

## **POLICY FOR THE FINANCIAL RESOURCING OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **Learning and Developing as the Whole People of God**

The Church expects that each of us, young and old, will grow and develop in our Christian discipleship.

The Methodist Church believes that we are able to do this when:

- we feel valued as individuals
- our real learning needs are recognised and addressed
- we have our experience acknowledged and are enabled to reflect critically on it
- we have the opportunity to learn from each other
- we nurture a learning community that is both valuing and challenging
- we are asked to question our current assumptions and practice
- we are expected to take responsibility for our own learning
- we are able to use our existing gifts and talents.

(Methodist Conference 2001)

The Darlington District encourages and supports opportunities for learning and development for all people, lay and ordained.

The Continuing Development in Ministry programme (CDIM) provides financial support for presbyters and deacons.

Additionally, Standing Order 745 (4) (a) allows time for such development:

All ministers and deacons stationed by the Conference in accordance with Standing Order 780 (1) (i), (ii) or (iii) shall be entitled to five days leave in each connexional year, in addition to normal periods of leave, for the purpose of study, training or development.

In the Darlington District:

1. The District will organise 1 or 2 days in each year which will provide learning and development opportunities for presbyters and deacons as part of the CDIM programme in addition to the annual District Retreat. Where it is appropriate these days will also be open to attendance by lay people. All who attend these days will be funded by the District (excluding travel). CDIM funding will be used to resource District days.

2. The District will make funding available for any Methodist member in the District to attend District approved or sponsored courses. Those attending such courses may apply for funding to the District CDIM Administrator. Funding will be limited to 1/3 of the cost of the course (excluding travel) and a maximum of £100 per person in any one year and will be subject to availability of funds.

3. Circuits may apply for funding on behalf of lay people in positions of leadership in the life of the local church or circuit who are attending courses or events which are not sponsored by the District. Such funding is subject to the approval of the District Grants Committee or the CDIM Administrator acting on their behalf.

4. The Chair of District may similarly apply for funding on behalf of lay people in positions of leadership in the life of the District who are attending courses or events which are not sponsored by the District.

5. Grants administered by the Children and Young People's executive are available for young people and adults for training, equipment and conferences.

6. Funding is not available for academic courses or books through this route. However, the Darlington District has a modest Training Bursary Fund, which is managed by the District Grants Committee. For more information contact the District Grants Secretary.