

Operation Noah  
Recruitment of Trustees  
Information Pack

## A Letter from our Chair

Thank you for your interest in being a Trustee of Operation Noah. There is information here to tell you about us and to help you complete your application.

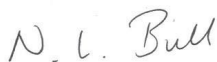
Operation Noah is an ecumenical Christian charity providing leadership, focus and inspiration in response to the growing threat of catastrophic climate change.

We are currently looking for Board members who can demonstrate one or more of the following:

- Human Resources
- Strategic planning
- Fundraising
- Communications

Being a member of the Operation Noah Board is a rewarding experience. The Board is strong and we have clear plans for the future. We have a dynamic Campaigner and support for finance, for administration and for communications. Board members manage our campaigns and contribute to the formation of our campaigning plans and to the preparation of resources to be made available to the public. As a member of our Board you will have an opportunity to extend your own strategic and leadership skills, and governance experience. Being on the Board team is stimulating and fun.

We would like to work towards a Board that reflects as closely as possible the population as a whole in terms of gender, ethnicity and Christian denomination. To this end, we particularly welcome applications from people from ethnic minority backgrounds, younger people and evangelical Christians, although we will be happy to consider other applicants. Previous Trustee experience with an environmental or Christian charity would also be an advantage.



Nicky Bull  
Chair

## The organisation

### Our vision is for a world:

- ▶ where care and restoration of creation is at the heart of Christian teaching and practice;
- ▶ where the balance between the needs of human beings and the climate system is restored; and
- ▶ where the energy needs of all people, in every part of the world, can be met safely, affordably and cleanly without changing or destabilising the atmosphere or the oceans.

### Our mission

We are:

- ▶ working to promote and develop leadership in response to the climate crisis throughout the Christian community;
- ▶ supporting the rapid transition to 100% (fossil-free) clean energy by campaigning for churches to divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean energy ([www.brightnow.org.uk](http://www.brightnow.org.uk));
- ▶ working with Christians of all denominations to engage with them, in order to come together, to speak out and to act in response to climate change (<http://operationnoah.org/get-involved/outreach-campaign/>); and
- ▶ writing and producing resources to help Christians understand and explore the theological basis for engagement on climate change ([www.operationnoah.org/what-we-do/ash-wednesday-declaration/](http://www.operationnoah.org/what-we-do/ash-wednesday-declaration/)).

### Who we are

Operation Noah was set up to provide a Christian response to the climate crisis. We work with all Christian denominations and support interfaith work on climate change. Our work is informed by the latest science on climate change, its causes, impacts and solutions. The sense of urgency we feel because of the science is balanced by our faith in God and our hope in his future for our world. We are faith-motivated, science-informed and hope-inspired.

We are an inclusive group of committed Christians from across the UK. Our Trustees, staff and supporters are cross-denominational and include members of the Roman Catholic, Anglican and free churches. We work closely with like-minded individuals and organisations that share our vision and are part of the Climate Coalition ([www.theclimatecoalition.org](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org) formerly known as Stop Climate Chaos).

Launched in 2004, Operation Noah was the first Christian campaign to focus exclusively on the urgent need to address the global climate crisis. The theological basis for our work was set out in 'Climate Change and the Purposes of God' (2012, <http://operationnoah.org/articles/read-ash-wednesday-declaration/>), which challenges the Church to realise that care for God's creation – and concern about climate change – is foundational to the Christian gospel and central to the Church's mission. Our campaigning work is the practical outworking of our commitment to 'Climate Change and the Purposes of God'.

## **Organisational structure**

To find out more about our board, and current board members please have a look at our website: [www.operationnoah.org/who-we-are/people/](http://www.operationnoah.org/who-we-are/people/).

The Operation Noah Board of Trustees currently comprises a Chair, a Vice-Chair, Treasurer and other Trustees. The post holders are elected by Board members from among their number. As the Board may have up to 15 trustees, there is also sometimes scope to co-opt additional members, mid-year if appropriate, who may go on to be nominated at the next AGM. The positions we are recruiting for here would be as co-opted Trustees.

## **Our finances**

All of our unrestricted income comes from individual supporters and from church groups. In addition to these sums, we have received grant funding for each of our two current campaigns – one is on divesting church funds from fossil fuels and the other on outreach to congregations with the biblical basis for engagement in climate change issues. This funding enables us to employ our Bright Now Campaigners.

