



Modern Church
faith in the world

Managing Editor for *Modern Believing* - the journal of theological liberalism

Modern Church (MC) seeks to appoint a Managing Editor (MEd) for its journal *Modern Believing* (MB) from September 2018. The appointment coincides with the recently renewed agreement between MC and the publishers of the journal, Liverpool University Press, for the next 5 years. The MEd will work closely with the Editorial Team and the Trustees of MC, as well as the publishers.

The philosophy of Modern Church and its journal:

Modern Church (MC) was founded in 1898 and first named The Churchmen's Union for the Advancement of Liberal Religious Thought. The Union's first publication was called *Church Gazette* and in 1911 its first journal, called *The Modern Churchman*, was launched. Since then both the organisation and the journal has seen several name changes. A brief history of the organisation can be found at modernchurch.org.uk/our-history.

From the beginning the essential purpose of MC was to promote liberal or open-critical theological thought. The current charitable objects of MC are defined as:

- The advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public, in particular through (but not limited to):
 - a. the promotion of open and critical study of the Christian faith and its relevance in the contemporary world; and
 - b. offering resources for individuals and groups in parishes, institutions and public life to support an open-minded and thoughtful approach to matters of faith and religion.

The MEd will need to balance the double requirements of peer-reviewed academic theology with thoughtful theology which is accessible to the membership of MC, the churches and general readership.

The journal may be read online at Liverpool University Press, and through institutional subscribers, in the American Theological Libraries Association's data base (ATLA). It covers a wide spectrum of interests, ranging from the historical, biblical, systematic, practical, ethical and pastoral perspectives of Christian understanding.

Responsibilities of the Managing Editor:

The MEd will

- advise the Trustees regarding the content of each edition of MB, including forthcoming and themed editions
- execute the policy of the Editorial Team and the Trustees regarding MB, and contribute to policy formation
- convene and chair a meeting of the Editorial Team, at least annually and whenever necessary
- present reports to the quarterly meetings of the Trustees, and attend in person at least one of these meetings annually
- actively commission articles for publication in MB
- be responsible for the timely publication of each edition of MB
- liaise with the Chair of the MC annual conference and invited speakers, in order to publish appropriate papers in a conference edition of MB
- contribute an editorial to each edition of MB
- be responsible for rejecting or accepting all uncommissioned articles submitted to the journal
- be responsible for the peer review of all uncommissioned articles submitted to the journal.
- be responsible for providing article writers with appropriate feedback and checking that any required changes have been made
- identify Guest Editors for some editions of the journal, with themed content
- liaise with the Reviews Editor on quantity and quality of book reviews
- be responsible for providing the Publisher with copy for the editorial comment, articles and book reviews, and any other matter within the timeframe specified by the Publisher
- liaise with the Assistant Editor and Reviews Editor on all practical matters to do with the commissioning, logging, peer reviewing, and preparing articles and reviews for publication, and working with the Publisher and the Assistant Editor to ensure a timely publication of each edition.
- advise on the role of the Editorial Board

The present annual balance of the editions of MB are as follows: 1 x general edition, 2 x themed editions, 1 x conference-based edition.

The Editorial Team:

The Editorial Team (ET) will consist of

- Managing Editor
- Assistant Editor
- Reviews Editor
- Two other Editors from the Editorial Board who are supportive of MC's ethos, and willing to serve a turn of around 3 years
- At least one MC Trustee plus the General Secretary or Chair of Trustees.

It is expected that the Editorial Team will meet at least once a year in order to discuss and agree current and future direction and commissions.

Person Specification:

The person appointed will be

- Academically qualified, with a good working knowledge of the academic environment
- Sympathetic to the overall aims of MC, including the need to commend open liberal Christian thought to the general culture and the churches as well as the academy
- Possess relevant I.T. skills.

Role of the Assistant Editor:

At the time of appointment an Assistant Editor (AEd) is in place and has been involved in the forward planning of future editions of MB up to July 2020 but working closely with the MEd. It is proposed that the AEd remain in position at least for a further 12 months. Broadly, the MEd will be responsible for both policy and operational matters and will generally delegate practical matters to the AEd as appropriate.

However, there remains an open question about the future necessity of the AEd's role, depending on the MEd's interests and how the managing role develops. This will be explored at the time of interview with all candidates.

The AEd will be responsible to the MEd for:

- logging submissions to the journal
- conducting the peer-review process and liaising with the MEd about which articles to publish in the journal
- working with Guest Editors in relation to special issues of the journal
- submitting the final documents to the publisher and finalising the copy for each of the quarterly issues
- providing advice on all aspects of policy and practice regarding the publication of MB

- attending meetings of the Editorial Team.

Special issues of the journal currently in process include: Black Queer Theology (Jan 2019), Ritual, Worship and Culture (Apr 2019), Theology and Childlessness (Jul 2019), Theology and Negative Affects (Jan 2020), Theology and/of Social Justice (Jul 2020).

Responsibilities of the Reviews Editor:

The Reviews Editor will be responsible to the MEd for

- implementing the policy of the Editorial Team regarding the selection of books for review;
- providing copy to the MEd and the AEd for publication, having strict regard for deadlines and suitably agreed timetables for submission of reviews;
- attending meetings of the Editorial Team

Remuneration & Accountability:

- The Trustees of MC have allocated an honorarium of £3,000 per annum towards the editorial process and production of MB. The precise share of this sum to be divided between the MEd and AEd will be determined at interview, and will depend on the expressed interests and skills of the incoming M.Ed.
- Suitable expenses will be paid.
- The Managing Editor will be accountable to the Trustees of MC, through the Chair.
- The post is subject to a probation period of six months.

How to apply:

Please send your CV along with a letter of application, to arrive by Friday 22nd June 2018, to:

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Email: office@modernchurch.org.uk

Telephone: 0845 3451909