

Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2017

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	For information.
Draft Resolutions	111/1. The Council receives the report.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the connexional year 2016-2017
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.
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	MC/17/50 Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) Policy Review and Process Update

Connexional Grants Committee Annual report for year ended 31 August 2017

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 and World Church grants budgets, applications received and awarded in the connexional year. Setting aside funding for Chinese work in Britain, from a budget allocation of £5,228,000 for Mission in Britain grants, £4,992,318 has been awarded. There were more funds remaining in the budgets at the end of this connexional year compared to last year largely due to applications of lower quality and concerns about non-Methodist applications (many of which were rejected or reduced). The World Mission Grants budget was £2,642,000 of which £2,514,650 has been awarded.
- 1.3 The CGC has continued to work closely with the connexional Finance Team and auditors to refine and document processes and introduce additional rigour in grant-making, particularly in ensuring that annual grant payments are not made where all conditions are not met. Annual grant payments are consistently put on hold when monitoring and evaluation reports have not been received.
- 1.4 An initial grants policy paper (MC/17/50) was presented to the Council outlining in full existing grants criteria and policies. In response the Council commissioned a small working group to develop a full grants policy paper for the CGC. This policy paper will address a number of issues raised by the auditors and enable them to be signed off. The remaining issues will be addressed by the introduction of a MELD function for World Church grants in 2017/18.
- 1.5 The number of applications dealt with has again grown this year, increasing from 112 to 117. The amounts requested increased from £9.5m to £10.4m. Applications have continued to arrive in the last few weeks of the connexional year though these will be included in next year's figures.

2.0 Grants budget allocation 2016/17

- 2.1 Mission and Ministry in Britain – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£5,625,000**:

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)	2014/15 (£)
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000
Mission in Britain Fund	2,400,000	1,620,000	1,590,000
Connexional Priority Fund (CPF)	1,375,000	1,641,000	n/a
Fund for Property	1,600,000	1,595,000	1,900,000
Total	£5,625,000	£5,106,000	£3,740,000

A ring-fenced amount is held within the MiB fund as follows:

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)	2014/15 (£)
Chinese Ministry (ring-fenced)	397,000	397,000	442,000

The CGC remains concerned that there have been no Chinese Ministry applications during 2016/17 but, following discussions with Districts, is expecting applications in 2017/18.

The CGC also has the following funds available (income from allocated funds).

Other Funds	2016/17 (£)
Luton Fund (for industrial chaplaincy projects)	92,000
Barratt Fund (for property projects in Chester and Stoke District)	78,000
Total	170,000

2.3 World Mission Fund – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£2,642,000** as follows:

World Mission Fund	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)	2014/15 (£)
Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT)	400,000	381,000	500,000
General Grants	250,000	425,000	400,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	650,000	800,000	800,000
Annual Grants	1,342,000	1,459,000	100,000
Total	2,642,000	3,065,000	1,800,000

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 (NB - Grants awarded from the Connexional Priority Fund (CPF) include both property and non-property projects. As, generally, applications were not made to CPF all declined amounts are shown in the MiB and Property lines):

Table 1: 2016/17

Funds	Budget	Applications	Value of requests	Value of awards	Grants	Budget %	Value declined
	£	No.	£	£	No.	%	£
MiB	2,003,000			1,996,084	31	99.7	
Epworth	250,000			243,782	5	97.5	
Chinese	397,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPF	1,375,000	n/a	n/a	1,102,452	23	80	n/a
Other*	170,000	n/a	n/a	50,000	2	29	n/a
Property	1,600,000	53	5,186,050	1,600,000	19	100	2,859,960
Totals	5,795,000	117	10,381,943	4,992,318	80	89	5,389,625

