

Connexional Grants Committee Annual Report for the Connexional Year ended 31 August 2019

Contact name and details	Helen Woodall, Chair, Connexional Grants Committee hwoodall152@btinternet.com
Resolutions	73/1. The Council receives the report. 73/2. The Council approves the property grant reclaim policy as set out in paragraph 7.1 and requests the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary amendments to Standing Orders.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	None

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the connexional year 2018/2019
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/19/36 Priorities for Mission in Britain Grants

Connexional Grants Committee Annual Report for year ended 31 August 2019

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. This report includes summary overviews of Mission and Ministry in Britain and World Church grants budgets, applications received and grants awarded in the connexional year 2018/2019.
- 1.2 From a budget of **£3.75 million** for Mission and Ministry in Britain grants, **£3.74 million** has been awarded.
- 1.3 From a budget of **£3.44 million** for World Mission grants, **£3.44 million** has been awarded.
- 1.4 The CGC has continued to work closely with the connexional Finance team and auditors to refine and document payment processes and introduce additional rigour in grant-making controls.
- 1.5 A review of Mission and Ministry in Britain grants was carried out during the year (see MC/19/36 Priorities for Mission in Britain Grants). As a result, changes have been made to application forms and assessment criteria for 2019/2020 grants.¹ See Section 4 below for more details.
- 1.6 The Mission and Ministry in Britain grants budget for 2019/2020 is **£2.36 million**. Much of the reduction in next year's budget is due to less property funding being available. The fund balances are now just above the reserve level and next year's budget from the Fund for Property will only be £500,000. In the light of this funding constraint, there will only be one grants round for property projects in 2019/2020, in March 2020.
- 1.7 The World Mission grants budget for 2019/20 is **£3.7 million**.

2.0 Grants budgets 2018/19

- 2.1 **Mission and Ministry in Britain** – the budget agreed by the 2018 Methodist Conference was **£3.75 million**. The following table show the annual grants budgets, by fund, over a three-year period.

Table 1

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2018/19 (£)	2017/18 (£)	2016/17 (£)
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000
Mission in Britain Fund*	1,500,000	2,200,000	2,400,000
Connexional Priority Fund (CPF)	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,375,000
Fund for Property	1,000,000	1,900,000	1,600,000
Barratt Fund	n/a	56,000	92,000
Luton Fund	n/a	48,000	78,000
Total	£3,750,000	£5,454,000	£5,795,000

* A ring-fenced amount (£255,000) is held within the Mission in Britain grants budget for Chinese ministry projects.

¹ <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/grants/application-form/>
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/grants/is-your-project-eligible/>

2.2 **World Church grants** – the budget agreed by the 2018 Methodist Conference was **£3.44 million**. The following table shows the annual grants budget, by grant type, over a three-year period.

Table 2

World Mission Fund	2018/19 (£)	2017/18 (£)	2016/17 (£)
Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT)	536,200	300,000	400,000
General Grants	250,000	250,000	250,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	993,157	900,000	650,000
Annual Grants	1,664,668	2,170,000	1,342,000
Total	3,444,045	3,620,000	2,642,000

3.0 Mission and Ministry in Britain, including Fund for Property

Tables 3 and 4 below show the number and value of grant applications received and awarded in 2018/19 and 2017/18 (NB – grants awarded from the Connexional Priority Fund (CPF) include both property and non-property projects.) Appendices 1 and 2 provide a breakdown of grant awards by District.

Table 3: 2018/19

Fund	Budget	Applications	Requests	Awards	Grants	Budget %	Declined
	£	No.	£	£	No.	%	£
MiB	1,500,000	64	5,148,850	1,560,352	36	104%	3,367,998
Epworth	250,000			220,500		88%	
CPF	1,000,000			961,050		n/a	
Property	1,000,000	57	5,482,897	1,000,000	28	100%	3,749,397
Totals	3,750,000	121	10,631,747	3,741,902	64	99.8%	7,117,395

£145,000 will be carried over into 2019/20 for Chinese ministry grants.

