

47. Connexional Allowances Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES 2008-09

These recommendations are those of the Connexional Allowances Committee and take into account the resolutions of the Stipends Review Report in the Conference of 2002.

1. Standard Stipend

In accordance with the Conference resolution of 2003, the annual increase in standard stipend consists of the increase in the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest (RPIX), plus 50% of the amount by which the Average Earnings Index (AEI) exceeds the RPIX.

The RPIX rose from 197.4 in December 2006 to 203.5 in December 2007, an increase of 3.1%. The Average Earnings Index rose by 4.0% from October 2006 to October 2007. It is therefore recommended that for the year commencing 1st September 2008, the basic stipend be £19,248, an increase of 3.55%.

2. Additional Allowances 2008-2009

The following allowances are applied for ministers:

President of the Conference's allowance	Any existing allowance or 25% of standard stipend, whichever is the greater.
General Secretary/Secretary of Conference's allowance	30% of standard stipend
Separated District Chair's allowance	25% of standard stipend
Synod Secretary's allowance	5% of standard stipend
Superintendent's allowance	7½% of standard stipend
Principal of a Training Institution	25% of standard stipend
Staff member of a Training Institution	20% of standard stipend
Connexional Team Secretary's allowance	30% of standard stipend
Other ministers serving the Team or stationed in appointments within the control of the Methodist Council	20% of standard stipend

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The above results in the following allowances for 2008-2009:

	£
President of the Conference	4,812
General Secretary/Secretary of Conference	5,774
Separated District Chair	4,812
Synod Secretary	962
Superintendent	1,444
Principal of a Training Institution	4,812
Staff member of a Training Institution	3,850
Connexional Team Secretary	5,774
Other ministers serving the Team or stationed in appointments within the control of the Methodist Council	3,850

3. Relocation Allowance

Tax free allowance payable by the receiving Circuit or other Connexional body to ministers and deacons upon moving manse

£500

4. Travel Allowances

The Committee recommends that the rates as prescribed by H M Revenue & Customs be adopted. If any alternative mileage rates exceeding those allowed by the appropriate tax authority are paid locally then it is necessary for this income to be declared to the tax authority and tax relief sought.

The recommended rates are:

Cars

For Essential Car Users*

First 10,000 miles in any fiscal year	40.0 p per mile
Additional miles beyond the first 10,000 miles	25.0 p per mile

* This refers to presbyters and deacons (probationers and those in full connexion) serving in appointments within the control of the Methodist Church, and lay employees where the use of a car is specified in the job description as essential to the performance of their duties.

For others (including supernumeraries, presbyters and deacons in appointments which are not in the control of the Church but who are doing Methodist Church business, and other lay employees in the Church)

The lower of the above rates 25.0 p per mile

Motorcycles

The approved HMRC rate of 24.0 p per mile

Bicycles

The approved HMRC rate of 20.0 p per mile

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Additional Passenger Rate

The approved HMRC rate of 5.0 p per mile

Travel Allowance during sickness

Grant payable (taxable) £280

NB The HM Revenue & Customs mileage reimbursement rates are applicable from 6th April 2008. All other allowances are effective from 1st September 2008. Any future changes to the HMRC approved rates will be implemented straightaway without formal Conference approval.

5. Preaching Fees and Expenses: Supernumeraries

In line with the requirements of Conference supernumeraries must be offered a minimum preaching fee and travel allowance (as above). The Committee recommends the following:

Preaching fee	£24	(increased in line with the increase in the level of standard stipend)
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6. Lay Employees Recommended Minimum Hourly Rates

The Committee recommends the following, based upon the Church Action on Poverty Living Wage:

Outside London	£7.37 per hour
Within London	£7.86 per hour

This rate will be increased at 1st September each year in line with the average of the increases in the Retail Price Index (RPI) and the Average Earnings Index (AEI).

*****RESOLUTION**

47/1. The Conference adopts the Report.