**Wales Synod Policy & Associated Procedures for Continuing Development in Ministry (CDiM)**

**The Connexional Policy on CDIM is set out in Standing Order 745 and summarised below, with links to further information:**

“At ordination, ministers undertake that they will seek, throughout their ministry, to equip, renew and resource themselves continually. This is both to enable them to respond to the demands of their work with insight and creativity, and also to offer space, time and input which might help in their own vocational journey by facilitating rest, personal discovery, time with God, and the acquisition of new perspectives and the development of under-used gifts.

The Connexion strives to offer resources for this lifelong process in a variety of ways. One is through deepening our partnerships with a variety of institutions offering theological, spiritual, pastoral and liturgical courses. In some cases, you may wish to pursue a full accredited award, such as an MA or PhD. There is some information about accessing grants towards such courses [**here**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/learning-and-development/scholarships-and-funding/).

Most, however, will simply want to take a stand-alone course or study day. This page offers links to a variety of resources and places where we have particular connections. Financial help towards attending these courses as part of ministerial development is available through many districts and circuits.

Firstly, there are our two [**Network Centres**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/learning-and-development/our-learning-centres/), at Cliff College and The Queen’s Foundation, which offer a range of opportunities, both for further theological study and shorter courses. The Cliff short courses can be especially helpful in offering brief immersion experiences into various aspects of ministry and spirituality.

In addition, we maintain links with some other [**Methodist and Methodist-related institutions**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/learning-and-development/other-places-of-learning/). These are also places where ministers can explore opportunities for CDiM.

Finally, there are other organisations, with which we are involved, and whose work may be of interest to ministers seeking lifelong formation and continuing development.”

**Wales Synod CDiM Policy**

**The Cymru Wales Learning Network** exists to support and equip ministers in their roles, and therefore will arrange appropriate training for ministers to help them fulfil their identified training or development needs, as identified by the Connexion, the Synod, or the individual minister. Where these needs are not best provided by the Cymru Wales Learning Network, ministers in full connexion may apply for funding as follows:

Applications for Wales Synod funding should be made in writing to the designated Learning and Development Officer (preferably by email). The officer needs to approve the expenditure in advance using the following criteria:

* The Synod will pay the costs of further training and development up to a total of £250 per minister per Connexional Year, where such activity leads to a higher education award or meets a need identified during their MDR or similar review process.
* It is the responsibility of the individual minister to find any additional funding necessary for more expensive courses either personally or, with appropriate local agreement, from Circuit funds. The LDO can also help the minister identify additional sources of funding, if required.
* Items which can be claimed under the policy include course/retreat fees, travel and subsistence (up to £20 per day).
* Claims for other items, such as library fees, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Ministers must provide receipts or invoices prior to payment being made.
* In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to use up to 2 years’ allocation in one year, with the approval of the LDO.
* With the agreement of the Chair of Synod, this funding may be extended as a courtesy to supernumerary ministers and AP ministers who are supporting the work of a circuit by acting as minister in pastoral charge of a church.