

**Alberta and Northwest Conference
Appeals and Grants Committee**

Principles that Inform the Work of the Appeals and Grants Committee

Motion 2006/2007-40, May 2007)

1. Congregations are primary mission units of the church and need to be encouraged, challenged and supported to exercise their mission faithfully. Mission needs to seek, create and support new opportunities and initiatives for ministry, and support long-term, sustainable and effective ministries. We are called both to be faithful and to take risks in doing mission. Mission must address unmet needs in the form of service and care, particularly for the poor, the suffering, the sick and the marginalized. Mission is enacted for empowerment, not dependence, and seeks always to move beyond charity towards addressing the root causes of suffering.
2. Mission must be “owned” by all courts of the church to be most effective. Mission priorities need to be determined in conjunction with the priorities of Presbyteries and the entire Conference. The use of Mission Support funding will always be accompanied by measurable local support by congregations and Presbyteries.
3. Mission Support funding must be allocated in ways that most effectively promote leadership development. Mission Support funding from the Conference will support local mission, and will be used in ways that will develop new ministry, extend existing ministry, and sustain ministries through periods of reshaping and redevelopment. Mission Support funding will therefore give priority to those ministries that develop leadership that will implement a strategic plan, including time limitations for the need for mission support grants.
4. Ministries that are willing to engage in a “transformational process” to move towards greater health and stability should be encouraged with a range of supports, including Mission Support funding for those that qualify. Participation in transformational process would include:
 - ♦ The articulation of a clear mission statement
 - ♦ The development of a five year ministry plan
 - ♦ Measurable criteria for evaluating achievement of a ministry plan
 - ♦ Affirmation by the Presbytery Oversight Committee for the ministry’s plan within the context of the overall needs and goals as determined and articulated by that Presbytery for all the ministries within its bounds.

Guidelines for use of Mission Support Funds

(Motion 2006/2007-41, May 2007)

- ♦ That the first 25% of the Conference’s Mission Support funding be allocated to those ministries that are willing to engage in a transformational process as described in the above principles. These Pastoral Charges will be identified by their Presbytery as a mission priority.
- ♦ That a minimum of 8% of funds be available to first time applicants.
- ♦ That Presbyteries endorsing applications for Mission Support funding demonstrate how these applications fit in to their overall assessment of mission strategy and congregational vitality with the Presbytery. Presbytery Leadership in this way is essential
- ♦ That priority be given to ministry applications that demonstrate the ongoing support of their Presbytery, measured in terms such as Presbytery financial support, wider congregational financial support, prayer support, accompaniment. Evidence of this support would come to the Appeals and Grants Committee in the form of a narrative statement of the effective support offered by the Presbytery, its Committees and Pastoral Charges over the signature of the Chair or Secretary of the Presbytery. Where possible there should be evidence of financial support as appears in the reviewed financial statements of the recipient ministry. Specific measurable support in a variety of forms is what is being looked for.
- ♦ That all applications be encouraged to include a projected timeline for their mission support funding needs.
- ♦ That, where possible applications to maintain a UCC/mainline presence within isolated communities will be supported.