

41. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Contact name and details	Edward A L Wallace General Secretary and Non-Official Trustee
Resolutions	41/1. The Conference receives the Report. 41/2. The Conference approves the actions proposed in paragraph 6.4 of the Report.

1. Legal

- 1.1 The fund is governed by a Deed of Trust registered in the books of the Lords and Council and Session at Edinburgh on 4 November 1869. The Deed narrates resolutions of the Conference of 1869 as to the raising, administration and purposes of the Fund. (See Standing Order 476 for further information.)

The purposes of the said Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland should be as follows:

- (1) the liquidation of debts yet remaining on Methodist churches, chapels or manses in Scotland or debts that may yet be contracted with the sanction of the Connexional Property Committee,
- (2) the purchase or erection of new or additional places of worship and of sites for such objects, and
- (3) the acquisition of manses or investment of money to meet house rents thus making provision for the residences of ordained ministers where at present only probationers are stationed and from time to time in other places as occasion may arise.

2. Administration

- 2.1 The means of Aid is by way of grants and/or interest free loans but no funds can be allocated unless the Project requires approval under the Methodist Church Property Consents Procedure, sanctioned and approved by the District Consents Panel and, where appropriate, the Connexional Conservation Officer. Where a grant has been made it remains refundable if the property is subsequently sold.

- 2.2 The present Trustees are:

The Revd Dr David P Easton – Synod Chair; the Revd Dr Helen E Jenkins – Presbyteral Synod Secretary; the Revd Allan Y Loudon – District Ministerial Property Secretary and the Revd Nicholas Baker – District Church Life.

Dr Alan J Hayes; Mr David A Easson; Mr Edward A L Wallace (General Secretary and Treasurer); and Miss Maureen G Anderson.

The General Committee consists of the Trustees, General Treasurer, the District Lay Property Secretary – Mr Phillip A Haggis, the superintendent ministers of every Circuit and Mrs Margaret Brown, Mrs Jenny Easson and Mr Peter A Mills as the present Synod nominated lay members.

The General Treasurer of the Fund at the start of 2016 was Mrs Ann Bradley who resigned in March 2016. This role was taken on by the General Secretary.

3. Financial

- 3.1 The incoming resources of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2016 was £18,016 (2015 £22,726). The decrease over the previous year was mainly due to lower donation income.
- 3.2 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was a decrease of £46,483 (2015 increase £15,659). The decrease over the previous year was mainly due to the completion of a significant project of a new church building in Kilsyth where £40,000 of aid was given.
- 3.3 During the year Aid totalling £39,548 was considered by the General Committee.
- 3.4 Grants previously approved paid out totalling £21,500 (2015 £4,839).
- 3.5 Grants approved and paid out this year totalled £14,000 (2015 £0).
- 3.6 Loans previously approved paid out totalling £20,500 (2015 £1,613).
- 3.7 Loans approved and paid out this year totalled £8,000 (2015 £0).
- 3.8 The General Fund balance at 31 December 2015 (£12,547.24) was allocated to the Grants Fund as agreed by the Synod and consented to by the 2016 Conference.
- 3.9 Investments in the CFB Mixed Managed Fund have been stated in the accounts under review at 31 December 2016 market value £209,722 (2015 £190,012). There was an unrealised gain of £19,709 (2015 gain of £239). The accumulated unrealised gain at 31 December 2016 was £152,413 (2015 £132,704).
- 3.10 Balances at 31 December 2016 were General Fund £9,120 (2015 £12,547), Grant Fund £30,117 (2015 £47,407) and Loan Account £4,818 (2015 £28,570), outstanding loans at 31 December 2016 amounted to £37,302 (2015 £6,900). The overall Fund balance at 31 December 2016 was £262,896 (2015 £280,537).

4. Grants

- 4.1 The following grants, approved in previous years, have been paid:
Kilsyth Methodist Church £20,000 Woodlands Methodist Church £1,500
- 4.2 Grants approved and paid during the year:
Aberdeen Methodist Church £5,000 City of Edinburgh Methodist Church £9,000
- 4.3 The following grants have been considered by the General Committee and approved in principle but not paid during the year:
Perth Methodist Church £11,250 Inverness Circuit Manse £1,911

5. Loans

- 5.1 The following loans, approved in previous years, have been paid:
Kilsyth Methodist Church £20,000 Woodlands Methodist Church £500
- 5.2 Loans approved and paid during the year:
Aberdeen Methodist Church £5,000 City of Edinburgh Methodist Church £3,000
- 5.3 The following loans have been considered by the General Committee, approved in principle but not paid during the year:
Perth Methodist Church £3,750 Inverness Circuit Manse £637

6. General

- 6.1 After undertaking a review of the methodology surrounding the allocation of circuit subscriptions [which replaced the previous subscription and annual church collection scheme at their request], it was proposed by the Trustees and agreed by the General Committee that future calculations would be based on circuit membership and number of model trust properties in the District.

After due consideration of the General Committee, Notice of Subscriptions for the connexional year 2016/17 were despatched to Circuit Treasurers on 17 April 2016 using the new methodology but without any overall increase in the total subscription.

- 6.2 Loan instalments are collected half-yearly in May and November.
- 6.3 Although in the event it did not again materialise this year, the General Committee proposes that if there are insufficient immediate funds to satisfy approved applications for Aid, then up to £10,000 would be transferred from the Capital Fund to meet that need from the sale of Units in the Investment Trust held on behalf of the Fund by TMCP.
- 6.4 After consideration by the Trustees a proposal in respect of the allocation of the General Fund balance (£9,119.61) as at 31 December 2016 was put to the General Committee. They agreed that the balance be wholly allocated to the Loans Account. This proposal was put to and accepted by the Synod but requires the consent of the Conference.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 41/1. The Conference received the Report.**
- 41/2. The Conference approved the actions proposed in paragraph 6.4 of the Report.**