

EALING TRINITY CIRCUIT
THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING POLICY

Background

Standing Order 745 in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church states 'After reception into Full Connexion and ordination all ministers and deacons shall be required to engage in further study, training and professional development under each of the following headings:

- (i) engagement with peers in considering issues of the mission and worship of the church in the world and of ministerial or diaconal practice;
- (ii) specific training when entering a new context or mode of ministry;
- (iii) personal and vocational development.'

Whilst there is no such Standing Order for lay people within the Methodist Church SO 745 may provide a template for all. The Methodist Church actively seeks to train and develop both its ordained and lay members in order that the whole people of God may be 'faithful and fruitful disciples and congregations'. Following the Connexion and District lead, Ealing Trinity circuit subscribes to the importance of the whole people of God continuing to learn and develop to aid their deepening discipleship and ministry.

Individual grants

Ealing Trinity Circuit recognises the crucial importance of continuing learning and exploration for the development and growth of all of its members. A changing society may require new skills and expertise in different areas of knowledge. An authentic personal response to God's mission in the world is enabled through training and development of existing gifts and skills and the acquiring of new ones.

The Circuit normally contributes a grant of one third towards the fees for a recognised course or training package run by an academic institution or professional body. A higher proportion may be considered under special circumstances, especially when the Circuit has initiated or requested the training be undertaken. Costs of books, travel, and other incidental expenses are not normally funded by the circuit, though in exceptional circumstances a discretionary grant may be available.

The range of courses available to the whole people of God is not just available towards the cost of academic training. Grants are available to part-fund retreats, conferences and short courses, eg. In conflict resolution, community development. Each application will be considered on its merit.

Procedure

All applications should be sent to the circuit treasurer, who will consider if the application adheres to the policy, and make a recommendation to the Circuit Policy Committee for their approval. Applications under £100 can be agreed by the Treasurer and a Circuit Steward with a report to the next Circuit policy meeting. A condition of the grant is that a report (one side of A4) should be submitted to the Circuit Policy Committee on completion of the course of study, stating:

- i) what has been learned
- ii) how you have grown through the training
- iii) how the circuit may benefit from your training
- iv) if you would commend the course to others

Application should be made on the Circuit Training proforma and completed at least two months before commencement of the course, or as soon as practicable.