

MISSIONAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

District funding is available to support Transforming Mission and Properties Fit For Mission projects. Full details of our current scheme and what we have said we will prioritise are available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/finance-fundraising.html>



If you think of in advance of the meeting of questions that you would like to ask about grant applications, please pass on to Neil Harland so that we can use our time together as efficiently as possible.

SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT - MENTAL HEALTH CO-ORDINATOR – FULL APPLICATION FOR DECISION

With the initial enquiry submitted in July having contained a significant level of detail, this application summarises further work done since, plus job description and budget. As requested at our last meeting the circuit team have made further enquiries as to churches which can reasonably be expected to engage with the project, which is necessary to justify a training and development role beyond what Learning Network could offer.

Grant request £20k.

PEAK CIRCUIT – WESLEY WAY PILGRIMAGE – FULL APPLICATION FOR DECISION

Lorraine, Tom I have supported the circuit leadership team in crystalising this bold vision into a defined plan for launch of a pilgrimage trail, hopefully in spring 2023. Costs to be incurred include capital works on five chapels estimated at £123k plus £13k of other start up costs – with grant of £14,000 requested.

The circuit will appoint a pilgrimage manager, a role which should become self funding once the pilgrimage is established. It would be helpful to know at this stage whether DLT be willing in principle to consider a grant towards the first year cost of this role, in addition to a grant for capital costs on the same project.

PROCESS SIMPLIFICATION - FOR APPROVAL

At our July meeting we discussed simplifying district grants process to avoid delay and repeated conversations with applicants. I suggest the following for approval:

- This report to include a summary of enquiries about district funding that have not yet turned into a formal grant application, to keep DLT members informed
- Transforming Mission grants - applicants submit a single stage application for consideration by DLT, including opportunity for them to answer questions. Updated grants policy circulated, with amended text highlighted in it
- Properties Fit For Mission grants - once the Property Advisory Panel has been formed, this group would assess grant requests whilst reviewing information about the proposed works on the property consents portal. Their recommendations would be ratified by DLT.

This panel would already be looking at larger and more complex projects, which we would expect to be the ones receiving grant support. So from the perspective of an applicant, district technical approval and grants support would be through a single process. Grant criteria would be broadly unchanged from at present – proposed website text circulated.

Until panel members have been recruited, applications will be assessed under the current process, simplified to a one stage application.

POTENTIAL FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS - FOR INFORMATION

Hemsworth Little Fishes Soft Play (Barnsley) In November 2020 we awarded a £22k grant towards first year salary costs, and indicated that future funding may be available if necessary for future years. The soft play has opened in 2022 and appears to have got off to a good start. They are looking to increase from two to three staff members, and may request extra funding as they transition towards being self-sustaining.

Inkersall (Derbyshire North East) - construction of a new multipurpose church/ community centre. They are currently meeting in a cramped portacabin.

Flintwood (Doncaster) – replacement of failing heating and lighting in actively used premises

UPDATES ON EXISTING GRANTS - FOR INFORMATION

Town Centre Community Outreach Worker (Doncaster) – the circuit have accepted a request from McCauley for this role to become part time, meaning that the remaining £10k pledged by district for the coming year will be drawn down over two years rather than one

RE Team co-ordinator (Doncaster) - This project is now entering its final year of committed funding. The original application in 2019 envisaged that the current period would be about transition to an at that time undefined sustainable model for engaging with schools and families. With context in both schools and churches having been disrupted by the covid pandemic, the circuit will spend the coming year understanding the impact of the project and shaping plans for the future, seeking counsel from Victoria Loveday where appropriate.