



Uniting Church Foundation Grants Committee Report

1. Introduction

The mission of the Uniting Church SA Foundation (the Foundation) is *'to gather, manage and grow its assets and to distribute funds for purposes which will significantly increase the mission effectiveness of the Uniting Church in SA'*. The Resources Board makes an annual allocation of funds from the Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus fund to the Uniting Church SA Foundation Grants Committee (the Committee), which is tasked with managing the grant process and distributing the grant funding in accordance with its objects, *'allocating funds for creative and innovative projects which are in accordance with the Strategic Plan and other mission purposes which contribute to the church achieving its mission and vision.'*

Congregations and members of the Church are encouraged to contribute to the work of the Foundation, with donations and bequests continuing to add to the capacity of the Foundation to allocate funding. The Foundation also receives a proportion of property sales proceeds.

Management of the grants process continues under the oversight the Committee, with operational management by the Grants Manager, Malcolm Wilson, with administrative support from Chris Jaensch.

2. New Grants 2020

In March 2020 the Committee was allocated **\$395,000** for the 2020 round of grants, with direction from the Synod Standing Committee that at least \$200,000 be directed to support leadership development projects.

In light of the anticipated impact of the COVID pandemic, the Committee sought and received permission from Synod Standing Committee that, after addressing any additional funding needs of existing projects, we: "consider allocating all of the remaining 2020 funding to assist congregations in responding to the COVID-19 ministry challenges"; and to reallocate \$50,000, previously set aside as the 2019 grant to Uniting Leaders Project, as additional funding for this COVID-19 response (bringing the total pool of funding to **\$445,000**).

The Committee also decided to bring forward the timing of the grant application and grant allocation process, in order to release funding as soon as possible, so that congregations might act with agility.

Forty one grant applications were received, totalling approximately **\$665,000** and **thirty three** of those applications were able to be fully or partially funded. Funds allocated were as follows:

Additional funding for existing grants:

Encounter Church	Church Plant Project (12 mths)	\$ 20,372
Grange Uniting Church	Community Pastor (12 mths)	\$ 20,000
Pilgrim Uniting Church	Community Connections (8 mths)	\$ 15,000
The Journey Uniting Church	The Journey Home Project (12 mths)	\$ 50,000
UAICC Port Augusta	Formation and Training (12 mths)	\$ 22,500

<u>UAICC Raukkan</u>	<u>Youth Ministry (12 mths)</u>	<u>\$ 36,000</u>
SUB-TOTAL		\$163,872
<u>New non-COVID Projects</u>		
Broadview Uniting Church	Community Cafe (36 mths)	\$ 30,000
Eudunda Uniting Church	Community Connections (12 mths)	\$ 22,000
Henley Fulham Uniting Church	Community Connections (12 mths)	\$ 15,000
Sunset Rock Uniting Church	Bush Track	\$ 2,500
<u>Willunga Uniting Church</u>	<u>Messy Church Project</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
SUB-TOTAL		\$ 79,500
<u>COVID Response Projects</u>		
Adare Uniting Church	Improving Communications	\$ 7,161
Athelstone Uniting Church	Zoom Church	\$ 3,950
Blackwood Uniting Church	Digital Hardware	\$ 10,000
Brougham Place Uniting Church	Live Streaming	\$ 3,350
Christ Church Uniting Church	New Technology	\$ 4,507
Coromandel Valley Uniting Church	Streaming Project	\$ 20,600
Dernancourt Uniting Church	Streaming Project	\$ 1,252
Dulwich Rose Park United Parish	Contemplative Online Resources	\$ 9,000
Gawler Uniting Church	AV and Live Streaming	\$ 25,000
Goolwa Uniting Church	Creative Media Project	\$ 5,000
Hallett Cove Uniting Church	Online Outreach Project	\$ 3,439
Hope Valley Uniting Church	HV Online Project	\$ 12,000
Marion-Warradale Uniting Church	Worship at Home Project	\$ 980
Minlaton Uniting Church	Enhancing Communication Options	\$ 2,000
Mitcham Hills Faith Community	Online Church	\$ 15,000
Parafield Gardens Uniting Church	Live Streaming	\$ 10,000
Playford Uniting Church	Community Online Engagement	\$ 16,757
Seeds Uniting Church	Live Online Church	\$ 12,000
The Journey Uniting Church	Digital Church Project	\$ 20,000
Walkerville Uniting Church	Community Digital Support Package	\$ 4,555
West Lakes United Church	Increase Printing Capabilities	\$ 4,059
<u>Westbourne Park Uniting Church</u>	<u>AV Control Desk & Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 10,950</u>
SUB-TOTAL		\$201,560
<u>TOTAL 2020 GRANT ALLOCATION</u>		<u>\$444,932</u>

3. Ongoing Projects

The Committee continues the monitoring and management of all past projects currently receiving funding. As at 18 November 2020 there were **15** active grants from prior funding rounds, with a total remaining committed balance of approximately **\$257,000** as follows:

<u>2014</u>		
Mission Resourcing	Fresh Expressions	\$ 2,520
<u>2015</u>		
Mission Resourcing	Regional Events	\$ 32,114
<u>2016</u>		
City View Uniting Church	Church Plant Funding	\$ 11,942
<u>2017</u>		
NS Dinka Speaking Faith Community	Leadership Development	\$ 40,545
<u>2018</u>		
Centre for Music Liturgy and the Arts	Resourcing Ministry	\$ 20,000
Goolwa Uniting Church	Pathways Pastor	\$ 5,000
UAICC Oodnadatta Faith Community	Pastoral Ministry	\$ 4,412
UAICC Port Augusta	Leadership Training	\$ 4,079
<u>2019</u>		
Athelstone Uniting Church	Spirited Sunday at the Rezz	\$ 5,000
Malvern Uniting Church	Youth Leader	\$ 41,667
Mission Resourcing	Stillpoint	\$ 5,000
Noarlunga Uniting Church	Music Director	\$ 34,082
The Corner Uniting Church	Community Project Team Leader	\$ 35,000
<u>Walkerville Uniting Church</u>	<u>Building Stronger Communities</u>	<u>\$ 16,320</u>
TOTAL		\$257,681

4. Forward Thinking

The challenge of COVID-19 has hit our congregations in 2020, however the impact on the Synod finances is expected to be greater in 2021. This is expected to result in a reduced funding allocation for grants in 2021. We look forward to a return to more usual assessment of applications in 2021, without this year's COVID specific focus.

5. The Committee

The move to the new presbytery structure led to a change in the membership structure of the Committee, to include equal representation from all three presbyteries. The Committee now consists of:

Rev David Hoffman (Chairperson)
Rev Felicity Amery (General Secretary)
Malcolm Wilson (Grants Manager)
Rev Mark Schultz (Mission Resourcing)
Trevor Philips (Wimala Presbytery)
Christine Secombe (Wimala Presbytery)
Rev Diane Bury (Presbytery of Southern SA)
Max Howland (Presbytery of Southern SA)
Aaron Tai (Generate Presbytery)
Jenny Joy (Generate Presbytery)

I would like to thank the Committee members for their diligence and impartiality, taking a Kingdom of God perspective in discerning the allocation of funding to each project on its merits. I would also like to thank the Synod Standing Committee for allowing the Committee to be flexible in addressing the COVID crisis quickly and thereby supporting so many congregations in addressing the response needs in their missional context. Finally, my thanks to Malcolm Wilson and Chris Jaensch for their wonderful work managing the processes and ensuring that congregations have ready access to their allocated funds.

Grace and peace,

Rev David Hoffman

Uniting Church SA Foundation Grants Committee – Chairperson