

South Kent Methodist Circuit – Grants Policy

The South Kent Circuit provides these guidelines to assist churches who may be considering making an application to the Circuit for financial assistance.

The Circuit provides this assistance from its reserves (correctly termed the Model Trust Fund) and it is dependent upon the Circuit having sufficient funds to meet the request, along with its other financial commitment as well as the church submitting a successful application to the Circuit Meeting – where the final decision will be made.

The Circuit has its own Mission Statement:

The South Kent Methodist Circuit exists to enable its local churches and ecumenical partnerships to offer Christian witness, worship and work in their local communities.

We seek to build up our sense of togetherness as one in Christ, offering the love of God and guided by the Holy Spirit.

[Please see www.southkentmethodistcircuit.org.uk for more details of our Circuit Priorities.]

Any applications will be assessed on how much they are likely to further the Circuit's and local church's mission as well as how proactive a church has been in its own fundraising activities. The Circuit is always more likely to have a favourable view of an application if it can see that the church has been working hard to plan well and is actively and financially committed to the project.

The Circuit will only consider grants (and give any necessary consent for property projects) if the 'Annual Property Return' and 'Statistics for Mission Return' for the relevant church are up to date and have been entered online.

(A short list of other possible funding sources is provided at the end of this policy document.)

As a rough guide to help you with your planning (and not a definitive statement of intent) – the Circuit may consider supporting a project for up to 1/3rd of the total cost – with the church finding the remaining 2/3rds. There may be occasions when the Circuit feels able to be more generous for a really good scheme or is only able to offer smaller sums if reserves are low.

PROCEDURE:

If a church decides to make an application to the Circuit, you will need to:

1. Agree your proposal at your own Church Council.
2. Formulate a letter or summary of the detail of the project that requires the funding support and explain how much money is being asked for, how much the church has raised towards it and what you hope it will achieve.

3. The letter should be sent to the Circuit Meeting, via the Superintendent Minister and in good time to be considered before the date of the Meeting.
4. The church should ensure that a representative is able to attend the Circuit Meeting and share a brief summary of the proposal, answering any questions that the meeting may have.
5. Circuit Meeting will then decide if it can support the proposal and how much it feels able to offer.
6. In the case of a successful application, the funds will then be made available to the local church.
7. Between Circuit Meetings, applications can be dealt with by the CLT via the Superintendent or Circuit Coordinator.

We hope this policy is of some help in this matter but please feel free to speak to any of the staff team or Circuit Stewards for further advice.

Rev Sam Funnell - Superintendent Minister
On behalf of South Kent Circuit Leadership Team

OTHER POSSIBLE FUNDING/ADVICE SOURCES:

District Advance Fund www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk see under 'Ministers and Office Holders' then 'Grants')

Methodist Insurance www.methodistinsurance.co.uk put 'grants' into search box

Veolia (if you live within the catchment area) – www.veoliatrust.org/funding

www.entrust.org.uk regulators of the Landfill Communities Fund

Kent Police – for schemes re mental health, violence reduction, victim services and crime reduction – www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/commissioning/funds/

Local Councillors sometimes have small amounts of community funding they can draw upon for local community projects.

Check out the advice available on the Property Consent website for all sorts of funding advice and support (<http://propertyconsent.methodist.org.uk>)

District Resourcing Mission Officers (Adrian & Stephanie Roux) for funding and other general project advice – email on consents@methodistsoutheast.org

Amended by CLT agreement – 18th June 2020