

AIREDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT

GUIDELINES FOR CIRCUIT GRANTS

Introduction

This document aims to provide guidance to churches seeking grants from the Airedale Methodist Circuit and to the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting in considering approval of grants. It allows grants for mission & ministry and property schemes, as well as evangelical work.

1 Guiding Criteria

The Circuit seeks to support new initiatives in mission and ministry, outreach and evangelism, and to assist mission where appropriate through property. The Circuit Leadership Team will use the following criteria in considering which applications to recommend to the Circuit meeting for acceptance (Note in the case of small property grants the CLT has delegated powers to approve without reference back to Circuit Meeting)

1.1 Meets connexionally agreed priorities of 'Our Calling'

- increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love
- help people to grow and learn as Christians
- be a good neighbour to people in need and challenge injustice
- make more followers of Jesus Christ

1.2 Is an innovative approach to the circuit / local church strategy for mission and ministry through personnel and property

1.3 Provides pump-priming money for new work – churches are encouraged to find ways of funding work once it becomes established

1.4 Encourages growth rather than contains decline, and demonstrates imaginative investment in the future

1.5 Makes effective use of existing church funds as well as other sources of funding

1.6 Enables outreach to the unchurched ie those of all ages who do not come to us, including support for evangelistic enabling work

1.7 Targets youth and the 25-40 age group as the future of the church

1.8 Supports town centre work to ensure the church's presence in providing for the less well off

1.9 Sustains small churches and rural work, often in isolated communities

2 Procedures for grants

2.1 Property grants

2.1.1 All scheme must comply with the Property Consents Scheme and have been registered on the Property Consents website. Apps must be submitted using the grants application form (available on Circuit website or from Finance Administrator)

2.1.2. Any Circuit grant to a property scheme will be conditional on approval through the above scheme and compliance with all conditions thereof

2.1.3. CLT will consider all applications in accordance with the criteria in section 2 above and the financial guidelines given in 3.3 below and make recommendation for approval, or otherwise to the Circuit Meeting.

2.1.4 It is the responsibility of the church to claim any grant payable to an approved scheme via the Circuit Finance Administrator

2.2 Mission & ministry grants

2.2.1 Churches submit written application to the Circuit Office (Finance Administrator) using the grants application form (available on Circuit website or from Finance Administrator)

2.2.2. CLT considers applications at its regular meetings and makes recommendations to the Circuit meeting. If necessary, applications are considered by email conversations between meetings

2.2.3 Following the Circuit meeting, the Finance Administrator informs the church of the decision.

3 All grants

3.1 Grants may be claimed on commencement of the scheme; if a grant has not been claimed within three years of approval it will be forfeited

3.2 The maximum property grant is normally 10% of new monies raised to a maximum of £10,000 except for minor property schemes (maximum project cost £5000) where the maximum is 15% of scheme cost

3.3 The maximum mission & ministry grant will normally be £1,000 per year of the scheme

4 Monitoring

Non-property grants will be subject to monitoring by the CLT by means of an annual report on the project.