

Mission Grants



*I always pray with joy
because of your partnership in the gospel
from the first day until now
Phil 1: 4-5*

Partnership in the Gospel

All grant applications are carefully considered and are decided based on set criteria regarding the missional and practical outworking of the project.

Grants are given for a maximum of 3 years with the potential for this to be extended, with the exception of the Mission Project Grant which is a one-off grant. Please note that grants are awarded yearly and there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded for each year.

It is expected that the church/mission or project will also seek funding from other places (individuals or organisations). It is an important part of partnership that the NBA is not the only funder of the mission or church.

As part of the application process, when you are visited by members of the team they may recommend looking at other ways the NBA are able to support the church further than funding; this is because we have a holistic approach to support all churches and mission projects.

There are four types of grants available:

Partnership Grants are awarded to churches already engaging in the mission of God, to encourage and further equip them in reaching out to their local community. They are normally only paid to churches with Baptists Together accredited Ministers, who pay their Minister the Home Mission stipend (or appropriate proportion thereof). They are also available for ministers-in-training and recognized ministers from other denominations in Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The grants are not awarded simply for a church to have a minister, and a church must demonstrate its missional heart and intent. We normally expect a church to become self-sustaining within about 5 years of a grant being first awarded.

Pioneering/ Fresh Expression(s) Grants are for those working in ministries in a context which is usually outside of a traditional church; these can include individuals involved in a special initiative or in a church planting (or replanting) situation.

Chaplaincy Grants are available towards the cost of Educational or Industrial Chaplaincies and towards the costs of Ecumenical Officers. The amounts paid will depend on the circumstances and the process usually involves detailed consultation with other denominations.

Mission Projects Grants of up to £500 to enable Baptist Churches to respond to the mission needs of their community as part of their own ongoing work and ministry. These are one-off grants for new projects (or new initiatives within existing projects). The projects must benefit people from the community which the church is seeking to serve.

Next Steps:

1. Contact the Northern Baptist Association to talk about where God is leading you in applying for Home Mission Funding ;
2. Fill in the Application Form (see Appendix 1 for criteria);
3. Send the forms to the NBA Office (if a hard copy is required, we will let you know) Applications for Mission through Ministry, Special Ministry and Chaplaincy Grants need to be submitted by the end of May. Applications for Mission Project Grants can be made throughout the year.

Following receipt of an application the Mission Partnership Team will arrange a visit which will report to your association grants group. Decisions provisionally made here would normally then be passed to your association Trustees or Executive.

If successful, a grant will not normally be paid before 1st January the following year. In the case of church-based students, churches will have to cover the full costs for the first 4 months of the first academic year, unless they have applied a year earlier. Ministries receiving grants are reviewed annually or after the event based on the fruitfulness indicators.

Churches that are Successful

As a Home Mission supported ministry it will be expected that you:

- Take part in the formal review process as outlined in your grant approval letter;
- Work with the Home Mission Team and the NBA
- Enter into a Mission Training Programme or alternative as outlined in your grant approval letter;
- Attend the annual Home Mission Partnership Day for resourcing and equipping your church/mission;
- Attend the NBA annual Gathering
- Allow the telling of your story, through different forms of media, in order to encourage others.

Appendix 1: Criteria for Mission Grants

Partnership Grants

Churches applying for a Partnership grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Church Resolution Form
- Financial Data form (automated Excel spreadsheet)
- Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year)
- Eco Church Audit

In considering an application, the NBA will be applying the following guidelines:

- Evidence that the church is seeking to connect with its local community in ways that are appropriate to its culture and in addition to its worship services.
- Connecting with people in the community (and not just by the minister).
- A mission strategy for engaging with what God is doing in the local community and in the various connection points with people outside the local church by congregational members.
- A commitment to work in 'consultation' with association and/or cluster colleagues/churches, as well as being involved in local association life.
- Processes for 'discipling' congregational members – equipping and enabling them to grow as disciples of Jesus and as a result engage in the mission of God.
- In allocating grants, we will also bear in mind the presence of other missional churches in the surrounding area, giving priority to those places where there is currently no other Christian group engaging in God's mission.

We recognise there will be particular contexts that currently don't meet the above criteria but where maintaining an incarnational Christian presence is of strategic importance. Under such exceptional circumstances a grant application might be considered.

