

BUW Mission Project Grants

Guidance Notes

Introduction

The Baptist Union of Wales aims to support mission and ministry across the Associations and wants to encourage new and creative mission initiatives by inviting churches and Associations in membership with the Union to apply for a Mission Project Grant.

What kind of 'Mission Projects' are eligible?

The Mission Project grant may be used for a variety of new mission initiatives, shaped by your local context and the vision God is giving you share His love with your community.

With others, you will be in the best position to discern what God might be calling you to do, rather than someone from outside your context telling you what needs to be done. You will also have a better idea of the resources available to you and what will be a step of faith.

All we would ask is that you be prayerful; be imaginative; be inspired to try something new and where possible to think about how you might go to the places the church is not currently reaching.

What is unlikely to fit within the scope of the Mission Project Grant?

- Building projects unless the application can show that a clearly defined project links with the overall mission strategy of the church.
- Large projects where the grant is not able to make a significant difference *unless* other sources of funding can show working in partnership.
- Projects where the church or Association is able to fund itself.
- Existing projects

Thinking About Mission

Any new mission initiative starts with prayer and the faith to try something new that is inspired by God's love for people. Mission can take many shapes and sizes. It's not always the 'big project' we need to dream of but to have faith in a big God who can change lives.

Here is one story about how a church began to dream about doing the impossible.

Salem, Tonteg – The Impossible Project

When Rev Rosa Hunt began thinking and praying about the local community she was reading about churches prayerfully adopting an 'impossible project'. Literally to try something that was beyond their own resources and abilities, that only God could make happen. As the church committed to praying about what this might be, a small committee met to discuss the vision and ideas coming forward. Most of these seemed to have one thing in common, food.

One idea that challenged the church was around food waste. So in June 2016 the church signed up with Tesco's food redistribution scheme, taking in waste food to share with those in need. With a new freezer bought by Tesco's, the church have done food hygiene courses and are dreaming of ways to do the impossible with five projects in mind.

- A community garden to grow vegetables with help from Co-op sponsorship;
- A mental health drop in cafe working with the local GP surgery;
- A partnership with the WI to provide free meals to village children and families
- A project to redesign the church to make it more community friendly.

Rosa says: *“We have about 70 members and about £40,000. Obviously these five projects are completely impossible and absurd. So I look forward to seeing God do them.”*

Will you help us to develop any ideas and shape a vision?

Yes, of course. In fact we'd love to! We are willing to walk alongside any church, group or Association that would like to think through what God might be calling them to do.

What about sustainability?

The risk in launching projects that are grant funded is that they are no longer sustainable when the grant funding stops. The nature of the Mission Project Grant is that help is available for up to 3 years and therefore some thought should be given to how a project might look to continue after the funding. We also recognise that sometimes a project lasts just for 3 years, is better than no project.

How much can we apply for?

The 'Mission Project Grant' offers a grant of between £1,000 and to £3,000 per year / up to 3 years. Churches seeking smaller amounts may consider applying for Genesis grant where up to £500 is available to provide resources for a new mission initiative.

Who can apply?

The Mission Project Grant scheme is open to churches or Associations in membership with the Baptist Union of Wales and who have paid the consolidated budget for the past three years. Any new mission initiatives should have the support of their local church.

What if our church feels unable to make use of this?

The Mission Project Grant is not going to be appropriate for every church, but it might be that your church can share in what others are doing by giving a donation to the Mission Project funds. The more mission we can fund, the more we can do together.

Your partnership with others may well inspire your prayers, encourage your hearts and may even inspire you to imagine

Who knows, in helping another mission project, we might gain more than we actually give?

- Our prayers might be more focused as we support each other in prayer.
- Our hearts encouraged as we feel that we are helping others to do what we can't.
- Our imagination sparked as we hear stories of hope about what God is doing.

How many grants are available?

We would love to be in a position to help every church or group with a Mission Project Grant but recognise that we will have to disappoint some, ask others to perhaps wait and

even suggest that an idea needs a bit more work before it's ready to take full advantage of the grant being offered.

At the moment there is funding available to award **three** Mission Project Grants in the first instance with the hope of adding a fourth and fifth in the following years. More may be possible if the amount of grant requested is less than the maximum £3,000.

When the grant comes to an end, so new applications can be considered.

Additional Notes.

- Any funds that remain unspent after 9 months after they have been received should be repaid (subject to negotiation) so that the money can be used elsewhere.
- A progress report should be submitted each year the grant is paid.

How can we apply?

An application form is enclosed with these guidelines.

We would encourage those thinking about making an application to first of all:

1. Prayerfully discern what God might be calling you to do
2. Talk and pray with others to see if there is a shared vision
3. Begin to put your hopes and ideas down on paper so that it can be easily understood
4. Have a conversation with Simeon or Menna to talk through whether you might be ready to make a formal application.

Is there a deadline for applications?

No, but please be aware that we are only able to fund three Mission Project Grants in the first year so it might be that applications are held until funding becomes available.

Please feel free to contact us to should you have any further questions.

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