



Grants Guidelines for Applicants

From time to time the trustees of the North West Partnership receive gifts and subscriptions which can be used:

- For distribution to churches to assist them in recruiting Ministry Trainees.
- For supporting theological education for individuals
- To waive fees on North West Partnership tun courses

This paper sets out the procedure for churches wishing to apply to the Trustees for grants and indicates the factors that the Trustees will take into account in allocating funds.

No church or individuals may apply more than once in any academic year (September – August) and in each case the decision of the trustees is final and no correspondence will be entered into on the specific reasons for making or refusing a grant. The amount of grants will vary but will rarely be less than £500 or more than £3,000.

Grant Application Procedure – Ministry Trainees

Our aim is to encourage best practice in the recruitment and use of Ministry Trainees. Applications for grants should be made in the form of a letter from the appropriate decision making body within the church (PCC, Elders, Deacons, church board etc). Applications for grants will be considered at each of the Trustees' meetings but applicants should note that these only take place 3 times a year (in approximately January, May and September) and allow plenty of time.

The letter should set out:

- The nature of the church and its affiliations.
- The involvement or planned involvement of the church with the North West Partnership.
- The reason for seeking to recruit a ministry trainee at this time.
- The church's plans to fund the post other than through a NWP grant.
- Details of the church's plans for supervision/support of any trainee including the financial package being offered.
- A commitment on behalf of the church leadership team to adhere to the statement of faith of the North West Partnership.
- The church's strategy for recruiting a Trainee or, if the church has someone already in mind, a brief biography/CV of that person.

In addition to the letter the trustees would also expect to see:

- A job description/person specification for the Ministry Trainee post.
- A copy of the church's constitution and doctrinal statement, if any.
- A copy of the church's most recent audited/inspected accounts.
- Any other material you feel is immediately relevant to the application.

Criteria for Grant Making – Ministry Trainees

The following factors will be important in the trustees' decision making (not in any particular order of priority):

- The church seeking a grant should be situated in Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire or Cumbria.
- The church seeking a grant should be affiliated to the North West Partnership and/or actively involved in partnership with other NWP churches.
- The church should not have had ministry trainees before, be unable to continue its scheme without the help of the NWP or have a specific reason for needing to expand its ministry trainee scheme.
- The trustees would expect that where a church receives a grant the Ministry Trainee will attend the North West Ministry Training Course as part of their year.
- The church should demonstrate a strategy to be able to continue having Ministry Trainees in future and be seeking to fund those from within the church family wherever possible.

Grant Application Procedure – Theological Education

Our aim is to promote good theological education for people actively considering long-term vocational Christian ministry in the North West of England. Applications for grants should be made in the form of a letter from the student, supported by a letter from your church leader. Applications for grants will be considered at each of the Trustees' meetings but applicants should note that these only take place three times a year (in approximately January, May and September) and allow plenty of time.

The letter should set out:

- The place of study and course you are intending to embark on/are already enrolled in.
- Your prior experience showing some aptitude for the type of course you are intending to undertake.
- Your future ministry intentions as you see them at present.
- Your other sources of funding.
- A personal commitment to adhere to the statement of faith of the North West Partnership.

Criteria for Grant Making – Theological Education

The following factors will be important in the trustees' decision making (not in any particular order of priority):

- The student seeking a grant should be currently situated in Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire or Cumbria or have very strong connections with the region.
- The student will normally have been sent for theological education from a church affiliated to the North West Partnership and/or actively involved in partnership with other NWP churches.
- The sending church should be financially supporting the student.
- The student should be anticipating future ministry in the North West of England.

Grant Application Procedure – Fee Waiver

The student wishing to apply for a waiver or reduction of fees should draft a short letter to the trustees, giving a brief outline of their financial circumstances and a short summary of any reasons why their local church is unable to cover their fees.

Criteria for Grant making – Fee Waiver

- The applicant must have been accepted onto an NWP training course and should be supported in doing their course by their church.
- They applicant should have spoken to their church leader(s) about the possibility of financial support from the church to pay their fees.