

Governor role description

While day-to-day responsibility for the charity rests with trustees, the Governors are our ultimate governing body, as laid down in our 1678 Royal Charter. They are the equivalent of members in other membership-based charities. Indeed, the registered name of the charity (as distinct from its working name) is The Governors of the Charity for Relief of the Poor Widows and Children of Clergymen.

Governors are elected at the Annual Assembly (AGM) meeting each November and the current qualification for election is the making of a donation to the charity of at least £100. Anyone making the qualifying donation may request that his or her name be added to the list of those to be proposed for election as Governors at the next Annual Assembly. Once elected, a Governor remains a Governor for life without the necessity for further subscription – although further financial support is always welcome. The membership of the Court of Assistants, the trustees, is drawn from and elected by the Governors.

Governors are asked to commit to support the charity in the following three main ways:

- As **AMBASSADORS**, promoting the work of the charity in their own church, professional and social networks. Ways of doing this include:
- As a source of **ACCOUNTABILITY**, committing to take an interest in the charity's work through regular newsletters and the Trustees' Annual Report which will be sent to them, and holding the Court of Assistants (trustees) accountable, mainly through participation in the charity's Annual Assembly (AGM).
- As **ADVOCATES** of the charity's services and grants to eligible clergy and their families.

We also ask that Governors consider from time-to-time whether they are able to provide additional financial support to the work of the charity, over and above their initial subscription. One way of doing this is by becoming a Steward of our annual Festival Service at St Paul's Cathedral (£50 a year); this is a historic role and does not involve any physical stewarding, but Stewards are entitled to have their support noted in the Order of Service.

Clergy Support Trust for its part commits to keep Governors regularly informed of developments within the charity and to provide whatever resources might be needed to enable Governors to perform their ambassadorial role.