

Synod '24



UCSA Foundation Grants Committee

1. Introduction

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 SA'. 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 communities 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 proportion of property sales proceeds. Operations of the grants process continues under the oversight of the Uniting Foundation Grants Committee, with daily management by the Grants Manager, Alice Hammer.

2. 2023 Grant Round

In May 2023 the Committee was allocated \$365,000 for the 2023 grant round, with direction from the Synod Standing Committee that at least 50% be directed to support leadership development projects. A list of the successful projects are:

Applicant	Project description	Approval period	Approved amount
Bridgewater UC	Peace Garden	12 months	\$ 11,000.00
Clare UC	Creating welcoming spaces	6 months	\$ 5,000.00
Coromandel Valley UC	Stronger Connections pastor	24 months	\$ 55,000.00
Encounter Church	Encounter Futures project	12 months	\$ 31,500.00
Geranium UC	Op shop and Play Cafe	12 months	\$ 7,500.00
Journey UC	Journey Forward project	36 months	\$ 64,540.00

Mitcham Hills Church	Community Youth Outreach Worker	12 months	\$ 20,000.00
Mitcham Village UC	Community garden extension	6 months	\$ 10,000.00
Playford UC	Cultural Diversity Worship Initiative	6 months	\$ 11,460.00
The Corner UC	Online ministry and engagement	12 months	\$ 13,000.00
Tumby Bay UC	Heating/ cooling of hall facilities	6 months	\$ 5,000.00
UAICC Murraylands Congress Ministry	Placement of Minister in Murraylands Region	12 months	\$ 50,000.00
UAICC Murraylands Youth and Children's Worker	Additional funding for Youth and Children's worker in Murraylands region.	12 months	\$ 18,000.00
Westbourne Park UC	Children's and Families Faith Engagement Pastor	24 months	\$ 48,000.00
Willunga UC	Messy Church Co-ordinator	24 months	\$ 15,000.00

3. Ongoing Projects

The Committee continues the monitoring and management of all projects currently receiving funding. As of 31st August 2024, there were 20 approved or active grants from prior funding rounds, with a total remaining committed balance of approximately \$434,600 as follows:

2019	Mission Resourcing, Stillpoint (FC)	\$ 10,000.00
	Uniting Leaders Project	\$ 7,235.00
2021	Mt Barker UC, Employment of an Intergenerational Worker	\$ 22,500.00
2022	Centre for Aboriginal Spirituality	\$ 5,000.00
	Gawler UC, Family Connections Worker	\$19,000.00
	Malvern UC, Youth Pastor	\$ 14,000.00
	Outpost UC, Developing an Associate Pastor	\$ 18,250.00
	Payneham Road UC, Multicultural Coordinator	\$ 16,000.04
	Yorke Peninsula Regional Ministry, Ministry Placement	\$ 83,333.20
2023	Bridgewater UC, Community connections – Peace garden	\$ 2,314.27
	Coromandel Valley UC, Stronger connection Pastor	\$ 55,000.00
	Encounter Church, Encounter Futures project	\$ 21,000.00
	Geranium UC, Op Shop & Play cafe	\$ 6,819.68
	Journey UC, Journey Forward project	\$ 64,540.00
	Mitcham Village UC, community garden extension	\$ 3,824.68
	The Corner UC, Online ministry and engagement	\$6,499.98
	UAICC Murraylands, Placement of Minister	\$17,886.80

UAICC Murraylands, Youth and Children's Worker	\$9,300.00
Westbourne Park UC, Children's and Families Faith Engagement Pastor	\$40,000.00
Willunga UC, Messy Church Coordinator	\$ 13,125.00

4. 2024 Grant Round

In 2024, the Uniting Foundation has partnered with UC Invest to expand funding opportunities, with the Committee being allocated \$1,000,000 for the 2024 grant round; with \$500,000 from UC Invest and \$500,000 from the Resources Board. The grant criteria were modified and two distinct grant categories were introduced; Category A – Enduring Grants and Category B – Springboard Grants. The Committee had an overwhelming response, with 60 grant applications received in the 2024 Grant Round; more than double that of the previous year. Successful grant applicants will be presented their funding by UC Invest at the Synod meeting.

