



Uniting Foundation Grant Guidelines 2026

The aim of the Uniting Foundation is to distribute funds for purposes which will significantly increase the mission effectiveness of the Uniting Church in South Australia. In 2026, the Uniting Foundation partnered with UC Invest to expand funding opportunities to resource congregations and faith communities for impactful missional projects.

What can you apply for? - Grant Criteria

Uniting Foundation grants will be awarded for projects and initiatives which enable Congregations, Faith Communities and individuals to do one or more of the following:

- enhance and address missional challenges and opportunities and increase their capacity to engage in creative ways*
- develop capacity to lead to church community growth, new church plants or congregational renewal*
- provide opportunities for direct connection with people beyond the church community and encourage people in their faith journey closer to Christ and into a deeper connection with the Church community*
- develop initiatives that assist in growing / transitioning congregations*
- develop skills to enliven faith and deepen discipleship*
- support leadership development initiatives*
- foster relationship and connection between and within generations*
- encourage relationship building between and within CALD communities and other diverse communities*
- work co-operatively and resource other Congregations for effective missional activity or offer potential benefit to other Congregations beyond the applicant*
- develop First Peoples theology and/or engagement with covenanting with UAICC*
- aligning with the Synod Strategic Plan emphases and directions.*
- develop programs, upgrades, awareness initiatives and other accessible changes that align with Synod's Disability, Access and Inclusion Policy*

(Helpful definitions relating to the grant criteria can be found at the end of this document)

What grants are available?

There are two categories of grant funding. In addition to the above Grant Criteria, the following conditions also apply to each category:

Category A: Enduring Grants

- Maximum grant amount of \$50,000*
- Maximum 2 years in length*

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS: \$250,000

Category B: UC Invest Springboard Grants

- Maximum grant amount of \$50,000*
- Project must commence within 6 months of receiving approval notification*
- Project to be completed within 12 months of commencement.*
- Capital projects may be considered*

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS: \$500,000





Who is Eligible for a Grant?

- *Uniting Church of SA Congregations and Faith Communities*
- *Individuals (with Uniting Church SA Congregation or Presbytery endorsement).*

Who is not Eligible for a grant?

- *Presbyteries and Ministry Centres*
- *Previous or existing grant recipients who have not complied with the terms of their Grant Agreement.*
- *Congregations who are not up to date with their Mission and Service Fund Contributions and do not have a current exemption or approved variation request in place.*
- *Congregations who are not up to date with Synod of SA's Safe Church requirements.*
- *Congregations, Faith Communities and individuals in receipt of an existing Uniting Foundation grant are not eligible to apply for a Category A grant but are eligible to apply for a Category B grant. If you have not completed your 2025 Category B grant by July 31 2026, then you cannot apply.*

Time Frames

- **The 2026 grant round will open on 1 June 2026.**
- **The final day to apply is 31 July 2026** ('the closing date'). Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.
- *All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application within 7 weeks of the closing date.*
- *Funds for approved projects will be available once a Grant Agreement has been entered into and any other requirements met.*

What else do you need to know?

1. *An applicant may apply for both a Category A grant and Category B grant where each application relates to a separate and distinct project and meets all the criteria for funding. Applicants in receipt of an existing Uniting Foundation Grant are only eligible for a Category B grant.*
2. *Grants are not intended to support the continuous or ongoing delivery of a service, program or activity and the sustainability of a project will be considered.*
3. *Favourable consideration will be given to those applicants who make a financial contribution to their project; and/or it is shown how long-term financial independence will be achieved (unless it is clearly a high impact short-term project).*
4. *Applicants need to ensure they are aware of and actively working toward meeting the following Synod SA policies – Safe Church Policy, Privacy Policy, Disability Access and Inclusion Policy, and UCASA Naming Policy.*
5. *Successful applicants shall acknowledge UC Invest and the Uniting Foundation as the funding source in any publications or publicity to their congregation.*
6. *Applications for projects which include an employment component need to include a Draft Position Description. Please contact Human Resources on humanresources@sa.uca.org.au to obtain an appropriate template.*
7. *Applications for projects involving capital works need to include a Draft Project application form. Please*



contact Property Services on property@sa.uca.org.au to obtain an appropriate template.

How to Apply?

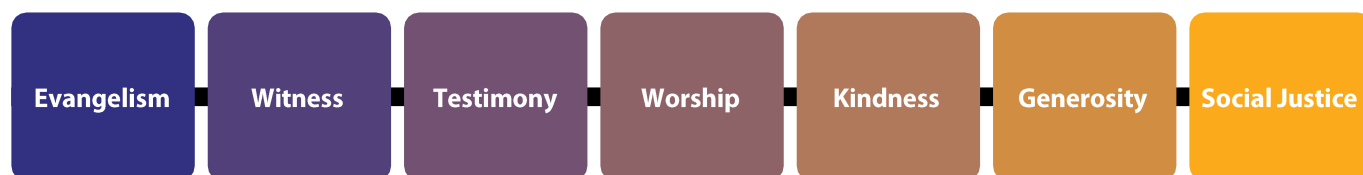
If you consider your project meets the above criteria, go to the Uniting Foundation portal to register your interest in preparing an application.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact the Uniting Foundation Manager, Alice Hammer, to discuss your application. Email: grants@sa.uca.org.au Phone: (08) 8236 4206

Some helpful definitions:

Mission

The mission of God's people is to alert everyone, everywhere to the universal reign of God through Christ, by both speech and action, by explaining and demonstrating, by word and deed. We proclaim it with our mouths, through our joyful witness to our experience of God's reign and through evangelistic preaching about God's reign. And we show it with our actions, by demonstrating God's reign through acts of kindness and hospitality, healing and serving others, and by contributing to the flourishing of a just and equitable society.¹ We can see it as a spectrum from announcement to demonstration:



Actions without words do not encompass the entirety of God's mission, and explaining without demonstration is also unhelpful.

Leadership Development

Growing both the skill and capacity of ordained and lay leaders; and/ or growing people into leadership – increasing the number of leaders in the church, as well as developing the leaders currently serving the church.

¹ Frost, M. 2023: *Mission is the Shape of Water: Learning from the Past to Inform our role in the World Today*. 100 Movements Publishing: Wyoming USA.