

## Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2015

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<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	For information.
<b>Draft Resolutions</b>	102/1. The Council receives the report.
<b>Alternative Options to Consider, if Any</b>	None

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the connexional year 2014-2015
<b>Main Points</b>	The allocation of resources made available by the Conference to further Mission and Discipleship in Britain and the World Church through connexional grant making.
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	Review of Mission Alongside the Poor Programme MC/14/6  Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) Policy Review MC/14/84  Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) World Church Grants MC/15/39

## Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2015

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) including its sub-committees and subsidiary streams is appointed annually by the Council in accordance with Standing Order 213B to manage the grant making process.
- 1.2 This report includes summary overviews of Mission in Britain (MiB) and World Church grants budgets, applications received and awarded in the connexional year. The Mission in Britain Fund was under-spent by 42% (952,000); mainly due to unsuccessful larger grant applications and only a single application being received for the grants available from a designated pot for Chinese-speaking communities within Britain. When the Fund for Property is included to give a full picture of funding in Britain the figures are 44% underspent and £1.86 million unallocated. These uncommitted monies will be used in the 2015/16 Connexional Central Services Budget cycle to determine grant-making budgets from 2016/17 onwards.
- 1.3 Prompted by the changes in Standing Orders in 2014 that made the Council responsible for CGC policy, internal and external audit findings that called for more clarity and consistency in CGC processes and changes in committee membership, a thorough and ongoing review of CGC policies is underway. A CGC policy paper (MC/14/84) was presented to the October 2014 Council, considering primarily MiB grants. A partner paper (MC/15/39) was presented to the April Council looking at World Church Grants.

### 2.0 Grants budget allocation 2014-2015

- 2.1 Mission in Britain (MiB) Fund (including Mission Alongside the Poor) – the budget agreed by the Conference was £2,282,000 as follows:

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2014/15 (£)	2013/14 (£)
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000
MiB (inc Mission Alongside the Poor)	1,590,000	762,223
MiB Fund – Chinese Ministry (ring-fenced)	442,000	465,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,282,000</b>	<b>£1,577,223</b>

- 2.2 Fund for Property – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£1,900,000**.
- 2.3 World Mission Fund – the budget agreed by the Conference was £1,800,000 as follows:

World Mission Fund	2014/15 (£)	2013/14 (£)
General Grants	400,000	332,400
World Church Rolling Grants	100,000	142,600
Scholarship and Leadership Training	500,000	500,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	800,000	1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>£1,975,000</b>

### 3.0 Mission and Ministry in Britain including fund for property

The table below shows the number and value of grants applications received and awarded in the connexional year:

Funding Streams	Budget	Number of applications received	Total value of grant applications received	Total value of grants awarded	% of total available	Total value of grants declined	Total number of grants awarded
	£	No.	£	£	%	£	No.
Mission in Britain Fund	1,590,000	26	2,606,737	1,279,431	80%	1,200,706	21
Epworth	250,000			5,000	2%		1
Ring-fenced funds for Chinese Ministry	442,000	1	45,000	45,000	10%	0	1
The fund for Property	1,900,000	31	2,657,800	994,800	52%	1,476,000	18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,182,000</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5,309,537</b>	<b>2,324,231</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>2,676,706</b>	<b>41</b>

3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** There were four grants exceeding £100,000. These ranged from just under £115,000 to £210,000 and were for projects totalling £623,500. These were:

- ongoing youth work by the YMCA in partnership with Edinburgh circuit
- the Holy Biscuit
- educational chaplaincies in Leeds and Newcastle.

3.2 **Property Grants** The maximum Connexional Property grant is £200,000. Two churches were awarded a grant exceeding £100,000, with 16 grants below £100,000. A large number of the projects aim at improving facilities within their churches to provide flexible spaces, improved heating, lighting, sound, and reduce costs through energy efficient systems such as better insulation, double glazing. There are considerable variations in the amounts sought for property grants as churches may have raised funds locally, obtained funding from other sources, or a large proportion of their development budget is funded from the rationalisation and disposal of surplus property assets.

Analysis of property grants awarded by District:

District	Grant Award £	Nr. of projects funded	Value of award as a % of the budget (rounded)	Nr. of Applications submitted
Synod Cymru				0
Wales Synod	30,000	1		2
Birmingham	307,400	3		3
Bolton and Rochdale				0
Bristol	30,000	1		1
Cumbria				0
Channel Islands	200,000	1		1

District	Grant Award £	Nr. of projects funded	Value of award as a % of the budget (rounded)	Nr. of Applications submitted
Chester and Stoke	35,000	1		1
Cornwall				0
Darlington		0		2
East Anglia	30,000	1		1
Isle of Man				0
Leeds	134,400	2		3
Lincolnshire	50,000	1		3
Liverpool				0
Manchester and Stockport		0		1
Newcastle	50,000	2		3
Lancashire				0
Nottingham and Derby				0
Plymouth and Exeter	20,000	1		1
Northampton		0		1
Sheffield		0		1
Southampton	5,000	1		1
West Yorkshire	30,000	1		1
Wolverhampt on and Shrewsbury	30,000	1		1
York and Hull				0
Scotland	30,000	1		1
Shetland				0
Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire		0		2
London				0
South East		0		1

11 Districts did not submit any applications. Birmingham District submitted the most applications.

3.3 **MiB Budget underspend** The table above shows significant underspend of budget. In total 29% of the mission and ministry budget was unallocated (this compares to 40% last year). In particular:

3.3.1 £397,000 relates to the ring-fenced fund for Chinese Ministry. The balance of the grant to support Chinese Ministry rolls over from the previous year until it is expended or is no longer required. Members of the CGC and the streams have engaged with those involved in and supporting Chinese Ministry to explore how this money can be utilised to grow and sustain work with Chinese Methodist congregations in the Connexion.

