

Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) - World Church Grants

Contact Name and Details	Helen Woodall, Connexional Grants Committee Chair hwoodall152@btinternet.com
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Decision
Draft Resolutions	<p>39/1. The Council receives the report.</p> <p>39/2. The Council approves the new way of assessing Heritage grant applications as set out in paragraph 25.</p> <p>39/3. The Council approves the modifications to the World Church stream structures for a trial basis in 2015/6.</p> <p>39/4. The Council appoints the members of the Connexional Grants Committee, its subcommittees and streams as set out below, for the connexional year 2015/16.</p>
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	N/a

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Strategic approach to world church grant giving
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategic approach to grant giving • Remaining work of the heritage stream be incorporated into other streams • Appointment of new members
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC/14/84 Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) Policy Review
Consultations	The CGC considered and endorsed a draft of the report at its meeting on 2 March 2015.

Connexional Grants Committee (CGC)

1. In October 2014 the CGC provided the Council with an overview of connexional grants programmes in Britain and asked several strategic questions in paper MC/14/84. It has used input from the Council to inform the process of revising the criteria for grants of connexional significance. These and a number of re-designed application forms will be implemented from 1 September 2015, with the intention of engaging with applicants during 2015/16 so that the process can be continually refined so as to best serve the needs of the Church. In addition it has agreed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with each core heritage site relating to the grants initiated by the Conference of 2014 from the Connexional Priority Fund (CPF).
2. The CGC committed that a paper would also be produced that introduced connexional grants to the world church. In considering how these programmes need to continue to evolve, it has been mindful of the Conference's agreed statement on One Mission and of the forthcoming launch of the One Mission Forum.

Introduction to World Church Grants Programme

3. The Methodist Church in Britain is committed actively and intentionally to work towards a world transformed by the love of God, sharing the love of God and celebrating its place within a worldwide family.
4. Grants are available from the Church to help resource the church to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. When considering grant applications the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) will examine how these applications intend to contribute to fulfilling *Our Calling* (Conference 2000) and the *Priorities of the Methodist Church* (Conference 2004).
5. Through the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) supports the mission and ministry of its partner churches and organisations overseas. Resources made available from the World Mission Fund (WMF) [See appendix one] are used for this and there is close collaboration with the Methodist Church of Ireland (MCI), which also contributes to that fund and has a representative on each of the grant-making streams. These grants are to empower partners throughout the world in their mission field so as to be agents of change and transformation as they work on proclaiming the kingdom of God.
6. This engagement with churches and other organisations across the world is done in a spirit of partnership, cooperation, mutual accountability and respect where churches learn from each other, in giving and receiving and working together in mission. This allows for the sharing of experiences and best practice of mission with partners at home and overseas. In working with others on mission the Methodist Churches in Britain and Ireland foster ecumenical links, support the World Methodist Council, where appropriate, and the MCB is in close partnerships with Methodist, United and Uniting Churches all over the world.

A Strategic Approach to World Church Grants

7. The SRC has commissioned work to review the strategy for world church partnerships and the use of the WMF towards that and this is expected in due course to inform the policy for World Church grants. In anticipation of this, the CGC supports the proposal contained within the Connexional Central Services Budget for 2015/16 onwards that Annual Rolling Grants be made on a yearly basis, rather than the current three-yearly basis.

8. Within this overall policy framework, the CGC will develop a strategic approach to helping and equipping partner churches in their mission with the use of dedicated funds through grants. Ensuring appropriate engagement with the MCI, it will enable a review of the needs and the strengths or limitations of churches overseas, done in collaboration with them, so that all funds used for that church will have a lasting benefit. It may thus require:
- An agreed strategy of how we work with all partner churches and organisations and where we may give priority given that resources are limited.
 - The strategy to reflect the mission and evangelism plans and priorities of each partner.
 - MCB/MCI resources will be used essentially for capacity building, leadership development and support of these mission plans.
 - Special emphasis will be given to areas of greatest need within and between countries and issues of justice, inclusion, education and empowerment and the support of those who have been marginalised because of their identity, ethnicity, faith, gender and economic status.
 - The CGC will assist partners in responding to emergencies, natural disasters and where there has been human violence or ethnic conflict.
9. The CGC and its World Church Sub Committee will develop a grants programme, within policy set by the Methodist Council and budgets approved by the Conference, on behalf of the Church to use resources to promote, equip and support the mission of partner churches and organisations. Grant making will have to be effective, efficient, transparent and accountable and seen as a means to an end. Grant making is one way to enable the church to be in mission and to facilitate the mission work of its partners overseas.

