

Uniting Foundation Grants Committee

The mission of the Uniting 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 South Australia*”. The Resources Board makes an annual allocation of funds from the Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus fund to the Uniting Foundation Grants Committee (the Committee). The Committee is tasked with managing the grant process and distributing the grant funding in accordance with its objective to “provide financial support for innovative projects that build vibrant church committees now and into the future”.

Congregations and members of the Church are encouraged to contribute to the work of the Uniting Foundation, with donations and bequests continuing to add to the capacity of the Foundation to allocate funding for projects. The Foundation also receives a portion of property sales proceeds. Operations of the grants process continue under the oversight of the Uniting Foundation Grants Committee with daily management by the Uniting Foundation Manager, Alice Hammer.

Ongoing projects

The Committee continues the monitoring and management of all projects currently receiving funding. As of 31st March 2025, there were 17 approved or active grants from the 2019-2024 funding rounds, with a total remaining committed balance of approximately \$431,500 as follows:

2019	Mission Resourcing, Stillpoint	\$1,800.00
	Uniting Leaders Project	\$705.00
2022	Payneham Road UC, Multicultural Coordinator	\$1,333.30
2023	Coromandel Valley UC, New flooring and playground	\$55,000.00
	Journey UC, Journey Forward project	\$12,088.18
	Willunga UC, Messy Church Coordinator	\$625.00
2024	Brougham Place UC, Expansion of Youth Ministry Program	\$10,416.60
	Lighthouse Church Port Pirie Uniting, Renewal Port Pirie	\$90,000.00
	Mitcham Hills Church, Implementing the Value Team-leader model	\$30,000.06
	Outpost UC, Continuation of funding for Associate Pastor	\$1,750.00
	Playford UC, Children's Ministry & Outreach Worker	\$40,000.00
	Port Augusta UAICC, An Adnyamathanha Bible Translation Project	\$54,000.00
	Salisbury UC, Intergenerational Project Worker (Limitless)	\$37,736.92
	Village Church Alberton, Discipleship Pathway Strategy	\$32,690.95
	UAICC Oodnadatta, Employment of Youth & Children's Worker + Men's Worker	\$16,835.40
	Encounter Henley, Coffee Van	\$6,027.82
	Malvern UC, Malvern Young Adults	\$3,381.02
	Mount Barker UC, Children & Families Engagement	\$36,690.02

2025 Grant Round

In 2025 the Uniting Foundation continued its partnership with UC Invest to expand funding opportunities. The Committee was allocated \$750,000 for the 2025 grant round; with \$500,000 from UC Invest and \$250,000 from the Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus. The grant criteria were slightly modified. Two grant categories continued; Category A – Enduring Grants (Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus funding) and Category B – Springboard Grants (UC Invest funding). The Committee had a strong response, particularly from congregations in the regions. Successful grant applicants were presented with their funding by UC Invest at the Renew event.

A list of the successful projects can be found here – **ATTACHMENT A**. They are currently in various stages of completion.

Renew grants

In addition to the Uniting Foundation grants, UC Invest generously sponsored the grants (maximum \$3000 per congregation) which were awarded following the Renew conference in December 2025. A total of \$80,200 was granted to 26 congregations. **ATTACHMENT B**

2026 Funding round

In 2026 the Uniting Foundation has been allocated \$250,000 from the Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus plus \$500,000 from UC Invest. After much discussion, the two grant categories are continuing; Category A – Enduring grants (Uniting Church SA Foundation Corpus) and Category B – Springboard grants (UC Invest funding). However, the maximum amount of funding which can be applied across either category is \$50,000. The grant round will open on June 1 and will close on July 31, 2026.

The Committee

Members are appointed by their presbyteries, and there are equal representations across the presbyteries. There were 3 retirements from the Committee in 2025 following distinguished service. Accordingly, the Committee now consists of:

Leesa Story (Chairperson)	(appointed by Standing Committee)
Philip Gardner (General Secretary)	(ex-officio)
Jenni Hughes (Executive Officer, Mission Resourcing)	(ex-officio)
Alice Hammer (Uniting Foundation Manager)	(ex-officio)
Colin Cargill (Wimala Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Robyn Lewis (Wimala Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Geoff Hurst (Presbytery of Southern SA)	(elected by Presbytery)
Lawrie Lingood (Presbytery of Southern SA)	(elected by Presbytery)
Kay Bailey (Generate Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Mark Elford (Generate Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Sue Page (Associate General Secretary)	(Resourcing member)

We are pleased that there has been both an increase in awareness of the Uniting Foundation, as well as to the total funding available to the Uniting Foundation in recent years, and that as a result there has been a corresponding increase in the number and size of applications received and granted. Due to these increases, the time and effort demanded by our Committee members is quite significant and there are times that this work can be quite challenging.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to each member of the Committee for their hard work, diligence and prayerful and thoughtful discernment. Without their contributions, the work of the Uniting Foundation would not be possible. I (Leesa) would also like to extend a sincere thanks to Alice Hammer for all her work with congregations and other Synod staff not only in the application phase, but for many months and years afterwards, much of which is done behind the scenes. Looking forward to the 2026 grant round, I pray that the congregations of the Uniting Church in SA will be in tune with where the Holy Spirit is leading them and have the courage to go on the journey, and if the Uniting Foundation is able to partner with you in that journey, I pray that it be so.

