

CONNEXIONAL FUNDS POLICY

Introduction

The South Bedfordshire Circuit recognises the wider aims of the Connexion and its need for funds in order to strive to meet those aims

Some churches are active in raising money for the Connexional Funds and others are not. Some churches provide for annual donations when setting budgets and others may undertake specific fund raising events.

The source of funds apart, there has to be a mechanism of delivering donated funds to the Connexion.

Historically this has been done in three main ways (or a combination of all three):

1. Direct from individual church to the Connexion (either using bank pay in books provided by the Connexion or posting cheques)
2. Churches routing payments via a Treasurer (not the Circuit Treasurer) looking after a specific Connexional Fund(s) on behalf of the Circuit
3. Direct from individual church to the Circuit Treasurer

In addition to the above, some Fund Treasurers have local bank accounts for collecting donations/contributions from Circuit churches. A classic example is The Fund for World Mission (Network)

Policy

The Circuit undertakes to:

1. Annually provide churches with information relevant to the Connexional Funds
2. To act as the collection agent (via the Bursar) for contributions from Circuit churches

THIS POLICY DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDS

- ***The “Network” section of the Fund for World Mission (collections and donations for this purpose should still be routed via the Circuit Network Treasurer whose details can be found in the Circuit Directory)***
- The Connexional Advance Priority Fund (CAPF) or Connexional Priority Fund. This fund is not supported by donations. However, gifts can be donated to either the Property or Mission in Britain funds instead

The following funds are not deemed to be Connexional and **donations must be sent direct to the organisation** the gift relates to, unless the Circuit has a specific Treasurer designated to collect funds

- LWPT (Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust)
- MRDF (Methodist Relief & Development Fund)
- MMHS (Methodist Minister Housing Association)
- MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged)
- MMHA (Manchester Methodist Housing Association)
- Methodist Women in Britain (Women’s Network)
- Action for Children



The Methodist Church

The South Bedfordshire Circuit

Procedure

This procedure relates only to:

- The Mission in Britain Fund (formerly Home Mission) [which now also incorporates Mission Alongside the Poor]
- The World Mission Fund (General, JMA)
- The Fund for Training
- The Property Fund
- The Fund for the Support of Presbyters & Deacons (formerly Auxiliary Fund)
- Necessitous Local Preachers Fund
- ***** The Methodist Church Fund (MCF) *****

***** The Circuit makes a substantial annual contribution to this fund via its District Assessment. Therefore all churches are contributing indirectly to this fund through the payment of their own Assessment. On this basis churches may prefer to direct contributions to the other funds, in the knowledge that the MCF is being supported “automatically”.

1. In March of each year the Bursar will send a pro forma to all church treasurers in order that annual donations from church funds can be collected
2. The pro forma should be copied and also used to record and remit ad hoc donations etc. at other times of the year
3. All contributions must be made via the Circuit Bursar – no direct contributions to the Connexional Office, please
4. Cheques must be made out to THE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT. There is no longer a need to provide a separate cheque for each fund contribution
5. The pro forma accompanied by the cheque is to be sent to the Bursar
6. The Bursar will maintain a record of church contributions
7. Contributions received by the Bursar after 10 August may not be included in the figures for that Connexional year

If churches receive donations from individuals who are Tax Payers, they should be encouraged to Gift Aid donations. In such cases churches will need to claim the Gift Aid tax through their normal channels (do not send Gift Aid envelopes/declarations to the Bursar). Once the tax has been reclaimed, churches should forward the amount received to the Bursar using the pro forma remittance form below. Such donations can be held and paid over with “normal” annual/regular/ad hoc donations.

CONNEXIONAL FUNDS FOR REMITTANCE TO THE CIRCUIT

Church Name: _____

Date: _____

Fund	Project (if Applicable)	Amount	
		£	p
The Mission in Britain Fund			
The Property Fund			
The Fund for Training			
The Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons			
The World Mission Fund (JMA)			
The World Mission Fund (General)			
The Methodist Church Fund (MCF)			
Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund			
Cheque enclosed for total of:			

Note: A **single cheque** per remittance is required and must be made payable to THE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE METHODIST CIRCUIT

Please **do not send cheques for the following organisations**, these must be sent directly to the organisation they relate to or to the local Circuit Treasurer responsible for those funds:

- LWPT (Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust)
- MRDF (Methodist Relief & Development Fund)
- MMHS (Methodist Minister Housing Association)
- MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged)
- MMHA (Manchester Methodist Housing Association)
- Methodist Women in Britain (Women's Network)
- Action for Children

Please complete and send this form together with your cheque to the Bursar

Mr David J Hallworth
7 Windsor Close
Flitwick
Bedford MK45 1PT

This form may be copied for sending additional donations at other times