3.3.2 There was an underspend of just over £900,000 in the Fund for Property. This was mainly due to larger applications being incomplete or not sufficiently focused. Several applicants have been encouraged to resubmit their applications.

3.4 **Grant allocation policy** The CGC continues to award grants based on the evidence given in individual applications and how far they are assessed to fulfil the grants criteria rather than trying to spend all the money available.

### 3.5 **Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants for 2015-16**

- The Mission and Ministry stream now includes Heritage, the grant application form has been revised to take account of this.
- Following discussion at the October Council the guidance re the definition of 'connexional significance' has been updated and clarified on grant application forms.
- Amendments have also been made to the Chaplaincy form, including incorporating reference to "Chaplaincy Everywhere" and taking the focus away from HE/FE involvement by adding a section where applicants can state a range of locations where the chaplaincy will be based. There is currently no Monitoring and Evaluation for Chaplaincy, as there is for other streams, and this needs to be developed.
- Online property grants - information from the consents site is now directly linked to property applications. Once this is fully-functioning, together with online application assessment, work can begin on other grant applications being web-based as well.

## 4.0 **World Mission Fund Grants**

4.1 The table below shows the number and value of grants applications received and awarded in the connexional year. The overall trend in expenditure of grants from the World Mission Fund is fairly consistent across five connexional years (2010 – 2015), although the NMA budget was £200,000 less this year. The World Mission Fund grants support the training of students from Partner Churches, the post of a national of the partner church to undertake strategic mission work for the church, the general functioning of the church or partner organisation, and respond to unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment etc.

<b>Funding Streams</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total value of grant applications received</b>	<b>Grants expenditure</b>	<b>% of total available</b>	<b>Total Value of Grants declined</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£</b>
General Grants	400,000	406,786	406,786	102	0
Annual Rolling Grants	100,000	118,000	83,300	83	24,700
Scholarship and Leadership Training	500,000	914,192	486,100	97	428,092
National Mission Appointments	800,000	1,126,358	801,758	100	324,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>		<b>1,777,844</b>	<b>99</b>	

4.2 During the year a new strategic approach to World Church Grants was presented to the Council (MC/15/39). This included:

- a revised SALT policy
- seeing how a more coherent and consistent approach to grant giving might be achieved by bringing together the Nationals in Mission Appointments(NMA) and General Grants streams
- reviewing partnerships with partner churches, including their level of dependency on MCB funding.

The outcome of these proposals is being trialled for 2015-16 as follows:

- The combination of the NMA and General Grants streams will result in a transition period regarding workload, processes and timetable. This will be particularly noticeable in the number of applications, which could potentially be very high by June 2016.
- Moving towards regional specialism in the Grants streams.
- A review of the new arrangements will take place as part of the two day World Church Subcommittee meeting in mid-November.

## **5.0 Ongoing work to review Connexional Grants**

- 5.1 In response to the internal and statutory audit reports and new committee chairs assuming responsibility for the work, a review of CGC's processes has been underway, eg redesigning forms and ensuring applicants are given clear guidance on the evidence and the criteria to be used for assessing applications.
- 5.2 A wider discussion about the use of the World Mission Fund and the grants programmes it funds has also been initiated through a strategy paper prepared by the World Church Partnership Team leader which is the subject of ongoing discussions at the Senior Leadership Group of the Connexional Team, the Strategy and Resources Committee and, later in the year, the Council.
- 5.3 During the year the CGC initiated a review, as instructed by the Council, of the Mission Alongside the Poor programme (MAPP), recommendations are due to be presented to the

2016 Conference. The review will include work on changing the terms of reference for MAPP. The first step was a technical/internal review report to the CGC in May, currently being followed by a wider dialogue this autumn with the aim of bringing a report to the Council in January 2016.

- 5.4 SO 213B(6)(iv), (vii) and (viii) require the CGC to monitor and evaluate grants expenditure, this is carried out via the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Dissemination Group (MELD). During the year the Terms of Reference for MELD were reviewed and MELD's purpose confirmed as to examine what has been achieved and not achieved when a project grant has been given. However further work is needed to improve the MELD processes particularly sharing the learning from successful innovative projects and the reasons why good ideas have not translated into successful projects.

## **6. Staffing and committee members**

- 6.1 For much of the year, due to staff illness, the grants team was without a team leader and the two grants officers worked hard to maintain administration of the grants service. Julian Bond was appointed as Grants Team Leader at the beginning of July.
- 6.2 A number of CGC stream members have completed their term of office and thanks are expressed to them and particularly to the Revds Andrew Farrington, Ian Morris, Graeme Halls, Richard Clutterbuck and Mrs Elaine Robinson who served as stream chairs.
- 6.3 Thanks are also expressed to the volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams. In 2014-15 stream members have given additional time to participate in induction sessions and share in discussions to revise the grant forms and improve the grants processes.

## **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

### **102/1. The Council receives the report.**