

20. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Contact name and details	Mrs Janet Bryer (Fund Treasurer) districtadmin@methodistchurchinscotland.net
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Legal

The fund is governed by a Deed of Trust registered in the books of the Lords of Council and Session at Edinburgh on 4 November 1869. The Deed narrates resolutions of the Conference of 1869 as to the raising, administration and purposes of the Fund. (See Standing Order 476 for further information.)

The purposes of the said Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland are:

- The liquidation of debts yet remaining on Methodist churches, chapels or manses in Scotland or debts that may yet be contracted with the sanction of the connexional property committee.
- The purchase or erection of new or additional places of worship and of sites for such objects, and
- The acquisition of manses or investment of money to meet house rents thus making provision for the residences of ordained ministers where at present only probationers are stationed and from time to time in other places as occasion may arise.

1. Administration

1.1 The means of Aid is by way of grants and/or interest free loans. No funds can be allocated unless the project is listed under the Methodist Church Property Consents Procedures for authorisation by local and circuit bodies and by the District Consents Panel and, where appropriate, the Connexional Conservation Officer. Where a grant has been made it remains refundable if the property is subsequently sold.

1.2 The Trustees are:

OFFICIAL: The Revd S Mark Slaney – Chair of the Scotland District; Mr Peter Mills (to 31 August 2024), Mrs Janet Bryer (from 1 September 2024) - Treasurer of the Scotland District; the Revd Adam J Stevenson –Superintendents’ Representative; Vacancy – District Grants Officer.

NON-OFFICIAL: Dr Alan J Hayes; Mr David A Easson; Mr Edward A L Wallace; Vacancy

The General Committee consists of the Scotland District Policy Committee.

The Fund Treasurer and the Lay General Secretary are members of the Synod during the transaction of financial and statistical business (1948 Minutes p10).

Fund Treasurer – Mrs Janet Bryer
Acting Lay General Secretary – District Administrator

2. Financial

2.1 The accounts for 2024 were presented by the fund treasurer to the Trustees and General Committee in March 2025 and these were accepted for presentation to Synod and completion of the OSCR return.

2.2 The incoming resources of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024 was £22,831 (2023 £15,562). The change over the previous year was due to repayments of grants totalling £6,470 after the sale of the relevant properties and higher interest received from the CFB account offset by repayments in one loan. The Circuit subscriptions under SO 476 remain suspended.

2.3 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was an increase of £5,943 (2023 £14,839) with CFB capitalised surplus funds of £168,814 (2023 £155,954) and investments valued at £280,260 (2023 £265,525).

2.4 Balances at 31 December 2024

General Fund £5,349 (2023 £10,657)

Grant fund £105,960 (2023 £99,193), recoverable grants £366,018 (2023 £350,488)

Loan Account £62,633 (2023 £58,149), outstanding loans £4,375 (2023 £5,325)

The overall Fund value at 31 December 2024 was £454,203 (2023 £433,525)

3. Grants

Grants previously approved paid totalling £Nil (2023 £Nil).

Grants approved and paid out this year totalled £16,000 (2023 £6,000)

- Aberdeen Methodist Church £10,000

- Girvan Methodist Church £6,000

During the year two recoverable grants were repaid £6,470 (2023 £Nil).

- Partick Methodist Church £2,450

- Findochty Methodist Church £4,020

4. Loans

Loan instalments are collected half-yearly in May and November. No loans were approved and paid during the year. (2023 £Nil).

5. General

The trustees and general committee recommend a further extension to the current suspension of circuit subscriptions to the fund during the connexional year 2025/26.

6. Changes to the Fund – Future Changes

The Trustees also report that further changes to the structure of the Fund are under consideration with a move to adoption of the Model Trusts in place of the existing Deed of Trust. This is with a view to updating governance and management procedures so as to encourage more effective use of resources.

7. After consideration by the Trustees and General Committee the Synod was asked to note their proposal in respect of the allocation of the 2024 General Receipts balance (£5,349) as at 31 December 2024 to the Grants Fund. This proposal requires the consent of the Conference.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

20/1. The Conference received the Report.

20/2. The Conference approved the actions proposed in paragraph 7 of the Report.