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1 June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

This letter gives you information in regards to two matters:

1. Funding process for New Places for New People (NPNP) and Church at the Margins (CaM) new Christian communities adopted by the Strategy and Resources Committee
2. Funding allocation for Mission Alongside the Poor (Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice) allocation (SO 1004)

Funding process for New Places for New People (NPNP) and Church at the Margins (CaM) new Christian communities adopted by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Following the Secretary of the Conference's letter of 10 March 2021, I write to update you on the continuing development of the new funding process for New Places for New People (NPNP) and Church at the Margins (CaM) new Christian communities adopted by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

A full compendium of resources and key documents relating to this process will be available from 1 September 2021, but I wanted to relay some key information now in order to help you with your missional discernment and budget planning.

An overview of the process

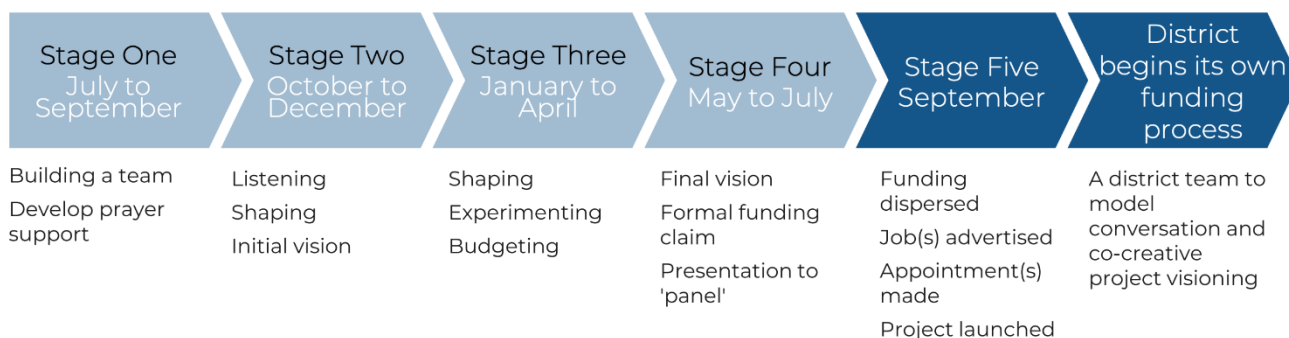
You will remember that the overall process is started when a district begins (in its self-selected 'tranche' year) a year-long journey of support, prayer, and discernment in order to design and prepare for a new district NPNP project. This journey is accompanied by Evangelism and Growth team members Matt Finch (Pioneering and Church Planting Officer) and Eunice Attwood (Church at the Margins Officer). The district NPNP project provides an opportunity to start new Christian communities as an integrated part of the district's mission strategy, and to inspire and share learning with circuits and local churches. The journey includes exploring how the district will support an ongoing, long-term commitment to starting new Christian communities in circuits across the district in a variety of contexts, including Church at the Margins. (Across the Connexion, the strategy anticipates that at least 60% of funding should be used for Church at the Margins projects.)

After completing the journey and launching the new district project, in the next stage the district can organise circuit and local church project proposals. These will flow from a joined-up district/circuit strategy for starting new Christian communities. The discernment process for new Christian communities

in local circuits and churches will be led by the district through a district team. This district team, mirroring the journey that the district has previously engaged with the Evangelism and Growth team, will coordinate and review applications from circuits and churches to ensure that they are designed for a local context with faithfulness to the NPNP/CaM criteria.

Tranche Process Timeline

Prayer. Conversation. Discernment. Co-creation. Collaboration. Sharing the vision. Changing culture



Supported by the Evangelism and Growth Team and Project Officer

An interactive introduction to the process

In April 2021, Matt Finch and Eunice Attwood partnered with District Chairs in Tranche 1 to host a webinar, *Hear the Story – Share the Vision*, that describes the process and provides helpful testimonies to how it worked in different contexts. You can view the webinar at www.methodist.org.uk/fundingNPNP

Revised tranche list and funding allocations

As you already know, each district will be allocated two 'pots' of funding, which must be matched in order to be released.

