

EBA - 34
Issue 3
01/06/07



GUIDANCE TO CHURCHES ON PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES TO REGIONAL MINISTERS

Eastern Baptist Association. Registered Charity number 1089795.
Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England number 4221429.
Registered office: 46 Churchill Road, Thetford, IP24 2JZ

- 1 This document is offered as guidance on the payment by churches of fees and expenses to Regional Ministers as they share in the life of local churches. It is offered as many churches want to do the “right” thing but have to ask for guidance as to what that is. Some churches have been led to believe that their contributions to Home Mission cover the expenses of the Regional Ministers. A sum is set aside in the Association budget each year to cover the travelling expenses of the Regional Ministers in their work among all the churches. It is only right and proper that when a church invites a Regional Minister to take part in specific events that this church makes a contribution to the family purse to cover the expenses incurred by the Regional Minister in doing so.
- 2 This approach is a suggested one but it is not expected that a church with very limited financial resources should follow it rigorously. Churches with greater resources are requested to follow it generously. An early conversation with the Regional Minister could well put the mind of the Treasurer at ease
- 3 All fees and expenses received by a Regional Minister have, under the terms of his/her contract, to be remitted to the EBA in order to assist with the funding of the Association. The annual budget set by the EBA includes an amount expected in this way. It must be noted that **all payments should be by cheque payable to the “Eastern Baptist Association” and not to the individual Regional Minister** although they can be handed to the Regional Minister
- 4 The following types of activity by a Regional Minister should attract **payment of both a realistic fee and mileage expenses** (preferably at the higher of the current Inland-Revenue-approved Baptist Union mileage rates – 40p per mile at the date of issue):
 - Taking a Sunday service or special church service
 - Leading a church weekend or similar
 - Leading a leadership conference or similar
 - Engaging in a Mediation process with a church
- 5 The following types of activity by a Regional Minister should attract **payment of mileage expenses** (preferably at the higher of the current Inland-Revenue-approved Baptist Union mileage rates):
 - Visiting a church or deacons meeting to address a specific matter (e.g. settlement of a minister or advice on specific issue) at the request of the church or deacons
 - Taking part in the induction, ordination or farewell of a minister, or similar
- 6 Although support from churches is always welcomed, no payment of fee or expenses is expected when a periodic pastoral visit is made to a church at the request of a Regional Minister.
- 7 And finally, churches are urged to ensure that warm and adequate hospitality is offered to Regional Ministers when they visit. This might include one or more meals, toilet facilities and a drink on arrival and before departure, and so on.