

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Principles and Guidelines for Mission and Service Grants

1. PURPOSE

- a. Mission and Service Grants (MSG) come from money designated for mission in Canada and globally through a unified fund called Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada. The money is shared between the Regions across the country to be distributed annually for mission and ministry in the name of Jesus, the Christ.
- b. The principles, priorities, and guidelines provided in this document are intended to guide the Financial and Mission Services Committee, in its decision-making regarding distribution of Mission and Service grants funds in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (FSLDW).

2. THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

- a. The Bible teaches that doing for others is doing for Christ.
- b. “We are not alone,” is the familiar opening line of the New Creed of the United Church of Canada. The New Creed also says, “We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus.”
- c. As we seek to align ourselves with God’s work of restoration, healing, and reconciliation, the United Church acts for peace, justice, care for creation, and God’s mission of healing the whole world, in cooperation with others who share our vision. As we practice love and justice with humility and prayer, we learn how to be faithful coworkers in God’s mission. We call this approach “partnership.”
- d. Partnership means becoming involved with others in God’s mission for wholeness of life especially on behalf of the poor and powerless. Partnership brings people together in community for mutual empowerment through the sharing of gifts, recognized as gifts freely given by God for the benefit of all, not possessions which some may control.

*(“Seeking to Understand Partnership for God’s Mission Today”
Statement of General Council 1988, Reaffirmed 2000)*

3. PRINCIPLES

The Financial and Mission Services Committee defines the principles for mission and ministry in FSLDW as:

- a. Proclaiming and nurturing God’s love through living Jesus’ example of radical hospitality, inclusion, and care;
- b. Improving the circumstances of people who are poor, vulnerable, and marginalized;
- c. Building right relations among diverse peoples;
- d. Enhancing right relations between people and the natural world; and,

- e. Helping to strengthen communities of faith to be healthy, safe, and sustainable.

Preference will be given to ministries which follow these principles.

4. GUIDELINES

- a. The primary mission units of FSLDW are described as Pastoral Charges, Communities of Faith, Incorporated Ministries, and Community Ministries.
- b. There is a wide spectrum of ministries that fall within these categories. Funding is provided in two categories:

i. **CATEGORY 1: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, CONGREGATIONAL AND PASTORAL CHARGE MINISTRY**

- New Church Development Ministry
Congregations, Missions, and Pastoral Charges that have been identified as a New Church Development or Church Redevelopment project may be considered for Mission and Service funding for a maximum of ten years from date of original application.
- Bridge Funding or Crisis Intervention:
Pastoral Charges having difficulty with core expenses, and therefore, are unable to meet existing financial obligations may be considered for funding for up to three (3) years. Funding is intended to allow a time of discernment, healing, or exploring options. The pastoral charge will not be eligible for further bridge funds for five years.
- Transformational Ministries
Pastoral charges seeking to develop new directions for their ministry may be eligible for funding for a maximum of 3 years. Applicants will need to demonstrate a clear vision, a strategy with distinct and measurable goals, support from their governing body, and a long-range plan for financial sustainability.

ii. **CATEGORY 2: OUTREACH MINISTRIES AND PROJECTS**

- Outreach Ministries and Projects include:
- Incorporated Ministries / Projects
- Congregational-based Outreach Ministries/Projects
- community-based Outreach Ministries/Projects
- Chaplaincy Projects
- Legacy (based on funds available)

All grant applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis annually.

Approval in one year does not mean guaranteed approval in subsequent years.

Any amount granted in one year may vary substantially in subsequent years.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Committee

The role of the **Financial and Mission Services Committee**, with advice of Executive Minister, is to review applications, discern appropriate, if any, level of funding, and advise the Regional Council Executive of decisions made.

b. Regional Staff

The role of the Regional Staff Office Manager / Finance is to facilitate the work by:

- i. Receiving, reviewing, and following up on applications to ensure all necessary information is in place.
- ii. Maintaining an up-to-date understanding of the policies and procedures of the General Council related to the Mission and Service Grants processes.
- iii. Advising applicants of required timelines for submission.
- iv. Managing accountability requirements of the mission units (e.g. timely receipt of financial audits and required statements). Regular reporting to Financial and Mission Services Committee on disbursements and receipts of Mission and Services grants.

Prepared by:

Financial and Mission Services Committee Dated:
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