



# **PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING SOUTHERN SYNOD'S**

## **GRANTS AND LOANS STRUCTURE**

**PRESENTED TO SYNOD TOGETHER ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**THE FINANCING OF THE SYNOD'S GRANTS AND LOANS WILL COME FROM**

**SUCH FUNDS OF THE SYNOD AS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE**

**AND WILL BE PROVIDED TO CHURCHES WHICH STRENGTHEN THE**

**WITNESS OF THE CHURCH**

**It is proposed that the administration of grants and loans be split into two areas:**

## **The Church Building Fund**

**Building work,  
Feasibility studies,  
Feasibility studies,**

**Development projects  
Preservation of buildings,  
Environmental projects and**

**Emergency Repairs – this will have a separate budget of £250,000**

**A separate designated Manse Fund is available. It is not part of this Exercise.**

**The proposed make-up of the committee will be the present members of the Property Committee plus the Synod Treasurer and a member of the Finance Committee.**

## **The Strategic Mission Fund**

**Turn the Tide,**

**New Growth and**

**Other strategic mission related projects.**

**The proposed make-up of the committee will be: the Mission Officer (acting as Secretary), three Synod Area Leaders, Synod Treasurer and two members of the Finance Committee. The Moderator will be ex-officio.**

## **Synod Sources of Funds**

**None from local churches or the Ministry and Mission Contributions.**

**An unpredictable amount from investment income, 2017 - £300,000**

**An even more unpredictable source from the sale of Synod buildings,  
last seven years low £46,000 – high £3.4 million**

**To properly identify the available funds for grants and loans (“the Pool”) the annual budget of the Synod will be divided into three sections:**

- 1. Direct costs of the Synod Office**
- 2. Costs incurred on behalf of the wider Synod**
- 3. Funds for grants and loans.**

**Direct costs for the Synod Office and those of the wider Synod will be funded from – income from investments and any sale of Synod buildings. Any excess expenditure over these funds received will be made up from the “Pool”. Any excess funds received will be added to the “Pool”.**

**Funds for grants and loans will be allocated on an annual basis.**

**The current expenditure of the Synod is approx. £1.0million**

**There is approx. £14.0 million in available funds.**

**There are several first calls on these funds prior to the setting up of the “pool”.**

**Reserve’s Policy - £ 7.0 million**

**Restricted Funds - £ 1.8 million**

**Total                      £ 8.8 million**

**A total of approximately £5.0 million may be available initially for the “pool”.**

## **Allocation of Funds During 2020 and 2021**

**£1.0 million each for Church Building Fund and Strategic Mission in 2020 and 2021 (i.e. £4.0 million in total).**

**£1.0 million to meet any deficits in financing the Synod office and wider Synod costs.**

### **Review:**

**The new structure will initially run for 2½ years – 2020 – 2021 with a review taking place in the latter part of 2021.**



## **Moving Forward**

**Should Synod Together accept the new grants and loans scheme:**

**A group(s) will need to be set up to settle procedures and documentation needed for the churches to access these sources of funding.**

**The Synod Council will take responsibility for reviewing the terms of reference for the Turn the Tide and New Growth Fund applications as well as the Strategic Mission Fund.**

**The Property Committee, together with the Finance Committee, will take responsibility for reviewing its remit and bringing any revised terms of reference to Synod Council for approval.**

## **Resolutions for Synod Together to Agree**

- 1. Synod Together agrees to consolidate the provision of grants and loans (except the Manse Fund) into two designated funds (the strategic Mission Fund and the Church Building Fund).**
- 2. Synod Together agrees that the two Funds should be administered as set out in the presentation.**
- 3. Synod Together agrees to place £1.0 million into each of the two funds in 2020 and 2021.**
- 4. Synod Together asks for the arrangements to be reviewed at the Synod Council meeting in September 2021 reporting to Synod Together in March 2022.**

## **Discussion Groups**

**The Group would like the discussion groups to consider the following:**

- i) what opportunities for mission would a pattern like that proposed make possible for your church?**
- ii) do you support the issue of principle as set out in the draft resolutions?**
- iii) have you any suggestions for improving the way this would all work?**