

Methodist Grants: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the overall aim of the Benefact Trust Methodist Grants programme?

A: The Methodist Grants Programme aims to support Methodist churches in their mission and ministry with a particular focus on church growth (both numerically and spiritually), community engagement, accessibility, building development, and projects which will give an environmental benefit.

Q: Why has the name changed? Didn't the programme used to be called the Methodist Insurance Fund?

A: While this grants programme is funded primarily by donations from Methodist Insurance, it has always been a Benefact Trust grants programme. The name has been changed to make it clearer that these grants are awarded by Benefact Trust, an independent charity regulated by the Charity Commission.

Q: Who can apply for a Methodist grant?

A: The Methodist Grants Programme is open to Methodist districts and circuits, individual Methodist churches which are part of the Methodist Connexion, and organisations associated with the Methodist Church in Britain or the Methodist Church in Ireland. The Programme also supports some heritage sites which are deemed by the Connexion to be important in telling the story of Methodism.

Q: What kinds of projects are supported by the Methodist Grants Programme?

A: Grants are awarded for building development and for mission, outreach and community benefit. More specifically, projects supported will include:

- Significant redevelopment projects on buildings which have been identified as key to the future mission objectives of a circuit or district.
- Work which includes the provision of disabled access and facilities.
- Schemes which bring significant community benefits.
- Initiatives which demonstrate a clear environmental benefit.

Q: What is not supported by the Methodist Grants Programme?

A: Grants through this programme are not awarded for essential repairs or routine building maintenance, or for salaries or any other revenue costs.

Q: What size of grants are available?

A: Grants of up to £60,000 are available, however, if your application is successful, the amount you receive will depend upon the cost of your project and (where applicable) the level of need in your community (which we will assess based on applicable deprivation indices).

Q: Can we apply for a specific grant amount?

A: No. We ask you to provide us with the cost of your project and if your application is successful, a grant will be awarded based on this and (where applicable) the level of need in your community (which we will assess based on applicable deprivation indices).

Q: Do we need to have raised any funds towards the cost of our project before applying?

A: Yes. We require that you have raised at least 30% of the project cost before applying.

Q: Which other Benefact Trust's grants programmes could we apply to, in addition to applying to the Methodist Grants programme?

You can also apply for a grant through one of our thematic grant programmes, namely Growing Lives, Hope Beyond or the Roof Protection Scheme. However, any application to these programmes must be for a different project.

You cannot apply to our general grants programme unless your application to the Methodist Grants programme is unsuccessful.

Q: If we are successful, how long will we have to wait before we can apply again?

A: If your application is successful, you will need to wait for two years before applying again to the Methodist Grants programme – and any future application must then be for a different project. However, in the meantime you can still apply to one of our thematic grant programmes (see previous question) for a different project.

If your application is unsuccessful you are free to apply again to the Methodist Grants programme at any time, or to our general grants programme.

Q: Is there a deadline for applications?

A: No. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and there is no fixed deadline.

Q: How soon can we expect to know the outcome of our application?

A: We normally aim to respond to applications within 3-6 months

Q: How can we apply for a grant?

A: All applications must be submitted via our online application form. Just visit

<http://www.benefacttrust.co.uk/which-grant-is-for-me/methodist-grants> and you will find the link to the correct application form. You don't have to complete your application in one session as you can save your progress and return to the application when you are ready.

Q: How can we get some guidance on planning our project?

A: Guidance and tools for project planning, reporting and impact evaluation tools, as well as advice on applying for funding, publicising your project and much more are available on our [advice and resources hub](#).

Q: If we are successful, will you expect us to promote news of our grant in any way?

A: We would very much like you to! We would appreciate recognition of your grant on your website, in your Annual Report and in any publicity about the project for which the grant was awarded. We'll send you publicity resources to help you.

Q: What are your reporting requirements if we are successful in our application?

A: Successful applicants will be asked to complete an online report form one year after the award of their grant, reporting on the extent to which the outcomes set out in their original application have been achieved.

Q: Where can we get further help and advice if our question hasn't been covered?

A: Please e-mail us at info@benefacttrust.co.uk and we will respond as soon as possible. You may also like to read this [advice blog](#), which addresses some other frequently asked questions about applying for our grants, though please note this is written with our general application form in mind.