

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee in its work:

- (1) ensures where possible that all Funds which draw money from the Comprehensive Assessment keep their annual increase in line with inflation (R.R.I.) (Note: where the R.R.I. for North and South differ the average should be applied).
- (2) investigates the special needs of Funds which may be referred to the Budget Committee by Conference.
- (3) recommends to Conference the amount of the Comprehensive Assessment for the incoming year.
- (4) recommends to Conference the allocation from Assessment to each of the appropriate Funds.

If the requests from the Assessment by the various Funds for 2005 had been agreed the Budget Committee would have had to set an increase in Assessment of over 8%. The Committee accepted that £238,000 (the employer's contribution for in service ministers) would be paid directly by Circuits from January 2005. The committee's aim was to reduce the requests where possible to an inflationary figure of around 4%.

The Ministers' Retirement Fund, the Augmentation Fund, and the Ministers' Disability Fund were all allocated their requested amounts. The Assessment will still have to cover the back service contribution to the Retirement Benefits Scheme (R.B.S.) and allocated the amount of £210,600.

The Ministers' Children's Fund had requested £140,400, but as the fund had a healthy bank balance the request was reduced to £135,000.

The Ministerial Training Fund requested an increase of 18% on last year because of the drop in student grants and increased running costs. After consideration, the amount was reduced from £193,544 to £183,000.

The Candidates' Grants Fund had requested £15,000 from the Budget but the Committee reduced this to £10,000 since the accounts submitted still showed a healthy balance.

The Department of Youth and Children's Work requested £160,000, an increase of 25% to cover inflation, the loss of £14,000 from Rank Trust, and £15,000 for a full time youth co-ordinator. The committee recommended that a case be made to the Home Mission Department for the new youth worker. The sum of £145,000 was recommended.

The General Purposes Fund requested an amount of £115,000 from the Budget. This was to cover the considerable increase in the cost of removals for ministers and the transfer of monies to the Manse Repair/Decoration Fund.

The sum of £10,000 was placed in the General Purposes Special Fund. Home Mission/Connexions was allocated £25,013 from the Special Fund in 2003 with an estimate requirement of £30,000 for 2004.

The Council on Social Responsibility requested and was allocated £4,140.

The Budget Committee recommends that the Connexional Finance Committee and Budget Committee remain unchanged until the Connexional

Steering Group produces its recommendations on the new committee structures.

The following are the amounts recommended from the Assessment for the year 2005 with the 2004 figures for comparison.

Fund	2004 Approved	2005 Recommended
Minister's Retirement Fund (IMMRF)	£200,000	£190,000
M.M.R.I. Augmentation Fund	£5,000	£5,000
Retirement Benefits Scheme (RBS)	£405,000	£210,600
Ministers' Disability Fund	£21,000	£19,500
Ministers' Children's	£143,320	£135,000
Ministerial Training	£164,020	£183,000
Redevelopment Fund	£20,000	£20,000
Edgehill Christian Education Centre	£17,000	£18,500
Candidates' Grants Fund	£10,000	£10,000
Chapel Fund	£10,000	£10,000

Church Extension	£85,000	£85,000
Dept. of Youth & Children's Work	£128,000	£145,000
General Purposes Fund	£80,000	£115,000
General Purposes (Special Fund)	£44,000	£10,000
Council on Social Responsibility	£4,000	£4,140
	£1,336,340	£1,160,740
1% added for World Development	£13,363	£11,607
Total	£1,349,703	£1,172,347
Decrease		13.14%

AGENDA

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. The Conference directs that the amount of the Comprehensive Assessment for 2005 be £1,172,347.
3. The Conference directs that the amounts to be contributed by the Circuits in the year 2005 shall be as detailed on the following pages.
4. The Conference re-appoints Mr. Derek Hampton, Secretary of the Committee.