

# The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

## OneBodyOneFaith

#VHJGHFFX2S submitted on 27 October 2021

---

### **1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us**

OneBodyOneFaith is seeking financial support to enable us to deliver our initial two-year phase for international development. We are approaching grant funders as well as our existing supporter network to underpin this next stage in our mission to enable LGBT+ Christians and advocate for change.

### **1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative**

The landscape for LGBT+ people remains dangerous and fraught in many countries; in many of these geographies, faith and religion plays a large part in the discrimination that LGBT+ people experience.

The rhetoric surrounding LGBT+ identities, particularly trans and non-binary people, in countries such as Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Uganda, Nigeria, and Argentina, is a challenge to those of us who profess a faith in Jesus Christ: how are to intercede in prayer and stand alongside our siblings who face persecution?

OneBodyOneFaith has a strong and long history in the UK, and we have often been the voice speaking from the margins – challenging those with power to consider the impact of their theology and their actions. In recent years we have focussed our efforts on developing dynamic partnerships to strengthen our challenge to homophobic and transphobic Christian institutions, as well as equipping our members to bring about grassroots change locally. However, whilst we will gratefully benefit from our partnerships, the number of them indicates how “busy” the landscape in the UK is. When the Gay Christian Movement began in 1976 there were few like us, now there are dozens – many working with the same goal to bring equity, justice, and the love of God back into the lives of LGBT+ people in the church. It seems that the substantial growth for us as an organisation must not rest on UK development alone.

Finally, our efforts this past 18 months during the periods of extended isolation and lockdown due to the response to Covid-19 has seen an increase in those living outside of the UK already engaging with our offering. Groups in Germany and Poland, and individuals from Australia, Canada, Japan, and Georgia have connected with us – suggesting there is a need that is not being met.

OneBodyOneFaith is perhaps uniquely placed as an historic organisation in the UK, one that will likely have the support of members current and new in seeking to support LGBT+ Christians abroad. It seems that the need, plus our desire to grow and not remain stationary as an organisation sets us for a potentially exciting and worthwhile next phase in our charity’s history.

When considering what international development could look like for OneBodyOneFaith, it has been clear to us that we must avoid the terrible mistakes of colonial missionaries who have gone before us. We are not seeking to land-grab or empire-build, but rather to extend our goal of “enabling LGBT+ Christians and advocating for change” beyond the borders of the UK. This vision, when well delivered, equips, and engages with individuals and organisations, it does not proscribe and move by force.

As such, a two-year start-up period to determine the viability of international development, and the best process to do so, is the best way to flesh out the proposed process of engaging with new countries and regions.

We are developing the following three phases to be followed when exploring international contexts to operate in:

1. Exploratory:

Discerning which individuals or organisations are already at work in a specific geography, and whether there is potential need/scope for OneBodyOneFaith to be present. Liaising with our global network in determining where there is need, and where we are best placed to meet it.

2. Engagement:

Connecting with potential partners locally, working to build genuine relationships that are rooted in collaboration and not colonialism. During this phase, a scope of work will be developed, proposed, and approved.

3. Execution:

Delivering against the scope of work finalised in the Engagement phase. KPI's to be agreed at Board level.

**1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?**

B - Peace-building and conflict resolution

**1.3b Peace-building and conflict resolution**

Likely the most contentious issues within Christianity today is that of human sexuality/gender identity. This disagreement on orthodoxy and practice brings conflict within the fabric of the global church and for LGBT+ Christians. Through our work we have continually been a part of the process of resolution by providing safer spaces, engaging in healthy dialogue, and seeking to educate.

**1.4 Which country is the project based in?**

United Kingdom (GB)

**1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?**

Yes

**1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended**

We are benefiting and grateful for a growth in a membership, which provides the financial foundation for our services. We are expecting this to continue both in the UK, and internationally after the two year scoping period. We are also allowing for further grant fundraising to be sourced as part of the budgeted staff time in years one and two.

**1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?**

International development will be measured quantitatively i.e. number of direct partnerships established and number of individuals/groups/churches supported on the ground in unique geographies. There will be qualitative reviews in the six month intervals to see what progress has been made with implementing change. Quantitative data will also be sought from stakeholders locally in the geographies engaged with.

**2.1 Expenditure**

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Salary (per annum)	£13,200	1 x part-time staff member, pro rata salary shown.
Travel & subsistence (per annum)	£7,500	Maximum budget provision for travel and associated costs to new geographies. This will be mitigated wherever possible by online meetings.

TOTALS	£20,700	
--------	---------	--

## 2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
0	£0	£0	We expect the initial two-year period to be entirely funded by membership support and grant funding.
	£0	£0	
TOTALS	£0	£0	

## 2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£5,000

## 2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

## 2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£57,387

## 2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

## 2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

OneBodyOneFaith

0003356

40-52-40

## 3.1 Your name

Luke Dowding

## 3.2 Your contact telephone number

07878946116

## 3.3 Your position within the organisation

Executive Director

## 3.4 Your email address

[luke.dowding@onebodyonefaith.org.uk](mailto:luke.dowding@onebodyonefaith.org.uk)

## 3.5 Organisation name

OneBodyOneFaith

## 3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK Charity

## 3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

OneBodyOneFaith has a legacy of making of difference: we've been leading change since 1976.

We are a grassroots charity that enables LGBT+ Christians and advocates for change within the church, ecumenically and intentionally in partnership.

For many LGBT+ Christians places of Christian worship and community remain harmful and challenging. We are committed to stopping abuse; embracing positive change; and the transformation of church structures: our desire is for LGBT+ Christians to thrive, not just survive.

**3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation**

15 Newland  
Lincoln  
LN1 1XG

**3.9 UK telephone number**

01636 673072

**3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)**

1048842

**3.11 Year established**

1976, subsequent rebrand and merger in 2017.

**3.12 Website (if applicable)**

<http://www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk>

**3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)**

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @1body1faith

**4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?**

Internet