

Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2020

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For information.
Resolution	116/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the connexional year 2019/20
Main Points	The allocation of resources made available by the Conference to further Mission and Discipleship in Britain and the World Church through connexional grant making.

Connexional Grants Committee Annual Report for year ended 31 August 2020

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. This report includes summary overviews of Mission and Ministry in Britain and World Church grants budgets, applications received and grants awarded in the connexional year 2019/20.
- 1.2 From a budget of **£2.36 million** for Mission and Ministry in Britain grants, **£730,274** has been awarded because grant-giving was suspended before the spring grant allocations, including the annual amount set aside for property grants, could be awarded because of the coronavirus pandemic
- 1.3 From a budget of **£4.08 million** for World Mission grants, **£3.79 million** has been awarded. The budget was increased by £650,000 to enable COVID grants to be given to all partner churches, if needed.
- 1.4 The CGC has continued to work closely with the connexional Finance team and auditors to refine and document payment processes and introduce additional rigour in grant-making controls.
- 1.5 The Mission and Ministry in Britain budget for 2020/21 approved by the Conference is **£nil**, due to the suspension of grant-giving as part of the review of all connexional expenditure as a response to loss of income due to the coronavirus.
- 1.6 The World Mission grants budget for 2020/21 is **£2.15 million**.

2.0 Grants budgets 2019/20

- 2.1 **Mission and Ministry in Britain** – the budget agreed by the 2019 Methodist Conference was **£2.36 million**. The following table show the annual grants budgets, by fund, over a three-year period.

Table 1

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2019/20 (£)	2018/19 (£)	2017/18 (£)
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000
Mission in Britain Fund*	1,350,000	1,500,000	2,200,000
Connexional Priority Fund (CPF)	250,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Fund for Property	500,000	1,000,000	1,900,000
Barratt Fund	n/a	n/a	56,000
Luton Fund	9,500	n/a	48,000
Total	2,359,500	£3,750,000	£5,454,000

* A ring-fenced amount (£145,000) is held within the MiB grants budget for Chinese ministry projects. [No Chinese ministry applications were received in autumn 2019]

- 2.2 **World Church grants** – the budget agreed by the 2019 Methodist Conference was **£3.58 million**. The following table shows the annual grants budget, by grant type.

Table 2

World Mission Fund	2019/20	2018/19 (£)	2017/18 (£)
Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT)	508,157	536,200	300,000
General Grants	900,000	250,000	250,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	846,091	993,157	900,000
Annual Grants	1,820,752	1,664,668	2,170,000
Total	4,075,000	3,444,045	3,620,000

3.0 Mission and Ministry in Britain, including Fund for Property

Tables 3 and 4 below show the number and value of grant applications received and awarded in 2019/20 and 2018/19 (NB – grants awarded from the CPF include both property and non-property projects.) Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of grant awards by District. 75 applications were received during 2019/20 (121 in 2018/19).

Table 3: 2019/20

Funds	Budget	Requests	Awards	Budget %	Declined	Not awarded[^]
	£	£	£	%	£	
MiB	1,350,000	5,265,760	578,839	43%	2,820,725	1,732,761
Epworth	250,000		133,435	53%		
CPF	250,000					
Other*	9,500					
Property	500,000	2,161,000		0%	571,000	1,590,000
Totals	2,359,500	7,426,760	712,274	30%	3,391,725	3,322,761

[^] Otherwise successful applications but grants were not awarded due to suspension of grant-giving

*Luton (Mission and Ministry) and Barratt (Property in Chester and Stoke District)

Table 4: 2018/19

Fund	Budget	Requests	Awards	Budget %	Declined
	£	£	£	%	£
MiB	1,500,000	5,148,850	1,560,352	104%	3,367,998
Epworth	250,000		220,500	88%	
CPF	1,000,000		961,050	96%	
Property	1,000,000	5,482,897	1,000,000	100%	3,749,397
Totals	3,750,000	10,631,747	3,741,902	99.8%	7,117,395

£145,000 will be carried over for future Chinese ministry grants.

- 3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** One grant of £100,000 or more was awarded during 2019/20 (four in 2018/19); this was £110,435 to Bastion Tabletop Gaming Ministry.
- 3.2 **Property Grants** 22 applications totalling £2,161,000 were received but no grants were awarded.
- 3.3 **Grant allocation policy** The CGC continued to award grants based on the evidence given in individual applications and an assessment of how they fulfil the grant criteria.

3.4 **Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ)** Six MAPJ grants were awarded totalling £265,000, no Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt centres were funded; this compares with 26 grants, including five CAP debt centres or job clubs, totalling £800,000 in 2018/19).

