

12. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Contact name and details	Janet Bryer districtadmin@methodistchurchinscotland.net
Resolutions	12/1. The Conference receives the Report.

Legal

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 are:

- 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 projects, 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.

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 - Treasurer of the Scotland District; the Revd Adam Stevenson – Superintendents’ Representative; Vacancy – District Grants Officer

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

Nominations to fill this vacancy will be sought at the Spring Synod on 20 April 2024 and a name brought to the Conference for appointment.

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 2023 were presented by the fund treasurer to the Trustees and General Committee in March 2024 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 2023 were £15,562 (2022 £49,228). The change over the previous year was due to reduced grant repayments from the proceeds of sale of grant aided properties and was despite the suspension of Circuit subscriptions under SO 476.

2.3 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was an increase of £14,839 (2022 £28,415) with CFB capitalised surplus funds of £155,954 (2022 £147,981) and investments valued at £265,526 (2022 £253,163).

2.4 As in previous years, The Trustees and General Committee request that Conference approves the distribution of the balance of the General Receipts income to the Grant Fund/Loan account/Surplus Funds Trust.

2.5 Balances at 31 December 2023

General Fund £10,657 (2022 £5,179)

Grant fund £99,193 (2022 £94,230), recoverable grants £350,488 (2022 £344,488)

Loan Account £58,149 (2022 £53,752), outstanding loans £5,325 (2022 £12,575)

The overall Fund value at 31 December 2023 was £415,934 (2022 £406,385)

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3. Grants

Grants previously approved paid totalling £Nil (2022 £Nil)
Grants approved and paid out this year totalled £6,000 (2022 £20,000)
During the year one application for aid was considered and granted by the General Committee:
Kilsyth Methodist Church replacement of £6,000 loan with £6,000 grant.

4. Loans

Loan instalments are collected half-yearly in May and November. No loans were approved and paid during the year. (2022 £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 2024/25.

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.

***RESOLUTION

12/1. The Conference receives the Report.