Table 2: 2015/16

Funds	Budget	Applications	Value of requests	Value of awards	Grants	Budget %	Value declined
	£	No.	£	£	No.	%	£
MiB	1,620,000			1,615,209	37	99.7	
Epworth	250,000			247,500	3	99	
CPF	1,641,000	n/a		1,640,149		99.9	
Other*	n/a	n/a		144,400	2	n/a	
Property	1,595,000	53	4,923,927	1,595,000	37	100	2,067,043
Totals	5,106,000	112	9,519,283	5,242,258	79	99.9%	4,277,025

*Luton and Barratt

3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** There were 7 grants of £100,000 or more (7 in 2015/16). These ranged from £118,000 to £144,000 and were for projects, totalling £854,000 (£1.1 million in 2016/17). These were:

- Derbyshire Agricultural Chaplaincy
- 'Women Breaking Free', counselling project at Touchstone, Bradford
- Birmingham District University Chaplain
- Pioneer Connexion Missioner at 'Elemental', Meon Valley Circuit, Southampton
- The Hope Journey – educational project, Wirral Circuit
- Micro YPS, intern project, York and Hull District
- Youth Ministry meets Interfaith Engagement, The Feast

Analysis of non-property grants awarded by District, see Appendix 1.

3.2 **Property Grants** The maximum connexional property grant is £200,000. Two projects were awarded maximum grants (5 in 2015/16), 8 were awarded grants of £100,000 or more (8 in 2015/16). 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.

For an analysis of property grants awarded by District, see Appendix 2.

3.3 **MiB Budget underspend** At the end of the spring grants round there was an underspend of £86,916, it was therefore decided to invite a third round of applications in July/August for small applications. There was a strong response to this invitation to submit, or resubmit, applications after the spring grant round resulting in a further 30 applications being assessed. This as Table 1 above shows was successful in reducing the underspend to £6916 (less than last year's £8100). However this number of applications was far too many for either the Grants Team or the CGC volunteers to manage well (taking into account the time available, including summer holidays) and a third round will not be offered in future. There will be stronger promotion of the two grants deadlines in the coming year.

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. The criteria were fully reviewed during the year when MC/17/50 was written. There is ongoing work on criteria for non-Methodist applications. Several successful applications did not receive the full amount requested, the total amount deducted from these applications was £727,000.

3.5 **Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ)** 18 MAPJ grants were awarded totalling nearly £700,000, four of these were for CAP debt centres. This compares with 19 grants and £718,000 in 2015/16 (three were for CAP debt centres).

3.6 Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants for 2017-18

- Other than minor changes for clarity of questions and eligibility there will be no revisions to any of the three non-property application forms which are on the Grants pages of the Methodist website.
- Online grants applications – online assessment of Property grants was successfully implemented and is working well. The Grants Team, and members of the MELD Team, have finalised a strategic business requirement for an online application system for non-property grants. This business requirement benefited from a review of the connexional database. A working online application system is planned for next connexional year.

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, as in previous years the amount awarded was very close to the total budget. The World Mission Fund grants support the training of students from partner churches, the post of a national of the partner church to do 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.

Table 3: 2016/17

Grant Streams	Budget	Grants awards	% of total
	£	£	%
SALT	400,000	420,103	105
General Grants	250,000	298,095	119
Nationals in Mission Appointments	650,000	533,928	82
Annual Grants	1,342,000	1,262,524	94
Totals	2,642,000	2,514,650	95

Table 4: 2015-16

Grant Streams	Budget	Value of requests	Grants awards	Grants declined	% of total
	£	£	£	£	%
SALT	381,000	956,993	366,059	590,934	96
General	425,000	333,360	333,360	0	78
Nationals in Mission Appointments	800,000	1,220,738	850,861	369,877	106
Annual	1,459,000	2,109,494	1,509,256	600,238	103
Totals	3,065,000	4,615,970	3,059,536	1,561,049	99.8

4.2 During the year the following new working arrangements were put in place:

- The combined application/report form was finalised for all grant streams. There have been some technical issues for completely smooth implementation of the new system of working including issuing of forms to partners and work continues to resolve this.
- All partner Churches have been allocated to one of two groups ('June' and 'November') to smooth processing and workload for staff and the World Church stream through the year.