4.1 Successful Applications

Applicant	Project description	Approval period	Approved amount
CATEGORY A			
Brougham Place UC	Expansion of Youth Ministry Program	24 months	\$25,000
Lighthouse Family Church	Renewal Port Pirie	24 months	\$90,000
Mitcham Hills Church	Implementing the Value Team-leader model of church leadership	24 months	\$80,000
Murraylands UAICC	Murraylands Congress Minister	12 months	\$50,000
Murraylands UAICC	Murraylands Youth & Children's Worker	12 months	\$40,000
Outpost UC	Continuation of funding for Associate Pastor	12 months	\$18,000
Playford UC	Children's Ministry & Outreach Worker	24 months	\$60,000
Port Augusta UAICC	Decolonising Scripture: An Adnyamathanha Bible Translation Project	60 months / 5 years	\$54,000
Salisbury UC	Intergenerational Project Worker - Limitless	12 months	\$51,000
Seeds UC	Building the Future	12 months	\$74,000

Sunset Rock UC	Sunset Rock Church Community Connections Café Initiative	6 months	\$76,000
Trinity Alberton UC	Discipleship Pathway Strategy	36 months	\$64,000
UAICC Oodnadatta	Employment of Youth & Children's Worker & Men's Worker	6 months	\$20,000

CATEGORY B			
Adelaide West UC	Reaching our world with Church Online	9 months	\$17,500
Balaklava Port Wakefield	Outside Play area	12 months	\$20,000
Croydon Park UC	Second Generation Connections Person	12 months	\$31,000
Encounter Henley	Encounter Henley Coffee Van	12 months	\$35,000
Jamestown UC	Kitchen Upgrade	12 months	\$10,000
Malvern UC	Malvern Young Adults	12 months	\$27,000
Mount Barker UC	Children & Families Engagement	12 months	\$37,300
Outpost UC	Resourcing, inclusion & safety for babies, toddlers & youth project	12 months	\$3,400
Renmark UC	Infrastructure and equipment update	12 months	\$14,200
Stansbury UC	Building Restoration	12 months	\$12,500
The Corner UC	Intentional Immersion Services for Neurodivergent People	12 months	\$35,100
Trinity Alberton UC	Investing in the growth & renewal of our Village	12 months	\$19,000
Unity Hill UC	Cooking group/ grease trap	12 months	\$6,000
Westbourne Park UC	New Assessible Toilet	12 months	\$30,000

5. The Committee

It was decided at Synod Standing Committee that the members of the Committee shall be appointed for a three-year term, with the option of continuing for one additional term. Members are appointed by their presbyteries, and there is equal representation across the presbyteries. Accordingly, the Committee now consists of:

Leesa Story (Chairperson)	(appointed by Standing Committee)
Philip Gardner (General Secretary)	(ex-officio)
Jenni Hughes (Mission Resourcing Team Leader)	(ex-officio)
Alice Hammer (Grants Manager)	(ex-officio)
Brian Hern (Wimala Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Peter Gunn (Wimala Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Geoff Hurst (Presbytery of Southern SA)	(elected by Presbytery)
Aafke Boomsma (Presbytery of Southern SA)	(elected by Presbytery)
Kay Bailey (Generate Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)
Mark Elford (Generate Presbytery)	(elected by Presbytery)

As a result of the increase in the number of applications received this year, the work required of the committee was equally significantly increased. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Committee for rising to this challenge, and for their hard work, diligence and impartiality in the discernment process, ensuring the allocation of funding to each project on its merits. I pray that these grant funds will not only enable the recipients to effectively carry out missional projects in their local context, but also increase the missional effectiveness of the Uniting Church in South Australia as a whole.

Grace and peace

Leesa Story

Uniting Foundation Grants Committee – Chairperson

Alice Hammer

Uniting Foundation Manager

2 September 2024



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia