



District Advance Fund Guidance notes
on applications for
‘Missional and Grant Funding Support’

The District receives an annual allocation of funds into its Advance Fund. Some of these funds are available to support the growth and development of mission-focused projects in Churches and Circuits, embracing both church development and new streams.

The District Advance Fund is administered on behalf of the Synod by the District Leadership Team (DLT), under SO 963(3). And DLT aspire to allocate funds in line with its overall mission objectives as set out below:

We dream of a church whose heart, body and soul is healthy and life-giving; whose very ways of being enable everyone to experience the life and freedom, that is the Good News of Jesus Christ.
“I came to give life – life in all its fulness.”
(John 10:10)

We dream of the transformation of the land through the growth of diverse, contextually-shaped, passionately-led flourishing missional communities.
“The churches were strengthened in their faith and grew in number every day”
(Acts 16:5)

We know that seeing these dreams become real depends entirely on **God's grace to transform us – both as individuals and communities.**

So, we encourage every person and every expression of gathering to 'create more space for grace' ... 'dig deeper' ... 'generate richer soil'

....where the presence of Jesus brings healing and transformation.

....where God's future story is discerned and brought to life.

We support this vision by focussing our attention on 'dual transformation' of both inherited and new forms of church and mission:

Church Development

New Streams

We also recognise the gospel-imperative to be where we are needed most, and therefore are committed to maintaining and developing our presence and activity in areas of deprivation.

1. If you are considering making a missional and grant funding application, priority will be given to schemes that:
 - a. are part of a clear strategy directed towards fulfilling God's mission through the local church/circuit and are consistent with district priorities for developing flourishing missional communities
 - b. make good use of resources including financial, volunteer and local experts by working, where appropriate, ecumenically and in partnership with other circuits and/or organisations
 - c. have identified a need both in the Church and the wider community and have developed, or are seeking to develop, a way to respond effectively
 - d. embrace the gospel priority for the marginalised and poor and with those who are disadvantaged within the community
 - e. have considered the needs of a range of age groups according to the demographic of the community
 - f. incorporate the potential for growth
2. The district on-line missional and grant funding support application form will provide an opportunity for you to expand on your project and will result in:

- a. an appropriate member of the District Team reaching out for further conversation about the project
 - b. exploration with an appropriate member of the District Team of the resources and assets available within the District to support your project
 - c. Identification of the appropriate support streams available from the District to enable you to achieve your vision
3. All successful applications will be required to follow up with a report to District Leadership Team, which can then be shared with others as encouragement and inspiration.

We anticipate that your report:

- a. could include pictures and video to tell the story of how things have gone where appropriate suitable for publishing on newsletters and/or websites
- b. will outline the successes and challenges that have emerged, together with learning gained
- c. will be accompanied with the willingness to support other similar projects across the District.