

# Ealing Trinity Circuit

## Crisis Grant Application Process:

Adopted by the Circuit Policy Meeting, 27 February 2014

This process is developed by the Circuit Policy Group to be used in cases where a church seeks a grant from the Circuit in a "crisis" situation.

The grant mechanism is to enable the circuit churches to use circuit money to support another circuit church when its own reserves are insufficient to address immediate issues that could lead to a church no longer being able to maintain its life of worship, service and mission. The purpose of the grant is to create space for the church council to agree, commit and begin to move to a sustainable way forward.

The grant will be given to a church whose church council commits

- to develop, with the help of the circuit or where deemed appropriate external support or professional advice, a strategy for a sustainable future for the church.
- to pursue other avenues of funding (internal fund raising, external grant).
- to ensuring that the church congregation be made fully aware of the situation
- to adhering to all general Methodist good practice and governance in the life of the church.

### Process:

1. Having consulted with its Circuit Steward representative, minister, and superintendent, a church council must agree text of an application that answers the following:
  - a. What is asked for, from the Circuit? (To include as appropriate quotations for work, or estimates)
  - b. What has happened to get to this state of affairs?
  - c. Why is there insufficient reserve, or why has this situation developed?
  - d. How (concrete steps and actions) will the church avoid this situation in the future?
  - e. How will the grant of money change the situation (include statement of church's mission aspiration, as concrete as possible)?

*The purpose of this section is not to find fault, but to show that a church is taking responsibility for the reality of its situation including its future, trusteeship, and governance: the Circuit will not make crisis grants that allow an unsustainable situation simply to continue. The Circuit will consider grants that support a church in a time of change, to reduce anxiety and to encourage churches to develop their mission with confidence, grace, and goodwill.*

2. To be considered at Circuit Policy, these applications must be with the superintendent and secretary of the Circuit Policy Meeting not later than 7 days before a scheduled Circuit Policy Meeting, in electronic form preferably. The text must be agreed by the church council.
3. At Circuit Policy, representatives of the church will be asked to attend and answer questions about the request, and other support needed.

4. The Circuit Policy Meeting will vote yes or no to support the grant application, and appoint a member to speak to the application at Circuit Meeting.
5. The Circuit Policy Meeting will propose specific targets (dates, actions) that will be added to the grant application and sent to Circuit Meeting.
6. At Circuit Meeting representatives of the church will be asked to make a brief presentation to complement the written application and targets, and the Circuit Policy member appointed will report on the Circuit Policy's recommendation.
7. Circuit Meeting will vote after discussion, and may amend the targets included in the application.
8. If a grant is successful, a written report of progress on targets will be required at each Circuit Meeting for a minimum period of one year, continuing during the life of the project supported by the grant application.
9. If a target agreed by the whole Circuit Meeting is unacceptable to a church council, the council may decline to receive any grant offered by the Circuit Meeting.