

## 54. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Edward A L Wallace General Treasurer and non-official trustee
---------------------------------	--

### 1. Legal

- 1.1 The fund is governed by a Deed of Trust registered in the books of the Lords and 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 should be as follows:**

- (1) 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,
- (2) The purchase or erection of new or additional places of worship and of sites for such objects, and
- (3) 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.

### 2. Administration

- 2.1 The means of Aid is by way of Grants and/or interest free loans but no funds can be allocated unless the Project requires approval under the Methodist Church Property Consents Procedure, sanctioned and approved 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.
- 2.2 The present Trustees are:  
OFFICIAL: The Revd S Mark Slaney – Synod Chair; the Revd Dr Helen E Jenkins – Presbyteral Synod Secretary; the Revd Allan Y Loudon – District Ministerial Property Secretary and the Revd Nicholas B Baker – District Home Mission.

NON-OFFICIAL: Dr Alan J Hayes; Mr David A Easson; Mr Edward A L Wallace (General Secretary and Treasurer): and Miss Maureen G Anderson.

The General Committee consists of the Trustees, General Secretary and Treasurer, the District Lay Property Secretary – Mr Phillip A Haggis, the Superintendent Ministers of every Circuit and Mrs Margaret Brown, Mrs Jenny Easson and Mr Peter Mills as the present Synod-nominated lay members.

### 3. Financial

- 3.1 The incoming resources of the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2021 was £12,046 (2020 £55,185). The decrease over the previous year was due to only small grant repayments from the proceeds of sale of grant aided properties and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic when circuit subscriptions under SO 476 were waived with the approval of the 2020 Conference.
- 3.2 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was an increase of £635 (2020 £24,617).
- 3.3 During the year only one new application for Aid was considered by the General Committee of which was granted.  
Grants previously approved paid out totalling £Nil (2020 £Nil).  
Grants approved and paid out this year totalled £10,000 (2020 £13,500).

Loans previously approved paid out totalling £Nil (2020 £Nil).  
Loans approved and paid out this year totalled £4,500 (2020 £4,500)

- 3.4 The General Fund balance at 31 December 2020 (£9,519.68) was allocated to the Grants Fund as noted by Synod and consented to by the 2021 Conference.
- 3.5 After some years of deliberation with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, on 1 March 2020, our investments in the CFB Mixed Managed Fund were split into an Endowed Capital Fund and Surplus Funds capital Fund reflecting the intention of the original Scottish Trust set up in 1869.
- 3.6 Balances at 31 December 2021:  
General Fund £2,713 (2020 £9,520),  
Grant Fund £73,456 (2020 £72,991), recoverable grants £347,052 (2020 £350,492), and  
Loan Account £41,600 (2020 £41,600), outstanding loans £16,975 (2020 £23,459).  
The overall Fund value at 31 December 2021 was £416,007 (2020 £377,677).

#### **4. Grants**

There was one Grant approved and paid during the year:

Strathclyde Circuit [Pollokshaws Manse] £10,000

Also in relation to this property was the transfer of the contingent liability of £11,000 from the Kilsyth manse under the replacement scheme.

#### **5. Loans**

Loan instalments are collected half-yearly in May and November.

No loans were approved and paid during the year:

#### **6. General**

- 6.1 Due to the sudden appearance of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 the General Committee requested the 2020 Conference to consent to the temporary suspension of the Circuit Subscription for the connexional year 2020/21. Consent having been received a Nil Notice of Subscriptions for the connexional year 2020/21 was despatched to Circuit Treasurers. As the financial year for the Fund bridges two connexional years the General Committee requested Conference 2021 to agree to a second subscription suspension for 2021/22. Consent having been received by the 2021 Conference 2021, NIL Notice of Subscriptions was advised to Circuit Treasurers. It is the view of the General Committee that churches and Circuits will continue to suffer from the financial impact during the connexional year 2022/23 and are seeking consent to extend the current temporary suspension of the Circuit Subscription again for 2022/23.

#### **7. Changes to Fund**

- 7.1 Recognising that the Relief and Extension Fund (R&E Fund) is an independent charity reporting to the Conference under the noted Trust Deed and to OSCR under Scottish Charity law - notification is given that the following changes to the operation of the Fund are under discussion with the aim to make it more flexible in its operation and more effective in its support of the mission plan of the Scotland District. These discussions form part of the streamlining of operational structure in line with the current District Review being brought to Synod in May 2022.
1. The reporting financial year to be changed to be the connexional year rather than calendar year.
  2. A joint application for DAF and R&E Fund be implemented for assessment and administration purposes under the scrutiny of the District Grants Committee. (The application form has been agreed by Trustees in 2021.)
  3. Existing named Trustees to step down and the Trustees of the R&E Fund to be set to match the District Grants Committee membership – to be Chair, two ordained ministers and three lay members, with non-voting admin.

4. The role of the R&E Fund General Committee (for approval of Funds) to be undertaken by the revised DPC (subject to Synod authorisation of proposal) – operational from September 2022.
5. R&E Fund to be reported by annual report to the Conference via Synod.
6. Financial Management to be done by District Treasurer in collaboration with TMCP – to fulfil the Trust role of the General Treasurer.
7. Fund Operation to be done by District Grants Officer – to fulfil the Trust role of General Secretary.

The Conference is asked to receive these proposals and facilitate their implementation through legal adjustment to the Trust Deed and administrative support as required.

- 7.2 After consideration by the Trustees and General Committee the Synod was asked to note their proposal in respect of the allocation of the 2021 General Receipts balance (£2,713.35) as at 31 December 2021 to the Grants Fund. This proposal requires the consent of the Conference.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**54/1. The Conference received the Report.**

**54/2. The Conference approved the actions proposed in paragraph 7.2 of the Report.**

**54/3. The Conference noted the proposals to change the Trust Deed, and directed the trustees of the Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland to consult with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and the Law and Polity Committee on the proposed changes and to bring detailed amendments to the 2023 Conference as required.**