

53. Connexional Grants and Related Matters

Connexional Grants Committee

1. The creation of the new Grants Committee has an important impact on property legislation, since it replaces the Resourcing Mission Grants Committee, and the Law and Polity Committee therefore prepared a draft Standing Order for it as part of its work on the Part 9 revision. That draft was considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) and by the officers of the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) appointed by the Methodist Council.
2. As part of that consideration, the SRC approved the proposal that the CGC work within a budget that is set by the Methodist Council, and monitored on the Council's behalf by a Governance Scrutiny Group (see further paragraph 5 below).
3. SRC also approved the proposal that the CGC monitor the grants made by Districts from their share of the Connexional Priority Fund and make any resulting recommendations to the Methodist Council.
4. A proposed Standing Order to effect all the above is dealt with in resolution 2 below.

Governance Scrutiny Group relating to the work of the Connexional Grants Committee

5. The SRC has approved a set of Terms of Reference for a Governance Scrutiny Group that will monitor the

use of the various connexional funds by the Connexional Grants Committee. They are set out for information in Appendix 1 below.

Connexional Treasurers

6. There is, however, one outstanding policy decision to be resolved. In the light of the creation of a governance scrutiny group for all the above mentioned Funds (see above), and the redefinition by the 2008 Conference of the roles of connexional Treasurers, it seems prudent to bring the Connexional Priority Fund under the aegis of the connexional Treasurers (and therefore not replicate the role of the treasurer of the previous Connexional Advance and Priority Fund).
7. The SRC therefore proposed that the role of treasurer of the Connexional Advance and Priority Fund in the current S.O. 976(2) be abolished; and that the Connexional Priority Fund be included in the list of funds over which the Connexional Treasurers have oversight which is to be found at S.O. 311.
8. Amendments to Standing orders to effect the above are dealt with at resolution 3 below.

***RESOLUTIONS

53/1 The Conference adopted the report.

53/2 The Conference amended Standing Orders concerning the creation of a Connexional Grants Committee as follows:

- 213B Connexional Grants Committee (1) The Methodist Council shall each year appoint a Connexional Grants Committee, its sub-committees, and bodies subsidiary to the sub-committees to be known as grant streams.
- (2) The committee shall be responsible for all connexional grants, for which it will establish a clear published application process and set criteria, but not so as to include grants made to meet expenses or in return for services or membership, and in the following clauses of this Standing Order “grants” means grants within the committee’s responsibility.
- (3) Apart from grants for property schemes and from the World Mission Fund, grants shall be available only for work of connexional significance.
- (4) The committee shall consist of a chair, one representative from each of the sub-committees and three other persons.
- (5) The committee shall meet at least once a year.
- (6) It shall have the following functions:
- (i) to formulate and implement a grants policy in line with the decisions of the council and the Conference;
 - (ii) to operate within an annual budget for all grant making set by the council, taking into account current priorities and all relevant sources of income;
 - (iii) to set clear criteria for all grant-making processes, including the thresholds for grants approval by the sub-committees and grant streams, the definition and interpretation of “connexional significance”, and the general allocation of unrestricted funds for specific purposes;
 - (iv) to monitor all grants made by the sub-committees and grant streams;
 - (v) to recommend to the council the number and focus of the grant streams working under each of the sub-committees;
 - (vi) to approve the processes used by the sub-committees and grant streams for making decisions between scheduled meetings, and to set limits on decisions that may be delegated for officer action;
 - (vii) to monitor grants made by Districts from their share of the Connexional Priority Fund and to make recommendations to the council;
 - (viii) to establish clear processes for the longer term monitoring and evaluation of grant expenditure and to make recommendations based on these results;

53. Connexional Funds Grants and Related Matters

In Standing Order 963(3), for “secretary of the Resourcing Mission Grants Committee appointed under Standing Order 971(3)” substitute “Connexional Grants Committee”.

For Standing Order 971 substitute:

971 The Committee. The fund shall be administered by the Connexional Grants Committee.

In Standing Order 974(1)(i), for “Resourcing Mission Grants Committee” substitute “Connexional Grants Committee”.

