

Job Description

Job Title: Global Theologian

Responsible to: Director of Mission Engagement

Salary: £ 45,000 - £50,000

Location: USPG, 5 Trinity Street, London, SE1 1DB

Hours of work: Full time, permanent - 35 hours per week

USPG is the Anglican mission agency, founded in 1701, that partners churches and communities worldwide in God’s mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

STRATEGY

In 2018 USPG launched a new strategy with three key aims to - Rethink Mission, Energise Church and Community and Champion Justice. These are delivered through four teams – Global Relations, Mission Engagement, Finance and Resources and Communications. USPG is currently engaged in a process of reviewing and developing a more detailed strategy and set of objectives for 2021-2023.

JOB PURPOSE:

To provide leadership for USPG’S theological engagement with all partner churches, including those of Britain and Ireland and to develop its capacity to facilitate theological education.

The post sits within the Mission Engagement team, led by the Revd Canon Richard Bartlett, however the post-holder will also work very closely with members of our Global Relations team and also with the General Secretary.

Principal Accountabilities (Responsibilities) max 4-5 with sub-headings for most jobs	% Time
<p>1. To take a leading role in developing and delivering theological education to the TEI’s within the churches of Britain and Ireland and to work through IME 1, IME 2 and CME with ordinands and clergy to deepen understanding of global Anglicanism. To help strengthen USPG clergy networks.</p> <p>The postholder will also teach a day a week for two terms each year on the MA Missional Theology in Global Context course at Ripon College Cuddesdon (from September 2021).*</p>	30%

<p>2. To work strategically with global partners, (including the Asian Theological Academy and the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa) fostering and deepening links with global theological networks, the ACO and other agencies to strengthen the capacity of USPG partners to deliver high quality contextual theological education and ministerial formation.</p>	<p>30%</p>
<p>3. To research, write and publish theology from a USPG perspective that is accessible to a range of audiences and deepens understanding of the riches and diversity of global Anglicanism; that furthers USPG's goals of rethinking mission, energizing church and community and championing justice. Such theology will be contextual and liberative in character and faithful to the complexities of history.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>4. To develop and deliver content for theological courses and webinars that is effective in deepening mutual understanding and interdependence and resources the church worldwide and locally as it seeks to address contemporary issues.</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p>5. To contribute to the wider life of USPG, in particular as a speaker and convener at public events, as a preacher and through contributions to USPG publications assisting USPG to address issues of contemporary mission and inform public debates.</p>	<p>10%</p>

**This commitment is an integral part of the role and the postholder would also be designated an Associate Tutor at RCC with access to its academic life and facilities as well as an Associate member of the Theology and Religion Faculty at Oxford University (subject to formal approval by the Faculty). This brings access to the libraries and services of Oxford University.*

PERSON SPECIFICATION

E = essential criteria. The job cannot be done without them.

D = desirable criteria can help the job to be done more effectively.

Experience and Background	E	D
Educated to PhD level. (There is no restriction on the specific discipline, but an understanding of contextual and mission theologies, a capacity to work in an interdisciplinary fashion, within ecumenical and interfaith contexts and an awareness of sociological approaches to religion is essential).	●	
Significant experience of teaching in a university/seminary context or of delivering education or training content at equivalent level, combined with a strong track record of publishing, including peer-reviewed work.	●	
Good broad knowledge of the Anglican Communion and of the global church with in-depth understanding and experience of at least two regional contexts.	●	
Strong track record as a writer/editor with a good understanding of writing for different audiences	●	
Participation in global mission/theological ecumenical networks and a sound understanding of Anglican theology	●	
Experience of online teaching and distance learning		●

Skills and Abilities	E	D
A natural networker and relationship builder who is able to quickly establish and maintain collaborative working relationships with colleagues and with a diverse range of external contacts and stakeholders in the UK and globally.	●	
Organisational skills to ensure that deadlines are met. The ability to set effective priorities, planning and organising work whilst managing diverse responsibilities.	●	
A natural leader with ability to make sound decisions with confidence and to respond creatively to emerging opportunities.	●	
Self-motivated and able to manage own time and workload	●	

Good understanding of pedagogic principles and curriculum design		•
Project management skills including writing research grant applications where necessary		•

General	E	D
To have an understanding of and respect for the contexts in which USPG operates	•	
A willingness to appreciate the goals of the whole organisation and to promote and further our vision, mission and values	•	
A Christian who is an active member of an Anglican church or a church in full communion with the worldwide Anglican Communion, and personally committed to mission as an expression of their faith	•	
Able and willing to work unsociable hours when required including occasional evenings and weekends	•	
Able to travel overseas as well as in Britain and Ireland as necessary	•	

What are we looking for?

This role of Global Theologian at USPG is unique, exciting and wide-ranging. It requires gifts of intellect, empathy and communication through speech and the written word. It requires a humble disposition and curious mind open to the particularities of the Christian life within Anglican and United churches within very different contexts. The post-holder will delight in rich and multilateral theological conversations in relation to issues such as the climate crisis, gender-based violence, inter-religious living and indigenous rights - just some of the issues that will come across their desk.

We are seeking to appoint a person with a deep commitment to contextual, liberative, dialogic and postcolonial/decolonial approaches to theology. They will have a broad missiological understanding, appreciate inductive methodologies and enjoy interdisciplinary engagement as well as working in ecumenical and interfaith contexts. They will be familiar with at least two regional contexts, but must be able to navigate the British context with confidence.

We are looking for a versatile and wide-ranging thinker capable of speaking into a range of different contexts and writing in different ways for different audiences. However, like many highly distinctive roles, the gifts and experience of the person appointed will shape the role in quite particular ways. Some of that will flow from the background and the experience of the post-holder and their distinctive skills will, to some degree, determine the relative balance of different activities within the role. It is hoped, indeed expected, that they will

have a distinctive theological voice and make their own contributions to a field within theology commensurate with the main focus of their work at USPG.

Further details

The post is open to lay or ordained theologians in any Anglican Church or church in full communion with the Church of England. If a member of clergy is appointed who needs accommodation, this option will be explored further in conversation.

USPG is a Tier 2 licensed sponsor.

It is a genuine occupational requirement (GOR) of this post that the individual be an active member of an Anglican church or a church in communion with the Anglican Church.

The successful candidate will be required to provide an up to date DBS check (if UK nationals) or the equivalent police checks to allow them to work with vulnerable adults and children. All shortlisted applicants will be required to submit identity documents and relevant qualifications.

If you wish to have a brief conversation with the General Secretary to explore your suitability for the role please contact trishas@uspg.org.uk

Deadline for Application: Monday 22nd February 2021