

21. Council for Mission

<i>Convener (General Secretary)</i>	Rev David de Kock
<i>Standing Committee</i>	Steve Higgins
<i>Resources Commission</i>	Chris Walker
<i>Placements Commission</i>	Rev Hannes Halgryn
<i>Presbytery Standing Committee</i>	Rev Greg Ross
<i>Strategy and Mission Planning</i>	Rev Narelle Collas
<i>Presbytery Property Committee</i>	
<i>Senior Property Manager</i>	Richard Patterson

I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL FOR MISSION

The members of the Council for Mission are appointed by their relevant committee. During the course of the year, Dr Elaine Ledgerwood resigned from the Presbytery Standing Committee and was replaced on the Council for Mission by Rev Greg Ross. Rev Stephen Larkin stood down as Chair of the Presbytery Property Committee and has not yet been replaced on the Council for Mission.

2. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL FOR MISSION

The Council for Mission is an ad hoc committee which exists to review proposals for funding from the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust was established in 2018 out of the former Foundation with capital derived from the former Foundation, from an additional capital injection of \$5 million from the Uniting Church Investment Fund, and from sale of property when possible. The capital in the Foundation Trust is managed by the Uniting Church Investment Fund and the earnings are made available each year for projects related to the Synod Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

The amount available for project funding is estimated at \$1 million per annum at the current earnings rate. The full amount of the project amount is set aside each year, even if the requirement is spread over several years. This is to ensure that the project has guaranteed funds for its duration.

PROCESS TO ACCESS FUNDING

- Understanding the Essential Criteria

In order for an application to be successful there are several essential criteria which need to be met.

- ✓ The plan must match the purpose of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021
 - Uniting in God's Mission to the World*
 - Growing Communities of Christ-Followers*
 - Grounded in Worship, Witness and Service*
- ✓ There must be a clearly identified Project Leader
- ✓ Preference will be given to projects focussed on networks of communities, especially congregations, schools and Agencies
- ✓ Should use a community asset-based approach (seek ways of connecting with community assets – schools, clubs, programs)
- ✓ The plan must have a clear set of objectives, processes, key indicators, achievement goals and specific funding requirements. Ill-conceived presentations will not be considered

- Developing Objectives

The Mission Plan submission should have clearly defined and measurable objectives.

The following process will be helpful:

- ✓ Define the Vision
- ✓ Determine what changes are to be made
- ✓ Collect base line data e.g. membership, worship attendance, people served in mission

- ✓ Decide on realistic goals
- ✓ Set the objectives, which should be:
 - a) Specific: How much, of what, by whom, by when?
 - b) Measurable
 - c) Achievable: How will the project continue when funding period is over?
 - d) Relevant to the purpose of the Strategic Plan
 - e) Timed: A clearly defined timeline
 - f) Challenging: What significant improvements are expected?

- Connecting with Communities

Most of our congregation communities are small and without the critical mass to progress much beyond maintaining the status quo. For this reason it is important to connect with other congregations, schools and agency service centres. The individual communities would, however, maintain their separate identities, with all the communities combined referred to as 'collaborating communities'.

The process of connecting and facilitating introductions to other communities can be guided by the Presbytery Minister (Mission) and/or the Deputy General Secretary.

- Developing Plans

Initial Reviews of ideas and plans can be presented to the Strategy and Mission Planning Committee for comment and guidance. These do not need to be in detail but should observe the objectives noted earlier.

Assistance in the development of the Mission Plan for final presentation may be provided by the Presbytery Minister (Mission) and/or the Deputy General Secretary.

A grant of up to \$10,000 is also available, if required, to cover the cost of a consultant who would prepare the final Mission Plan. A full quotation would need to be submitted to the General Secretary in support of an application for this grant.

- Submitting Mission Plans to the Council for Mission

Final Mission Plans seeking funding should be circulated to the Council for Mission (through the General Secretary) for review at least two weeks prior to a formal presentation. The formal presentation is limited to 60 minutes and may include various media forms, for example PowerPoint, video, hard copies etc.

It should be comprehensive and clearly address the objectives noted above.

- Evaluation of Mission Plans

Responses to the formal Mission Plan presentation will be made within one week of the presentation. Responses may include:

- ✓ Yes, together with guidelines on the funding process and regular evaluation
- ✓ Guidelines for more work to be done before final approval
- ✓ No. Good reasoning for the decision will be provided.

- Putting the Mission Plan into effect

The launch of each Mission Plan will take place at a specific event which will include worship, prayers and a presentation of the Mission Plan. The event will be guided by the Moderator.

MEASUREMENT FOR SUCCESS

- ✓ Are we uniting with God in mission to the world?
- ✓ Are we growing communities of Christ-Followers?
- ✓ Are we grounded in Worship, Witness and Service?

EVALUATION

The Mission Plan will be evaluated at 6 monthly intervals (or such other time determined by the Council for Mission), and may include site visits. The evaluation will focus on:

- a) meeting key objectives
- b) return on investment – is the funding provided a good investment measured against the goals established in the Mission Plan?
- c) sustainability – does the project have sufficient momentum to continue for several years?
- d) doing beyond – has the project become more successful than originally envisaged? Is the project being replicated in other communities? Can the concept be transferred elsewhere?

The Council for Mission reserves the right to cancel any further funding based on the evaluation.

NOTE: The Strategic Plan and complete Manual for Action is available on the website. unitingchurchwa.org.au/about-us/strategic-plan/

3. ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

The Council for Mission have not met this past year but there have been a number of enquiries relating to the Strategic Plan and presentations have been made to several groups and congregations by both the General Secretary and the Deputy General Secretary. However, there has only been a single request for assistance to fund a consultant to review a particular project and to prepare a presentation for the Council for Mission. This project involves several congregations and agencies in the Fremantle-Bicton-Melville area and work on the project continues. It is a fairly complex but exciting model which could set guidelines for future projects.

4. FOCUS FOR 2019

The new Foundation Fund was only set up in 2018 and the earnings produced since then will be available from 2019. (NOTE: Funding in 2018 is funding from Synod reserves as per the Synod resolution in 2017).

The uptake of project funding has been minimal and there may be several reasons for this, including uncertainty about process. With the Deputy General Secretary now fully focussed on the Strategic Plan and the new appointment of the Presbytery Minister (Mission), the Synod and Presbytery of WA, working together, will seek to ensure greater visibility of the Strategic Plan.

Contact Rev Mark Illingworth or Rev Alison Gilchrist if you would like to discuss any likely projects which could benefit the wider mission of the church.

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