Overview of existing World Church grants programmes

10. Grants to Global Partners

There are currently four grant programmes with proposed budget allocations as follows:

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|--|---------------------|
| • Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT) | [£500k – 2015/16] |
| • Nationals in Mission Appointments (NMAs) | [£800k – 2015/16] |
| • General Grants | [£425k – 2015/16] |
| • Annual Rolling Grants | [£1,340k – 2015/16] |

11. SALT, NMA and General Grants have defined parameters, with clear criteria and programme aims as follows:

SALT Aims and Criteria:

12. The SALT Programme aims to be a practical response to the consultations and joint statement made by representatives of the Methodist, United and Uniting Churches from around the world. The 2003 Conference, , agreed to:

'...strengthen our partnership links and to facilitate the sharing of theological insights, of information, of personnel and of material resources that will continue an expression of our participation in God's mission.'

13. Today SALT Grants are for students from overseas partner churches to study in the UK or elsewhere preferably in the southern hemisphere. These grants are to build the leadership of the partner churches and for them to fulfil their own priorities in mission.
- Applicants must be Partner Churches and nominations must come from the Head of Church
 - Training (defined as any education programme which will result in the attainment of skills or qualifications) is for individuals or groups within the Partner Church

- Training must be 'strategic' (defined as training which has a clear mission purpose and is a particular priority to at this time in the Church's growth or development)
 - Training must enable meaningful reflective practice from outside the applicant's usual working environment.
14. Where appropriate training may be 'cross-cultural' (defined as either training provided in a different country to the Partner Church or, for groups, where the majority of training will be carried out by teachers from a country outside that of the applicant Partner Church) but this is no longer a requirement of the SALT programme.
15. The following training will not normally be supported:
- MBA courses
 - Initial ministerial training leading to ordination
 - Continuing attendance at a course which a student has already begun at the time of application
16. Applications for the funding of PhD courses will only be considered if it will enable the Partner Church to meet a need for teaching at a theological training college which forms part of its ministerial training strategy.

NMA Aims and Criteria:

17. The programme exists to enable Partner Churches and Organisations to develop appointments for new ventures of strategic mission significance, enabling the Church to live out the Gospel effectively in today's world with the best use of national resources available and through the most appropriate structure.
18. Criteria
- The person appointed will normally be a member of the Partner Church being of the same nationality of the Partner Church where the work will take place.
 - Applications to fund ministers involved in regular church appointments will not be approved.
 - The post will be considered permanent but only funded through NMA grants for up to five years. After that time the post should be fully supported by the Partner Church. (Phased reductions in funding over five years are normal.) A funding plan must be in place by the end of the first year of the agreement.
 - The work must be a new venture for the Partner Church.
 - The Partner Church must take on the responsibility of the appointment with regard to employment, management and pastoral support.
 - The salary for the post will be the normal local rate for the role.
 - Normally not more than one application will be approved from any Partner Church each year. (An exception would be when a Church covers several countries.)

General Grants Aims and Criteria

19. The General Grants programme enables Partner Churches and Organisations to apply for:-
- additional or one-off funding for unforeseen work that could not have been included in an Annual Rolling Grant (ARG) application, or
 - one off pieces of work by a Partner who does not normally receive an ARG, or
 - grants for use in an emergency either within the church or the local community (Partnership Coordinators can instigate a General Grant for an emergency to provide immediate assistance to a Partner and as a sign of MCBs solidarity with the Partner.)
20. General Grants are available for the following aspects of work:

- maintaining and encouraging Christian mission in countries outside Britain
- establishing churches which undertake mission themselves
- providing mutual help to overseas churches and overseas ecumenical bodies
- fostering ecumenical relations in world mission

Annual Rolling Grants (ARGs)

