

49 How to deal with offerings for external organisations

As part of our local Christian activities we pray for and take up offerings for those in need around the world. The following guidance may be helpful:

- local Churches can make **donations** to other charitable bodies
- gifts can be sent following **special collections** for those in need
- a **suitable announcement** is needed so that people know what their offering is to be used for
- the money given is **restricted** to the purpose for which it is given
- treasurers should **record** this money **separately** in the accounts preferably using a brief but separate Receipts and Payments account
- otherwise these monies must be clearly **distinguished**
- it is good practice to **send** off all such money to the beneficiary as soon as possible after receipt, and preferably before the year end
- **if** money is **held temporarily** in a bank account before it is sent to the beneficiary any interest accrued is also restricted to the same purpose

INVESTMENTS

This section outlines:

- guidance for investing local Church funds (50)
 - the role of TMCP (51)
 - the role of the CFB (52)
 - the role of the MCA (53)
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50 Guidance for investing local Church funds

Managing trustees have a general responsibility for the good stewardship of the assets of the church. Any cash resources not immediately required for Church purposes should be prudently invested.

Many local Churches maintain an account with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) using the Deposit Fund for surplus funds which may be required in the foreseeable future.

Where the local Church has surplus monies or reserves (built up over a period) **managing trustees must decide how to invest them**. The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is able to provide advice to managing trustees, and itself offers a range of investments, both short and longer term.

The following must be invested through the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes:

All Model Trust Monies requiring investment, including

- Model Trust Bequests
- Building Funds
- Development Funds
- Proceeds of Sale

In the end the Church Council (or, any other trustee body) has sole responsibility for making investment decisions and for obtaining the best terms and rates available and appropriate for the Church's requirements.

Managing trustees will want to give consideration to the wide choice of investment available through the CFB. Treasurers should consider contacting the CFB before making arrangements to invest the funds

The managing trustees may decide to invest the funds elsewhere e.g. by way of investments with other bodies or on the stock market. That kind of decision should always be taken with appropriate professional advice.

The instruction to make an investment either with the CFB or elsewhere should be passed to the Finance Officer of TMCP who will then place the funds in the chosen CFB fund or give appropriate instructions through a broker if the investment is to be held elsewhere.

51 The role of the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP)

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes is a charitable body incorporated by the Methodist Church Act 1939.

TMCP is **custodian** trustee of, and holds the legal title to, most Methodist property, including Methodist chapels. The Church Council are the **managing** trustees.

Any monies subject to the Model Trusts requiring investment must be invested through, and in the name of the custodian trustee (TMCP). This includes all sale proceeds of Methodist property and other capital monies, including Model Trust bequests. When a chapel or manse is sold the proceeds go into the Circuit Model Trust Fund, of which the Circuit Meeting are the managing trustees. All such monies must be applied for the purposes set out in Standing Orders.

Money raised for a building project, which will not be required immediately, should also be invested through TMCP as custodian trustee. The money will be available upon request by the local Church for the scheme.

In the cases of each of the island Districts there is a separate custodian trustee:-

Jersey - Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes

Guernsey - Trustees for Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes

Isle of Man - Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes

each with the same essential functions as TMCP, the custodian for property in England, Wales, Scotland and Shetland.