



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

Circuit Model Trust Fund Grants Policy and Guidelines 2023/24

Introduction and Context:

The Circuit is dedicated to helping churches and groups undertake mission opportunities, providing them with grant aid whenever feasible and appropriate. The Circuit Model Trust Fund (CMTF) focuses on funding 'development' activities rather than 'maintenance', reflecting the Methodist focus on mission. This principle emphasises pooling resources to support those with fewer resources, particularly in areas of strategic mission importance.

Eligibility and Scope:

Grants are available to churches and groups for projects that align with strategic mission priorities, particularly those that address underrepresented areas in Christian presence and respond effectively to church and community needs.

Funding Limits and Availability:

- **Variable Funding:** The total amount of available funds and individual grant limits may change each year, subject to approval by the Circuit Meeting, with the current individual grant limit set at £20,000.00 per church. Meeting the criteria does not automatically guarantee a grant due to fluctuations in available funds and the number of applications.
- **Total Grant Application:** The maximum grant that can be applied for is the lower of 10% of the total project cost or £20,000.
- **Utilising Resources:** Churches are encouraged to use their financial resources and explore other mission-support grants effectively.
- **Grant Validity:** Grants not utilised within one year of approval will normally lapse, although payments can be spread over five years.
- **Payment Conditions:** Grant payments are made upon evidence of hiring a worker for salary support grants (*if applicable*) or full project approval for property scheme grants.
- **Application Limit:** Each church is limited to one supported application per Connexional year.

Grant Criteria:

Priority is given to projects that:

- Align with God's mission and have a meaningful community impact.
- Demonstrate ecumenical collaboration and partnerships with other organisations.
- Address the needs of diverse age groups, focusing on the marginalised, young people, and young adults.
- Introduce innovative approaches to church practices or significantly improve existing ones.
- Showcase potential for long-term sustainability.

Application Process:

- 1. Application Form:** Applications must be submitted using the approved form on the Methodist Church Isle of Man website.
- 2. Application Submission:** Completed applications should be sent to The Grants Officer, Revd Bryan Yardy, at bryan.yardy@me.com
Note: For individuals without email access or requiring assistance with the application, please contact Revd Bryan Yardy (Tel: 01624 812385).
- 3. Application Review:** The Circuit Stewards will arrange a site visit, meeting with representatives from the Church Council and the Circuit Superintendent to discuss the missional aspects of the church's project outlined in the grant application.
- 4. Application Recommendation:** Successful applications are recommended to the Circuit Finance & Property Meeting, then to the Circuit Meeting for fund allocation.

Application Deadlines and Grant Periods:

There are four grant periods each year, aligning with the quarterly Circuit Meetings, usually held in **September, November, March,** and **June**. Applicants should submit grant applications in good time to allow the Circuit Stewards to review them and, if deemed necessary, arrange a site visit and a meeting with church representatives before the upcoming Circuit Finance and Property meeting.

Policy Review and Updates:

This policy and guidelines are subject to annual review and may be updated to reflect changes in church and community needs or funding availability. Any updates will be made at the beginning of the Methodist year during the September Circuit Meeting.