

Lay Training Grants

for lay people seeking support for training

1. Purpose of Lay Training Grants

To award grants to individuals to develop themselves and their role within the Church, at a local, circuit, district or connexional level, in line with the District's Criteria for Grants.

2. General Principles

- 2.1 Applications will be considered from lay people in the church who want support with training courses and other opportunities.
- 2.2 Single grants and annual grants (up to a maximum of three years) are available according to the nature of the course or opportunity being undertaken.
- 2.3 Grants will usually be for up to one third of the annual cost, with the expectation of one third being provided by the church or circuit and one third by the individual.
- 2.4 Grants are made from three specific funds, according to the particular application: Lay Training Fund; Education & Youth Fund; Local Preacher's Fund. Grants can only be made where appropriate funds are available.
- 2.5 The District Grants Group will meet twice a year (see 4) to assess applications and make recommendations to the District Executive and District Synod for their approval. In making their assessment they will take into account the criteria outlined in 3.
- 2.6 Successful applicants will be required to report on the progress of their training at the end of each year. The District may withdraw grant support if satisfactory reports are not received.

3. Criteria for Grants

The District Grants Group, in considering applications for a Lay Training Grant, will consider the extent to which the application meets the following criteria (applicants will be expected to assess this in their application):

3.1 The Priorities of 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:

- 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

3.2 The Purpose of the Northampton District

To enable, support and challenge local churches and circuits as they respond to the calling of being a Methodist Church or Ecumenical Partnership in their local context.

This will be achieved through the work of District Staff and Officers, paid and voluntary, working locally with individuals, churches and circuits, who will:

- enable development;
- support initiative;
- challenge current situations.

4. Making an Application

A letter of application must be submitted to the **District Treasurer**, by **30 June** or **31 December** each year, which includes the following information:

- personal details: name; address; telephone and email; church and circuit
- details of course or opportunity applied for: title, summary, location, cost
- outline of how course or opportunity will benefit you and your church, in terms of the Criteria for Grants (see 3)
- details of how you propose the course or opportunity will be funded and the time scale (see 2.2 & 2.3)
- a reference from an appropriate officer in your church or circuit supporting your application and outlining your suitability to receive this grant