

1. Legal

The fund is governed by a Deed of Trust registered in the books of the Lords and Council and Session at Edinburgh on 4th 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 assistance is by way of Grants and/or interest free loans but no funds can be used without a scheme and sanction of the connexional property committee. Due to disbanding of the Connexional Property Committee it is understood by the Trustees, on information acquired from TMCP, that the powers of that committee were transferred to the Methodist Council who have delegated day to day control to the new computerised Projects and Consents procedure. Therefore the Trustees have informed all interested parties that claims for Aid from the Fund can only be entertained by building projects receiving consent from the new system. Where a grant has been made it remains refundable if the property is subsequently sold. There appear to be a number of such refunds outstanding at the present time and research into this will carry on.

2.2 The Trustees by the end of 2009 were: OFFICIAL – Synod Chair; Ministerial Synod Secretary; District Ministerial Property Secretary; Unit Co-ordinator – Church Life; NON-OFFICIAL Dr Alan Hayes – District Lay Property Secretary; David Easson – Synod Secretary; Edward Wallace – Fund Secretary; and a vacancy. Since this vacancy has existed for more than two years the remaining Trustees, using powers given them by the Trust Deed, have appointed Ms Maureen Gillespie Anderson of Edinburgh as a new non-official Trustee with effect from 10th March 2010.

2.3 The General Committee consists of the Trustees, the Superintendent Ministers of every Circuit and Mrs. Jenny Easson as the present sole lay member. At a meeting of the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland held on 17th April 2010 it was proposed that two further lay members of the General Committee be appointed. The two new lay members proposed are Mr. Sandy Laurie of Kirkcaldy and Mrs. Margaret Brown of Kilsyth.

The Treasurer of the Fund for 2009 was Mrs Hayley Lewis from Inverness.

3. Financial

3.1 The incoming resources of the Fund for the year ended 31st December 2009 was £11,725 (2008 £19,078) The shortfall on the previous year being mainly due to Circuits failing to send in their contributions timeously and a significant reduction in interest and dividend receipts due to the financial disturbances in the year.

3.2 The net of incoming resources for the year after deducting grants paid and expenses was a surplus of £10,741 (2008 £8,209). The increase over the previous year was mainly due to the delay resulting from the need of a new Bank Mandate and the resultant inability to access funds. However during the year Grants totalling £26,775 were approved by the General Committee, but for reasons already stated no grants could be paid out in 2009 (2008 £9,900). However sums have started to be distributed since 1st January 2010. At their meeting on 10th March 2010 the General Committee approved further grants amounting to £3,050.

3.3 Investments have been stated in the Accounts under review at market value. For the year there was an unrealised gain of £15,440 (2008 unrealised loss of £31,827). The total unrealised gain at 31st December was £90,548.

3.4 After deducting net outgoing resources and adding gains on realised and unrealised investments there is a total balance of Funds of £253,131 at 31st December 2009 (£226,950 - 31/12/08), being £114,666 on the Grant Fund, £130,780 on the Capital Fund and £7,685 on the Loans Fund (there were no outstanding loans at 31st December 2009).

4. Conclusion

This Annual Report 2009 was tabled and accepted during the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland on 17th April 2010. A copy of the Annual Report and audited Accounts will be published in due course and a copy given into the hand of the President of the Conference before the commencement of the Representative Session as required by the terms of the Trust Deed.

E. A. L. Wallace Secretary and Trustee

*****RESOLUTIONS**

53/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

53/2. The Conference appointed the following to the General Committee of the Relief and Extension Committee for Methodism in Scotland under Standing Order 476 (1)(iv):

Mr. Sandy Laurie; Mrs. Margaret Brown.