



**SYNOD GRANTS
AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE
TO URC CHURCHES**



SYNOD BUILDING GRANTS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|--|--|---|
| Large, cyclical repairs e.g. roofs, kitchen, disability access, heating, electrical work. Not retrospective except emergency repairs. Not for fittings, furniture and carpets. | Up to 25% of the cost Maximum £30,000 in a three-year period | RCC meetings in January, May, September and November |
| Synod Building Grants - Disability Access | | |
| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
| Ensuring that churches are compliant with disability access by supporting first accessible entrance and accessible toilet. | 100% Below £5k, 50% between £5k and £10k, 25% thereafter, up to maximum £30k grant. | RCC meetings in January, May, September and November |
| Energy Efficiency Grants | | |
| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
| Improving the Energy Efficiency and Carbon footprint of church buildings | 100% Below £5k, 75% between £5k and £10k, 50% between £10k and £20K, 25% thereafter, up to maximum grant of £30k | Finance Officer, aim of monthly meetings for Grant Panel decision |
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MAJOR BUILDINGS DEVELOPMENT FUND

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---|---|---|
| For extension, rebuilding or conversion to new purposes of church buildings. Not for catch up repairs or small projects. Not offered for projects where one of the primary objectives is income generation. | Unlikely to exceed 25-50% of the total cost | Trust Board meetings in February, June, September and November. |



LOANS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---------------------|---|---|
| | Interest rate 4% Repayable over up to 10 years | Trust Board meetings in February, June, September and November. |



MANSE GRANTS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Heating, windows, roof, bathroom. | 100% of Major building cost e.g. | RCC meetings January, May, September, and November |

Not retrospective except emergencies to make manse safe, watertight and with access to lighting and space and water heating.

Replacement Windows and external doors.
 Replacement of Bathrooms and Kitchens.
 Replacement of Roof; including structural elements.
 Replacement of Heating; electric and wet systems.
 Structural repairs, including lintels and underpinning.
 Repointing brickwork/renewal of render.
 Renewal underground foul and waste drainage/mains water service.
 External works including fencing, boundary walls and hard landscaping.
 Alterations to the Manse in order to comply with the Manse Standards.



MANSE MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

What is it to fund?
 To ensure essential works done
 Gas & Electrical safety certificates up to date

What is the level of support?
 Up to £750 (£500 2020-2022) against invoices.
 Carry forward three years- to allow for larger cyclical items

When to apply and who to?
 Request to Finance Officer who will process according to agreed criteria



MISSION FUND

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Examples of Mission Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia café • Outreach Workers • Development Workers • Youth Workers <p>Must fit one or more of the Vision 2020 Criteria</p> | <p>Small Projects/Small Churches up to £1000, not intended to be annual.</p> <p>Digital Church-Sliding scale £1000-£4250 (on spending of £10k).</p> <p>Larger Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally 50% but up to 75% • Initially up to 3 Years • Tapering out for extension of period • Priority for new projects • Aim to create sustainable projects | <p>Mission Fund Panel meetings February, May, August/September and November</p> |
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MINISTRY SUPPORT FUND

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
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| <p>Aim church growth. Employing additional Workers. Expenses of ministry where they cannot be covered locally.</p> | <p>Support beyond standard deployment.</p> | <p>Ministry Development Committee meetings in February, May, July and October, they refer to Synod Executive for decision.</p> |
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YOUTH GRANTS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>Leaders Training and Development - To assist individual leaders connected with churches and local ecumenical partnerships to participate in training and learning opportunities that are designed to enable local church mission objectives with children and youth.</p> <p>For Churches and Groups e.g. Holiday Clubs</p> <p>Individuals – To assist individual children and young people connected with churches and local ecumenical partnerships with projects that enable mission objectives. Recent examples expeditions to Borneo & Tanzania</p> | <p>Up to £500</p> | <p>Application to CYDO who refers to Missional Discipleship Development Committee meetings in February, May, July and October for decision</p> <p>Also worth applying to Assembly for further £100</p> |
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TRAINING

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
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| <p>Ministers – sabbaticals, summer school, quiet days and other training events.</p> <p>Lay Preachers – Stepwise, Assembly Accredited and Worship Leaders (Synod Recognised)</p> | <p>Ministers - £700 per annum EM3; £350 per annum EM2; Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers - £300 per annum; Worship Leaders</p> | <p>Training & Development Officer who will process according to agreed criteria</p> |

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| | (previously Synod Recognised Lay Preachers) £300 per annum. Lay Preachers Initial Training – 3 way split between individual, local church & Synod. Stepwise – discretionary | Contact Training & Development Officer Contact Training & Development Officer |
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DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---|---|---|
| Large Grants (Assembly) - will contribute to the Discipleship Development of lay people in or connected with the URC | Up to £5k pa to recognised groups within the URC, maximum of 3 years. | Training & Development Officer who refers to MDDC for necessary Synod support. Deadlines for applications to Assembly Education & Learning are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. Apply at any time to the Training & Development Officer who refers to MDDC. |
| Small Grants - to support learning & discipleship of lay people | Up to £200 per annum | |
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JOSEPH SCOTT-BUILDINGS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Substantial church repairs for Churches within 25 miles of Birmingham Town Hall. | | Joseph Scott Trust via Synod Finance Officer |
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JOSEPH SCOTT- MINISTERS

| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Small grants for ministers' training, serving URC churches and LEPs within 25 miles of Birmingham Town Hall | | Joseph Scott Trust via Synod Finance Officer |
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| CONGREGATIONAL AND GENERAL TRUST BUILDING GRANTS | | |
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| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
| Building projects, providing church improvements and extensions, including repairs. Not eligible for manses, organs, bells, or graveyards. | 25% of costs up to a limit of £25,000 | The Congregational and General Trust, an independent grant-making charity The Trust consider applications quarterly, with key application dates published on its website. |
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| COMMUNITY PROJECT AWARDS | | |
| What is it to fund? | What is the level of support? | When to apply and who to? |
| Competition to nominate a project undertaken by a church | £2000 prize sponsored by Congregational Insurance | Application in February, winners announced at General Assembly. Form on URC website |

The central church gives grants for the following:

- Accredited Lay Preacher Grant
- Church and Youth Work Grants
- Church Buildings Fund
- Commitment for Life Grants
- Discipleship Development Fund
- Education for Ministry
- Inter Faith Fund
- The Legacy Fund
- Mission Enabling Fund

These can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/grants-funding-opportunities/>