

# 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 Five Threads 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.

## URC Yorkshire Synod's Five Threads of Mission