Leesa Story

Chairperson, Uniting Foundation

Alice Hammer

Manager, Uniting Foundation

10 April 2026



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

ATTACHMENT A

2025 Uniting Foundation Approved Grants

Category A – Enduring grants

Applicant	Project description	Approval period	Approved amount
Adare UC	Enhancing Worship & Outreach at Adare UC	1 year	\$12,000
Broadview UC	Intercultural Community Connections Coordinator	2 years	\$40,000
Encounter Enfield UC	Encounter Church Planter Residency	2 years	\$50,000
Gardens Church	Good Neighbour Centre	6 months	\$25,000
Hope Valley Church	Hope Valley – Barossa Church Plant	2 years	\$20,000
Marion UC	The Chapel Resources & Communications Coordinator	1 year	\$13,000
Meadows UC	Children's and Families Pastoral Coordinator	2 years	\$25,000
Woodside UC	Worship Coordinator for new Church Plant Initiative	2 years	\$25,000
Yeelanna UC	Structural Repairs to Yeelanna UC building	6 months	\$40,000

Category B – Springboard Grants

Applicant	Project description	Approval period	Approved amount
Adare UC	Footloose – a free outreach pre-school playgroup	1 year	\$20,000
Clare UC	Generations Coordinator	1 year	\$35,000
Golden Grove UC	Golden Grove UC Café Church/Community Ministries Development	1 year	\$29,864
Gully Church	IT Endpoint Infrastructure Upgrade & Configuration	1 year	\$12,000
Journey UC	New Children's Playground and update Indoor Children's Space/Coffee van	1 year	\$26,874
Meadows UC	Improving Accessibility & Inclusion through Infrastructure Enhancements	1 year	\$20,000
Mitcham Hills UC	Youth, Children's & Families Investment and Engagement	1 year	\$20,000
Moonta UC	Project 152	1 year	\$40,000
Para Vista UC	Floor restoration, safety and outreach	1 year	\$15,900
Port Broughton UC	Kitchen & Church Memorial Hall Meeting Room Upgrade	1 year	\$49,018
Quorn UC	Safe Keeping	1 year	\$6,000
St Andrew's by the Sea, Glenelg	Service Pantry Upgrade	1 year	\$45,000
Strathalbyn UC	Strathalbyn UC Hall Disability Ramp	1 year	\$13,100
Summertown UC	IT Communications Upgrade	1 year	\$5,775
Sunset Rock UC	Families Connections Worker	1 year	\$25,000
Tintinara UC	Open Door	1 year	\$9,000
Transform (Williamstown) UC	Williamstown Campus Revitalisation Project	1 year	\$25,000
Unity Hill UC	AV Upgrade	1 year	\$12,000
Village Church Alberton	Addressing missional challenges & safety concerns of a growing congregation	1 year	\$6,500
Willunga UC	Willunga Bell Paddock Bush Peace Chapel- Phase 1 of 2	1 year	\$30,000
Yeelanna UC	Enhancing Worship & Connection through Technology	1 year	\$3,969
Yorke Peninsula RMC	Yorke Peninsula Teaching Ministry	1 year	\$50,000

ATTACHMENT B

2025 Renew Approved Grants

Congregation	Project description	Approved amount
Adelaide West UC	Faith based social media for youth and young adults	\$3,000
Blackwood UC	Sing with us	\$3,000
Brougham Place UC	Share our Sanctuary with new North Adelaide community	\$3,000
Burra UC	Santa trail	\$2,200
Campbelltown UC	Community Connection Evening	\$3,000
Christ Church UC	Renewal of relationships with Eldercare	\$3,000
Clayton-Wesley UC	Community Lenten Gatherings	\$3,000
Encounter Enfield	Enfield Alpha Project	\$3,000
Encounter Henley	First Alpha courses	\$3,000
Goolwa UC	Welcome packs	\$3,000
Marion UC	Introduction to Christian Meditation	\$3,000
Meningie UC	Sunday night teas	\$3,000
Morialta UC	Morialta Magical Marvels Children's Holiday program	\$3,000
Noarlunga UC	Youth outreach, community book and music study & meditation	\$3,000
Pilgrim UC	Connecting through coffee	\$3,000
Prospect Road UC	Connecting from edges mural	\$3,000
Renmark UC	Market day with coffee morning	\$3,000
Rosefield UC	Let's Go Fly a Kite Art exhibition	\$3,000
Semaphore UC	Twilight market	\$3,000
Spicer UC	Sharing God's love, one conversation at a time	\$3,000
Summertown UC	Playgroup space development	\$3,000
The Journey UC	Young adults retreat	\$3,000

Village Alberton UC	Missional communities and community dinners	\$3,000
Westbourne Park UC	Raising parents, raising kids	\$3,000
Willunga UC	Bell Paddock Bush Peace Chapel – Peace pole	\$3,000
Woodside UC	Return gathering- hospitality	\$3,000
Woodville UC	Pub discussion group	\$3,000