

## CHANGES TO CONNEXIONAL GRANTS 2021 AND BEYOND

The ongoing coronavirus situation has had a significant impact on all areas of work and life, which for the Methodist Church has meant a significant fall in Connexional fund income. The Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) of the Methodist Council took the difficult decision, therefore, to suspend all Connexional grant-giving in Britain. As the current grants round was nearly complete when the SRC decision was made, the CGC decided to complete the assessment process and inform all applicants of the outcome of their application and offer feedback, even though no grants will be awarded. All applicants have now been informed.

The current connexional year (2019/2020) is also the last year in which connexional Mission in Britain grants will operate in the current way. Subject to Conference approval, future connexional grant-giving will be directly shaped by God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth 1, with grants being available for New Places for New People and Church at the Margins projects.

Given Conference approval of the strategy, detailed work on criteria and processes will progress. It is envisaged that there will no longer be open grants application rounds in the autumn and spring, and grant-giving will operate under new arrangements. Grant giving is due to recommence in 2021/2022, the Connexional Grants and Evangelism and Growth teams are working together to enable this. All 'legacy' connexional grants, i.e. those which have already been awarded, will continue to be administered by Connexional Grants staff. They will continue to confirm property grant drawdown dates, issue Monitoring & Evaluation report templates (when the current reporting waiver has been lifted) and make annual grant payments.

There will be further communication in the autumn.

It is hoped that through these changes we may be more invitational and intentional in our grant Giving, in order to respond to the gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ.