

Particular Baptist Fund



Information for Churches

Helping to unlock and realise potential

Introduction

We are delighted you are thinking of becoming a member of the PBF. This booklet will take you through all the details that you need to consider carefully and the process for joining.

The PBF constitution requires that all new members:

- Receive a brief history of the Fund
- Send a signed church resolution, signed by two church officers, asking for membership and to send representatives to the PBF meetings
- Make a financial contribution annually
- Affirm annually their agreement to the Fund's theological position by signing the annual return
- Send the church's Statement of Faith/Constitution to the PBF

"Thank you for your ongoing work in supporting the next generation of gospel workers. I have benefited greatly from PBF funding during my own training for ministry and if it were not for your generosity, I would've found it much more difficult to enter gospel service"

James Russell, Assistant Pastor, Balleymena Baptist Church, NI



Particular
Baptist Fund

The Particular Baptist Fund (PBF) is a registered charity established over 300 years ago, by a group of member churches, with the formal object of 'advancing the Christian religion in accordance with the doctrines of Particular Baptists in Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man'. We provide funds towards the support and training of future, present and retired pastors and churches. This booklet covers the history of Particular Baptists and the PBF. It contains information on the work of the PBF which could help your church.



Money, Mission and Ministry

by **Tim Grass**

Tim Grass was a beneficiary of the Fund for his doctoral research and was requested to research and write the history of the Fund to mark its 300th anniversary. His book is an independent look at the Fund's history and work. There is a brief history of the Fund in this handbook, but if you would like to know more, contact the Secretary who will send you a copy.

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The PBF has its Annual General Meeting in April and its half annual General Meeting in October, in line with the rules and regulations of the fund. These meetings are opportunities for the member representatives to hear more about the work the Fund, with updates from church plants or revitalisations and those who are undertaking theological training or practical church training. Member representatives are also required to vote to confirm any Trustee appointments and to provide an accountability check.

At Grace Church Didcot it has been a remarkable year. We are so grateful to the PBF for your continued financial support, which has enabled us to continue in the work of planting Grace Church Didcot.



www.pbfund.org.uk/mission-grants/



History of the PBF

The PBF was founded in 1717 by six London congregations. Two wealthy brothers, Thomas and John Hollis, helped to set up the fund and were associate members from the beginning.



John Hollis

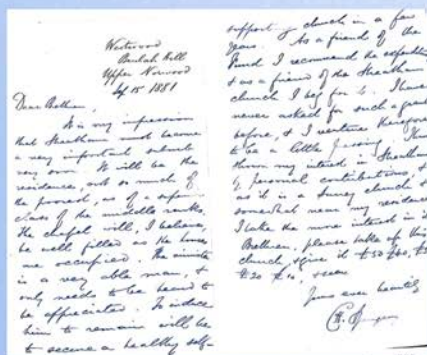
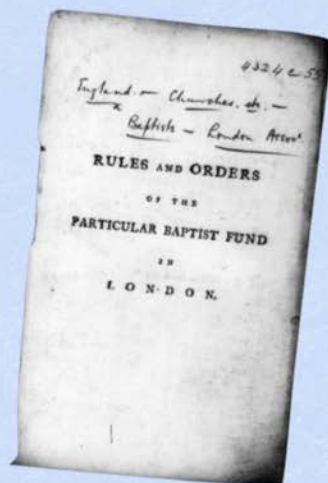


1717 circular proposing the establishment of the PBF

While they were all Particular Baptists, the Fund's founders were not identical in their beliefs. John Skepp, pastor of Wood Street, Cripplegate, was influenced by Joseph Hussey, "the father of hyper-Calvinism", whereas Benjamin Stinton, pastor of Horsleydown (now the Metropolitan Tabernacle) followed what a 20th century writer called a "bland Calvinism". He and Thomas Hollis wanted the Fund to be for the benefit of all Baptist churches, General and Particular. The majority, however, voted for the distributions to be to Particular Baptists only.

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It was not until 1791 that a creedal standard was formalised in the Rules and Orders, setting out "that the Fund shall be for the use and advantage of those churches only that go under the denomination of Particular Baptists". This, with some small modifications in 1934, remained in the Rules and Orders until they were superseded in 2004.



