

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANTS FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



OUR STRATEGIC AIM: to provide property support so local trustees can respond to missional opportunities

WHAT WE EXPECT TO SEE: practical improvements being made to premises with missional potential but inadequate facilities.

PURPOSE OF PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANTS: to provide financial support towards capital costs needed for premises to respond to identified transformative missional opportunities.

PRIORITIES

Within the district budget we anticipate having relatively limited funds available for making grants so need to prioritise applications which:

- represent capital expenditure necessary as part of a viable response to clearly defined transformative missional opportunities;
- have a clear financial need (the work will struggle happen without a district financial contribution);
- support the project in accessing funding from beyond the District;
- enable churches to achieve [Eco Church Award](#) status (or the applicant is already an Eco Church)

Other than in exceptional circumstances, Properties Fit For Mission grants will be no more than 10% of capital costs, up to a maximum grant of £20k.

Grants will be made to circuits, churches and organisations affiliated with the life of our district.

PROCESS

Grants will be considered and awarded by the District Leading Team (or a panel appointed by it). We are attempting to view Properties For For Mission grants not as a competitive process, but a means of together discerning how to best use financial resources that God has provided, creating a permission-giving culture that takes holy risks. The District Leading Team may from time to time initiate conversations about where we together feel opportunities should be explored, such as through the Superintendents Forum or Mission Forum.

Grant applications will usually follow a four stage process:

Stage 1 - Consult

If you are considering a property project, contact our [Missional Property Enabler](#) as early as possible. Their role is to help you explore, develop and articulate your vision, so that your mission might flourish, as well as providing technical advice and approval to undertake structural works.

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The Connexional website also includes helpful [property development pathways](#) summarising steps to be considered in a property project, questions you might wish to ask, and how to write a mission plan.

Stage 2 - Explain

Provide a proposal document for DLT explaining clearly your missional vision, what you are doing to make your property fit for mission, your journey and team, financial projections for your development, risks you are managing and other information indicated below. The questions below are intended to help you frame your proposal, rather than as a prescriptive list.

By this stage your project (including your financial contribution) must have been approved by your governing body, and by your circuit if the applicant is a church.

The Missional Property Enabler or Mission Enabler can help you articulate your plans and review drafts of this proposal for you, but it needs to be written in your own words.

You will then discuss your proposal with DLT, prior to DLT deciding on award of a grant.

Stage 3 - Discern

You are invited to speak with DLT by Zoom to answer any questions about your proposal. Where possible questions from DLT members will be relayed to you in advance of this meeting.

We will contact you as soon as possible after the meeting to inform you whether a grant has been awarded or declined, or explaining any matters which require further explanation or work before a grant can be awarded.

Because we have limited funds there may be occasions when district grants approval to proceed with your project but is unable to make a financial contribution.

Stage 4 - Evaluate

We will ask you to complete an evaluation, usually 12 months after completion of your property project, to allow time for its missional impact to start to be seen. The purpose of this is to support you in reflecting on your project, what you would do differently for future projects, and what you have learnt along the way that you and others should be mindful of for future initiatives.

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR EXPLANATION:

MISSIONAL VISION

- What is the missional opportunity that your property is not fit for?
- Who is it for?
- What will be your key activities?
- Beyond an unfit property, what other challenges need to be overcome

What will fruitfulness look like for your missional vision? Use whichever of these markers are relevant, or your own equivalent framework.

PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANTS FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



Growing disciples

- Fostering a culture of deepening discipleship and lives being shaped by relationship with Christ
- Nurturing new leaders emerging from within the project

Sharing stories

- Creating a culture of invitation to relationship with Christ
- People discovering or rediscovering faith, and where relevant being baptised and welcomed into membership
- Supporting or inspiring future transformative mission initiatives

Passionate contextual worship

- Growing worshipping community deeply rooted in and continually informed by its context
- Expectation that lives will be changed by encountering the presence of God

Long term sustainability

- Financially sustainable after this capital project
- New leaders and volunteers continue to emerge

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- Contributing to circuit and/or district (financially, people, expertise etc)

MAKING YOUR PROPERTY FIT FOR MISSION

- What makes your premises inadequate for supporting your plan for mission?
- What changes are you planning to make and why?
- How will these changes support you in reaching or improving Eco Church status, or reducing carbon footprint?
- Does this address all of your property needs, or will there be further phases?
- What other permissions (planning permission, listed building consent etc) do you require, and how are confident of securing these?

JOURNEY

- How have you arrived at this proposal?
- Why does it inspire hope in your context?
- Why is it priority of yours? Were other ideas considered?
- Which stakeholders have you listened to? What did they tell you?
- What research and data have informed your planning?
- How have you gained insight from beyond your locality?

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TEAM

- Who are the members of the team responsible for steering and directing your property project (who are responsible for the contents of this proposal)? What skills and experience do they each bring?
- How do they work in tandem with those responsible for implementing the missional plan that your property needs to be fit for?
- Who is praying for this initiative, and how do you engage with them?
- Who is your property team accountable to? When and how have they approved this proposal? (if the application is from a church, you also need the approval of your circuit)

RISKS AND RESPONSES

- What are the main risks most likely to prevent the flourishing of your capital project?
- How are these being reduced to an acceptable level?

FINANCES

Provide a budget showing the costs of making your property fit for mission, and how you hope to fund this. Make clear what financial contribution you are requesting from the district.

Explain:

- Who else you are seeking funding from, and how certain this is funding?
- Funding target for contributions from your own members, and progress towards this
- What level of available funds you hold (and your circuit holds if you are a church) and how this relates to your financial contribution to this work
- What will you do if the district is not able to provide a grant?

OTHER INFORMATION

Please provide:

- Your last annual accounts
- Details of the bank account into which a grant should be paid
- Your organisation's plan for mission, and when this was last updated. (The Methodist [Mission Planning Toolkit](#) is an excellent resource for creating or updating your plan)
- Architectural plans or other visual representation explaining the property work to be undertaken
- Property Consents website project number, if relevant