

Uniting Church in Australia
NSW Synod Board of
Mission

Finding Money for Mission

*(NB: information in this brochure is
correct as at July 2004)*

1. What is Mission?

There is no one definition of Mission, but the Uniting Church believes that God's people are called to action that makes a difference in the community. Mission is not just evangelism or witness or worship or social justice or service. It is whatever task God calls us to intentionally undertake for the sake of others and the Kingdom of God.

Jesus calls us to be 'fishers of men'. These days we typically fish with one rod and one hook for a specific sort of fish and we are fishing only when our lines are actually in the water. But fishing in Jesus' time was done with nets and being a fisherman was more about repairing nets than actual fishing. Nets are non-selective - they drag in fish of every shape and size just as our mission nets should be dragging all sorts of 'fish' into the kingdom of God.

Mission is about the effort of working on tasks or ventures that bring us into relationship with others. Any task that gives us the chance to create and repair Mission 'net'works of friendships with our neighbours and communities is mission...*

* Thanks to Paul Coleman & Mike Frost for this mission metaphor

2. Synod Mission Resource Fund

The Synod Mission Resource Fund (SMRF) is a project of the NSW Synod Fund that finances new and innovative forms of mission and ministry. Funding is made available through grants to projects submitted by congregations and other bodies of the Uniting Church. The Fund is administered by the Synod Mission Resource Funding Committee with assistance from the Board of Finance and Property and the Board of Mission.

Grants can be made for capital projects (i.e. property purchases or renovations) or ministry (to fund the cost of a minister or other worker for a number of years). Grants are prioritised at the Synod Mission Resource Fund Consultation, a meeting of representatives of all Presbyteries and Boards.

Staff

Bruce Irvine - information about policy and application process
email bruceirv@hwy.com.au **phone** 02 6889 8336

Conrad Parsons - help with planning or leading a mission project
email conradp@nsw.uca.org.au **phone** 02 8267 4355

Allison Forrest - administrative inquiries
email allisonf@nsw.uca.org.au **phone** 02 8267 4391
fax 02 9267 7316

Websites to Watch

<http://www.nsw.uca.org.au/bom/smrf/>

Synod Mission Resource Fund Home Page
Policy documents, application forms and other information about the SMRF and the New Initiatives Seed Fund.

<http://www.nsw.uca.org.au/missionfinance/>

NSW Synod Mission Finance Home Page
Everything to do with giving to mission and funding for mission in the Uniting Church in NSW. Information on Living is Giving, the Synod Fund and Giving Direct.

3. New Initiatives Seed Fund

A sub-section of the Mission Resource Fund which enables the Uniting Church to be at mission in given specific contexts and settings primarily through the support and establishment of new congregations and faith communities. As the context and nature of most new initiatives requires flexibility and rapid responsiveness, it will be possible to apply for small grants every three months rather than annually.

A Presbytery, Congregation or recognised Faith Community may apply for funding in order to assist in starting a *new* faith community, or develop an existing new initiative that has been established for less than five years.

The most common form of grant will be 'seed funding' for amounts between \$500 and \$5000.

Further information

Contact Glen Powell for a copy of the policy document. **email** glenp@nsw.uca.org.au
Or **download** from <http://www.nsw.uca.org.au/bom/smrf/SMRFlinks.htm>



Cartoon © Chris Morgan, available from www.ncls.org.au



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4. Uniting Care Burnside New Ventures Scheme

The New Ventures Scheme is a funding program established in 1991. It aims to encourage Uniting Church groups within the New South Wales Synod to support vulnerable families, children and young people in their local community. The Scheme provides small one off grants of up to \$2000 for specific projects which fulfill this aim.

Further information

Contact Claerwen Little, Manager, Social Justice and Research Program at Burnside
phone 02 9768 6860 during office hours



Cartoon ©Chris Morgan, available from www.ncls.org.au

5. Other UCA sources of funds

There are a wide range of organisations within the Uniting Church that occasionally receive bequests or donations that may be set aside for specific projects or areas of work. Some voluntary organisations exist specifically to raise funds for the work of the church (eg: Synod Stamp Committee).

The various Boards and Agencies of the Synod, Presbyteries, some Congregations and other organisations may be aware of a funding source appropriate for your mission venture. For example, the Board of Mission runs an annual ABC Appeal to raise funds for four different projects a year. For information about other funding sources, ask around or visit the various websites of UCA organisations!

These funds are largely available because of the faithfulness of previous generations that generously contributed to the life and mission of their churches. It is important that the current generation demonstrates the same good stewardship of these resources, by investing them in missionally productive and cost-effective ways.

This requires prayerful consideration, and a commitment from individuals and congregations to oversee the use of these resources for the realistic life of a project and beyond. At the same time, every opportunity should be taken to invest in future leaders by encouraging new arrivals or younger people to become involved and help shape the project.

Some Examples

2% for Development Fund - for community development or social justice / human rights education projects in NSW and the ACT. Further information on the web at <http://unitingcarenewswact.org.au/advocacy/information.html> or contact Rev Ann Wansbrough **phone** 02 8267 4300

EMU Scholarship - for production of evangelical resources for congregations.
For information contact Rev Ian Weeks, Chairperson
email ianweeks@hotmail.net.au **phone** 6652 7044

6. Non-UCA sources of Funds Grants from Government, Commercial and Philanthropic Organisations

Each year many grants are made available to fund community activities, the arts and other work that contributes to the public good, that may occasionally be relevant to a congregation or other group planning a mission venture.

The NSW Government has a comprehensive website on grants and funding issues for community organisations. You can join an email list to receive updates on grants and other news.

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/

This is a link to a funding search engine located on the community builders website:

http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/finding_funds/funding/fdb.html

"Our Community" is an online subscription-based database and information. Some information sheets are available for free download in addition to regular newsletters for subscribers.

http://www.ourcommunity.com.au

7. Self-Reliance

One of the potential problems with being able to get a grant to support mission is the possibility that some projects may become grant reliant. The intention of the church is to find ways to encourage and support those in mission during the difficult establishment or change of direction phases, but at the same time to develop a culture of self-reliance and local ownership that results in sustainable, ongoing, long-term mission.