4.0 Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants during 2019/20

4.1 A review of connexional grant-giving was carried out during the year. Future grant-giving will be driven by *God For All: The Connexional strategy for evangelism and growth*. Under *God For All* applications for connexional funding will be jointly developed by districts and Evangelism and Growth staff. The current application process has therefore come to an end. Legacy work (ongoing payments of committed grants and monitoring processes) will continue and grants staff will be reorganised within the Connexional Team.

4.2 No property grants were awarded during the year. It was originally intended to have one round of property grants but this was impacted by the decision to suspend grant-giving in the spring.

5.0 World Mission Fund grants

5.1 The tables below show the value of grant applications received and awarded, by grant type, in 2019/20 and 2018/19. Grants from the World Mission Fund support the training of students from partner churches (SALT), the post of a national of the partner church to do strategic mission work for the Church (NMA), the general functioning of the Church or partner organisation (Annual), and respond to unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment, etc (General).

Table 5: 2019/20 [as at 10/8/20]

Grant Streams	Budget	Awards	% of total budget
	£	£	%
SALT	508,157	651,480	128%
General Grants	900,000	729,633	81%
Nationals in Mission Appointments	846,091	856,097	101%
Annual Grants	1,820,752	1,591,496	87%
Totals	4,075,000	3,828,706	94%

Table 6: 2018/19

Grant Streams	Budget	Awards	% of total budget
	£	£	%
SALT	536,200	796,329	149%
General Grants	250,000	238,936	96%
Nationals in Mission Appointments	993,157	993,157	100%
Annual Grants	1,664,668	1,415,623	85%
Totals	3,444,045	3,444,045	100%

5.2 Work has begun on reimagining Global grants, in parallel with the changed approach for British grants. A survey of partner churches is currently taking place which seeks their response to questions aimed at working more closely in partnership and avoiding colonial approaches to awarding funding.

6.0 MELD (Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Dissemination)

6.1 The World MELD group is currently reviewing selected SALT grants to determine whether those who have received training (largely Masters and PhD programmes) have continued in leadership and

theological education roles in their churches. This work is being carried out in partnership with Cognitive Edge who have designed an innovative online survey to capture qualitative answers.

- 6.2 The British MELD group have continued to highlight learning that can be shared throughout the Connexion. Grants staff have worked closely with the One Mission Engagement Officer (this position has now been made redundant) and the Media team to share and develop good news stories.

7.0 Grants Policy

- 7.1 The CGC's policy setting out the limits for reclaiming property grants and a revised Standing Order (SO 916) was agreed by the 2020 Conference.

8. Staffing and committee members

- 8.1 Thanks are expressed to the volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams.

- 8.2 Special thanks are expressed to those whose term of office ended during 2019/20, this includes the members of the Mission and Ministry and Property streams for British grants:

- Mr Bala Gnanapragasam (CGC)
- The Revd Richard W Thompson (British MELD)
- Mr Hans E Njoh, Mr Stephen Duckworth, The Revd Dr John A Illsley, the Revd Patrick Kandeh, the Revd Allan Y Loudon, Mr Brian Park, the Revd G Ian Yates, Mr Joshua Orme, the Revd Dr Andrew H Lyons, Mr Jonathan Simms (Mission and Ministry in Britain stream)
- The Revd Beverley D Boden (Convenor), the Revd Nicholas C Bentley, Mr Peter Taylor, (Property stream)

- 8.3 The CGC is especially appreciative of the leadership of the Revd Bev Boden (property stream) and Claire Boxall (mission and ministry stream).

- 8.4 The CGC is also extremely appreciative of the hard work and professionalism of Grants staff who have been affected both by the coronavirus lockdown and the impact of grants process redesign.

*****RESOLUTION**

116/1. The Council receives the report.

Appendix 1 – Ministry and Mission in Britain Grants, excluding Property

District	Awards £	Grants	Applications	Budget %
Beds, Essex, Herts	125,000	2	3	18%
Birmingham	131,000	2	3	18%
Bolton & Rochdale	0	0	1	
Bristol	40,000	1	2	6%
Channel Islands				
Chester & Stoke				
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly				
Cumbria				
Darlington	23,000	1	1	3%
East Anglia				
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	40,000	1	1	6%
Lincolnshire	35,000	1	1	5%
Liverpool	0	0	1	
London				
Manchester & Stockport	190,274	3	5	27%
Newcastle	0	0	2	
Northampton	18,000	1	2	3%
Nottingham & Derby	80,000	1	1	11%
Plymouth & Exeter	0	0	1	
Scotland				
Sheffield	0	0	2	
Shetland				
South East	0	0	4	
Southampton				
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	30,000	1	1	4%
Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury	0	0	1	
Yorkshire North & East	0	0	2	
Yorkshire West	0	0	3	
Totals	712,274	14	37	100%