

Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the year ended 31 August 2018

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Action Required	For information.
Resolution	86/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Annual report of the Connexional Grants Committee for the connexional year 2017-18
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)	Council reports MC/17/50, MC/17/98

Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) Annual report for year ended 31 August 2018

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The CGC including its sub-committees and subsidiary streams is appointed annually by the Council in accordance with Standing Order 213B to be responsible for all connexional grants.
- 1.2 This report includes summary overviews of Mission and Ministry in Britain and World Church grants budgets, applications received and awarded in the connexional year. From a budget of **£5,454,000** for Mission and Ministry in Britain grants, **£5,321,164** has been awarded.
- 1.3 From a World Mission Grants budget allocation of **£3,620,000** (this was increased following a request to the SRC for additional funds) **£3,352,226** has been awarded. The current underspend is less than the sum of the additional funds request.
- 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. For example, World Church annual grant payments and future funding tranches are consistently put on hold when monitoring and evaluation reports have not been received. Other issues relating to World Church grants will be addressed by the introduction of a MELD function for World Church grants in 2018/19.
- 1.5 In October 2017, the Council adopted a policy for Mission in Britain grants (this followed the 'Partnership, Focus and Evolution' strategy for World Church grants). In addition to confirming mission and ministry in Britain grant criteria and processes it agreed new criteria for non-Methodist applicant organisations.
- 1.6 The number of British applications continues to show a very significant upward trend (see tables 3 and 4 below). This is in part due to a significant programme of awareness-raising by the Grants Team, including three very well attended regional/district training days for grant applicants. The sheer volume of applications has proved challenging for the Grants Team and the CGC assessment panels (streams). At the request of the CGC a review is being made of Mission in Britain (MiB) grants and grant priorities.

2.0 Grants budget allocation 2017/18

- 2.1 **Mission and Ministry in Britain** – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£5,350,000**. The CGC has also made additional funding of **£104,000** available via the Luton and Barratt funds:

Table 1

Mission and Ministry in Britain	2017/18 (£)	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Epworth Fund	250,000	250,000	250,000
Mission in Britain Fund	2,200,000	2,400,000	1,620,000
Connexional Priority Fund (CPF)	1,000,000	1,375,000	1,641,000
Fund for Property	1,900,000	1,600,000	1,595,000
Barratt Fund	56,000	92,000	n/a
Luton Fund	48,000	78,000	n/a
Total	£5,454,000	£5,795,000	£5,106,000

A ring-fenced amount (£397,000 in 2017/18) is held within the MiB grants budget. One Chinese ministry grant of £142,000 was awarded leaving a balance of **£255,000** for the connexional year 2018/19.

- 2.2 **World Mission Fund** – the budget agreed by the Conference was **£3,300,000** as follows, a further **£320,000** was allocated to enable transitional payments to be made due to streamlining of grant awards to ‘June’ and ‘November’ partners:

Table 2

World Mission Fund	2017/18 (£)	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Scholarship and Leadership Training (SALT)	300,000	400,000	381,000
General Grants	250,000	250,000	425,000
Nationals in Mission Appointments	900,000	650,000	800,000
Annual Grants	2,170,000	1,342,000	1,459,000
Total	3,620,000	2,642,000	3,065,000

3.0 Mission and Ministry in Britain including Fund for Property

The table below shows the number and value of grants applications received and awarded in the connexional year (NB – Grants awarded from CPF include both property and non-property projects.)

Table 3: 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	98	
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

Table 4: 2016/17

Funds	Budget	Applications	Requests	Awards	Grants	Budget %	Declined
	£	No.	£	£	No.	%	£
MiB	2,003,000	64	5,195,893	1,996,084	31	99.7	2,529,665
Epworth	250,000			243,782	5	97.5	
Chinese	397,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
CPF	1,375,000	n/a	n/a	1,102,452	23	80	n/a
Other*	170,000	n/a	n/a	50,000	2	29	n/a
Property	1,600,000	53	5,186,050	1,600,000	19	100	2,859,960
Totals	5,795,000	117	10,381,943	4,992,318	80	89	5,389,625

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

- 3.1 **Mission in Britain Fund** There have been nine grants of £100,000 or more (seven in 2016/2017). These ranged from £110,000 to £226,000. The total value of these awards was £1.35 million. These were:

- Ecumenical Church Plant, Bordon - £226,122
- Northwich New Thing - £176,000

- Cumbria Mission enabler - £160,000
- Lincolnshire Coast Chaplaincy - £150,000
- Chinese Mission in the North East - £142,000
- The Welcome Directory (non-Methodist) - £140,000
- Taketime Global Missional Project - £138,000
- 35 Chapel Walk, Sheffield - £110,000
- No 11 Burslem - £110,000

3.2 **Property Grants** The maximum connexional property grant is £200,000. Although nine applications requested the maximum grant, none were awarded (two in 2016/2017). Eight projects have been awarded grants of £100,000 or more (eight in 2016/2017). The total value of these awards was £950,000, exactly half of the budget for Fund for Property grants.

- Bedale and District Methodist Church - £150,000
- Bromley Road, Beckenham - £150,000
- Englesea Brook - £125,000
- Bowthorpe Road, Norwich - £125,000
- Oakworth Methodist Church, Keighley - £100,000
- Parson Lane, Clitheroe - £100,000
- Potter Hill, Pickering - £100,000
- Oldham Road, Failsworth - £100,000

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 grants' criteria, rather than trying to spend all the money available. The criteria were fully reviewed last year, as outlined to the Council in MC/17/50, and again in MC/17/98 this year. This year most property grants (65%) were awarded for less than the originally requested amount.