## **What attributes are we seeking?**

As indicated in the Chair's letter, we are seeking candidates who can demonstrate experience in Human Resources, Strategic planning, Fundraising and Communications. Over and above these forms of experience, all applicants should have a good understanding of the work of Operation Noah, a passion for caring for creation, and a commitment to the Christian faith. Below we set out more fully the attributes we are looking for in short-listing and interviewing candidates.

PERSON SPECIFICATION (essential shortlisting criteria)
<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A good understanding of the governance role</li> <li>Experience of setting organisational strategy</li> <li>Knowledge of and concern for environmental issues, especially climate change</li> </ul> <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expertise in finance and business planning, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>Expertise in Human Resources</li> <li>Expertise in communications, media and giving presentations</li> <li>Expertise in strategic campaigning, fundraising and alliance-building</li> <li>Experience within charity or not-for-profit environments</li> <li>Experience within government and/or commercial environments</li> <li>Wide network of contacts (which can be utilised for Operation Noah)</li> <li>Knowledge of the organisation’s history and ways of working</li> <li>Experience of local campaigning in other organisations</li> </ul> <p>The position is voluntary and does not carry any remuneration, but reasonable expenses will be paid.</p>
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES (assessed at the interview)
<p>Trustees should demonstrate the judgement and discrimination necessary to critique and appraise Operation Noah’s strategies and policies, while respecting the boundaries between governance and executive decision-making processes.</p> <p>They should be able to work collaboratively and supportively with the Chair and fellow Trustees, while exercising a proper objectivity in respect of the organisation’s strategies and plans.</p> <p>Trustees should also be able to demonstrate an awareness of the need to safeguard the integrity and public image of Operation Noah, and an ability to act as ambassadors for the organisation.</p>

### **What is the role of a trustee and what are the responsibilities?**

(See also

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/842041/CC3\\_may18.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842041/CC3_may18.pdf))

Trustees play a vitally important and challenging governance role in: determining strategy, monitoring progress and performance; ensuring the provision of sufficient resources; and

evaluating risks and opportunities. Below we set out the key purpose of the role and the responsibilities and tasks associated with it.

CORE PURPOSE OF THE ROLE
The core purpose of the role is to participate in the governance of Operation Noah, and, together with fellow Trustees, to oversee the work of Campaigners and any other staff of the organisation.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES & TASKS
<p>As a member of the Board, you will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● engage critically but constructively in the Board’s discussions and decision-making;</li> <li>● bring to bear your skills and experience across a range of the Board’s business;</li> <li>● serve, if required, on task groups;</li> <li>● lead discussions in board meetings, from time to time, on particular issues; and</li> <li>● become involved in specific projects to which your skills and experience are especially relevant.</li> </ul>

### **What is the time commitment and what are the duties required of a trustee?**

As a Trustee we need you to:

- attend all Board meetings if at all possible;
- play a full part in the work of any task groups; and
- work on specific issues or projects from time to time as agreed.

Board meetings take place approximately every two months. Meetings take place in London and are held on weekdays at a time and date identified as being most convenient for the majority of Board members. One meeting is a Supporters’ Day and AGM, usually held in June, and this may take place either in London or elsewhere (in past years it has been held in Oxford and in Birmingham). In addition, there may be a whole-day Strategy Review Day in the course of the year. Induction can be provided following appointment.

In addition to attending meetings you will need to make time to:

- read papers prior to each Board meeting and prepare to comment at the meeting;
- read and respond to emails from the Chair, other Board members and staff between meetings;
- lead discussions on particular issues from time to time, including liaising with staff and other Board members, depending on your specialist skills;
- attend occasional activists’ gatherings and other events; and
- undertake specific projects or responsibilities as agreed by the Board.

### **How to apply**

- Provide an up-to-date CV covering no more than two sides of A4
- Provide a personal statement of up to 500 words, explaining how your background and experience can meet our requirements

Please ensure that you submit your application via email to [admin@operationnoah.org](mailto:admin@operationnoah.org).

If you have any questions, please call us on +44 7804 059426 or email [admin@operationnoah.org](mailto:admin@operationnoah.org).