



# Easingwold Methodist Church

## Donations Policy

February 2026

### 1. Statement of General Principles

- 1.1. It is the policy of the church to operate its finances with openness and transparency. This policy sets out the church's procedure for making donations to good causes from its own funds.
- 1.2. The Council (as trustees) applies the funds of Easingwold Methodist Church at their discretion and in accordance with the charitable purposes and objectives of the Methodist Church.
- 1.3. Any decision whether to award a donation (over and above those determined annually by the Church Meeting) remains solely the responsibility of the Council as overseer, as laid down in procedures below. All requests are wholly dependent on the church having the resources in their restricted fund to fulfil these needs at that time. Donations will be paid as soon as possible after agreement and can be terminated without notice if funds are no longer available.

### 2. Priorities for support

- 2.1. The number of good causes that can be supported by the Council as trustees is necessarily limited to the total funds that are available for distribution each year.
- 2.2. A proportion of the church's income will be made available for this purpose each year. The amount will be determined at end of the previous financial year and will represent 5% of the church's total offerings and tax recovered funds (ie excluding rental income, interest and other donations such as bequests.. (The percentage allocated will be reviewed each year.) The money will be classified 'Restricted' and placed in a separate deposit account of the Church's main bank account.
- 2.3. Three good causes for support in the current financial year will be agreed by the General Church Meeting, as described below (*3 Decision Making Process*). These will each receive a sum in the value of £300 (amount to be reviewed each year).
- 2.4. The rest of the funding will be allocated according to need and priority during the year according to the outlined procedure (below).

### 3. Decision Making Process

#### 3.1. Causes Elected by General Church Meeting

- 3.1.1. Council reserves the right to lay down guidance on the type of different causes to be supported each year, (eg if one should be local, one national and one international), and on the frequency with which a cause can be supported.

- 3.1.2. Prior to the Church Meeting each year, nominations will be sought from the whole church fellowship for the three causes to be supported by the church in that financial year.
- 3.1.3. Voting will take place at the General Church Meeting itself and the payments made immediately thereafter.

### **3.2. Remaining Funds**

- 3.2.1. The remaining funds for the year will be distributed on a need-arising basis. Initial applications should be made in writing to the Minister who will assess the suitability of the cause and determine a proposed donation amount (in consultation with the Treasurer).
  - 3.2.2. If the cause is deemed appropriate, the application will be submitted to the Property & Finance Committee for final approval and then paid. Council will be informed of the donation at their next meeting.
  - 3.2.3. Matched-funding (with congregation donations) is not to be encouraged.
  - 3.2.4. As appropriate, money from the restricted fund may be used to support special Harvest, Christmas and/or Easter Appeals. As above, applications should be made to the Minister in the first instance.
  - 3.2.5. Any funds remaining at the end of the financial year will be carried over to the next year and added to the funds available for donation.
  - 3.2.6. If there are insufficient funds and a need is pressing, then Council gives the Minister, Treasurer and Property & Finance Committee, together, permission to use money from general unrestricted funds up to a value of £500. Any request above this amount must be approved by Council. All payments over and above that taken from the Donations fund must be reported to Council at their next meeting.
- 3.3. **Report:** A report will be made to Council at the end of the financial year detailing the donations made in that year. This will be attached to the Final Accounts.

## **4. Beneficiaries and Trustee Due Diligence**

- 4.1. The Church Council (and those authorised to vet applications – see above) will carry out sufficient due diligence on any potential beneficiary to ensure:
  - Any donation will be applied in accordance with the church's charitable purposes.
  - Funds will not be knowingly used for illegal purposes, such as money laundering, bribery or financing terrorism.
  - The beneficiary does not hold views or have any involvement in activities contrary to the church's values and charitable purposes.
- 4.2. Any donation to be made to an individual or organisation that is any way connected to a Trustee (member of the Council) must be handled in accordance with great care and may require the prior approval of the Charity Commission before a formal decision is taken.

- 4.3. Any trustee connected to an organisation or individual requesting a donation must be absent from any part of the meeting that discusses such a request and must not influence the trustees decision in any way.
- 4.4. It is recognised that on, occasion, people claiming to be in need come to the church looking for “help”. It is impossible to determine genuine need and those who are seeking to defraud the church in some way. Whilst discouraging the provision of financial gifts the trustees recognise that occasionally some discretion is needed. The maximum amount that can be provided under such circumstances is £10 to one person in a one-month period. Such payments can be authorised by the Minister (in consultation with the Treasurer) alone.

## **5. Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Property & Finance Committee on behalf of the Council in prior to the end of the financial year, and decisions reported to the Council for approval.

M R Hackney  
Treasurer  
January 2026

Approved by Council 4 February 2026