

Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST FUND.

Grant Application Form – the Context

The Circuit is committed to encouraging and enabling churches and groups to grasp opportunities for mission. This includes by supporting them with grant aid where it is appropriate and possible.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund (MTF) is primarily for ‘development’ rather than ‘maintenance’ and is an example of the Methodist principle of Connexionalism, whereby resources are shared in order to help and support those with least resources of their own and where there are strategic mission priorities.

Support in completing the form is available – please contact Revd. Richard Hall on richall55@me.com

**General Information**

* There will be four grant periods a year – in *September, November, March and June*. The deadlines for submitting grant applications are given on the Circuit Website under Grants.
* Two or three members of the Church Council of the church who are applying for a grant will be invited to attend a meeting with a group of Circuit Stewards & the Circuit Superintendent to talk about the project and the difference having the grant will make to the mission of the church.
* The group will make a recommendation to the Circuit Finance & Property Meeting (FPM) for applications which are successful, for the FPM to make a recommendation to Circuit Meeting (CM) regarding the allocation of funds.
* It should not be assumed that a grant will be given because the application matches the grant criteria. The funds available for MTF grant support changes from year to year, as do the number of applications and amounts requested.
* Churches are expected to make effective use of their own financial resources and make applications for any other available grants for the support and development of mission and ministry, e.g. District and Connexional grants, and local funders.
* In order to avoid tying up funds unnecessarily, grants which have not been taken up within one year of approval will normally lapse. However, grants may be paid in instalments of up to 5 years.
* A grant will only be paid when evidence is given of a worker being employed in the case of a grant to support the salary of a worker, or for a project having full approval on the property consents website in the case of a grant to support a property scheme.

**Criteria for Grant Applications**

The total amount of grant funding available in any given year will depend on the amount of funds available.

When considering grant applications, priority will be given to:

* Projects that are part of a clear strategy directed towards fulfilling God’s mission through the local church or circuit and are consistent with the District/Circuit Development policy.
* Projects which seek to respond to the significant of an area where there is little Christian presence.
* Projects which make good use of resources by working in an ecumenical context, and where appropriate, in partnership with other churches and/or organisations.
* Projects where a need has been identified both in the Church and the wider community and have developed a way to respond effectively.
* Projects that encourage involvement with the gospel priority for the marginalised and poor and with those who are disadvantaged within the community.
* Projects that have considered the needs of various age groups, especially taking into account young people and young adults.
* Projects that incorporate the potential for providing new ways of being Church (new Places for New People) or improving on existing practice.
* Projects which demonstrate long term sustainability.
* Churches will be limited to one supported application each Connexional year.

*Proposals to be amended or approved by Circuit Meeting.*

* *In year one the total funding available for all grants would be £50,000.00 with an individual grant limit of £10,000.00.*
* *The first round of grants would be made available in September 2020 with an application deadline of August 1st 2020.*