

## Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2016

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<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	For information.
<b>Draft Resolutions</b>	89/1. The Council receives the report.
<b>Alternative Options to Consider, if Any</b>	None

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the Connexional year 2015-2016
<b>Main Points</b>	The allocation of resources made available by the Conference to further Mission and Discipleship in Britain and the World Church through connexional grant making.
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	Report 26 'Mission Alongside the Poor in the 21st Century', presented to the 2016 Conference

## Connexional Grants Committee Annual report for year ended 31 August 2016

### 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 be responsible for 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. The Mission in Britain Fund was almost entirely spent with just under £4,800 remaining. Additionally, other funds available for British grants (Fund for Property, Connexional Priority Fund and Epworth Fund) were almost entirely spent, the Fund for Property was spent in full with a total of £3,300 remaining in the other two funds. This is a significant change from previous years which saw large underspends.
- 1.3 The CGC has continued to work closely with the Finance office in the Connexional 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. Additional work is continuing following a full review of the CGC's Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Dissemination (MELD) function.

### 2.0 Grants budget allocation 2015-2016

- 2.1 Mission in Britain (MiB) Fund (including Mission Alongside the Poor) – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£3,511,000** as follows:

<b>Mission and Ministry in Britain</b>	<b>2015/16 (£)</b>	<b>2014/15 (£)</b>
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000
MiB (inc Mission Alongside the Poor)	1,620,000	1,590,000
Connexional Priority Fund	1,641,000	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,511,000</b>	<b>£1,840,000</b>

Additionally, a ring-fenced amount is held within the MiB fund as follows:

<b>Mission and Ministry in Britain</b>	<b>2015/16 (£)</b>	<b>2014/15 (£)</b>
MiB Fund – Chinese Ministry (ring-fenced)	397,000	442,000

The CGC is concerned that there have been no applications to support Chinese Ministry and is beginning the connexional year 2016/17 with initiatives to address this.

- 2.2 Fund for Property – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£1,595,000**.
- 2.3 World Mission Fund – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£3,065,000** as follows:

<b>World Mission Fund</b>	<b>2015/16 (£)</b>	<b>2014/15 (£)</b>
General Grants	425,000	400,000
World Church Annual Grants	1,459,000	100,000
Scholarship and Leadership Training	381,000	500,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	800,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,065,000</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>

The total budget is larger than the previous year as annual grants are now being dealt with on a year by year rather than three-year basis. Also an additional £1 million was allocated from World Mission Fund reserves.

### 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:

Table 1: 2015/16

Funding source	Budget	Number of applications received	Total value of grant applications received	Total value of grants awarded	% of total available	Total value of grants declined	Total number of grants awarded
	£	No.	£	£	%	£	No.
Mission in Britain Fund	1,620,000	60	4,595,356	1,615,209	99.7	2,209,982	37
Epworth Fund	250,000			247,500	99		3
Connexional Priority Fund	1,641,000	n/a		1,640,149	99.9		
Other Connexional Funds*	n/a	n/a		144,400	n/a		2
The Fund for Property	1,595,000	53	4,923,927	1,595,000	100	2,109,532	37
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,106,000</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>9,519,283</b>	<b>5,242,258</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>4,569,296</b>	<b>79</b>

\*Luton and Barratt Funds. There are also ring-fenced funds available for Chinese Ministry (£397,000), no applications were made for this funding during 2015/16.

Table 2: 2014/15

Funding Streams	Budget	Number of applications received	Total value of grant applications received	Total value of grants awarded	% of total available	Total value of grants declined	Total number of grants awarded
	£	No.	£	£	%	£	No.
Mission in Britain Fund	1,590,000	26	2,606,737	1,279,431	80%	1,200,706	21
Epworth	250,000			5,000	2%		1
Ring-fenced funds for Chinese Ministry	442,000	1	45,000	45,000	10%	0	1
The Fund for	1,900,000	31	2,657,800	994,800	52%	1,476,000	18

Property							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,182,000</b>	58	<b>5,309,537</b>	<b>2,324,231</b>	56%	<b>2,676,706</b>	41

3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** There were 7 grants exceeding £100,000 (4 in 2014/15). These ranged from £101,000 to £256,000 and were for projects, totalling £1.1 million (£623,000 in 2014/15). These were:

- Mental health project in Yorkshire
- Community reconciliation in Sheffield
- LGBT outreach and inclusion in Nottingham
- NEC and District chaplaincy
- Evangelism initiatives by Hope Together (non-Methodist applicant)
- Horsefair heritage project at New Room, Bristol
- Inclusion of churchless Christians in Scotland

3.2 **Property Grants** The maximum connexional property grant is £200,000. Five churches (0 in 2014/15) were awarded maximum grants, 8 (4 in 2014/15) were awarded grants of £100,000 or more and the remainder were awarded less than £100,000. 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.

