

New Church and Ministry Development Fund By-law



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

25.1 NEW CHURCH AND MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND

BACKGROUND

- 25.1.1 The New Church and Ministry Development Fund (NCMDF) was established as part of the 2015 Property Sales Proceeds Policy. It is a dedicated fund held as a separate account within the Uniting Foundation in the name of the Property Trust. The Fund obtains income from a percentage of net property sales proceeds based on the categories of sale with the Property Sales Proceeds Policy. Investment of funds held in the NDMDF is managed by the Uniting Church Investment Committee.

PURPOSE

- 25.1.2 The NCMDF is designated to fund approved capital projects associated with the establishment or expansion of congregations, as well as new strategic and missional developments throughout the Synod. This is to fulfil the strategic goal of missionally vibrant congregations in safe buildings that are fit for purpose.

DEFINITIONS

- 25.1.3 Capital projects – significant investments made to acquire, improve or expand properties. They have a long term, strategic focus, for examples property acquisition, renovations, or major asset replacements that add long term value, financially and/ or missionally to the Church.

INCOME

- 25.1.4 Income sources for the fund include:

25.1.4.1 Net Property Sale Proceeds

The Fund is financed from a percentage of net sales proceeds from the sale of property, which varies depending on the category of sale (as per the Property Sales Proceeds Policy).

Net Property Sale Proceeds (described as 'Net Sales Process' in the Property by-law) means the property sale proceeds less all costs involved in:

- the Approved Purchase of a replacement property, and/or
- the Approved Adaptation or Approved Construction of a replacement property, and/or

- reducing or eliminating Approved Debt
- in cases for which the purposes of the original and replacement properties are the same.

Noting that: Upon sale of property, Congregations and Responsible Bodies are strongly encouraged to consider taking less than the percentage provided in the Property Sales Proceeds Policy for local use. Where this is the case, they may direct these funds to the New Church and Ministry Development Fund or specific project within the Fund.

25.1.4.2 Donations from congregations and other external bodies.

PROCESS

25.1.5 Applications for funding from the NCMDf may come from congregations, presbyteries, and ministry centres of the Synod.

The Synod Standing Committee, or its delegated committee, shall assess submissions and make recommendations to the Synod Standing Committee for approval.

Criteria to guide the approval process will be developed.

Measurable outcomes are to be provided as part of application in order to determine if project is a success or failure for the level of investment.

EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY DELEGATIONS

25.1.6 The General Secretary may approve projects to be funded from the NCMDf up to \$100 000. The Synod Standing committee will approve projects over \$100 000. The Synod or Standing Committee may determine at any time that a particular project may qualify for such funding on terms and conditions it determines.

25.1.7 **PROJECT REPORTING**

25.1.7.1 The recipient(s) will provide to the SSC or its delegated committee written progress reports at maximum intervals of 24 months and a final report within 90 days of the completion date. SSC may determine to request additional reporting as considered appropriate for the situation.

25.1.7.2 All reports will include the following:

- a. the use of funds to date
- b. the objectives achieved (where the time frame has concluded)
- c. the progress toward achievement of other objectives (where the time frame has not yet concluded)

- d. where expected objectives have not been achieved, the reasons why not.

25.1.7.3 The reports may also include the following:

- a. an independent account or testimonial regarding the success of the funding purpose
- b. a request for an extension of the funding completion date
- c. a request for additional ongoing funding
- d. a request to revise proposed objectives and time frames.

25.1.7.4 The SSC may, in its absolute discretion and at any time during the funding period:

- a. request further information from the recipient(s)
- b. request that the recipient(s) attend a meeting with SSC representatives for the purpose of providing further information.
- c. return to the funding pool any funds remaining unspent after the nominated time frames have concluded.

REVIEW OF BY-LAW

25.1.8 These by-laws will be reviewed by the Synod Standing Committee as needed but not less than every 3 years.