Fees & Expenses for Visiting Preachers

Some churches have asked for guidance regarding payments to visiting preachers, including visits from Regional Ministers.

Below are guidelines based on what many churches are already doing and these are intended to provide you with help when deciding appropriating payments.

Where church finances are tight, please take note of these suggestions and aim to meet them if possible. They are however only *guidelines*.

Visiting Preachers

It is important that churches recognise the time and effort given by visiting preachers and speakers through a financial gift.

Whilst many visiting speakers may be in a financially sound situation, for others speaking can be an important source of income and it is not honoring to expect their services to be provided for nothing.

It is for churches to decide an appropriate level of gift but as a guideline around £75 per service (or session at a church weekend), plus travel, is suggested.

Regional Ministers

The above applies equally to Regional Ministers when visiting churches to take services. Regional Ministers are, however, aware of the financial pressures facing many of our churches and will be happy to agree an appropriate amount or waive any payment if necessary.

In the case of Regional Ministers, as part of their terms of contract, all such preaching fees are due to the Association. Any cheques issued should be made payable to 'Heart of England Baptist Association' and can be given to the Regional Minister. If you wish to send a BACS payment then HEBA's details are 40-19-35 (sort code) and 41292129 (account number). Please input '3110' as the reference to enable us to identify it as a preaching fee.

The Association expects to cover the costs of Regional Ministers when:

- Visiting churches as part of the Ministerial Settlement process, including taking part in Ordination and Induction services
- Providing pastoral and other support to Ministers
- Visiting churches at their own request
- Helping churches resolve issues including guidance for future direction, helping resolve conflict or helping churches face difficult situations etc.

- Where a Regional Minister spends a considerable amount of time helping a church then an additional gift, to reflect the time and effort involved, would be welcome, if affordable.

The Association recognises the support of churches through Home Mission, part of which comes back to the Association to help with the costs of Regional Ministry. However, Home Mission covers less than 70% of the costs of the Regional Ministry Team.

Travel Expenses

Travel costs should also be met by churches. Most churches use the HMRC rate which is 55p per mile. This includes a recognition of the full costs of running a car but is the maximum allowed without giving rise to tax issues. Where travel is not by car then the appropriate transport costs should be reimbursed in full, providing these are reasonable. This applies to both Regional Ministers and other speakers.

Hospitality

Churches are encouraged to ensure that adequate hospitality is offered to visiting speakers, including Regional Ministers, when they visit. This might include meals, toilet facilities and drinks on arrival and before departure and so on.

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HEBA
The Heart of England Baptist Association