In Guidance on the Stationing of Ministers and Deacons, A2, line 17, for “Resourcing Mission” substitute “Connexional Grants”.

53/3 The Conference amended Standing Orders concerning connexional Treasurers as follows:

311 Treasurers. (1) The Methodist Council shall nominate and the Conference shall appoint a lead connexional Treasurer and one or more other connexional Treasurers, who shall together have oversight of the funds specified in Standing Orders 361 and 362 and Section 97 and shall ensure that the unified statement of connexional funds required by Standing Order 360(1) is prepared.

(2) One of the connexional Treasurers shall be the treasurer of the Methodist Missionary Society.

(3) *[revoked]*

(4) Subject to Standing Order 316 each connexional Treasurer shall be appointed in the first instance for six years and may be appointed for further periods of one or more years thereafter. No person shall hold the office for more than twelve years consecutively except by a resolution of the council carried by a majority of 75% of those present and voting and reported, with a reasoned statement, to the Conference.

Appendix 1

Connexional Grants Committee - Governance Scrutiny Group

Terms of reference

The Governance Scrutiny Group relating to the work of the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) is responsible to the Methodist Council for ensuring that effective systems have been designed and implemented to ensure that the Funds distributed by the CGC are applied in accordance with the terms of their restrictions and the requirements of the Methodist Church. In undertaking this role, the Group will liaise closely with CGC and its two Sub-Committees (namely the Mission in Britain Sub-Committee and the World Mission Group), the connexional Audit Committee and the External Auditor.

To undertake this role, the following functions will be addressed by the Group:-

1. To review the strategic framework of the management of funds for grant-giving purposes in the Methodist Church with particular reference to:-
 - (i) Generating income
 - (ii) Reserves policies
 - (iii) Risk assessment
2. To ensure that there are systems in place and that they are operating as intended, to ensure that all assets in the World Mission Fund, the Mission in Britain Fund, the Fund for Property, the Connexional Priority Fund, the Epworth Fund (and other relevant funds) and the income arising on them are applied strictly in accordance with the terms of their restrictions.
3. To review implementation of the systems with CGC, its Sub-Committees and Grant Stream groups concerned.
4. To review draft budgets and to be satisfied that proposals for spending the various funds are in accordance with their terms of restrictions, consistent with the reserves policies and are affordable.
5. To ensure that there are adequate monitoring systems in place for all the above-mentioned Connexional Funds and for grants made by Districts from the Connexional Priority Fund. To review the monitoring of information that is available to Connexional managers and to review exception reports related to projects that have not progressed according to plan.

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6. To review systems for evaluating projects (including requirements placed on Districts) and to advise on how project evaluation should be developed. To review project evaluations and to ensure that the lessons learned are being transmitted to the CGC and Grant Stream groups.
7. To monitor the fund-raising and advocacy work undertaken by the Connexional Team for the World Mission Fund, the Mission in Britain Fund and other relevant funds; to ensure consistency between how these funds are being advocated and applied and to alert Council if the advocacy of any particular fund is deemed inadequate. To monitor the budgeting for, and the recording of, voluntary income generated for these Funds.
8. To identify, in conjunction with managers, the management information needs of CGC and the Council and to review and approve an Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Council for these funds as required. To review and approve the annual “popular” report for those funds deemed to require one.

Membership

Members will be appointed by the Council.

The Governance Scrutiny Group will consist of four members who shall include an Officer of the Methodist Missionary Society and a connexional treasurer as defined in Standing Order 311.

Interaction with the Mission in Britain sub-committee and World Mission Group

The Chair of the Connexional Grants Committee will normally be in attendance at meetings of the Governance Scrutiny Group; and the Chairs of the MIB Subcommittee and the World Mission Group may be invited at the discretion of the Chair of the Governance Scrutiny Group. Connexional Officers may also be invited at the discretion of the Chair of the Governance Scrutiny Group.