

Yorkshire Synod Mission Fund

Aims

The aim of the Mission Fund is to enable churches in the Synod to engage in Mission Projects that they would not otherwise be able to undertake from their own financial resources.

Scope

It is envisaged that any funding from the Synod Mission Fund will either be small one off grants for local innovation in mission projects possibly with an element of "seed corn" funding or be larger grants for more developmental mission projects, possibly over a longer period, eg three years.

For longer term projects the grant will be paid in instalments, subsequent to the receipt of satisfactory progress reports as detailed in criterion 10 below.

Applications

Applicants will be encouraged to discuss their needs with the Mission Fund Panel beforehand. Funds will be allocated four times yearly and there will be a clear cycle of dates for applications which should be submitted at least two weeks before the fund administrators meet. It must be made clear that there is no automatic right to a grant and that it may not be possible to support all applications.

Criteria

1. The Fund is to support Mission Projects that are engaging with people rather than the adaptation of premises.
2. There must be a clear Mission Aim underpinning any project.
3. Applicants should show evidence of research to show a need for the project, and that need must be clearly identified.
4. Applicants should show that they have considered whether other churches/organisations are already attempting to meet the need.
5. Applicants should show that they have considered the possibility of working co-operatively with other organisations and/or ecumenically with other churches.
6. Applicants are encouraged to produce a mission development plan for the project and demonstrate how it relates to the church's mission plan.
7. The church should submit a comprehensive budget for the mission project.
8. The church should demonstrate its own commitment to the mission project with financial input to the best of its ability being clearly identified in the budget.
9. Applicants should identify a contact person for the project.
10. Recipients of small grants should submit a single report to the Mission Fund Panel within 12 months of receipt of the grant. Larger projects should make regular reports recording their progress.

Administering the Fund

1. The fund will be administered by Mission Fund Panel consisting of the Synod Evangelist, the conveners of Pastoral, Ministries, Property, and Financial Resources committees, and the Synod Evangelist, under the convenership of the Synod Clerk
2. The Mission Fund Panel will report to Synod annually and will invite selected applicants to make a presentation to Synod detailing how the grant has been used to revitalise and expanded the mission of the church.
3. In addition to the above criteria, requests for grants will be considered against the Ten Statements of Mission.
4. Applications for larger grants (above £2,500) will be restricted to one per year from any one church.
5. Churches will be invited to make contributions to the fund and fund raising and individual bequests will be encouraged.

The Ten Statements of Mission:

- **Statement 1: Spirituality and prayer**
We will grow in our practice of prayer and spirituality, nurturing strength for our witness to Jesus Christ, and developing our discernment of where God is and what God is calling us to do by reading and studying the Bible and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Statement 2: Identity**
The URC will be a Church where every local congregation will be able to say who they are, what they do and why they do it.
- **Statement 3: Christian Ecumenical Partnerships**
We will be more confident in our identity, valuing the treasures of our tradition, discerning when to seek ecumenical partnerships, and when and how to seek the further unity of the Church.
- **Statement 4: Community partnerships**
We will be a Church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods.
- **Statement 5: Hospitality and diversity**
We will be a Church committed to becoming even more welcoming and hospitable, and embracing all people equally.
- **Statement 6: Evangelism**
We will be more confident to engage in evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God with friends, families and strangers, through story and action.
- **Statement 7: Church growth**
We will be a growing Church with an increasing membership.
- **Statement 8: Global partnerships**
We will be a Church that is an active partner in God's global mission with other Churches around the world.
- **Statement 9: Justice and peace**
We will be a Church committed to peacemaking and reconciliation that keeps faith with the poor and challenges injustice.
- **Statement 10: The integrity of creation**
We will be a Church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.