

33. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Contact name and details	Edward A L Wallace General Secretary and non-official trustee
Resolutions	33/1. The Conference receives the Report. 33/2. The Conference approves the actions proposed in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.5 of the Report.

1. **Legal**

- 1.1 The fund is governed by a Deed of Trust registered in the books of the Lords and Council and Session at Edinburgh on 4 November 1869. The Deed narrates resolutions of the Conference of 1869 as to the raising, administration and purposes of the Fund. (See Standing Order 476 for further information).

The purposes of the said Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland should be as follows: -

- (1) The liquidation of debts yet remaining on Methodist Churches, Chapels or Manses in Scotland or debts that may yet be contracted with the sanction of the connexional property committee,
- (2) The purchase or erection of new or additional places of worship and of sites for such objects, and
- (3) The acquisition of Manses or investment of money to meet house rents thus making provision for the residences of ordained ministers where at present only Probationers are stationed and from time to time in other places as occasion may arise.

2. **Administration**

- 2.1 The means of Aid is by way of Grants and/or interest free loans but no funds can be allocated unless the Project requires approval under the Methodist Church Property Consents Procedure, sanctioned and approved by the District Consents Panel and, where appropriate, the Connexional Conservation Officer. Where a grant has been made it remains refundable if the property is subsequently sold.
- 2.2 The present Trustees are:
OFFICIAL: The Revd S Mark Slaney – Synod Chair; The Revd Dr Helen E Jenkins – Ministerial Synod Secretary; The Revd Allan Y Loudon – District Ministerial Property Secretary and the Revd Nicholas B Baker – District Home Mission.

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NON-OFFICIAL: Dr Alan J Hayes; Mr David A Easson; Mr Edward A L Wallace (General Secretary and Treasurer); and Miss Maureen G Anderson.

The General Committee consists of the Trustees, General Secretary and Treasurer, the District Lay Property Secretary – Mr Phillip A Haggis, the Superintendent Ministers of every Circuit and Mrs Margaret Brown, Mrs Jenny Easson and Mr Peter Mills as the present Synod-nominated lay members.

3. **Financial**

3.1 The incoming resources of the Fund for the year was £55,185 (2019 £22,388). The increase over the previous year was mainly due to grant repayments from the proceeds of sale from grant aided properties.

3.2 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was an increase of £24,617 (2019 £ increase £8,210).

3.3 During the year one new application for Aid was considered by the General Committee and approved.

Grants previously approved paid out totalling £Nil (2019 £5,250).

Grants approved and paid out this year totalled £13,500 (2019 £4,875).

Loans previously approved paid out totalling £Nil (2019 £1,750).

Loans approved and paid out this year totalled £4,500 (2019 £1,625)

3.4 The General Fund balance at 31 December 2018 (£12,335.37) was allocated to the Surplus Funds capital Fund as noted by Synod and consented to by Conference 2019. The General Fund balance at 31 December 2019 (£11,740.16) was allocated to the Loan Account as noted by Synod and consented to by the 2020 Conference.

3.5 After some years of deliberation with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, on 1 March 2020, our investments in the CFB Mixed Managed Fund were split into an Endowed Capital Fund and Surplus Funds capital Fund reflecting the intention of the original Scottish Trust set up in 1869.

3.6 Balances at 31 December 2020:

General Fund £9,520 (2019 £24,075),

Grant Fund £72,991 (2019 £47,493), recoverable grants £350,492 (2019 £388,256), and

Loan Account £41,600 (2019 £27,925), outstanding loans £23,459 (2019 £23,900).

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The overall Fund value at 31 December 2020 was £377,677 (2019 £337,440).

4. **Grants**

There was one Grant approved and paid during the year:
East Kilbride Methodist Church £13,500

5. **Loans**

One loan was approved and paid during the year:
East Kilbride Methodist Church £4,500

6. **General**

- 6.1 In 2016 after undertaking a review of the methodology surrounding the allocation of Circuit subscriptions [which replaced the previous subscription and annual church collection scheme at their request] it was proposed by the Trustees and agreed by the General Committee that future calculations would be based on circuit membership and number of model trust properties in the District.
- 6.2 Due to the sudden appearance of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 the General Committee requested Conference 2020 to consent to the temporary suspension of the Circuit Subscription for the connexional year 2020/2021. Consent having been received a Nil Notice of Subscriptions for the connexional year 2020/21 was despatched to Circuit Treasurers. As the financial year for the Fund bridges two connexional years the General Committee seeks consent from the 2021 Conference for a second year subscription suspension for the connexional year 2021/2022.
- 6.3 Loan instalments are collected half-yearly in May and November.
- 6.4 Although, in the event it did not again materialise this year, the General Committee propose that if there are insufficient immediate funds to satisfy approved applications for Aid then sufficient funds be transferred from the Surplus Funds capital fund, to meet that need from the sale of Units in that trust held on behalf of the Fund by TMCP.
- 6.5 After consideration by the Trustees and General Committee, they advised the Synod to note their proposal in respect of the allocation of the 2020 General Receipts balance (£9,519.68) as at 31 December 2020. This proposal was noted by the Synod and requires the consent of the Conference.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 33/1. The Conference receives the Report.**
- 33/2. The Conference approves the actions proposed in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.5 of the Report.**