

# Barnsley Methodist Circuit

## Large Mission Grants Policy

**Adopted and approved by the Circuit Meeting on June 18th 2026**  
**To be reviewed by the Circuit Meeting in June 2027**

### 1. Introduction

The Barnsley Circuit established a Circuit Mission Fund (CMF) some years ago to support missional activity, which has been under-used. More recently it established a specific scheme for awarding small Mission Grants of up to £500 funded from the CMF, and many such small grants have been, and are being, given.

It is now the Circuit's intention to establish a process for larger grants, and from June 18th 2026 will maintain a Large Mission Grants scheme and a Small Mission Grants scheme - both funded from the CMF. The Small Mission Grants will continue to operate as previously. This document sets out the policy for the operation of a new Large Mission Grants scheme.

The operation of the Large Mission Grants scheme is delegated to the Circuit Resources Team acting on behalf of the Circuit Meeting.

### 2. Purpose of grants and eligibility criteria

Grants will be awarded for the purpose of supporting and advancing the mission of the Circuit, its three Churches and its various Chapels.

Specifically, any application for a grant will be required to show clearly how the proposed project addresses priorities set out in the current Circuit Mission Plan, and / or supports Methodist Church priorities and initiatives, including for example New Places for New People and Church at the Margins.

Grants will **NOT** be made which:

- ❖ Exceed £10,000
- ❖ Fund the whole cost of a project
- ❖ Solely fund repairs and maintenance of buildings

In very exceptional circumstances **only**, the Resources Team may at its discretion ask the Circuit Meeting to relax these restrictions in the case of a particular project application.

Applicants will be strongly encouraged to seek match funding from other sources, and to demonstrate their efforts to achieve such funding. The Resources Team may take account of the funding equivalent of volunteer hours involved in delivering the project, costed in accordance with the Real Living Wage hourly rate,

## Grants **MAY:**

- ❖ Fund projects which last more than one year, but such projects must have a fixed term. Where applicable and appropriate, evidence of sustainability of the project after funding ceases will be required
- ❖ Fund the employment of staff to initiate work, but not ongoing employment. Any employment funded is likely to be short term and may be part time
- ❖ Fund the provision of services or consultancy (e.g. training, environmental audits, etc.).

Applicants will be required to:

- ❖ Show evidence of need for their project, and how that need will be addressed
- ❖ Demonstrate that they have consulted or engaged with other appropriate groups, organisations and individuals, both within and outside the church, in formulating their project
- ❖ Demonstrate how all relevant requirements of the Methodist Church relating to such matters as safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, etc will be fully complied with during the course of the project.

### **3. Who may apply**

Applications for grants may be made by:

- ❖ Churches, for Church-wide projects, and for projects of their individual chapels
- ❖ Established Circuit groups
- ❖ Members of the Circuit staff and Circuit officers

### **4. Administration**

The Circuit Resources Team, with the support of the Circuit Office, will administer the grants process.

Applicants will be required to complete an application form covering matters including those in section 2. Applicants will be encouraged to discuss a potential application with the Team before its submission.

The Team will consider all applications and make final decisions about whether to award grants, how much and with any conditions.

Grants will normally be paid prior to the start of a project, unless the Team agrees otherwise.

### **5. Funding rounds and amount of grant funding available**

There will be two funding rounds each connexional year:

- ❖ an autumn round, for which applications must be submitted by August 31st, with grants notified and awarded by October 1st, and
- ❖ a spring round, for which applications must be submitted by February 28th, with grants notified and awarded by April 1st.

However, in 2026 only, the autumn round applications must be received by October 31st 2026 and grants will be notified and Awarded by December 1st 2026.

Each year the Circuit Meeting will determine the maximum total amount of grant to be awarded in the connexional year. In the year 2026/27, the total available for all grants made in the autumn and spring rounds will be £25,000.

## **6. Reporting and feedback**

At the conclusion of a funded project the applicant must, within a specified timescale complete the prescribed end of grant feedback form, provide whatever financial and other records are required, and return any unspent grant to the Circuit.

The required feedback will include the extent to which the original objectives of the project have been achieved, the work undertaken and outcomes achieved, lessons learned, how lives have been changed, etc.

## **7. Review of the policy**

Each year in June the Circuit Meeting and Resources Team will review the working of the scheme and this policy. It will also agree the total funding available in the succeeding connexional year.

*June 2026*