Table 4: 2017/18

Funds	Budget	Applications	Requests	Awards	Grants	Budget %	Declined	
	£	No.	£	£	No.	%	£	
MiB	2,200,000	78	7,073,156	2,200,000	30	100	2,688,531	
Epworth	250,000			249,128		4		99.7
CPF	1,000,000			n/a		982,022		21
Other*	104,000	4	168,000	90,000	4	87	n/a	
Property	1,900,000	61	4,786,526	1,899,964	40	99.5	1,627,676	
Totals	5,454,000	143	12,027,682	5,411,164	99	99.2%	4,316,207	

*Luton (Mission and Ministry) and Barratt (Property in Chester and Stoke District)

3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** Four grants of £100,000 or more were awarded during 2018/19 (nine in 2017/18). These ranged from £100,000 to £142,000. The total value of these awards was £0.5 million. These were:

- Who Is Your Neighbour?, Sheffield
- Walk Ministries, Stoke on Trent
- New Room, Bristol
- Ablewell Advice Services, Walsall

3.2 **Property Grants** The maximum connexional property grant is £200,000. Although five applications requested the maximum grant, none was awarded during 2018/19 (this was also the case in 2017/18). Five projects (listed below) were awarded grants of £100,000 or more (eight in 2017/18);

the total value of these grants was £620,000 out of an annual total of £1.73 million awarded to property schemes.

- Barry Uniting Church
- Greenhill, Sheffield
- Wirksworth
- North Lynn
- St James Road, Southampton

3.3 **Grant allocation policy** The CGC continues to award grants based on the evidence given in individual applications and an assessment of how they fulfil the grant criteria. This year almost all property grants awarded were for less than the amount requested (only two were not reduced). This was due to the level of demand from projects which met the criteria.

3.4 **Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ)** 26 MAPJ grants were awarded in 2018/19 totalling £801,000; five of these were for CAP debt centres or job clubs (this compares with 25 grants totalling just over £1 million in 2017/18).

4.0 Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants during 2018/19

4.1 A review of connexional grants processes was carried out during the year. The purpose of the review was to provide clearer priorities for the CGC.

4.2 As a result of the review, the following priorities were agreed:

- a) To support the Church to make followers of Jesus Christ and to enable such activities that allow church growth, church planting and encouraging more people to become disciples of Christ.
- b) To equip, train and give confidence to the Methodist people to share the gospel of Christ with people in local communities.
- c) To equip and support the Church to be a good neighbour to people in need, especially marginalised and vulnerable people, and to challenge injustice wherever we see it.
- d) To transform societies and communities by reaching and empowering people experiencing poverty and inequality of resources whether in an urban or rural setting.

4.3 The review also recommended that there should be a single application form for non-property applications; a single grants stream, and that the Mission in Britain sub-committee should be discontinued. These recommendations were implemented, and revised grant criteria, a new application form, guidance and web pages put in place before the start of the connexional year 2019/20. Members of the CGC are being trained in assessing applications using the new criteria. The increased focus on discipleship and sharing the gospel means that there will be a closer working relationship with the Evangelism and Growth team.

5.0 World Mission Fund grants

5.1 The tables below show the value of grant applications received and awarded, by grant type, in 2018/19 and 2017/18. Grants from the World Mission Fund support the training of students from partner churches (SALT), the post of a national of the partner church to do strategic mission work for the Church (NMA), the general functioning of the Church or partner organisation (Annual), and respond to unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment, etc (General).

Table 5: 2018/19

Grant Streams	Budget	Awards	% of total
	£	£	%
SALT	536,200	796329	149%
General Grants	250,000	238936	96%
Nationals in Mission Appointments	993,157	993157	100%
Annual Grants	1,664,668	1415623	85%
Totals	3,444,045	3,444,045	100%

Table 6: 2017/18

Grant Streams	Budget	Awards	% of total
	£	£	%
SALT	300,000	388,506	130
General Grants	250,000	335,058	134
Nationals in Mission Appointments	900,000	900,428	100
Annual Grants	2,170,000	1,735,194	80
Totals	3,620,000	3,359,186	93

6.0 MELD (Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, Dissemination)

- 6.1 The World MELD team is now operational and has begun to explore how best to proceed. Its first exercise was a pilot sampling of small grant awards to Latin America and Caribbean, the results of which were satisfactory. A review is now underway of selected SALT grants to determine whether those who have received training (largely Masters and PhD programmes) have continued in leadership and theological education roles in their churches.
- 6.2 The British MELD Team has continued to highlight learning that can be shared throughout the Connexion. The Grants team has been working closely with the One Mission Engagement Officer and the Media team to share and develop good news stories. Appendix 3 shows a high-level breakdown of grants by the areas of *Our Calling* (none of which included Worship).

