

Yorkshire Synod Vision and Opportunity Property Grant

Aims

The aim of the V&O Property Grant is to support churches in the Synod that are facing building challenges which are limiting their ability to engage in/continue Mission Projects due to limited financial resources.

Churches should remember, when making applications, that the **total funds available at this time are £150,000.**

Applications

The Property Committee will make decisions regarding the use of the fund. Just as for all building related work churches will be expected to take professional advice as appropriate and to discuss their needs and proposals with the Property Committee at the earliest opportunity.

In making their decisions the Property Committee will make an assessment of:

- a) the church's good stewardship over time of their buildings - for example paying attention to quinquennial surveys,
- b) the sustainability of the congregation & building
- c) what steps the church had taken, or planned to take, to reduce their carbon footprint
- d) the degree to which the church has a vision for the building as part of its mission.

The fund will be administered by the Synod Property Committee and applications will be considered at each of its six meetings a year. The dates for these are on the Synod website **but the deadlines for applications are 28th February, April 30th, June 30th, August 31st, October 31st and December 31st each year.**

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 building work which is necessary for the continuation or innovation of a Mission Project.
2. There must be a clear Mission Aim underpinning any application.
3. If this is a new project 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. In addition to the above criteria, requests for grants will be considered against the Ten Statements of Mission.

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.