

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

MINISTRIES AND MISSION FUND DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE

GUIDELINES FOR USE

The amount notified each year to Presbytery by the Stewardship and Finance Department for the required contribution from individual congregations to the Ministries and Mission Fund contains an element (5% for 2018) which Presbytery can use at their discretion in order to support the Presbytery's missional objectives. The granting of an award to an individual congregation is implemented by reducing that congregation's allocation to the Ministries and Mission Fund. Awards can be made for the following purposes :

- 1) To support new or existing mission projects for up to 50% of the project cost, the minimum award to be £1,000 to a maximum award of £7,500
- 2) Towards the cost of purchase and installation of audio-visual / multimedia presentation equipment for up to 50% of the total cost (net of any other grants received) with a maximum award of £5,000
- 3) To reduce the assessed contribution if the congregation is faced with exceptional and unexpected fabric expenditure
- 4) To reduce the assessed contribution if changes in circumstances arise which the Presbytery decides would justify this course of action
- 5) To pay off shortfalls from previous years where the Presbytery considers this course of action to be appropriate
- 6) To pay amounts outstanding from previous years in respect of ministers' travel expenses or locum costs where the Presbytery considers this course of action to be appropriate
- 7) To reduce the proposed contributions for individual congregations before they are finalised for the following year, in the light of local knowledge of the current situation in congregations within the Presbytery

Applications for assistance from the discretionary allowance on the prescribed form (which can be downloaded from the Presbytery website) should be made either directly to the Stewardship and Finance convener or via the Presbytery Office and can be made at any time. In connection with applications under paragraphs (1) to (6) above, relief will be given against the Ministries and Mission contributions for the current year, the final use of the discretionary allowance for the current year being determined at the September Presbytery meeting. Requests under paragraph (7), or any late applications, would be adjusted against the allocation for the following year.

In addition to the categories detailed above, payment from the discretionary allowance can be made directly to Presbytery to enable staff to be employed within Presbytery, either by the Presbytery or by a congregation within the bounds, or for such other purpose that cannot be resourced by any of the methods outlined in paragraphs (1) to (7) above.