

Mission Initiative (pioneer) Funding Criteria

The Mission Initiative (pioneer) Fund is governed under the principles laid out in the policy document "The Baptist Union of Scotland's Commitment to funding Christian Mission and Ministry."

The further criteria below clarify the specific application of the Mission Initiative Fund.

Funding applications will be considered that demonstrate a variety of the following:

Unashamedly Missional

- a desire to discover and express new attitudes, new actions and new habits in mission
- a hope of reaching a wider variety of people and sub-cultures than are presently reached by the churches of Scotland, including the poor and vulnerable
- an expectation of growth and development

Intentionally Relational:

- a desire to pioneer in the context of a creative community
- an ability to engage in reflective practise for the benefit of our Union
- an acceptance of a trusted freedom whilst remaining demonstrably accountable

Creatively Rooted:

- a commitment to develop a community of believers who seek to demonstrate baptistic values as they live under Christ's rule.

Grants given from this fund will be primarily of a seed corn nature, providing initial funding for:

Staffing – early funding of posts usually in conjunction with other funding streams. (The funding of ministerial posts and typical church worker posts over a period of several years is through the ministry resource fund)

Resources – that may enable early development (rental of space, purchase of equipment, etc)

Pilot projects – that may lead to growth in understanding and development of a full project

Training – development of budding pioneers and new teams involved in mission initiatives

Networking – allowing pioneers to meet for mutual development and support

Application process:

A basic application form has been prepared for all grant applications.

The Finance director can authorise grants of up to £2000 on the completion of an application form that clearly meets the criteria.

The Mission Initiative Fund will automatically match Cinnamon Network grants of up to £2000 on receipt of a Baptist Church's letter of award from the Network without further application.

Funding requests for less than £5,000 will be dealt with by a simple application form followed up by a telephone conversation or visit by National Team member and/or MIG group member where clarification for further information is required. The grant application will then be put before the National Team for approval.

Grants for more than a total of £5000 will require the fuller process of application outlined in the Ministry Resource Grant process which includes the involvement of the National Team, Mission Initiative Group and other local church representatives. The grant application will then be put before the Resource Grant Committee.

Churches applying for grants should be able to demonstrate their commitment to the wider Baptist family in Scotland and where applications involve children, young people or vulnerable adults an appropriately robust approach to safeguarding.

Reporting Mechanism

It is the responsibility of the Finance Director to report all grants given from the Mission Initiative Fund to the Council of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the Mission Initiative Group.

It is expected that all churches receiving grants will be willing to reflect and report on the work to the wider Baptist family. It is recognised that in the reporting process we are looking to hear both the challenges and successes of a project.

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