Letter from C.H. Spurgeon
advocating for a new cause in
Streatham, 1881

For at least most of the 20th century, this creedal standard was not followed at all closely. The Finance Committee noted that the Fund was not in line with its legal position and in 1983 ensured that the new Secretary was a Particular Baptist by conviction.



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In 1989, the Executive decided to set out at the top of application forms that the fund was established "for the benefit of ministers and churches sharing the faith and order generally expressed in their confessions such as the London Baptist Confession 1644, The Somerset P. B. Confession 1656 and the Second London P. B. Confession 1677/89" and invited applications from ministers and churches holding views consistent with that foundation.

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THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION

CONDITIONS

- The fund grant applies to full or part time students completing their first degree training for the ministry of the church, or to full or part time students completing their first degree training for the ministry of the church, or to full or part time students completing their first degree training for the ministry of the church.
- The grant is for the purpose of supporting the student's education and is not to be used for other purposes.
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The following items to include in your application	
1. A letter from your minister or church leader confirming your status as a student and your commitment to the Christian faith and order generally expressed in the London Baptist Confession 1644, The Somerset P. B. Confession 1656 and the Second London P. B. Confession 1677/89.	2. A letter from your minister or church leader confirming your status as a student and your commitment to the Christian faith and order generally expressed in the London Baptist Confession 1644, The Somerset P. B. Confession 1656 and the Second London P. B. Confession 1677/89.
3. A letter from your minister or church leader confirming your status as a student and your commitment to the Christian faith and order generally expressed in the London Baptist Confession 1644, The Somerset P. B. Confession 1656 and the Second London P. B. Confession 1677/89.	4. A letter from your minister or church leader confirming your status as a student and your commitment to the Christian faith and order generally expressed in the London Baptist Confession 1644, The Somerset P. B. Confession 1656 and the Second London P. B. Confession 1677/89.

For nearly 300 years the Fund was organised by its decisions and its Rules and Orders. There was a trust deed in 1785, but this described its funds rather than define PBF's aims and powers. This meant that there was no true constitution and it became obvious that this had to be corrected in today's more regulated world. The Charity Commission insisted that the constitution should reflect the founders' decisions and so the 2004 scheme restricts

the funds to the "the advancement of the Christian religion in Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in accordance with the doctrines of Particular Baptists".

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THIS CERTIFIES THAT
PARTICULAR BAPTIST FUND
 REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER
248795
 HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE
 Charity Commission for England and Wales
 ON THE DATE OF
28 May 1986

CERTIFIED BY
[Signature]
 David Williams
 Chief Executive Officer

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How the PBF helps churches



Home Mission Pastoral Grant

We provide grants for new church plants and for churches in decline who are seeking to revive their work. We thoroughly investigate all proposals to ensure that the project is viable, culturally relevant and in tune with the Fund's theological position. Grants of up to 80% of the cost of employing a pastor/evangelist are available for three years at a time. Further grants may be available but on a declining profile.



**Church plants
and
revitalisations
supported by
the PBF**

All in all we have so much to thank God for, and it is hard to see how all these things could be in place without the support of the PBF grant. Once again therefore, we sincerely thank you for all the past and current help received.

James Allsop, Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Melksham

We want to underline and express our profound gratitude to God for the PBF and your incredibly generous support. As we look back on the last six years we can see that God, in his grace, has brought this church back from the brink of closure and is turning it into an effective witness in this needy community. In providing the finance, the PBF has been the single most decisive human factor in this. We are so grateful to God for you.

The Church Officers, Grange town Baptist Church

For more information and to see the latest updates for your encouragement, please scan the QR code or visit www.pbfund.org.uk/mission-grants/



Building Project Loans

We provide interest free loans to churches who are undertaking a building project. This includes extensions, improvements, or new purchases of church buildings. The loan must be between £25,000 and £100,000 with regular repayments over 10 years.



Benevolent Grants



We make grants to retired full time Particular Baptist pastors and their dependents who are on a low income and we may occasionally make grants to serving pastors in special financial need.

Educational Grants

The PBF pathway to training and perhaps future ministry, supporting churches and the applicant from the first step.



