



# HEBA Grants

The following information has been put together to help churches applying for Grants from the Association and the Baptist Union

## **Background Note**

Since 2014 'Home Mission' grant decisions for HEBA Churches have been delegated to the Association rather than been agreed centrally. As an Association we also have other funds available and until 2014 decisions on these grants were decided by several HEBA committees. Under powers delegated by the HEBA Trustees, the HEBA Grants Group now receives all Grant Applications and is able to make decisions in respect of both HEBA monies and those received from the Union. As a rule

- Grants are NOT available for repairs and maintenance to buildings.
- Grants in support of second members of staff will be suspended if the Minister of the church 'moves on' during the grant. Consideration will be given to the grant restarting if a new Minister is appointed.

The following notes will hopefully be of assistance in making grant applications.

### **BU Mission Grants (formerly Home Mission Grants)**

A budget of these funds is received from the Union and allocated in support of Ministry in churches. Although most grants paid to churches are in support of accredited Baptist Ministers, grants are available to support unaccredited ministers and pastors and Ministers in Training.

The Association is committed to supporting churches in this way and if the approved grant requests exceed the budget funds may be found within the Association to support requests.

- Grants are normally for a maximum of 50% of the stipend cost and this stipend must be paid at the BU Standard Stipend rate.
- The percentage requested is expected to reduce each year so that other requests can be met.
- Grants are not for 'failing churches running out of money' but to support 'mission opportunities'.
- Churches with reserves of less than £25,000 will be given priority.
- The application needs to include a copy of the previous year's accounts, rather a schedule of all the entries in that year. Please see Baptist Together leaflet F02 for suggested layout. This can be downloaded from the Baptist Union website.

## **BU Mission Project Grants**

The above budget can also provide 'one off' grants up to £3,000 in support of a mission opportunity.

- It is expected that churches will be using some of their own funds as well as requesting the grant.
- These grants are not available year after year, normally a maximum of one year in three.
- It is hoped that these one off events may lead to further ongoing Mission of the church. After the event has taken place the church will be asked to send in a brief report.

## **HEBA Grants (up to £1,000)**

These grants are to help churches acquire equipment, up to a maximum of £1,000 or 50% of the cost of the item. Grants are NOT given for items that have already been bought. Grants have been provided for items such as:

- Projection Equipment
- Installation of Equipment for use by the Disabled
- Installation of Sustainable Energy projects eg Solar panels etc

## **Grants for Ministers**

Various grants are available in support of Ministers and their studies.

- Grants are available for Minister's Post Graduate Studies (Masters or PhD). Grants are normally a maximum of £500 per annum (and a maximum of £2,000 in total for any period of study).
- Grants are available to churches seeking to help fund their minister's sabbatical studies. The grant (normal maximum £250) should be applied for by the church and minister jointly.
- Book Grants are available to Ministerial Students from HEBA churches studying at Baptist colleges. Those eligible students will be invited to apply shortly after the new academic year has commenced. In recent years this grant has been £300. Other students working in HEBA churches but from other Associations may be invited to apply for a smaller grant.

## **HEBA Grants for Mission**

These grants are available for larger projects (more than £3,000) and priority will be given to applications made by a number of churches working together. The following considerations will add weight to any application:

- Grants are usually for a three year period (maximum five years) and should be on a reducing basis over that time so that they might become self-funding and do not reach a 'cliff edge'. Funds supporting a second worker will be suspended if a minister 'moves on' during the period of the grant.
- Funding from the church and other grant providers are encouraged as this will sustain the project.
- Requests from Churches in the most deprived areas of the Association will receive priority.

## **Helen Youth Fund**

This fund was established in memory of Helen Hayes (nee Williams) who worked as joint Youth Secretary for the Association but who died in 1991. The fund is now closed to further donations but applications can still be made by young people under 25 to assist in the funding of periods of study and periods working abroad (minimum period abroad four weeks).

Applicants should be young people from within our churches, primarily women, to encourage the use of their gifts and the development of their leadership skills.

## **How do I apply?**

Applications from Ministers and Churches will require the support of their Regional Minister so they are the first point of contact.

Application forms can be obtained from David Thompson, Grants and Finance Assistant, in the HEBA office.

[david@baptist-heartofengland.org](mailto:david@baptist-heartofengland.org)

0121 472 4986

## **When will I know if I have been successful?**

The HEBA Grants Group meets five times a year in February, May, July, September and November. Applications forms should be submitted no later than two weeks before the next meeting. After the meeting the moderator of the Grants Group needs to agree the 'minutes' of the meeting before decisions are conveyed to the applicants.