

# Mission Grants



I always pray with joy  
because of your partnership in the gospel  
from the first day until now  
Phil 1: 4-5

*Partnership in the Gospel*

All grant applications are carefully considered and decided based on set criteria regarding the missional and practical outworking of the project.

Grants are given for a maximum of three years with the potential for extension, except for the Mission Project Grant, which is a one-off grant. Please note that grants are awarded yearly, and there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded each year.

For Partnership, Pioneering, and Chaplaincy grants, you will make one application at the start. If awarded a grant, you will only need to complete a review form at the end of the grant period. Visitors will annually review the project/mission in light of the original application.

## Types of Grants:

**Partnership Grants:** these are awarded to churches already engaging in the mission of God to encourage and equip them further in reaching their local community. They are typically given to churches with Baptists Together Accredited Ministers who pay their Minister the Home Mission stipend (or an appropriate proportion thereof).

Ministers-in-training and Recognised ministers from other denominations in Local Ecumenical Partnerships are also eligible. These grants can also fund an additional team member focused on missional work, such as a Children's, Youth and Families worker whose remit extends to the community beyond the church.

Partnership Grants are not simply for employing a minister or additional team member; the church must demonstrate a missional heart and intent. Churches are expected to become self-sustaining within about five years of the initial grant.

**Pioneering Grants:** these grants support ministries in contexts typically outside a traditional church. They include individuals involved in special initiatives or church planting (or replanting) efforts.

**Chaplaincy Grants** are available towards the cost of Educational, Community or Industrial Chaplaincies. The amounts paid will depend on the circumstances and the process usually involves detailed consultation with other denominations.

**Mission Projects Grants** up to £500 is available to enable Baptist Churches to respond to the mission needs of their community as part of their ongoing work and ministry. These one-off grants are for new projects or new initiatives within existing projects. The projects must benefit the community the church is serving.

## Application Form:

**Part One:** Complete the general information for the church or missional setting.

**Part Two:** Fruitfulness Indicators

All grants are evaluated using Fruitfulness Indicators, which include seven areas outlined in the application form. This tool helps churches/missional settings reflect on their current mission state and identify future focus areas.

The seven indicators include:

Fruitfulness Indicator:	Notes:
1. Statistics	Numbers at Sunday Services (over the past 5 years); Worship Service (Messy Church etc); Baptisms, Dedications, Membership (new and transferred); Visiting Ministers; How many of the congregation are engaged in leading ministries
2. Presence	In what ways are the congregation involved outside of the church building and in the local community?
3. Proclamation	When and how is something of the message of the way of Jesus being communicated?
4. Prayer	In what ways is prayer encouraged?
5. Unity	How is the church/mission setting united behind the vision for this mission? How is the vision for this owned by the congregation or missional setting? In what ways have you been able to keep diversity in the unity of mission?
6. Equipping	Is there any training / preparation being given to the congregation for the task of mission?
7. Communication	How and what do people inside and outside of the church get to know about things?

**Part Three:** is based on the values and priorities of the SCBA and Baptist Together

In this season of the life of the SCBA we are prioritising:

- Clustering and Networking
- Mission Development
- Pioneering
- Children, Youth and Families
- Leader Development

We embrace and engage in these priorities through the Baptist Together Values of

**Seek to be a Movement of Spirit Led Communities:** as those who have encountered the living Christ, to intentionally seek his will and purposes for our local churches and every expression of our shared life. (Gal 5:22-25)

**Fell Like One Team:** Celebrating diversity; valuing, respecting and trusting each other as we work together in partnerships – making sure everyone feels included and listened to (1 Cor 12:24b-27)

**Embrace Adventure:** Being serious about discipleship, willing to take risks, pioneer and move out of the comfort zone of familiar ways of doing things (Matt 28:18-20)

**Inspire One Another:** With a generosity of spirit, energise and motivate people to be all that God created them to be (Eph 5:1-2)

**Share a Hunger for the God's Coming Kingdom:** