#

APPLICATION FOR CIRCUIT MODEL TRUST FUND (MTF)

SUPPORT FROM SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT

SMALL GRANTS- UNDER £500

 Grant Application Form – the Context

The Circuit is committed to encouraging and enabling churches and groups to grasp opportunities for mission that accord with the Circuit Mission Policy. This includes by supporting them with grant aid where it is appropriate and possible.

The Circuit Model Trust Fund (MTF) is primarily for ‘development’ rather than ‘maintenance’ and is an example of the Methodist principle of Connexionalism, whereby resources are shared in order to help and support those with least resources of their own and where there are strategic mission priorities. This principle was at the heart of the motivation for creating a single Circuit for Sheffield.

Support in completing the form is available – please contact the Circuit Office 0114 2726561 or email admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk

**General Information**

* This fund is targeted at mission projects, activities and events within the Circuit. It will prioritise new ideas and innovation, development and growth of existing projects and supplying start-up costs to new ones, up to £500.
* As small grants may be needed within a short timeframe, a small group from the Circuit Mission Vision Team will consider small grants whenever they are received. However, a small grant will be not be given automatically, even if it matches the grant criteria, as the funds available for grants and the number of applications vary from year to year.
* Churches and groups are expected to make effective use of their own financial resources and make applications for any other available grants for the support and development of mission and ministry. MTF assistance is intended to ‘bridge the gap’ between what is available and what is required.
* In order to avoid tying up funds unnecessarily, grants which have not been taken up within one year of approval will normally lapse.
* A small grant will be paid only upon production to the Circuit Administrator (Finance) of evidence that payment is due in respect of the expenditure for which the grant has been made.

**Criteria for Applications**

When considering small grant applications, priority will be given to:

* Projects that are part of a clear strategy directed towards fulfilling God’s mission through the local church or circuit and are consistent with the Circuit Mission policy.
* Projects which seek to respond to the significant needs of the large housing estates where there is little Christian presence
* Projects that make good use of resources by working in an ecumenical context, and where appropriate, in partnership with other churches and/ or organisations.
* Projects that have identified a need both in the Church and the wider community and have developed a way to respond effectively.
* Projects that encourage involvement with the gospel priority for the marginalised and poor and with those who are disadvantaged within the community.
* Projects that have considered the needs of various age groups, especially taking into account young people and young adults
* Projects that incorporate the potential for providing new ways of being Church (‘Fresh Expressions’), innovative approaches or improving on existing practice.
* Projects which demonstrate long term sustainability
* Churches and groups will be limited to one supported application each Connexional year.

**Your application for a Circuit Grant**

**Name of Church or Group:**

**Person to contact regarding the Project (give contact details):**

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| 1. **Please give a brief description of the Project for which this grant is requested.**

**What do you plan to do? How many people, events, or activities will this Project impact upon? (Outputs)**  |
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| 1. **Please give details of how you feel a small grant would make a difference to the mission of your Church or Group.**
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| 1. **What is the amount of the grant being requested?**
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| 1. **What is the total cost of the Project?**
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| 1. **Please give details of other funders who have or are going to be approached for grants.**
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| 1. **Please give a date or dates on which the payment(s) would be required.**
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| 1. **What changes, benefits, learning or other effects do you plan to achieve through this Project? (Outcomes)**
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Please enclose with your application

* The most recent audited financial accounts of the sponsoring Church or Group.
* The budget for the Project.

Please note: All applications must be approved by the Mission Vision Team as well as by the Church Council or Group Trustees.

When completed the form should be sent to the Circuit Office via email to: admin@sheffieldcircuit.org.uk or by post to: Sheffield Methodist Circuit Office, The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street, Sheffield, S3 9QQ.

I confirm that the above application has been approved by the Church Council /Group Trustees (delete as appropriate) on

……………………………………………. (Date)

Signed: …………………………………. (Chair) Date: …………………………………….