative research and as a thought leader in leadership and ministry in the Wesleyan tradition.

Job Description

Responsible to: The Principal

Responsible within the team for:

- Development of the college as a globally respected Wesleyan centre for contextually situated qualitative research
- Development of the college as a thought leader in leadership and ministry in the Wesleyan tradition

Key contacts:

- Director of Research and others supervising Wesley House research students
- Principal and Director of Supervision and others involved in the college's work in resourcing leadership and ministry
- Members of college including students, staff, sabbatical visitors and those engaging in other kinds of learning
- Federation colleagues those responsible for academic administration and the Director of the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology
- Colleagues in Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities concerned with the admission of research students and their progress
- Other leadership institutes, client organisations and institutional partners in the UK and abroad

Key Responsibilities:

1. Lead on qualitative research design and contextual approaches to theology

Wesley House wants to build on its developing reputation as a reliable place for contextually situated qualitative research. The fastest growing sector of Wesley House's student body relates to doctoral students. Some are UK based but many come from the global south.

A key part of the role will be supervising to up to 15 research students. Whilst the Director of Research has overall responsibility for research student recruitment and admissions, this post-holder will be responsible for the qualitative elements of research design across the range of research projects, and for helping to develop appropriately contextual approaches to theological work amongst students and staff.

The post-holder will be responsible with the Director of Research for developing the research culture of the college and for the building of our research reputation. This will include sharing responsibility for the college's research seminar, publishing their own research and helping the college capitalise its research through consultancy, teaching, training and other means.

2. Develop the college's reputation as a thought-leader in leadership and ministry in the Wesleyan tradition

The college's centre for Leadership, Ministry and Supervision aims to develop excellence in leadership, ministry and supervision practice through

- Research, publication and consultancy with partner churches
- Academic teaching and professional standard training
- The design and delivery of relevant patterns of initial and continuing leadership development and support for identified communities of practice.

The college has already positioned itself as a global leader in the provision of training and research in pastoral/reflective supervision. The post-holder will bring their research and expertise into the work of the centre, working closely with the Principal and the Director of Supervision to extend and broaden its focus towards a globally respected set of decolonising approaches to leadership and ministry.

3. Play a key role in the core staff team of the college as a College Officer

The Business Director and the five academic core staff form the College Officers' Meeting. Together we implement the strategic priorities of the Trustees across the range of the college's activities; we develop new partnerships and areas of academic work for presentation to the Trustees; and manage the day to day activities of the college.

The post-holder will be expected to play a full role in the college officers' meeting, in implementing the strategic priorities of the college and in developing a number of projects by negotiation within the team. This is likely to involve both UK and overseas travel.

4. Help to host and lead the resident community

As a resident community as well as a dispersed one there are a variety of hosting duties to be shared amongst the staff and student body. The post-holder will be expected normally to be present in college Monday-Friday including Thursday evenings and for occasional weekend events. Except when travelling on college business, it is expected that staff are normally present in daily prayers and at Federation worship and at weekly college meals. The post-holder will be asked to participate as appropriate in:

- a. The leading of worship in the college and at college events
- b. The hosting of social events
- c. The hosting of visiting scholars and other visitors
- d. Offering regular tutorial support to students of the college as part of the tutorial team
- e. Induction events for new members of college
- f. Public facing events
- g. Short courses

5. Teach on the programmes of the college

According to their own subject specialisms and the needs of the college the post-holder will be expected to offer some classroom/online teaching on the programmes of the college and those of our partner universities.

6. Any other duties within the scope of the job description as reasonably required by the college.

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theological teaching in Higher Education including involvement in the supervision of research ○ Research using qualitative research methods ○ Academic programme development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervision to completion of at least one research student ○ Experience of mentoring/supervision of those in formation for Christian leadership ○ Experience of community living and leadership ○ Online teaching
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doctorate in theology or a related discipline (that conforms with QAA specifications for a doctorate in the UK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualification in teaching or adult education
Special knowledge & skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proven teaching ability in formal and informal contexts ○ Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication and presentation skills ○ Expertise in contextual/practical theology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross cultural experience of leadership/ministry/teaching
Special qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to work collaboratively and flexibly as a senior member of a team ○ The stature/potential to command respect as an international scholar ○ Ability to develop relationships cross culturally and with overseas partners. ○ Commitment to the development of Wesleyan approaches to scholarship and leadership/ministry ○ Commitment to working with diverse theological and ecumenical positions ○ Willingness to lead worship/preach in college and when representing the college in other academic settings ○ Ability to meet deadlines and prioritise work 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being an active lay or ordained member of a WCC eligible church* ○ Eligible to work in the UK (a visa can be sponsored) ○ For ordained ministers, the appropriate permission to serve 	

*or another Church eligible for membership of the World Methodist Council

Remuneration

The post-holder will be paid a salary of £33,000 pa. Wesley House will either make pension contributions of 10% into a personal pension scheme or will contribute to the Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme if the postholder is eligible for membership.

There is a holiday allowance of 25 days plus bank holidays.

The postholder is offered rent-free use of one of Wesley House's on-site flats for the period of their appointment. There is an annual service charge which will be £2,372 in 2020/21. Free parking in central Cambridge for one car is also available.