Analysis of property grants awarded by District:

Table 3

District	Grant Award £	Nr. of projects funded	Value of award as a % of the budget	No of Applications submitted
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	5,000	1	0.2%	2
Birmingham	4,200	1	0.2%	2
Bolton and Rochdale	136,334	2	5.3%	2
Bristol	325,000	4	12.6%	4
Cumbria	122,685	2	4.7%	2
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	158,500	2	6.1%	2
Cornwall	72,000	2	2.8%	2
Darlington	150,000	1	5.8%	3
East Anglia	30,000	1	1.2%	1
Isle of Man				
Leeds				
Lincolnshire	45,000	2	1.7%	3
Liverpool				
Manchester and Stockport	106,000	2	4.1%	2

District	Grant Award £	Nr. of projects funded	Value of award as a % of the budget	No of Applications submitted
Newcastle				
Lancashire				
Nottingham and Derby				1
Plymouth and Exeter	5,000	1	.2%	2
Northampton	220,000	2	8.5%	4
Sheffield	253,468	2	9.8%	3
Southampton	100,000	1	3.9%	2
West Yorkshire	200,000	1	7.7%	2
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	57,500	2	2.2%	2
York and Hull	140,000	1	5.4%	4
Scotland				
Shetland				
Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire	264,178	3	10.2%	3
London	164,000	2	6.3%	2
South East	25,000	2	1%	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,583,865</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>52</b>

10 Districts did not submit any applications. The Bristol District submitted the most applications. An application from Epworth Old Rectory (£30,000) is not included in this table.

- 3.3 **MiB Budget underspend** The table above shows a very small underspend of £8,100 and no grant applications for Chinese Ministry (£45,000 in 2014/15).
- 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 money was spent this year as there were large volumes of applications submitted for a total amount well in excess of the budget. Several successful applications did not receive the full amount requested, the total amount deducted from these applications was £330,000.
- 3.5 **Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants for 2016-7**
- Following the review of the Mission Alongside the Poor Programme, applications are now being invited for Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ) grants and the application criteria and forms have been revised.
  - A revised Monitoring and Evaluation process for the Chaplaincy stream is still to be developed.
  - Revisions have been made to all application forms and uploaded to the grants pages of the Methodist website.

- Online grants applications – online property grants are now working well, though applicants have required significant guidance from the Grants Team. Work is now underway by the web developers to introduce online assessment of property grants, followed by online applications for MiB grants.

#### 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. The overall trend in expenditure of grants from the World Mission Fund is fairly consistent across five connexional years (2010 – 2015), although the Nationals in Mission Appointments (NMA) budget was £200,000 less this year. The World Mission Fund grants support for the training of students from Partner Churches, the post of a national of the partner church to undertake 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 4 2015-16*

Funding Streams	Budget	Total value of grant applications received	Grants expenditure	% of total available	Total Value of Grants declined
	£	£	£	%	£
General Grants	425,000	333,360	333,360	78	0
Annual Grants	1,459,000	2,109,494	1,509,256	103	600,238
Scholarship and Leadership Training	381,000	956,993	366,059	96	590,934
Nationals in Mission Appointments	800,000	1,220,738	850,861	106	369,877
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,065,000</b>	<b>4,615,970</b>	<b>3,059,536</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>1,561,049</b>

*Table 5 2014-15*

Funding Streams	Budget	Total value of grant applications received	Grants expenditure	% of total available	Total Value of Grants declined
	£	£	£	%	£
General Grants	400,000	406,786	406,786	102	0
Annual Rolling Grants	100,000	118,000	83,300	83	24,700
Scholarship and Leadership Training	500,000	914,192	486,100	97	428,092
Nationals in Mission Appointments	800,000	1,126,358	801,758	100	324,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,800,000</b>	<b>2,565,336</b>	<b>1,777,844</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>777,392</b>

4.2 Further to the Council's agreement to an experimental way of working during the connexional years 2015/16 and 16/17, the following new working arrangements were put in place:

- Regional ways of working were adopted and the NMA, Annual and General Grants streams were combined.

- A combined application form was developed for NMA, Annual and SALT grants, though it was introduced after the annual NMA funding round.
- Updated lists of Partner Churches (using the Partner Relationships Review, PRR) and Partner Organisations were produced as a basis for inviting applications for grants during 2016/17. The lists of Partner Organisations and Partner Churches ranked by PRR score have been considered by the new Global Relationships Strategic Oversight Sub-Committee, and are presented to the Council for approval.
- It was agreed that some British-based organisations previously funded would no longer be funded by World Church grants.

## **5.0 Ongoing work to review Connexional Grants**

- 5.1 The CGC has continued to build on streamlined ways of working, informed by internal audit recommendations. Application forms have been further refined across both British and World Church grant streams.
- 5.3 During the year the CGC completed a review, as directed by the Conference, of the Mission Alongside the Poor programme (MC/16/43), and the recommendations were presented to the 2016 Conference. A film promoting the new programme, Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ), was shown at the Conference and is now available on the Methodist website. The CGC will be encouraging increased numbers of MAPJ applications during the connexional year 2016-17.
- 5.4 SO 213B(6)(iv), (vii) and (viii) requires the CGC to monitor and evaluate grants expenditure. This is carried out via the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Dissemination Group (MELD). During the year a full review of MELD was carried out, the Grants Team have now developed an action plan for the recommendations of the MELD Review, recommendations cover: improved communication, recognition of high impact projects, and stronger links with the Learning Network.

## **6. Staffing and committee members**

- 6.1 Sadly, we must report the deaths of two members of the CGC: the Revd Dr Francis Nabieu and the Revd Hazel Yu. One member resigned, the Revd Brian Jones, due to the increased (though temporary) numbers of grant committee meetings.
- 6.2 Thanks are also expressed to the volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams. In 2015-16 stream members gave additional time to participate in induction sessions and share in discussions to revise the grant forms and improve the grants processes.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

#### **89/1. The Council receives the report.**