**Guide lines for applying to the James and Martha Trounson Hardship Benevolent Fund**

James and Martha Trounson initiated this fund in1929 when they became aware of the number of presbyters who were experiencing financial hardship.

Over many years, the criteria have been expanded so that now any member of a Methodist or Cooperating Parish with a Methodist component can be considered for assistance.

* An application form is available from the MCNZ website or from the convener. The current form must be used.
* It is preferred that all applications are received by email.
* **This fund is specifically only for people who are experiencing unexpected financial hardship.**
* Individuals may not apply for themselves
* The presbyter of the church, or the synod superintendent or the lay leader of a parish that has no stationed presbyter, are the only people who can apply on behalf of the person or family.
* The fund is administrated by Trustees all of whom are active members of the Methodist Church of New Zealand
* There is a maximum amount available annually
* This fund is available throughout each year (it has NO set date for applications)