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Registered charity no 1132208

**To:** All District, Circuit and Church Treasurers (via email)  
**Cc:** All Ministers and Probationers Stationed in the Active Work (via Signpost for Ministry)

### **FINANCE NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends,

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

We are always happy to receive feedback on the newsletter and if you have items that you feel will be of interest across the Connexion we can consider these for inclusion in future editions.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Tattersall  
Executive Director of Finance & Resources



## FINANCE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025

### Stipend 2025/26

The Resourcing Committee is recommending that the standard stipend for 2025/26 is increased by 3.06% to £31,980 when rounded.

### Computers for Ministry 2025/26

It is recommended that the Computers for Ministry (CfM) Allowance for 2025/26 will be £211 to be paid with the October 2025 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.

### National Insurance Contributions

You will be aware of the changes to National insurance that come in to effect in April. This measure decreases the National Insurance contributions Secondary Threshold, the earnings after which an employer becomes liable to pay secondary Class 1 National Insurance contributions on a given employment, from £9,100 per year to £5,000 per year. It also increases the Secondary Class 1 National Insurance contributions rate from 13.8% to 15%. The HMRC view all Methodist churches, circuits, districts and Connexional team as connected employers and therefore the reliefs for small employers is not applicable.

### District Assessment 2025/26

The Connexional Council has agreed that the MCF District Assessment is reduced by 0.4% in 2025/26. This includes a reduction of 3 percentage points in light of the difficulties some churches and circuits are having in paying their Assessment, then uplifted by 2.6% to reflect the impact of inflation.

It should be noted that the Assessment formula adjusts for relative staffing levels in each district. As a Result, the actual change in Assessment in each district varies accordingly.

### Pension Reserve Fund

Refunds of the generous donations to the Pension Reserve Fund have been processed following the decision by the Conference to return the monies received. Where account details were not given at the time of donation, we are contacting the places concerned and continuing to process refunds.

If your church, circuit or district made a donation, and you have not yet received the refund, please contact us via [financeadmin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:financeadmin@methodistchurch.org.uk) to provide the bank account details that we should use to process the refund.

### Allowances above stipend

Circuits and Districts are not able to approve local allowances for ministers over and above stipend. Where there are special circumstances requiring the payment of a local allowance, these should be submitted to the Resourcing Committee for consideration. Payment of local allowances should not form part of stationing conversations unless the allowances in question have already been approved by the Resourcing Committee. If a departing minister is paid a local allowance it should not be assumed that the incoming minister is automatically eligible for that same allowance, a new approval is required from the Resourcing Committee. There remain a number of historic local allowances being paid and these will continue until the end of the minister's current appointment.

Should any circuit or district believe a new local allowance is required from September 2025, applications should be made through the Connexional Team at [ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:ministerial.grants@methodistchurch.org.uk). The deadline for submitting a request is 30<sup>th</sup> April.



## Grants

### Ministerial Grants

As part of the changes to the governance of the Methodist Church introduced in September 2024, the Connexional Allowances Committee was disbanded and its role and responsibilities transferred to the new Resourcing Committee.

For the most part, this means no change in the grant application process and applications should still be emailed or posted to the Ministerial Grants team. However, we would like to highlight that applications that require the consideration of the Resourcing Committee (for either financial or policy reasons) will now be reviewed when the committee meets bi-monthly. It is no longer the case that such applications will be circulated on receipt, and committee members asked for their individual responses. Future 2025 committee dates are 14 March, 16 May and 15 July. Applicants will be notified if it is the case that their application is pending review by the Resourcing Committee.

Application forms and contact details for the Ministerial Grants team can be found via [Ministerial Grants - The Methodist Church](#).

### Property Grants

If urgent repairs to property are required, grants to help with this expenditure are available from the [National Churches Trust](#), which offer small, medium and large grants for repairs and maintenance issues. A list of other external grant providers can be found on [Property Grants - The Methodist Church](#).

### Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)

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](#). Details of forthcoming events can be found at [Home - ACAT](#).

## Methodist Church House



**We have moved**  
- our new registered address is

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