5.0 Ongoing work to review Connexional Grants

5.1 The work of the MELD Team has included:

- **DAF Returns and District Grants Policies** - The MELD Team carried out their first review of the returns and policies of most of the Districts. This has enabled the CGC to fully link consideration of grant applications with DAF balances and grants policies.
- **Implementation of MELD review recommendations** – these have included greater publicity and transparency of grant awards, via www.methodist.org.uk/grants2016-17, a presentation by London HIV Chaplaincy at this year's Conference and increased numbers of grants workshops and training at connexional events.

6.0 Areas of Concern

6.1 The CGC has identified:

- Approval of new protocols on conflict of interest and involvement in grant applications by Connexional Team members – raised last year and now been implemented.
- Questions regarding prioritisation, connexional significance and non-Methodist applications – these are all included in the policy report due to go to the October 2017 Council meeting.

7. Staffing and committee members

7.1 Thanks are expressed to the volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams, notably Graham Pegg, convenor of the MELD Team who has overseen an increased profile for MELD and a stronger contribution to grants processes. Other CGC members finishing their term of service this year are: Vera Lacey Krylova (ceasing early due to taking on a Mission Partner role in Colombia), Neville Walton, David Spracklen, Andrew Letby (coordinator of the previously separate SALT stream).

7.2 Two recruitment exercises (with a follow up stage completing in September 2017) took place during the year. In total 16 people have been recruited to the CGC, these will fill existing vacancies (some of the streams, as well as the Committee, were short of members) and those that have arisen this year.

***RESOLUTION

111/1. The Council receives the report.

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

District	Grant Award £	Projects funded	Applications submitted	% of budget
Beds, Essex, Herts	95,776	2	2	4%
Birmingham	325,900	4	5	13%
Bolton and Rochdale	27,447	1	1	1%
Bristol	80,000	2	3	3%
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	15,000	1	4	1%
Cornwall				
Cumbria	68,200	2	3	3%
Darlington	24,792	1	1	1%
East Anglia				
Isle of Man	30,000	1	1	1%
Lancashire	27,000	1	1	1%
Leeds	49,998	1	1	2%
Lincolnshire				
Liverpool	155,600	2	3	6%
London				
Mcr and Stockport				
Newcastle	25,000	1	1	1%
Northampton	234,000	3	4	9%
Nottm and Derby	144,263	1	1	6%
Plymouth and Exeter	15,000	1	1	1%
Scotland	28,800	1	1	1%
Sheffield	80,000	1	2	3%
Shetland				
South East				
Southampton	125,000	1	1	5%
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod				
West Yorkshire	165,946	2	3	7%
W'ton and Shrewsbury				
York and Hull	126,082	2	2	5%
Non-District	678,894	11	19	27%
Totals	2,522,698	42	60	100%

Appendix 2 – Property Grants

District	Grant Award £	Projects funded	Applications submitted	% of budget
Beds, Essex, Herts	20000	1	2	1
Birmingham	230000	2	3	10
Bolton and Rochdale				
Bristol	0	0	1	
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	40000	2	4	2
Cornwall	0	0	3	
Cumbria	40000	1	1	2
Darlington	50000	1	3	2
East Anglia	150000	3	4	6
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	200000	1	1	9
Leeds				
Lincolnshire	0	1	1	
Liverpool	0	1	1	
London				
Mcr and Stockport	5000	1	1	.2
Newcastle	48090	1	1	2
Northampton	180000	1	1	8
Nottm and Derby	100000	1	1	4
Plymouth and Exeter	0	1	1	
Scotland	50000	1	1	2
Sheffield	201000	3	5	9
Shetland				
South East	100000	1	2	4
Southampton	85000	2	2	4
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod				
West Yorkshire	350000	4	4	15
W'ton and Shrewsbury	62000	3	4	3
York and Hull	400000	3	4	17
Yorkshire North and East	15000	1	2	1
Totals	2,326,090	36	53	100%