The following points should be borne in mind when considering making an application:

- A church applying for a grant should normally be contributing 5% of its general income to Baptist Together Home Mission.
- The normal maximum grant is 50% of stipend.
- All grant supported churches should pay their minister a stipend equivalent to the Home Mission stipend figure agreed each year by the Baptists Together trustees (or its pro rata equivalent) and adhere to the recommended terms of appointment agreed by the national settlement team. Churches should also pay their minister all legitimate expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Pioneers and church planters may apply for a grant that remunerates for the equivalent of one or two working days per week (depending on what is 'worked' for that purpose).
- The church should ensure that giving by the church to non-Baptist causes does not normally exceed % of the total given by the church to Home Mission and BMS World Mission.
- Grants will not normally be given to churches with paid staff other than the minister for whom grant support is requested.

- Normally, we have expected grants to be awarded to churches calling an accredited minister. Where a church wishes to call an unaccredited minister partly financed by grant funding, the NBA will need to give their approval prior to a call being issued.
- The financial capacity to 'support' a stipend initially for a minimum of three years (including any grant that is awarded) is required.
- To enable stability and planning, the NBA normally anticipates funding in respect of new grants continuing for an initial three-year period, usually at a reducing rate (assuming the basis on which the grant was awarded remains unchanged). The process will involve an initial review and mission accompaniment of some kind in the year before a grant is expected to begin; a 'light touch' intermediate review for the first two years the grant is paid followed by a full review in the spring of the third year. If the review leads to funding continuing for up to a further three years the pattern will then be repeated (two years of intermediate review followed by a full review). The intermediate review will be conducted by one or two visitors using the partnership visitors' form. The initial and full review will be undertaken by a member of an association team and two other visitors/mission companions.
- If the minister or 'worker' leaves the church/emerging expression of church the grant will not automatically continue. A full review will take place to determine this.
- Historically, once a grant has been agreed it has often been assumed that the grant would remain in place if needed for the duration of that ministry. This assumption is no longer appropriate or possible. The expectation is that the grant will normally reduce to nil as quickly as possible rather than funding continuing indefinitely.
- In situations where a grant is discontinued, payments will continue to be made throughout the required notice period.
- Where the continuous decline in income of a church means it is impossible to keep their current minister, a Partnership Grant will not normally be suggested or offered. This challenging financial situation will need to be communicated at the earliest possible opportunity to one of the regional ministers so that the Association can help the church to discern its immediate needs, priorities and options. This will also enable the current minister to discern and decide about their options with as much notice as possible.
- In determining the level of grant, account will be taken of the level of general reserves held by your church or missional expression.

Pioneering / Fresh Expression(s) Grants

Churches applying for a Mission through a ministry grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Financial Data form (automated Excel spreadsheet)
- Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year) if applicable

Special Ministries are ministries in a context usually outside of an existing church; these may be an 'emerging' initiative or a church planting/replanting situation.

The Association makes these grants in consultation with the wider partnership.

The normal practical criteria (as per the previous page) and processes do not apply, but the Association must be able to demonstrate that the situation being funded is missional.

There must be an accountability structure in place to oversee the work which is being financed and periodic reviews should take place to assess the development of the work.

Where an individual is working part time and/or bi-vocationally the expectation would be that the finance they receive would cover their time at a rate equivalent to a minister on standard stipend.

A similar pattern of three yearly reviews will be followed, with two intermediate reviews followed by a more thorough review. The relevant Association will determine the manner in which this will be done.

Mission Project Grants

Whilst any project will be considered, please note that priority will be given to those which into one of the following categories:

- Innovative and creative evangelist initiatives which will involve working with those who cannot yet be considered as disciples of Jesus Christ with a view to enabling people to discover and respond to His love with faith and discipleship.
- Initiatives which are intended to help alleviate poverty or its effects. Where groups are excluded from resources or deprived of certain facilities, they may be regarded as poor for the purpose of these grants.

Churches applying for a Mission Project Grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Outline of the churches mission strategy
- Project Costs Form
- Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year)

Chaplaincy Grants

Churches applying for a Chaplaincy Grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- A report from the Chaplaincy
- Financial statement showing the actual and anticipated expenditure of the chaplaincy, as well as the expected sources and amounts of income required in order to meet that expenditure.