THE JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST

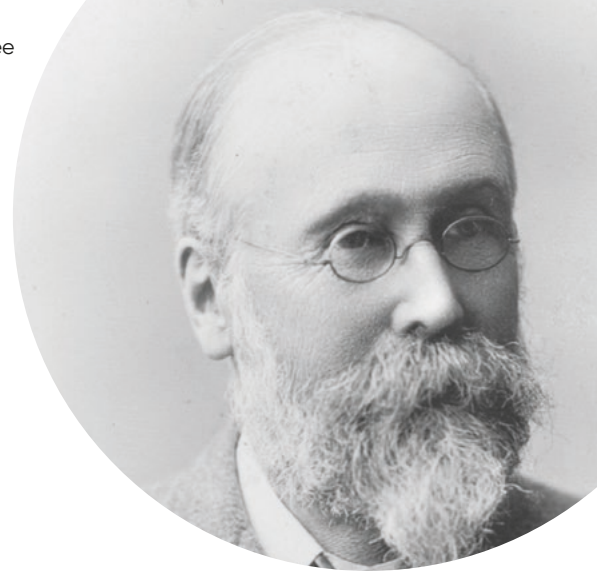
Joseph Rowntree



Opportunity

to become a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Become a Quaker trustee



Our founder, Joseph Rowntree

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) is a Quaker trust that makes grants of more than £10million a year to support people tackling the root causes of conflict and injustice.

We are looking to recruit additional trustees to our Board in 2020.

These exciting and challenging roles support people who are making a positive difference; whether they are promoting peace in Northern Ireland, advocating for some of the most vulnerable people in our society or taking steps towards an environmentally sustainable future.

As an all-Quaker trustee board we look after a responsibly invested endowment.

Every year we make about 100 grants for all kinds of transformative charitable work across our five programme areas of Peace and Security, Rights and Justice, Power and Accountability, Sustainable Future and Northern Ireland.

Prospective trustees must be actively involved with Quakers.

We welcome applications from Friends of all ages and backgrounds to this very rewarding voluntary role. In particular, we want to make the trustee board more diverse and inclusive in terms of ethnicity, age and social background.

Trustees must be able to attend at least eight meetings per year and to spend regular time on Trust business.

The closing date is 9am on 24 February.



Staff from *Liberty*, which receives grant funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Making a difference

Making a difference as a JRCT trustee

Our trustees have described their role as being an enjoyable and extraordinary experience. Trusteeship is something you can only fully learn on the job and at JRCT it is an opportunity to join a group of staff and trustees who care about each other and are very committed to their work.

It can be a life-affirming, enriching role which gives you the chance to meet and support a range of organisations often working with great commitment at the cutting edge of their fields. The learning and experience this offers often complements the professional lives of our trustees.

There are usually between 12 and 14 trustees. We're committed to making the trustee board diverse and inclusive, especially in terms of ethnicity, age and social background.

Our trustees have a range of expertise. We're looking to expand our skillset – especially in terms of law, digital expertise, finance and understanding of Northern Ireland – however we warmly welcome and encourage applications from all backgrounds.

We are committed to equal opportunities and we will support reasonable adjustments to accommodate peoples' needs.

We offer financial support

All reasonable expenses are paid including travel, cost of childcare and phone usage. An iPad is provided for use in Trust business.

In some circumstances we'll meet claims towards loss of earnings incurred as a result of working for the Trust.

We ensure financial concerns aren't an obstacle to trustees. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to speak to us

Trustees are offered, and encouraged to take part in, both structured and informal training.



Hope For The Future, one of the charities supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

Responsibilities

The main time commitments of trusteeship are:

- Quarterly board meetings. These take place four times a year in York (typically early Friday evening until late Saturday afternoon). About four to five hours reading time is needed for the agendas.
- The Trust has seven committees. Trustees typically serve on two or three committees and most committees meet three times a year (making a commitment of between six and nine meetings). These meetings are usually four to five hours long. They are usually held in London or York (or in the case of Northern Ireland committee, Belfast).
- For each grant committee on which they serve, trustees are likely to visit applicants once or twice a year.
- Trustees are asked to prepare short written comments on applications, sometimes within a relatively short timeframe.

Meetings are planned well in advance with plenty of notice given to trustees.

We're a supportive, caring organisation and we recognise the need to offer flexibility in order to accommodate trustees' family and other commitments.

Legal responsibilities

The legal responsibilities of trustees include keeping the funds with which the Trust is endowed wisely and securely invested, applying them for charitable purposes in accordance with the Trust deed and fulfilling responsibilities as employers of a small staff team. Trustees are supported by professional staff and an investment advisor, and draw on legal, HR and other expert advice as required.

How to apply

If you have any questions about the role or would like an informal conversation, our trustees David Newton, Jenny Amery and John Fitzgerald would be more than happy to have a chat. Please get in touch by contacting our programme assistant, Michelle Hardcastle, at the Trust office on 01904 627810 or email michelle.hardcastle@jrct.org.uk

If you wish to express an interest in the role, please send us:

- Details about your current or previous paid and/or voluntary work and involvement with Quakers.
- A statement of interest – in written or video form – explaining what draws you to the idea of becoming a JRCT trustee and what gifts you would bring to the role.
- Your current contact details (email, postal address, phone numbers).

There is no set format or word limit, but we would expect it to be no longer than four to five pages in total or a video clip of no more than five minutes.

Your expression of interest should be sent to michelle.hardcastle@jrct.org.uk by 9am on 24 February.

JRCT trustees and staff



Becoming a trustee

Before new trustees are appointed to the Trust they are invited by the current trustees to 'sit in' with them for a period, usually for about a year.

The purpose of the year is to offer an opportunity for prospective trustees to experience the working life of the Trust, and to involve themselves, to an extent and at a pace which suits them, in the various tasks which trustees fulfil.

This normally includes:

- attending four quarterly Board Meetings
- receiving and commenting on grant applications
- joining trustees and staff on visits to grant applicants
- attending meetings of the various committees
- participating in email or telephone consultation and discussions

All meetings and discussions are conducted according to Quaker principles, new trustees are more than observers and are encouraged to participate in whatever way seems appropriate. New trustees are paired with a serving trustee, who will act as a 'buddy' to guide and support them through the year, explaining the way things are done and answering questions.

An important aim of the year is for the trustee to gain a realistic understanding of what it means to be a trustee at JRCT, so that they are clear what will be expected of them by staff and other trustees.

The first year is also an opportunity for us to get to know each other, for the prospective trustee to share their particular experience and insights, and to come to understand something of the nature and ethos of the Trust.

JRCT trusteeship involves something more than being part of a committee or board; for many trustees it is a deep experience of Quaker faith in action. Trustees come to know and love each other and the work of the Trust often becomes a trustee's main or constant faith-based commitment.