



Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
London
NW1 5JR

December 2021

To: All Ministers and Probationers Stationed in the Active Work and All District,
Circuit and Church Treasurers

WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We are distributing the link to this newsletter by e-mail to all Ministers, Probationers, District, Circuit and Church Treasurers. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who you think may find it useful.

Despite Methodist Church House having closed once more in line with the government's work from home guidance, we are still contactable by email and our usual telephone numbers. We are receiving post on an infrequent basis, however, we encourage the use of email and phone as much as possible.

On behalf of all the Connexional Finance Team can I thank you for all you do to support us through the year and wish you every blessing for a Happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Tattersall
Director of Finance & Resources

Stipends, Grants and Allowances

The Connexional Allowances Committee is recommending that the standard stipend for 2022/23 is increased by 4.24% in line with the usual formula to £26,928.

Computers for Ministry

The Computers for Ministry (CfM) Allowance for 2022/23 will be £176 to be paid with the October 2022 stipend. It is payable to all ministers except those whose computing facilities are provided at their place of work. The allowance is non-pensionable and subject to tax and National Insurance.

Student ministers entering training are eligible to receive a grant equal to four times the annual CfM Allowance. They will then be eligible to receive the annual allowance once they begin ministry.

The Real Living Wage

A resolution was passed at the 2015 Conference that the implementation of the Living Wage is now mandatory in all but the most extreme and exceptional circumstances, and that all outstanding exceptions must continue to be reviewed by the appropriate District Policy Committee. The Living Wage Foundation have published the latest real living wage and this is £11.05 an hour for those that live in London and £9.90 per hour for those that live elsewhere the UK. These rates must be implemented by April 2022. Please see the link below for further details.

<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage>

The value of additional points on the salary scale increase to £606 (outside London) and £646 (London).

Ministers Pay Dates January 2022 to December 2022

January 2022	Friday 31st December 2021
February 2022	Tuesday 1st February 2022
March 2022	Tuesday 1st March 2022
April 2022	Friday 1st April 2022
May 2022	Friday 29th April 2022
June 2022	Wednesday 1 st June 2022
July 2022	Friday 1st July 2022
August 2022	Monday 1st August 2022
September 2022	Thursday 1st September 2022
October 2022	Friday 30th September 2022
November 2022	Tuesday 1st November 2022
December 2022	Thursday 1st December 2022
January 2023	Friday 30th December 2022

Taxation Directory

Ministers and treasurers are reminded that more information about the tax treatment of a number of topics including expenses can be found in the taxation directory on the website [Taxation Directory \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/taxation-directory)

Apprenticeship Levy

Treasurers who have local payroll arrangements are reminded that the Methodist Church is a connected employer for the purposes of the Apprenticeship Levy. This means you must pay the Apprenticeship Levy, are not exempt as a small employer and you cannot claim the £15k allowance. For users of the Payroll Bureau at Methodist Church House, the Apprenticeship Levy is taken automatically. Further information can be found on the website. [Apprenticeship levy.pdf](#)

Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme

Treasurers will be aware of the appeal made by the 2021 Conference for donations to the Pension Reserve Fund in order to address the challenge of moving the pension schemes to lower risk investment strategies. This issue has provoked a lot of discussion, but we are grateful for everyone who has engaged positively with the issue, regardless of whether that has led to a donation or not. We are aware that some churches and circuits have not yet reached a final decision on whether to make a donation and will not be contributing by the deadline set of 31 December. However, all contributions after 31 December will still be very gratefully received. Further information about the appeal can be found at [Pension Reserve Fund \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/pension-reserve-fund)

In agreeing the triennial valuation of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS), the cost of future accrual in the scheme has increased. As the pension scheme de-risks its investment strategy over the next 15 years, it is likely that costs will continue to increase. It has been agreed that this increased cost will be paid from the Pension Reserve Fund in 2021/22 and not passed on to circuits. Decisions about what happens in 2022/23 and beyond will need to be considered by the Conference.

Grants

In order to ensure that ministerial grants are processed in a timely manner please scan the grant forms and send them to ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk

Banking

Many treasurers have been in contact to share their frustrations concerning the provision of banking services to churches, the introduction of charges for accounts, the impact of branch closure programmes, and the on-going bureaucracy experienced in relation to the anti-money laundering regulations. We are in dialogue with a number of major banks, but it appears the appetite to support smaller charities is limited. The Director of Finance & Resources has also written to HSBC concerning the introduction of banking charges and was interviewed on Radio 4's Today Programme on the subject. The response from HSBC can be found on our website [HSBC Reply](#). We also note that transferring accounts to a different bank can be a challenging process, not least because many churches are "excepted" charities i.e. not registered with the Charity Commission. Further information on this point can be found on the website [Charity Registration \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/charity-registration)

Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers

Connexional funds are used to pay a block subscription so that every Methodist Church, Circuit and District can have free membership of ACAT. If you have not yet signed up, please find more details at [ACAT Membership](#)

Donations for the benefit of the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT), The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Homes (LWPH) and The Local Preachers Mutual Aid (LPMA).

We have received the following information from LWPT and LWPH

The two charities, LWPT and LWPH, have been operating independently since 2017. As such, members of the Methodist Church need to be aware that there have been changes in the way individual and church donations are dealt with to benefit LWPT and LWPH. We are both registered with the Charities' Commission with two different, but compatible, purposes, namely:

- 1 LWPH – 'Provision of housing and residential care for those involved in worship/preaching and their dependents/relatives'.
- 2 LWPT – 'Providing resources, support and grants for those who lead worship and preach'.

Therefore, in accordance with Charity Commission regulations and GDPR database laws, we have not been able to share databases and funds with one another since our legal separation. In the light of these historical changes, we are asking Methodist Churches and their members to consider where their donations should go: LWPT, LWPH or a separate gift to each. Any individual donations (including legacies) or church collective donations should be directed at the organisation which the donor wishes to benefit. Any donations made out to LWPT or LWPH will only benefit the organisation specified. LPMA is now a dormant charity, but the fund remains active to redirect any past legacies left to LPMA by paying out grants in line with LPMA's original purposes. In whatever way you choose to refine your donation choices in future, both LWPT and LWPH thank you for your support over the years. We are both fully committed to benefitting God's people on the front line of daily ministry.

LWPHomes contact details Registered Office – 1 Winton Avenue, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7QU Telephone – 01702 342059 Email – homesadmin@lwphomes.org.uk

LWPT – contact details Registered Office – Unit 14, Orbital 25 Business Park, Dwight Road, Watford WD18 9DA Telephone – 01923 231811 Email - lwptoffice@lwpt.org.uk

Feedback

We are always pleased to receive feedback on the newsletter and the contents of the website. Should you have suggestions for how we can improve the information we provide, do not hesitate to contact us at finance@methodistchurch.org.uk

Contacting the Finance Team

Please do not hesitate to contact the Payroll Team with any payroll related queries:

For the Ministers payroll and benefits please e-mail stipends@methodistchurch.org.uk

For the lay payroll please e-mail payrollbureau@methodistchurch.org.uk

For ministerial grants please email ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk

For the Gift Aid bureau please email giftaid@methodistchurch.org.uk

Additionally, the contact details for individual members of the Finance team can be found on the Finance page of the Methodist Church website at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/finance/contact-the-finance-office/>

If you don't know who you need to speak to then please contact Lesley Roberts our Senior Administrator on 0207 467 5264 or RobertsL@methodistchurch.org.uk