3.4 **Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ)** 25 MAPJ grants were awarded totalling just over £1 million, four of these were for CAP debt centres or job clubs. This compares with 18 grants and nearly £700,000 in 2016/2017.

3.5 **Changes to Ministry and Mission in Britain grants for 2017-2018**

A significant change made this year is the discontinuation of a 'fast track' for lower value applications (up to £50,000). The CGC, however, will continue to accept applications for small amounts towards the end of the connexional year as funds allow and seek to be flexible in responding to exceptional cases. The CGC also introduced, for the first time (excluding MAPJ), minimum amounts for grant requests. This minimum is £20,000, applications for less than this amount will not be considered.

4.0 **World Mission Fund Grants**

4.1 The table below shows the number and value of grants applications received and awarded in the connexional year. The World Mission Fund grants 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, the general functioning of the Church or partner organisation, and respond to unexpected need such as disaster relief, purchasing medical equipment, etc.

Table 5: 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

Table 6: 2016/17

Grant Streams	Budget	Awards	% of total
	£	£	%
SALT	400,000	420,103	105
General Grants	250,000	298,095	119
Nationals in Mission Appointments	650,000	533,928	82
Annual Grants	1,342,000	1,262,524	94
Totals	2,642,000	2,514,650	95

5.0 Ongoing work to review Connexional Grants

5.1 CGC keeps the application processes under continuous review and seeks to make improvements in response to experience and feedback from applicants. This has included

- Clearer scoring criteria for World Church grant applications
- Developing online application forms for Ministry and Mission in Britain applications that it is hoped to roll out in 2018/19.
- Work being undertaken to ensure clearer feedback is given to unsuccessful applicants

5.2 During 2017/8 there has been a review of the work of the MELD (Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Development) Team resulting in

- Amendments to the reporting template to emphasise that it is used to measure impact
- Increased use of MELD Team to review early stages of 'risky' projects
- Grants Team more likely to consider involving MELD Team if reports are unsatisfactory either wholly or in part.
- Later tranches of grants being held back until recommendations within MELD reports responded to and in one case no further payments being made.
- Storytelling training and guidance on reporting being offered to projects
- Sharing MELD analysis of DAF returns and District Grants Policies with the stream assessors looking at new projects

5.3 A new World MELD Team has been created within the CGC and will be bringing improved application and report forms to the World Church Sub-Committee in November 2018, together with other proposals.

6. Committee membership

- 6.1 Thanks are expressed to the volunteers, who give generously of their time and expertise to facilitate the operation of the CGC and its streams. Special thanks are expressed to the following whose term of office came to an end during 2017/18:
Susan Johnson, Tim Baker, Charity Nzegwu, Jim Hart, Ivan Fitzpatrick, Eddie Fowler, Russell Ong.
- 6.2 Two recruitment exercises have taken place during the year.
- 6.3 A list of current and newly appointed CGC members appears in the Committee Appointments paper [MC/18/81]. Bala Gnanapragasam (Chair of the Mission in Britain Sub-Committee) will not be active within the CGC this year while he carries out his Vice-Presidential duties.

*****RESOLUTION**

86/1. The Council receives the report.

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

District	Awards £	Grants	Applications	Budget %
Beds, Essex, Herts	36,000	1	3	1.3%
Birmingham	87,000	3	3	3.2%
Bolton and Rochdale	38,028	1	1	1.4%
Bristol	175,613	5	5	6.5%
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	233,502	4	6	8.6%
Cornwall	0	0	1	0.0%
Cumbria	195,847	2	2	7.3%
Darlington	242,000	3	6	9.0%
East Anglia				
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	50,000	1	2	1.9%
Lincolnshire	212,780	2	2	7.9%
Liverpool	22,000	1	1	0.8%
London	20,000	1	2	0.7%
Manchester and Stockport	230,000	2	2	8.5%
Newcastle	108,800	3	4	4.0%
Northampton	49,500	1	4	1.8%
Nottingham and Derby	20,000	1	1	0.7%
Plymouth and Exeter	95,414	3	4	3.5%
Scotland	37,500	1	1	1.4%
Sheffield	242,500	4	6	9.0%
Shetland				
South East	138,000	1	2	5.1%
Southampton	253,622	2	2	9.4%
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	124,650	2	2	4.6%
Yorkshire West	87,000	2	2	3.2%
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury				
Yorkshire North and East				
Totals	2,699,756	46	64	100%

Appendix 2 – Property Grants

District	Awards £	Grants	Applications	Budget %
Beds, Essex, Herts	0	0	1	0%
Birmingham	19,000	1	5	1%
Bolton and Rochdale				
Bristol	50,000	1	1	2%
Channel Islands				
Chester and Stoke	92,000	3	4	4%
Cornwall	0	0	2	0%
Cumbria	5,000	1	1	0%
Darlington	70,000	2	2	3%
East Anglia	165,000	2	4	8%
Isle of Man				
Lancashire	145,000	3	3	7%
Lincolnshire	32,700	2	3	2%
Liverpool				
London	336,000	6	6	16%
Manchester and Stockport	110,000	2	3	5%
Newcastle				
Northampton	95,000	2	4	5%
Nottingham and Derby	25,000	1	2	1%
Plymouth and Exeter	100,000	2	2	5%
Scotland				
Sheffield	211,000	1	1	10%
Shetland				
South East	50,000	1	1	2%
Southampton	55,000	2	2	3%
Synod Cymru				
Wales Synod	3,800	1	2	0%
Yorkshire West	243,664	4	5	12%
Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	20,000	1	1	1%
Yorkshire North and East	290,000	4	5	14%
Totals	2,118,164	42	60	100%