



**WSCF-E Staff and Officers' Meeting**  
 Swanwick, United Kingdom  
 4-8 February 2011



Twelve young leaders of Student Christian Movements (SCMs) from across Europe met in Swanwick, England in February 2011 for the annual WSCF-E staff and officers' meeting. The meeting allowed participants to share ideas and resources, as well as their successes, hopes and struggles within their SCMs.

The theme of the Staff and Officers' meeting, "What makes the ideal SCM event?", was explored through role play and group discussion. In addition, participants reported on the work of their SCM in 2010, and attended workshops on Fundraising, Student Needs, Ecumenical Worship, and Social Media.

**Still Small Voice**

The Staff and Officers' meeting was held alongside the SCM Britain annual conference, "Still Small Voice", on the theme of prayer. This was an opportunity for participants to experience and get inspired by a vibrant event organised by a flourishing SCM. WSCF-E were special guests at the conference, which was attended by over 150 delegates. Workshops and lectures at *Still Small Voice* explored prayer from a range of theological and social perspectives, from practical community building and activism to meditation and drumming. Workshops were led by Christians from a range of denominational backgrounds, including Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant. In a group evaluation of *Still Small Voice*, WSCF-E delegates noted the preparation, leadership, and scheduling needed to organise a national SCM event.



**What makes the ideal SCM event?**

Through an extended role-play, participants planned and presented three ideal SCM events. These included an event exploring the questions many students have about their future and vocation, a work-camp event renovating a disused building for use by SCMs and church groups, and a pro-actively inclusive conference welcoming Christians from all backgrounds. "This role-play inspired me to dream bigger dreams for my SCM," one participant said.

**What do Christian students need?**

One of the most pressing issues expressed at this year's meeting was finding a way to meet student's needs. A role-play exercise began with brain-storming the types of students attending university. These shaped the fictional, student characters to be enacted by half of the group. The other half prepared a presentation of a semester of programming offered by a fictitious SCM. After their presentation to the 'students' they were faced with many questions and criticisms from the perspective of typical students. Though some of the characters created were quite eccentric, the activity helped participants to evaluate what kinds of programs are offered to university students; how to clearly define their target audience and themselves as an organisation; and the importance of re-evaluating the work that they do to make sure they are actually working for the students today.

**Working together:**

"It was good to get to know how other people work and to know you aren't alone," one participant said. Having an opportunity to share successes and struggles is an important part of SCM staff development and is vital to building strong relationships and partnerships in the region.



**A special thanks to our donor who made this meeting possible:**

*Kerk in Actie*