21. Annual Grants are there to support the general functioning of the church or partner organisation, to help promote new initiatives where appropriate, build capacity, resource the mission activities and help in the long term growth and sustainability of the church. They are an expression of an ongoing partner relationship and commitment to the overseas church. These partnerships allow a more focused, deeper and stronger relationship with partners. Annual Rolling Grants, being more relational and led by the Partners' priorities, fit less easily into the 'contractual approach' used for the other World Church grants categories and for grants for mission within Britain. They are generally made as an expression of relationship and therefore do not have either clearly defined criteria or objectives. They vary widely from partner to partner.
22. For example:
- Upper Myanmar ARG:** Theological Library development
Mission outreach into new community area
Mechanisation of rice field production for sustainable income generation
- Zimbabwe ARG:** HIV/AIDS work
Environmental protection
Women's rights, gender issues and child safeguarding
23. The CGC is aware that work is underway by the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) regarding the nature of overseas partnerships and how the MCB identifies the partners that are eligible for World Church grants.
24. Some challenges and questions that the CGC has identified for the future and that it is working through:
- Are the structures, decision making processes and systems fit for purpose today? Are they effective, efficient, transparent and accountable?
 - Are the present grant streams and programmes the only ones that Church should consider? Are there other ways of promoting and supporting partner churches in mission?
 - In what ways are we potentially creating dependency in the present ways of working through grants?
 - Are the grants making a real difference?
 - In order to have a more coherent, integrated and strategic approach in grant giving where could Church policy for partnerships country by country (or church by church) be discussed, owned and approved? What governance body should be engaged in this if any?
 - Would it be more practical and strategic to have some of the streams working much closer together or even amalgamated eg NMAs and general/annual rolling grants?

Changes to CGC structures

25. Following the Conference agreeing to core funding for the four main heritage sites and having assessed the pattern of grant applications and the resultant workload on the mission and ministry in Britain streams, the CGC proposes that the remaining membership and work of the

specialist 'Heritage' stream be incorporated into the other streams. Connexional grant applications can still be made for heritage projects under the agreed criteria, but these will be evaluated by the mission and ministry and property streams depending on the nature of the application. Appropriate expertise in heritage projects will be available to advise the stream members.

26. Work underway regarding the making of grants to world church partners also means that the CGC is considering changes to the Stream structure for World Church grants, to facilitate more joined up thinking between grant programmes. The current structure encourages applications under each programme to be considered in isolation from each other. The CGC therefore asks the Council to agree that the stream structure may be modified during the year on a trial basis, with an alternative structure recommended to the Council in April 2016.

Strategic Questions for the Council

27. The Council is invited to offer its views and suggestions on the following:
- a) Recognising that a more integrated and strategic approach to grant giving is being developed how can the Church's policy for partnerships country by country (or church by church) be discussed and approved given that the Council is the appropriate body to discuss and approve policy?
 - b) Are the present grant streams and programmes the only ones that Church should consider? Are there other ways of promoting and supporting partner churches in mission?
 - c) In what ways are we potentially creating dependency in the present ways of working through grants?

Appointments - Connexional Grants Committee (SO 213B) – 2015-16

Mrs Helen Woodall (Chair), Mr Bala Gnanapragasam (Mission in Britain Sub-committee Chair), Dr Daleep S Mukarji (World Church Sub-committee Chair), Mrs Vera Lacey-Krylova, the Revd David J Crouchley, Mr Graham Pegg (non-voting)

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Dissemination (MELD)

Mr Graham Pegg (Convenor), Mr Peter Broekhuizen, Mr Christopher Finbow, the Revd Richard W Thompson, Mr Terence W Ilott, Mr Christopher R Kitchin

Mission in Britain Sub-Committee

Mr Bala Gnanapragasam (Chair), Mrs Susan Johnson, the Revds Dr John A Illsley, Beverley D Boden, Mr Graham Pegg (non-voting)

Chaplaincy Stream

The Revd Dr John A Illsley (Convenor), the Revd Patricia A Brooks, Mr Cliff Everitt

Mission and Ministry in Britain Stream

Mrs Susan Johnson (Convenor), Mr Timothy J Baker, Ms Charity Nzegwu, Ms Geraldine Pearce, Mr Neville Walton, Mr James Hart, Mr Hans E Njoh

Property Stream

The Revds Beverley D Boden (Convenor), Nicholas C Bentley, Mr David Spracklen, Mrs Sylvia White, Mr Les Sudron

