District Advance Fund Grant Applications

## Introduction

All applications will be considered in relation to the wider vision and values of the Methodist Church as set out in the *Priorities of the Methodist Church* and *Our Calling*, as well as the District Vision:

### Priorities for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God’s love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God’s presence and action in the world and in the Church

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

* Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
* Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
* Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
* Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
* Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

### Our Calling

The Church exists to:

* **Worship** Increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love.
* **Learning and Caring** Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support

and care.

* **Service** Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.
* **Evangelism** Make more followers of Jesus Christ.

### District Vision

The district priorities are set out in the District Vision document

The Bolton and Rochdale District:

* seeks to provide leadership at district level that allows the effective sharing of good practice;
* encourages and inspires all members and the wider communities in Christian Faith.

It will support projects which:

* offer the Good News of Jesus;
* encourage bold ventures where churches seek to deepen discipleship.

The District will have 3 areas of focus:

* Leadership
* Local communities
* Discipleship

## Criteria for grant application from the District Advance Fund

All projects must be in keeping with the *Priorities of the Methodist Church* and *Our Calling*, and need to fit within the areas of focus in the District Vision. All applications must be able to demonstrate this in the application form. The spacing on the form is indicative and applicants are welcome to increase it as necessary.

All applications must:

* Have a completed application form that clear indicates how the project fits with the District and wider Church priorities.
* Have the support of the Church Council (for Church applications), the Circuit Meeting (for all applications) and other appropriate body as required.
* Have a clear completed budget for the project indicating spending and the funds being used to cover all expenditure.
* Copies of the balance sheets from 31 August of previous Connexional year.
* Be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance of a Grants Committee meeting.

Please note that:

* District Grants to Circuits are not intended to finance on-going mainstream staffing.
* Grants will only be awarded for personnel when Standing Orders related to Lay Employment are followed.
* Recipients of grants must be able to fund their financial obligations to the District Assessment.
* The District advance fund is not the lender of first resort and that significant Church and Circuit contributions to the project will be expected.
* If the situation to which any grant is awarded is not used for the purpose to which it was intended it should be returned to the District.

#### Property grants

In view of the limited funds available, applications to help fund property schemes will only be considered either as part of a:

1. new-build scheme;
2. significant refurbishment scheme.

## District Grants Officer

The District Grants Officer is not a voting member of the District Grants Committee and so is available to provide help and advice with all applications.

## District Grants Committee

The committee will normally meet 6 times during the year (dates in District Directory and on District website). All grant applications to be sent by email to the District Grants Officer four weeks before the Committee meets.

The committee can award grants of up to £3000 but any grant in excess of this will require the approval of the District Policy Committee. All applicants will be informed of the outcome following the committee meetings. If grants awarded are not claimed within a three year period, it may be necessary to reapply.

Any appeal against a decision of the Grants Committee should be sent in writing to the District Grants Officer.

#### District Grants Officer

Dr Elspeth Brighton

philip\_brighton@tiscali.co.uk

The District Grants Officer will:

* Assist Circuits in applications for District Grants.
* Hold and distribute District Grant application forms.
* Circulate necessary paperwork to the District Grants Committee prior to the meeting.
* Present applications to District Grants Committee.
* Be available to meet with applicants if required.
* Present a written report of the Grants Committee summarising its recommendations to the District Policy Committee. This to go in writing by e-mail to the Secretary of the District Policy Committee, with copy to District Chair.
* Monitor the use of grants, using the grants appraisal process, and report back to the District Grants Committee as appropriate.
* Report to the Connexion activities of the District Grants Committee.

The District Grants Officer is not a voting member of the District Grants Committee.

Application for grant support

# The Bolton and Rochdale District Advance Fund

Circuit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Correspondent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please give a brief description of the scheme for which grant application is being made.

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What is the amount of the total grant for which you are applying? £\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Over what period of time is the grant to be spread? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If this project is set to run beyond the funding being sought what steps are being taken to ensure the sustainability of this work?

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Please explain how your application meets *The Priorities of the Methodist Church* and *Our Calling*

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Please explain how your application supports the *District Vison*

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To be eligible for a grant from the District Advance Fund the scheme must satisfy one or more of the following criteria. Please show this to be the case.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District Mission Actions** | **How project meets the actions within the District Vision** |
| Leadership |  |
| Local communities |  |
| Discipleship |  |

Please attach a budget of income and expenditure for the work concerned, covering each of the years for which application is being made and a copy of the audited circuit accounts and, where appropriate, church accounts for the last complete year. (Please tick when attached) □

Circuit Applications: Please provide below the current balances in all the accounts held by the circuit, other than the Circuit Advance Fund.

Account Balance

Church Applications: Please provide current balances in all the accounts held by the church.

Account Balance

All Applications: What is the current Model Trust Fund balance? £\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is any Model Trust Fund income used within the circuit? : If ‘Yes’, give details of amounts and use.

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What other grant aid is being sought to fund this work?

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All applications need to be within the spirit of the objectives of the DAF, outlined on the information sheet issued with this application form, and must carry the support of the Superintendent and Circuit Treasurer. It must be approved by the Church and Circuit Meeting.

The application was approved by the Church Council Meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The application was approved by the Circuit Meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We confirm that the above application is in accordance with the DAF objectives and that the figures declared are accurate.

Superintendent Minister …………………….……………………………………… Date ……………………………

Circuit Treasurer …………………………………………………………… Date ……………………………

Application Forms must be sent to the District Grants Officer at least 4 weeks before a meeting of the District Grants Committee.