

Connexional Grants- Mission & Ministry in Britain Programmes

The Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) is committed to furthering mission both locally and globally through funding programmes to support community action, evangelism and improvement to the lives of people through care and social justice.

1. Current Open Funding Programmes

Connexional Property Grants

Size of grants available: up to £200,000

Who can apply? Trustees of Methodist Property.

The purpose of this grant programme is to contribute to the improvement or replacement of buildings where a wide range of church and community activities can take place in furtherance of mission. The impact must deliver lasting change beyond the life of the building project, and in particular should offer hospitality and space where people can come to know God or to grow in their Christian faith.

For further information and applications:

www.methodist.org.uk/mission/connexional-grants/what-do-we-fund/property

Mission & Ministry Grants, including Heritage

Size of grants available: no limit specified - within budget

Who can apply? Methodist and non-Methodist organisations in the UK.

The purpose of this grant programme is to support projects that will cross District boundaries and/or will benefit the wider Connexion and are thus deemed to be *Connexionally Significant*. They should also demonstrate that they are consistent with the call to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to living out that discipleship through learning and caring, service, worship and evangelism.

Heritage Grants (these grants have been amalgamated with Mission and Ministry)

Size of grants available: no limit specified - within budget

Who can apply? Trustees of Methodist Property.

The purpose of grants for Heritage projects is to support mission work that celebrates the heritage of the Methodist movement, encouraging us to reconnect, learn and relish our rich history and the significant contributions it has made to shaping the social and political landscape of Britain. Heritage projects should have wider community impact in terms of enabling people to explore the Christian faith, and should encourage sustainability of the building through visitor attraction and wide variety of uses to increase visitor numbers.

Heritage grants are not available for work that should be covered by a Property grant.

For further information and applications:

www.methodist.org.uk/mission/connexional-grants/what-do-we-fund/mission-and-ministry-including-heritage

Mission Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ, renamed from MAPP)

Size of grants available: up to 50% of total programme costs (subject to budget with a normal maximum of £50,000) Districts/Circuit are required to contribute 50% of the project cost

Who can apply? Districts, Circuits, and Managing Trustees.

The purpose of the grant programme is to support local projects to help those experiencing poverty and injustice in areas of relative deprivation, to enable individuals and communities to grow, motivated by a loving response. The programme may support people or property projects where they would not otherwise qualify for a grant.

For further information and applications:

Chaplaincy Grants

Size of grants available: up to two-thirds of the project cost; Districts/Circuits are required to contribute at least one third of the project cost

Who can apply? Districts and Circuits.

The purpose of the grant programme is to support chaplaincy across a number of services including the armed forces, education, healthcare, prisons, rural/agricultural and workplace contexts, where the institutions do not normally provide financial contributions.

For further information and applications:

www.methodist.org.uk/mission/connexional-grants/what-do-we-fund/chaplaincy

Please note that to qualify for consideration, any grant applications must demonstrate that the project meets the Assessment and/or Eligibility criteria contained in the links given above.

Application deadlines:

The Connexional Grants streams and sub-committees have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the CGC between scheduled meetings, which are currently convened twice yearly. They will consider qualifying applications for grants from the funds listed above up to £30k (subject to budget availability).

Application deadlines are: Any time during the Connexional year 2015-2016 (for grants up to £30,000)

The CGC and its delegates will consider all qualifying applications exceeding £30,000 according to these deadlines:

5 October 2016 (CGC meeting 18 November 2016)

2 March 2017 (CGC meeting 17 May 2017)

All grant applications and other communications relating to connexional grants should be sent to grants@methodistchurch.org.uk. Please do not send information to individual grants officers.

2. Connexional Priority Fund (CPF), Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF), and District Advance Fund (DAF)

[The table included as Appendix A](#) shows the estimated distribution of CPF and CMTF levies to each District Advance Fund. This is based on CPF incomes and CMTF levies balances as at the end of June 2016. The final outcomes will be available in September, following the end of the Connexional year.

The Circuit Contributions to DAFs are transferred automatically by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. The Districts are required by Standing Order 963 to submit an Annual DAF Report covering the previous connexional year to the Connexional Grants Committee **no later than 31 October 2016**. This must also include how reserves are managed. Receipt of the report by the Connexional Grants team will trigger the distribution of the CPF share, it will also enable the CGC to have a fuller picture of District finances, failure to return the DAF report and reserves policy in time may hinder the awarding of grants.

Templates are provided for this purpose and **must** be used:

[DAF report template](#)

[Reserves policy template](#)

The Conference requires Districts to have a reserves policy to demonstrate that they are complying with Charity Law, Charities Statement of Recommended Practice and good practice. This should be prepared in accordance with the Church's Standard Form of Accounts, which have been adopted by the Charity Commission for all Methodist charities. Guidelines have been produced for this and can be found at:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/standard-forms-of-accounts>

When completing the policy template please note the following:

- 1) The Reserves policy and funds relate to the accounting period ending 31 August 2016.
- 2) All balances should be included in the Reserves Policy. The District (day to day) Account should be shown

under *General Funds*. The *District Advance Fund* should be shown under *Restricted Funds*, together with any other funds which are restricted. These should also be identified separately.

3) Endowment funds are given for specific purposes.

4) The balance in the District Advance Fund should agree with the amount shown on the summary schedule.

5) In planning for the future, the amounts allocated should not exceed the balance in the District Advance Fund. Any transfers between funds should be made before the forms are submitted.

6) Although the Reserves Policy has to be agreed by Synod, agreement can be sought after the completed forms have been submitted to the CGC, which should not be delayed.

7) Before submitting the form, please ensure that the District Treasurer confirms their agreement to the information by signing and dating the form.

Please return completed forms to grants@methodistchurch.org.uk or, if you do not have access to email, by post to Connexional Grants – Support Services, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London. NW1 5JR.

3. Projects in Britain awarded Mission and Ministry Grants 2015-16

The CGC awarded £4.9 million in grants to Mission & Ministry projects (as I write we are considering two small grant applications which could use up the entirety of our budget). These included grants from the Fund for Property. [A summary showing the allocation of the awards is included at Appendix B.](#)

4. Monitoring & Evaluation of Mission and Ministry Grants

Where a connexional grant is awarded the grant recipients are required to submit an annual monitoring and evaluation report at the end of every Connexional year in which funding was received. This is to provide feedback to the CGC on the outputs and outcomes of projects and programmes to enable them to judge how effective the grant has been in furthering and sustaining mission. District Grants Officers will be sent a summary of grant recipients in their District and will be asked to complete a summary of each project for submission to the Connexional Grants team **no later than 30 September 2016**.

5. District Grants Officers contact list

We are grateful for the ongoing work of the District Grants Officers. If you have recently completed your term of office, or are newly appointed to the role, we would ask you to ensure that details we have for your District are current. If you notify the helpdesk at Methodist Church House your details will be updated :

helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk

6. Chair of Connexional Grants Committee

Helen Woodall is the current Chair of the CGC for a 3-6 year term of office which began on 1 September 2014. Helen is heavily involved with Birmingham District and has been an active member of various Connexional Committees.

We look forward to working with you over the next Connexional Year. We would encourage you to provide feedback on any aspect of the grants making process. This will help us to improve the service we provide.

Every blessing,
Yours sincerely,

Julian Bond
Connexional Grants Team Leader