The first pot is the financial support for the initial district tranche project. This is £140,000 for every district (with an additional £10,000 for missional exploration during the tranche process). Combined with the £140,000 that every district must contribute in order to unlock the initial funding, that's a total of £290,000 for the district tranche project.

The second pot is for districts to support circuits and churches starting new Christian communities. This amount is different from district to district, based on the District Advance Fund (DAF) formula.

As both pots of funding can be accessed only after completing the tranche process, districts who originally self-selected into tranche 3 have been invited to move into tranche 2 if they wish. Tranche 2 districts will begin the journey in the next few weeks.

Funding will need to be accessed by districts through the new process by the end of 2025/2026.

The following table shows the tranche position and total funding allocation for every district.

First Tranche <i>Engaging the district tranche process in 2020/2021 to start a district NPNP/CaM Project in 2021/2022</i>	Connexional funding for district-led projects	Connexional funding for circuit/church projects (DAF distribution)	Match funding required from districts, circuits, and churches	Total funding <i>(combining Connexional funding and match funding from districts, circuits, and churches)</i>
Birmingham	150,000	179,681	319,681	649,362
Darlington	150,000	119,625	259,625	529,250
Liverpool	150,000	112,388	252,388	514,776
Manchester & Stockport	150,000	173,293	313,293	636,587
Northampton	150,000	246,318	386,318	782,635
Sheffield	150,000	156,385	296,385	602,769
Shetland Islands	150,000	8,520	148,520	307,041
Southampton	150,000	155,854	295,854	601,709
Yorkshire North & East	150,000	217,246	357,246	724,492

Second Tranche <i>Engaging the district tranche process in 2021/2022 to start a district NPNP/CaM Project in 2022/2023</i>				
Chester & Stoke on Trent	150,000	164,097	304,097	618,194
Bolton & Rochdale	150,000	93,112	233,112	476,224
Cumbria	150,000	76,628	216,628	443,257
Isle of Man	150,000	25,520	165,520	341,040
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	150,000	205,900	345,900	701,801
Nottingham & Derby	150,000	231,524	371,524	753,048
Scotland	150,000	47,395	187,395	384,789
South East	150,000	173,135	313,135	636,271
Synod Cymru	150,000	24,319	164,319	338,639
Wales	150,000	178,903	318,903	647,805
Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury	150,000	189,599	329,599	669,198
Cornwall	150,000	117,402	257,402	524,803

Third Tranche <i>Engaging the district tranche process in 2022/2023 to start a district NPNP/CaM Project in 2023/2024</i>				
Beds, Essex & Herts	150,000	144,100	284,100	578,199
East Anglia	150,000	147,601	287,601	585,202
Lancashire	150,000	158,365	298,365	606,730
London	150,000	287,439	427,439	864,878
Plymouth & Exeter	150,000	140,832	280,832	571,664
Bristol	150,000	179,956	319,956	649,912
Yorkshire West	150,000	268,449	408,449	826,897
Channel Islands	150,000	33,341	173,341	356,682

Still discerning				
Lincolnshire	150,000	83,071	223,071	456,142

Totals	4,500,000	4,339,999	8,539,999	17,379,998
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Notes

1. The DAF distribution figures have been produced by the Connexional Finance Team.
2. The figures above assume equal matched-funding, except for seed money allocations

An overview of the funding timeline

Funding proposals for all projects – districts, circuits, and churches – will be organised by the district and submitted to the Connexional Team Project Officer (PO), who will review each project proposal and make recommendations to the Mission Committee through a twice-yearly cycle. The Mission Committee will then make formal decisions.

The funding flowchart below applies to both district-tranche projects and circuit/local church projects. However, the suggested months next to each stage apply only to district-tranche projects – circuit and local church projects can progress at a different rate and be brought to the Mission Committee for audit and approval in either October or May each year.