7.0 Grants Policy

- 7.1 The CGC has agreed a policy setting out the limits for reclaiming property grants (capital monies, covered by SO 916). This policy is presented here, for agreement by the Council. The CGC proposes that property grants should only be reclaimed if they have not fully delivered the impact and benefits that were expected when they were granted. Full delivery of impact and benefits is linked to the number of years for which the building has been in use following confirmation of the grant. Property grants will therefore only be liable for repayment in the first ten years following grant confirmation, after this time the grant will not be repayable. The CGC requests the Council to recommend this policy to the 2020 Methodist Conference and to request the Law and Polity Committee to draft any necessary changes to SO 916 for approval by the Conference.

Grant Reclaim Policy for CGC

Background

Currently all property grants are reclaimed by TMCP when properties are sold. SO 916(1)(iii) provides for reclaiming of capital monies unless the treasurers of the fund say otherwise, where this is requested (currently such requests are not being made). There are currently no criteria or a process for determining how or when fund treasurers would waive repayment of property grants. A simple policy is needed to regularise this and to set out the basis for any 'clawback', including clarification of timescales for reclaim as currently this is open-ended, resulting in grants being effectively treated as loans.

The following has been agreed by the CGC and is proposed as a means of addressing both the lack of process for waiving 'clawback' and enabling a standardised approach to be taken with all applicants. This policy only applies to property grants.

Proposed policy

Property grants should *only* be reclaimed if they have not fully delivered the impact and benefits that were expected when they were granted. This requires that the benefits should have been delivered over a reasonable number of years. Unless any MELD review has indicated otherwise, if a property has been in use for 10 years *after the grant commitment has been made* (ie date of relevant committee decision) then no repayment is necessary, this applies to grants of all sizes, including the maximum. The following clawback percentages are proposed where churches are sold after completion of a property project:

- Within 0–5 years 100%
- Within 6 years 80%
- Within 7 years 60%
- Within 8 years 40%
- Within 9 years 20%
- After 10 years 0%

8. Staffing and committee members

- 8.1 Thanks are expressed to the volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams.
- 8.2 Special thanks are expressed to the following whose term of office ended during 2018/19: Peter Broekhuizen, Janice Clark, Cliff Everitt, Chris Finbow, the Revd Dr Wendy Kilworth-Mason, Daleep Mukarji and Louise Murray.
- 8.3 The CGC is especially appreciative of the leadership of Daleep Mukarji and Janice Clark who have steered World Church grants through new processes and committee arrangements over the last three years.
- 8.4 One round of recruitment took place during the year for additional members of the CGC. Bala Gnanapragasam (Chair of the Mission in Britain sub-committee) was not active in the CGC this year while he carried out his Vice-Presidential duties.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

73/1. The Council receives the report.

73/2. The Council approves the property grant reclaim policy as set out in paragraph 7.1 and requests the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary amendments to Standing Orders.

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

District	Awards £	Grants	Applications	Budget %
Beds, Essex, Herts	25,000	1	1	2%
Birmingham	0		1	
Bolton and Rochdale				
Bristol	185,733	2	3	12%
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	18,000	1	3	1%
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly				
Cumbria	64,700	1	2	4%
Darlington	0		1	
East Anglia				
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	47,735	1	1	3%
Lincolnshire	27,695	1	2	2%
Liverpool	126,640	2	2	8%
London	68,000	1	4	4%
Manchester and Stockport	177,199	3	3	11%
Newcastle	50,000	1	2	3%
Northampton	25,300	1	2	2%
Nottingham and Derby	0		1	
Plymouth and Exeter	0		1	
Scotland	0		1	
Sheffield	344,000	5	7	22%
Shetland				
South East	115,000	3	5	7%
Southampton				
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	37,900	1	1	2%
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	191,000	3	3	12%
Yorkshire North and East	50,000	1	1	3%
Yorkshire West	27,500	1	1	2%
Totals	1,581,402	29	48	100%

