



Guideline for Mission Fund Applications 2025

The Purpose

The purpose of the Mission Fund Committee (MFC) is to strategically allocate available Mission Funds to churches, each year, in response to receiving a detailed application on the provided template, that helps meet the cost of implementing mission initiatives.

The setting up of the Mission Fund was in response to the widely recognised need within the Northern Presbytery for increased mission activities. Churches engaged with, and undertaking activities that involve, or serve their local communities are more likely to be vibrant, growing and developing.

Strategically, the Presbytery in its strategic plan, is committed to “working together for a better future”. Its intention is to build a network of churches and ministry enterprises that reflect the gospel of Christ.

To be a network of churches and ministry enterprises that reflect the gospel of Christ. Such churches and ministries are vibrant, life-giving, growing and making disciples, culturally adapted to their setting and reaching across generations and ethnicity. Communities gather to worship, hear from God, love and support each other, and encourage each other in Christian service and witness. These churches are renowned for their hospitality and generosity, deeply committed to justice and transformation through God's saving grace, sharing Christ in attitude, deed and word in wider society. They are innovative and imaginative, connect authentically with children and young people, reframing the one gospel in many and varied ways in their worship and life. Establishing new initiatives giving fresh expression to the gospel is a core feature of this network.



One of its top priorities is to encourage churches to be more intentional and engaged with their communities and the Mission Fund endeavors to support this as much as possible.

Churches become more intentional and engaged with their communities



- i) Encourage and increase support for mission initiatives, including fresh expression to the gospel.
- ii) Provide support for churches most at risk and address their current realities to clarify their future.
- iii) Model inter-cultural inclusiveness within our churches.

The monies made available each year are to support and help enable churches to better respond to the missional opportunities within their own particular communities.

The Budget

The full presbytery (February 2022) agreed to a three-year Strategic Budget that included the allocation of \$220K for each of the next three years to the Mission Fund in support of this initiative. This funding is spread over the 5 regions of Northern Presbytery (Northland, Coastal, West, East/Central and South), and covers 83 churches/parishes. As a guide, up to two mission initiatives per region may be funded.

First 3yr Cycle:

- Year One: July 2022 to June 2023 (\$220k)
- Year Two: July 2023 to June 2024 (\$220k)
- Year Three: July 2024 to June 2025 (\$220k)

There are two application rounds per year, these being: advertised in July, with applications closing in November; advertised in February, with applications closing in May.

The Parameters

The PCANZ has defined mission in its five faces of mission. We are called by God to work with others to make Jesus Christ known through:

- proclamation of the gospel
- seeking to transform society
- the nurture and teaching of people in the Christian faith
- care for the creation
- response to human need in loving service



Broadly, the Northern Presbytery, which does not attempt to define the type of mission for a church, regards mission eligible for consideration for a Mission Fund Grant as engagement with and/or involvement in the local community.

That is:

- activity that informs and engages people in the local community
- activity that serves to meet a need in the community
- activity that aims to progress discipleship, aiming to increase membership and attendance in church activities (in terms of deepening faith, deepening relationships, increased involvement and commitment)
- seeks to understand and then arrange for Christian expressions of faith for those in the community



Some examples that could be considered: (this is not an exhaustive list or an absolute list)

- employment of an outreach ministry person (lay or ordained) to increase community engagement and involvement of local people in the church
- activities that attract local involvement, such as breakfast club, community garden
- employment of an ethnic specific ministry, aiming to establish and/or build an ethnic specific congregation within the church
- enhancing food security, alongside other services such as budgeting service, counselling, mental health, CAP's program – all leading to a deepening of relationship
- establishing a new and alternative worshipping community or expression of Christianity
- creation of and operating a regular gathering of members of the community with a strong missional intent, which might include sharing a meal, various community events, focused events – such as Christmas/Easter
- connecting intentionally with all sorts of other community groups, to increase community engagement – this could involve local schools, homework clubs, school breakfasts/lunches, foodbanks, chaplaincy, families in need, women's refuge, disability groups



The Success of mission initiatives

Intentionality: The Mission Fund Committee, when considering applications, will look for intentionality. This means that there is a Mission, or Strategic Plan that describes the vision, mission, values and key goals of the church into the future. This reflects that there has been discernment and planning about the years ahead, clarity about priorities for development. That is, what is applied for is part of the overall direction of the church into the future, expressing a commitment. There needs to be a solid rationale for what is applied for and alignment of that to the Church's Mission or Strategic Plan.



(We would expect Mission Plans to have been established then reviewed regularly by the church. For major initiatives that are applied for we would expect a Mission Plan to have been completed within the last 3 years and that the Church Council/Session have recently agreed that the Plan is still active and robust)

Capability: The Mission Fund Committee will also look for evidence of capability for the proposed initiative to be successful. Who will be supporting it and what the church will contribute to it will be considered, as well as the likelihood of the proposed initiative contributing to the growth of a congregation and its mission. The capacity of the leadership of the congregation to undertake the initiative through to completion will be considered as well as the sustainability of the initiative beyond the period of sought-after funding assistance.



Ownership: There needs to be a significant level of 'ownership' of the initiative and one of the markers of this, is the financial contribution the church is willing to make. It is important for each church to invest in the proposed new initiative. As a guideline, each church would contribute between 20-50% of the total cost of the initiative. The level of meaningful contribution will vary from church to church and this is factored in. Those churches with less available resources will not necessarily be disadvantaged. This is a guide rather than an issue of compliance.



