

CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF SYNOD RESOURCES

LOCAL AREA GROUPS

The criteria set out below were produced by the Convenors of the three Synod Committees. The criteria have now been agreed by all three Synod committees and the Synod Executive as a working document. The criteria were presented to Synod at the meeting held on 17 October.

Alongside their use by individual congregations when applying for Synod resources, the criteria are also intended for use by Local Area Groups (LAG) when:

- 1) Developing strategies for the efficient sharing of resources and collaborative development of mission and discipleship across the LAG
- 2) Reviewing and supporting applications from individual congregations for Synod resources including ministerial deployment, grants and loans.

1. Ministry

A determination to genuinely support and enhance Ministry, enabling those we have called, to exercise a full, satisfying and relevant ministry (in all its recognised forms).

How will this application nurture prayer, bible study, evangelism/sharing our faith stories with others, and faith in action?

- How will this application/project change your shared ministry/discipleship and what will be the markers of success?

- How will this application/maintaining a building contribute to your discipleship, mission and ministry? How does your proposal provide for more than simply maintaining Sunday worship?

2. Local Resources (human, physical and financial)

An understanding that projects and initiatives will have an impact on the lives of those who drive them or are expected to.

- How will this application facilitate nurturing the current leadership, developing new leaders, nurturing and releasing individuals to use their God-given talents?

- What consideration has been given to legacy planning? How will this project be handed on and to whom? What are the potential costs/demands being placed upon local church leadership (both physical and emotional)? How does this initiative honestly address the realities and possibilities your church faces?

- How does your congregation develop the faith community to ensure there are sufficient people to be office bearers and elders; encourage mission and discipleship; and ensure buildings are managed? How will financial resources be secured for known future buildings maintenance?

- How will this application nurture small group discipleship and community activities/ partnership? How will the employment of paid staff secure congregational engagement with discipleship and mission?

3 Local Collaboration

Shifting to a more collaborative style of Ministry, drawing upon the shared resources in your Local Area Group, both financial and human.

- What consideration has been given to the possibility of more imaginative and efficient sharing of resources within the group? How does this proposal reflect a true spirit of working together? What will be the benefit to the whole group, both the churches and the communities they serve?

- Within your LAG, what level of support is currently available for maintaining congregations and supporting discipleship and mission? How will your application contribute to resourcing your LAG?

- How will this application nurture collaborative action for justice, peace and reconciliation, develop inter-faith relationships and increase the presence of our faith in the public arena?

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