World Church Sub-committee

Dr Daleep S Mukarji (Chair), the Revds Andrew Letby, Laurence Graham (Methodist Church in Ireland), Ms Janice M Clark

World Church General Grants Stream

Ms Janice M Clark (Convenor), the Revds Laurence Graham, Brian R Jones, Ms Louise Murray, Mr Paul R Spray

Nationals in Mission Appointment Stream

Mr Edwin C Fowler, Mr Ivan Kirkpatrick (Methodist Church in Ireland), the Revds Christopher Collins, Hazel H Yu

Scholarship and Leadership Training Stream

The Revds Andrew Letby (Convenor), Dr Elizabeth Harris, Dr Wendy Kilworth-Mason, Francis S Nabieu

Reasoned Statements:

The Revd Christopher Collins	Presbyteral Probationer. Previous roles have included being a member of a committee which facilitated the church's involvement in mission, also secretary to the Local Preachers' meeting.
The Revd David J Crouchley	Supernumerary minister from the Cumbria District. Was a full-time Hospice Chaplain for eight years. Previously served as District Property Secretary and currently serving as the District Grants Officer.

Mr Terence W Ilott	Senior civil Servant in the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs experienced in designing and securing agreement on policies, setting frameworks for grant schemes and managing implementation of diverse projects. An accredited worship leader and a member of Church Council of St John's - Luton.
Mr Christopher R Kitchin	Working knowledge and experience of the Methodist Church, previously Head of Communication in the Connexional Team. Various roles in Circuit and District which have included Trustee, Circuit and Church Steward, Chair of Finance and Property Committee. Magistrate.
Mr Hans E Njoh	Prior to 2010 worked for the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. Retired early to the UK and currently Treasurer of Birmingham West and Oldbury Circuit. Proactive in enabling church membership, integration and growth of Cameroonians in the West Midlands.
Mr Paul R Spray	Local preacher in the Oxford Circuit. Experienced in delivering grant programmes at the Department for International Development. Currently a trustee of Christian Aid, and prior to that a trustee of CAFOD.
Mr Les Sudron	Member of the Methodist Church for nearly 40 years. Senior Steward at Wesley Chapel, Harrogate and member of Nidd Valley Circuit meeting. Professionally qualified member of the Institute of Fundraising. For nine years Head of Fundraising for Methodist Homes (MHA).
Mrs Sylvia White	Local Preacher within the Shetland District, local Church Treasurer and Steward. Wide range of voluntary work with church groups and children and youth groups. Experienced Citizens Advice Bureau Debt Advisor.
The Revd Hazel H Yu	Currently serving in a part time appointment in the Teddington Circuit, working closely with Chinese speaking congregations. With close links to Hong Kong supported the Theological Students' Placement Programmes. Helped in facilitating Local Preachers gaining experience in Hong Kong. Proactive in the translation of Faith & Worship into Chinese.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 39/1 The Council receives the report.**
- 39/2. The Council approves the new way of assessing Heritage grant applications as set out in paragraph 25.**
- 39/3. The Council approves the modifications to the World Church stream structures for a trial basis in 2015/6.**
- 39/4. The Council appoints the members of the Connexional Grants Committee, its subcommittees and streams as set out below, for the connexional year 2015/16.**

Appendix One

The World Mission Fund - SO 362(2)

The purposes of the Methodist World Mission Fund shall be

1. to promote and encourage Christian mission overseas;
2. to encourage the establishment of churches overseas which will themselves undertake that mission within and beyond their own borders;
3. to engage in relationships of mutual help and enrichment with churches and ecumenical bodies overseas;
4. to foster and take part in ecumenical relationships in the field of world mission, including the work of the World Council of Churches
5. in furtherance of these purposes to engage in education, advocacy, recruitment and fundraising

The Mission in Britain Fund - SO 362(3)

(3) The purposes of the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund shall be:

(i) the support of work in furtherance of the Church's mission, including grants to Local Churches and Circuits, in the home Districts. Provision shall be made for grants from the fund for the Mission Alongside the Poor Programme; and

(ii) to bear witness to the global character of Christian mission by supporting work with and among ethnically diverse communities in Britain and Ireland which have their origin in other countries.