*If a district panel is not able to recommend the project for funding, they can ask for more “preparation” work to be undertaken. For minor work, they may choose not to reconvene the district panel, but to receive assurance that the work has been undertaken via another means (e.g. via email). For major work, the panel should reconvene and receive a second presentation.

** If the PO is not able to recommend the project for funding, they can ask for more “preparation” work to be undertaken. For minor work, they may choose not to reconvene the district panel or receive a second set of claim paperwork, but to receive assurance that the work has been undertaken via another means (e.g. via email). For major work, the panel should be reconvened and a second set of claim paperwork should be undertaken.

***This audit should be an overview, not a detailed examination – the Mission Committee are encouraged to ask searching questions to promote accountability, but not to review extensive paperwork. The Mission Committee can ask for further work to be done in any of the previous stages, and can withhold funding until that work has been completed. The Mission Committee can also decide not to fund a given project, in which case clear and thorough feedback will be provided to all parties on why that decision was taken. There is no process to appeal the decisions of the Mission Committee. For Connexional Year 2020/2021, the Strategy and Resources Committee will audit and approve, as the Mission Committee has not yet been set up.

Funding for Circuits and Churches

A district team will review all funding claims from circuits and local churches, to ensure they meet the criteria for NPNP and can be match-funded with 50% from circuit/local church funds. As with the district-tranche projects, the funding for circuits and local churches should be allocated on the basis of a 60:40 split between Church at the Margins and NPNP projects. The funding flowchart above illustrates the entire process.

Culture change

As the Secretary of the Conference wrote in March, “[t]his process seeks a culture change in the way districts and circuits access and steward funding for new Christian communities. Such a change will require many seasons of attentiveness. The Church is grateful for your faithfulness and openness, and the Connexional Team is here to help as you take the next steps into mission and ministry.”

More guidance and documents related to this process will be available by the beginning of the new Connexional Year. In the meantime, if you have a question, please contact Ella Sibley-Ryan, Mission Team Project Officer: sibley-ryane@methodistchurch.org.uk

Funding allocation for Mission Alongside the Poor (Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice) allocation (SO 1004)

As agreed by Council beginning in September of this year, and for the following three years, £250,000 from the Mission in Britain Fund will be allocated to Districts using the current already approved DAF formula. Use of this MAPJ money will be as outlined in SO 1004; that is advocacy of the Church's commitment to those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources, and personnel or property schemes, primarily to local churches and circuits, to assist them in supporting those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources. Auditing will occur through the usual district grant mechanisms and will not be undertaken centrally. A review will be undertaken for the Methodist Council (or appropriate equivalent body) in autumn 2025 of the effectiveness of this way of working.

The calculations in regards to the amounts each district will receive are now complete; see the table right. This money will be distributed by the finance department in September.

District Number	Name	MAPJ Distribution Due
1	Synod Cymru	1,400.88
2	Wales Synod	10,305.45
5	Birmingham	10,350.30
6	Bolton and Rochdale	5,363.59
7	Bristol	10,366.14
9	Cumbria	4,414.07
10	Channel Islands	1,920.57
11	Chester and Stoke	9,452.60
12	Cornwall	6,762.77
13	Darlington	6,890.85
14	East Anglia	8,502.37
15	Isle of Man	1,470.05
17	Lincolnshire	4,785.19
18	Liverpool	6,473.97
19	Manch. and Stockport	9,982.34
20	Newcastle	11,860.62
21	Lancashire	9,122.41
22	Nottingham and Derby	13,336.65
23	Northampton	14,188.81
24	Plymouth and Exeter	8,112.45
25	Sheffield	9,008.34
26	Southampton	8,977.79
27	Yorkshire West	15,463.64
28	Wolv. and Shrewsbury	10,921.61
29	Yorkshire North & East	12,514.17
31	Scotland	2,730.11
32	Shetland	490.81
34	Bedfordshire, Essex & Hert	8,300.67
35	London	16,557.56
36	South East	9,973.23
	TOTAL	250,000.00

I appreciate there is a great deal of information in this letter; I hope and pray it is helpful to you. Please do get in touch if you have questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jude Levermore
Head of Mission

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