

Policy regarding the provision of Grant Support from Connexional Funds and from the Wales Synod Cymru Advance Fund (SAF) for Mission and Ministry Purposes (including Building Schemes).

General Principles

- 1) The body charged with the consideration of applications for grants for such purposes is the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee. The point of contact for information and submission of applications is normally the Schemes and Grants Secretary.
- 2) The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee will consider applications from Churches and Circuits, and appropriate organisations for assistance with projects, including personnel and other costs, and funding for projects where Connexional Funds are available (through the Connexional Grants Committee) and/or the Synod Advance Fund and give advice on other potential sources of funding support.
- 3) Both termed (to a maximum of 5 years) and single year or less grants are available.
- 4) Normally applications will be for specific pieces of work.
- 5) Dependent on the size and type of activity for which grant aid is sought, Connexional/SAF money may either be the sole source of external funding or one of several. Larger projects are expected to have partnership funding in some form from other appropriate sources (such as the local authority, voluntary and business sector partners etc.
- 6) Applications are particularly welcomed for new initiatives or to enable significant developments in existing work
- 7) The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee shall, amongst other inputs, take into account the areas of priority or types of work recognised as being of importance by the Synod Policy Committee (SPC). From time to time the SS&GC may make specific amounts of funding available to encourage activity which support Synod priorities in mission and outreach. These funds may differ in the levels of funding from those indicated below.
- 8) SAF Grants will usually be for a maximum of £30,000/ year per application -up to 50% of the total. These must be with: a clear missional objective that relates to the Circuit Mission plan; a viable fundraising plan for sustainability and where it relates to specific churches, and a church plan that indicates the sustainability of the worshipping congregation. Repeat grants after 3 years will be for declining amounts.

For Building Schemes the total amount of the grant will be 15% of the scheme cost or £30,000 whichever is the lower figure. Where the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee considers an application to be for a grant towards a "phase" of a larger Building Scheme, the grant limit of 15% of the scheme cost or £30,000 whichever is the lower figure may be applied to the **total** Building Scheme cost rather than to each "phase" of the scheme in order to prevent projects being split in such a way as to claim higher amounts of Synod grant support. In exceptional circumstances for very large building schemes of over £1m up to £70,000 may be awarded.

The decision of the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee in such cases shall be final.

- 9) Circuits are expected to first make use of their own financial resources for the support and development of mission and ministry. Connexional/SAF assistance is intended to bridge the gap between what is available and what is required. It is not intended to provide a permanent source of funding and, where appropriate, applications need to demonstrate the strategy for sustaining the work on a self-funding basis at the end of the grant period.
- 10) Applications, even when on behalf of work in a specific local church, will be made by and with the support of the Circuit Meeting.
- 11) The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee will use a range of sources of information when considering grant applications. In addition to the application form(s), these will include details of Circuit Model Trust Money held and information included in "Standard Form of Accounts" forms.
- 12) The SAF may be used to support the wider work of the Synod, which may not have a missional objective. This is subject to annual agreement. This will be discussed and agreed by Senior Leadership Team.

Criteria

The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee, in responding to applications will consider the extent to which the application:-

- 1) Meets the Connexionally agreed priorities of "Our Calling":-
 - a) Increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love.
 - b) Helping people to grow and learn as Christians
 - c) Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice
 - d) Making more followers of Jesus Christ
- 2) Meets the priorities determined by the Connexional Grants Committee in respect of Connexional grants and Synod Policy Committee for the use of SAF grants. The SAF will be used to match fund New People for New Places projects at synod level and potentially at Circuit level as funds are available.
- 3) Encourages growth rather than contains decline and demonstrates an imaginative investment in the future rather than maintaining inherited patterns.
- 4) Makes appropriate use of ecumenical and other partnerships.
- 5) Is part of a clear Circuit strategy for mission and ministry. The proposal should demonstrate how the planned activity links to the Circuit Mission Plan.
- 6) Uses effectively existing local church funds, circuit funds and other sources of income.
- 7) All schemes must clearly be supporting the Ministry and Mission of the Church - and it will need to be demonstrated that this is the case for a building scheme grant application to be successful. Grants will not be made towards schemes of general repair and maintenance or work highlighted in the Quinquennial inspections. Manses are the responsibility of the Circuit. In some cases support can be accessed through the Synod Charitable Trust.

Applications

Before applying, applicants are strongly advised to discuss their situation with the Synod Schemes and Grants secretary.

All **Mission and Outreach grant applications** must:-

- 1) Be made on the appropriate Connexional Grants or SAF application form or be detailed in a written application which addresses all of the questions asked on the application form.
- 2) Be accompanied by a copy of the Circuit's Mission Plan.
- 3) Contain detailed and realistic budgets for income and expenditure covering the entire period for which grant aid is sought.
- 4) Demonstrate a clear aim for the work for which grant aid is sought and include appropriate objectives, an action plan and details of the monitoring and evaluation process. (See example of a project description)
- 5) For Connexional grants **annual** monitoring reports will be required – for SAF grants of three or more years written monitoring reports must be supplied on the appropriate pro-forma at the end of the first year and then annually until the end of the grant as a condition of the continuation of grant support. A template is provided as guidance.

All **applications for grant assistance with building schemes** must:-

- 1) For Connexional Grants, fulfill the current application requirements as stipulated by the Connexional Grants Committee.
- 2) For grants from the SAF, this should be discussed with the Synod Property Officer and the SS&GC Secretary. Where it looks likely from the preliminary discussion that Grant Support from the SAF may be possible, the formal application for the Grant should be made by incorporating the applied-for grant in the funding summary within the Consents System request for Consent. The project description on Consents should show how it meets the criteria indicated above.
The Synod Schemes and Grants Committee (SSaGC) will then automatically consider the application and applicants will be informed accordingly. Any grant awarded will then be made available to draw down via the Consents System payments system at the appropriate time in the building scheme lifecycle.
Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed and invited to amend the funding summary for the project omitting the SAF grant element so that the Schedule may be reconsidered for consent by the SSaGC.

Timetable

Applications for Connexional Grants will need to be submitted via the Secretary of the Synod Schemes and Grants Committee in good time to meet the deadlines set by the Connexion.

Applications for all SAF grants are considered by the SS&GC on a rolling basis. The SS&GC meets in October and February to discuss policy and matters of concern, to consider learning from project reports, and to discuss more complex applications. Please bear this in mind when planning.