Sufficiency: The sufficiency of groundwork for this project will be considered. This may include the identification of needs and/or a feasibility study, as well as the consideration of other options. The consideration of working collaboratively and in partnership with others should also be detailed and measured. A specific budget for this project will need to be presented.



Accountability: There will be monitoring of all grants allocated for accountability purposes, based on the **Results Based Accountability** framework. This will assist in the monitoring, reviewing, and reporting of progress made. Increasing our missional capacity as a Presbytery is our goal, and we want to ensure that as the money is distributed, we give this the very best chance of success.



The Provision for Multi-year grants

Multi-year grants will be considered for no longer than 3 years. Each year consideration will be given to the impact on total available funds, ensuring there are adequate available funds for one-off, or non-multiyear applications. As a guide, when considering multi-year proposals, the MFC will ensure that sufficient funds are preserved for the allocation of one-off grants.



There will be close monitoring of multi-year grants over the term. For accountability purposes, they will be reviewed annually (RBA) before further payments are made. This will be actioned by the Mission Enabler and conveyed to the MFC annually and prior to any ongoing financial contributions.

As part of this the intentionality, capability, sufficiency and ownership of these applications will be considered very carefully, as the commitment is for a greater amount of time and the financial resourcing needed is usually considerable.

For any multiyear proposal a detailed budget would need to be included and alternative avenues of funding thoroughly investigated and well considered.

The Exclusions

Generally, the mission funding is not for 'business as usual' e.g., repairs and maintenance, restoration of church buildings or ongoing existing ministry costs that are for the primary benefit of current members. It is for new initiatives and existing projects that will grow and deepen the life and influence of a worshipping community and its witness to Jesus Christ within our current context.



As such:

Mission grants **will not** be awarded:

- to build, or refurbish buildings
- for new or replacement of equipment used for worship or existing activities
- for new, or revised websites or other social media platforms

Mission grants **may** be awarded:

- for the part funding of noticeboards (up to \$5000) that are clearly part of a missional strategy for community engagement. A commitment to keep it up to date and current must also be apparent.

The Application Form

Applications must be from congregations belonging to Northern Presbytery, with the support of their respective Region. Preference will be given to initiatives that align with PCANZ Five Faces of Mission and Northern Presbytery's Strategic Plan. All decisions will be communicated to applicants within 14 days of the relevant end of round meetings (June and December). Please contact the NP Mission Enabler to discuss your application and clarify anything in terms of requirements.



The application form should be filled out and then the following list of accompanying documents should also be attached. These are **REQUIREMENTS** for your application to be considered:

- ☐ You have contacted the NP Mission Enabler and discussed this application (Yes / No)
- ☐ An itemized budget for your proposal/initiative is detailed above - quotes where appropriate (Yes / No)
- ☐ Provide copy of current Mission Plan, or its equivalent (Yes / No)
- ☐ Region has conveyed its support for the proposal (yes / no)
- ☐ Bank Account details are clearly recorded in box - should your application be successful
- ☐ Any research that helps identify the need for this project (brief and only if applicable)

Other available mission support from Presbytery

The Mission fund committee is also responsible for the distribution of monies for the St Martins Trust. Applications in the first instance should be discussed with the NP Mission Enabler and/or the NP Executive Officer. Terms and conditions for applications to the St Martins trust are available on the NP website.

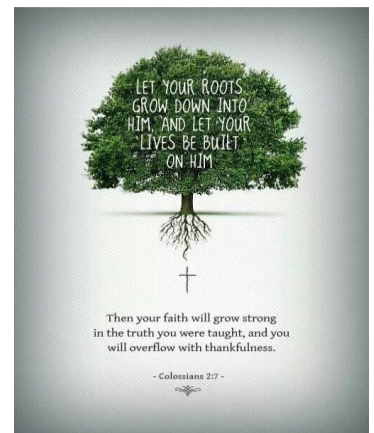
The places and people you might find helpful

- ✓ NP Website: <https://www.northpres.org.nz/>
- ✓ Link to Guidelines/Resources and Application Form: <http://www.northpres.org.nz/mission-fund/>
- ✓ NP Mission Enabler: Emma Keown (mob) 021 1655271 (email) mission@northpres.org.nz
- ✓ NP Exec Officer: Rod Watts (email) clerk@northpres.org.nz
- ✓ MFC Convenor: John Shadbolt (email) johnanddorille@gmail.com

The members of the Mission Fund Committee (MFC)

The Mission Fund Committee meets 2x per year to consider applications in May and November. Each church applying for a grant should, in the first instance, contact the Mission Enabler – Rev Emma Keown to discuss and work through the process. Each application needs the endorsement of the region and the church session before being submitted to the MFC.

Each voting member of the committee is elected for a term of 4 years. There is a mixture of ministers and elders as well as specialist advice sought from others. Members willing to continue to serve on the MFC can be re-appointed for one further term.



Voting members	Non-Voting Ex-officio members
John Shadbolt – Convenor Anne Overton – PSN Cunny Atchison – NP Property & Finance Joanne Bremner Pascal Brown Rev Tim Lim – Hospital Chaplain Rev Jin Sook Kim – Minister Onewa Christian Community Yvonne Timaloa – PIC Newton Diana Caldwell - Greyfriars	Neil Reines – NP Treasurer Rod Watts – NP Executive Officer Rev Emma Keown – NP Mission Enabler