Appendix 2 – Property Grants

District	Awards £	Grants	Applications	Budget %
Beds, Essex, Herts	0	0	1	
Birmingham				
Bolton and Rochdale	80,000	1	1	5%
Bristol				
Channel Islands	70,000	1	1	4%
Chester and Stoke	0	0	1	
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly				
Cumbria				
Darlington				
East Anglia	255,000	3	7	16%
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	45,000	1	1	3%
Lincolnshire	40,000	1	1	2%
Liverpool	50,000	1	1	3%
London	50,000	1	2	3%
Manchester and Stockport	0		2	
Newcastle	60,000	1	1	4%
Northampton	60,000	2	7	4%
Nottingham and Derby	157,000	2	3	10%
Plymouth and Exeter	0	0	2	
Scotland	0		1	
Sheffield	285,000	5	9	17%
Shetland				
South East	87,500	4	6	5%
Southampton	150,000	1	1	9%
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	100,000	1	1	6%
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury				
Yorkshire North and East	90,000	1	4	6%
Yorkshire West	50,000	1	1	3%
Totals	1,779,500	27	56	100%

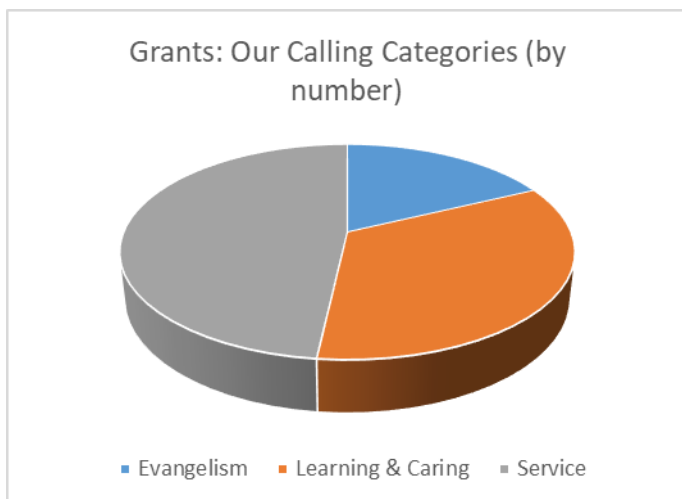
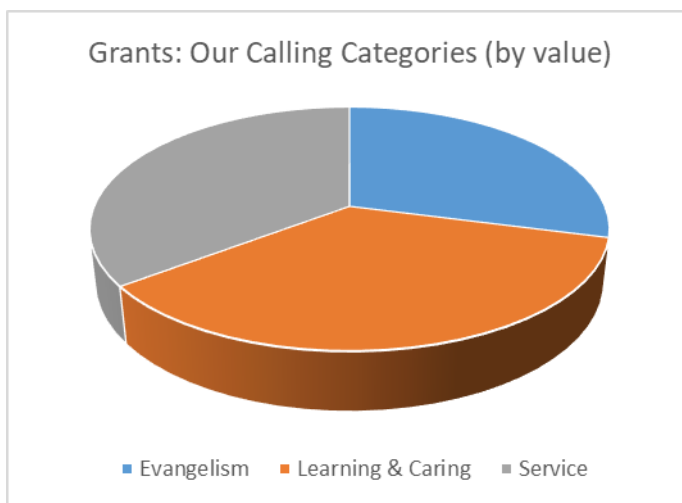
Appendix 3

Grants and *Our Calling* Analysis

Breakdown of all 2017/18 Mission and Ministry grants (not Property) by Our Calling areas

	Awards	Number
Evangelism	975200	10
Learning and Caring	1193911	19
Service	1185089	27
Total	3354200	56

There were no projects within the Worship area. For the purpose of this exercise all Chaplaincy grants have been allocated to Learning and Caring and nearly all MAPJ grants to Service.



The difference in size between Evangelism and Learning and Caring in the two pie charts is due to relatively large Mission and Ministry grants and relatively small MAPJ grants.