

CAPEL ST MARY METHODIST CHURCH

Scheme of Management for the Fund for Need

1. AIM OF THE SCHEME

- 1.1 To use as effectively as possible the sums transferred from general giving to the church, or those contributed by the individuals directly to the Fund, for the relief of human need.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR USE OF THE FUND

- 2.1 As a general rule, money should not be allowed to accumulate in the fund. It should be allocated as it becomes available to those causes which at the time seem the most pressing needs, having regard to the aims of the Fund. In emergencies, other church funds might be used to meet need, with reimbursement from the Fund as soon as money is available.
- 2.2 Money from the Fund should be directed mainly through Christian organisations, but it should be recognised that there may be occasions when this would not be appropriate, there will for instance be occasions when gifts should be given direct to individuals in need. There is a strong preference for organisations offering practical assistance in meeting need, rather than for organisations whose work is predominantly evangelical. The Fund is intended to be additional to the church's giving to wider Christian work from the budget for Donations and Sponsorship (which supports work in which the Capel Church and the Ipswich Circuit is not directly involved). In addition, individuals are, if they wish, able to support such work, or other causes of their own choice, by direct contributions to the Fund.
- 2.3 Wherever possible, donations from the Fund should be directed to causes of which it is possible to identify fairly closely the ultimate beneficiary (whether it be locality, community, institution or individual). This means concentrating on trying to make significant contributions to relatively minor causes, rather than making comparatively insignificant contributions to large, well-publicised appeals.
- 2.4 The Fund may be used to give regular support to some causes.
- 2.5 Approximately half the money from the transfer of general church income to the Fund should be directed to overseas work.

3. OPERATION OF THE FUND

- 3.1 The church's hon. treasurer will transfer to the general part of the Fund 10% of all giving to the church (such as Sunday offerings, standing orders and related recoveries of tax under the gift aid scheme) which is not for a specific purpose (such as the building improvements or the youth work and children's work).
- 3.2 It is open to the Minister, Stewards and other members of the congregation to make written proposals for payments from the Fund. An application form for this purpose can be obtained from the church's hon. treasurer. The person making the application should be notified whether a contribution has been made.
- 3.3 The Church Council has given the Minister and Stewards, acting as a group, authority to approve a payment or payments from the Fund up to a total of £500 in any financial year (September to August) to any individual or organisation. The details remain confidential to this group.

- 3.4 Any annual recurrent payments from the fund, or payments to any individual or organisation exceeding a total of £500 in any financial year (September to August), to be determined by the Church Council.
- 3.5 The hon. treasurer will report on the state of the Fund and the uses to which it has been put in the annual financial statements presented to the church council.

Revision approved 22/02/12