We give a one year grant – the **Church Training Grant (CTG)** – of £6,000 to churches who are prepared to offer structured training to those who want to test their call to pastoral ministry before starting on an academic theological course.

We make grants – the **Theological Education Support Grant (TESG)** – of up to a maximum of £18,000 over the life of a course to students training for the pastoral ministry or to pastors who have not previously undertaken first level training. Please note the deadline for applications is 31 May before each academic year starting in September.

We also give a £12,000 grant – the **Ministerial Apprenticeship Grant (MAG)** – renewable for a further year, to those churches willing to provide an apprenticeship opportunity to a student who has finished their academic course but feels the need for more practical training before taking up a pastorate.



In addition, we make grants – the **Supplementary Theological Education Support Grant (STESG)** – of £1,200 to full time ministers undertaking a course of further study which will help them in their work as pastors,

including guided Sabbatical study and grants – the **Higher Theological Education Support Grant (HTESG)** – up to a maximum of £18,000 to those who have already served as pastors and now want to undertake higher level study to qualify them to apply for a post teaching in a theological college.



Special Projects Grant

We make grants of up to £6,000, to small churches, with an annual income of £90,000 or less, towards the acquisition of equipment which will enable them to launch a new evangelistic activity and reach out to the people around them in a culturally appropriate way. (This grant is not for help with ongoing maintenance or running costs.)



***If you are interested in any of the grants mentioned
please do get in contact with the Secretary.
Contact details are on the back of this booklet.***

Joining the PBF

The church must pass a resolution to join the PBF; the wording for this resolution is on the application form. This section must be signed by two church officers who were at the meeting and can certify that the resolution was passed.

The application form asks for details of the church and two representatives who will represent the church at the twice annual PBF meetings.

Once the application form has been filled in and the church resolution passed, this can be sent with the church's Statement of Faith/Constitution to the Secretary. The application will be brought to the Executive, who will view the application and invite the applying church for an online meeting. The Secretary will then write back confirming the Executive's decision on the application.

Churches accepted into membership are asked to make a financial contribution to the PBF; the amount is mentioned on the application form.



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Getting Involved

The Trustees (who are also known as the Executive Committee) are appointed by member churches and consist of pastors and other member representatives who have a professional background. They meet around 6 times a year to deal with the business of the Fund and consider the various grant and loan applications. The meetings normally take place in London as a central and accessible location. Assessment involves visiting the churches to assess the viability of their projects and interviewing (by Zoom) candidates who have applied for Theological Grants. As it is important that the Executive Committee consists of members with the necessary skills and experience and does not become overweight in any one area of expertise, the Executive normally liaises with member churches when the need for new Executive members arises. We are grateful for churches whose representatives serve as Trustees to enable the Fund to continue its work.



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Annual Declarations

At the beginning of each year, all member churches are sent an annual declaration which is to be signed and returned, along with the annual contribution. It is important that member churches affirm their agreement to the Fund's theological position yearly and state who their representatives are for that coming year. This also gives churches the opportunity to update the information held on the PBF database.

Membership Conditions

Part of the PBF's constitution sets out the conditions for church membership. Please read this section carefully.

Each representative of a member present at a meeting of the charity shall have one vote.



The members of the charity are subject to such rules and regulations as the Executive Committee make from time to time in accordance with the provisions of clause 5(9), which may cover termination of membership, but membership is terminated in the following circumstances:



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- if the member notifies the charity of their resignation
- if a member fails to pay an annual financial contribution after being asked to do so
- if the member shall be removed from membership by a resolution of the Executive Committee on the ground that in their reasonable opinion the member's continued membership is harmful to the charity or otherwise inappropriate (but only after notifying the member in writing and considering the matter in the light of any written representations which the member concerned puts forward within 21 days after receiving notice)
- if no representatives of the member shall have attended meetings of the charity for a continuous period of three years, the Executive Committee resolves to remove the member from membership; or
- if the member ceases to be in sympathy with the object of the charity

For the avoidance of doubt, a Church or a representative of a Church may receive support or grants from the charity.

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Want to know more or have any questions?
Please see our website or contact us. Details
below:



info@pbfund.org.uk



www.pbfund.org.uk



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