

Administering the Extraordinary Property Fund - Transfer to the Connexional Grants Committee of the responsibility for making recommendations for grants from Trust 17a and consequential operational changes

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolution	<p>19/1. The Council receives the report.</p> <p>19/2. The Council delegates its functions under Trust 17A, Extraordinary Property Fund, to the Connexional Grants Committee.</p>

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	The trust deed of Trust 17A, the “Extraordinary Property Fund” is available for churches to undertake work on their properties in cases where other funds are not available or appropriate. The Report proposes that the Council delegate to the Connexional Grants Committee responsibility for advising on what grants and loans should be made from Trust 17A.
Main Points	<p>Trust 17A was established to provide for churches to undertake work on their properties whose projects cannot be supported by the major sources of property funding.</p> <p>The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes hold the trust fund and are meant to act upon the advice of the Property Division as to how the fund is distributed.</p> <p>It is proposed that Council exercises its responsibility for administering Trust 17A by authorising the Connexional Grants Committee to act on its behalf in this respect.</p>
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The Extraordinary Property Fund was established by Conference in 1992.
Consultations	TMCP

Summary of Impact

Financial	Ensures that fund is distributed in accordance with the resolution of the 1992 Conference.
Wider Connexional	Wider availability of grant funding for property projects.

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Introduction

1. This paper originates from a request by TMCP regarding the use of the Extraordinary Property Fund (Trust 17A) and which body has the authority to make recommendations about how the fund is distributed. This Fund was established by the Conference in 1992, by the passing of the resolution: "The Conference directs that £400,000 of the monies received by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes for the expenses of administration and which the Trustees have judged to be surplus to their needs shall be employed to create a fund to be disbursed on the advice of the Property Division for grants or loans in special property cases where the normal sources of aid are not available or adequate, or because a scheme is not eligible for them or because of the scale of liability imposed on the church, or because of some other unusual feature of the scheme." The fund is held in Trust by TMCP, earning a small amount of interest each year, and has a current market value of £112,174.
2. Until the Conference of 2006 the Connexional Property Committee was responsible for giving this advice on behalf of the Property Division, but the Connexional Property Committee, and the Property Division, have now ceased to exist. The 2006 Conference resolved in accordance with section 24 of the Methodist Church Act 1976 that the Methodist Council would be the corresponding body for the abolished Property Division. The Council therefore exercise all functions of the former Property Division. The Council has never authorised another body to exercise its function to advise on grants and loans that should be made from Trust 17A.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that in order to ensure appropriate authority is in place for the body making decisions in respect of Trust 17A, the Council delegates responsibility for exercising the Council's functions in respect of Trust 17A to the Connexional Grants Committee.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

19/1. The Council receives the report.

19/2. The Council delegates its functions under Trust 17A, Extraordinary Property Fund, to the Connexional Grants Committee.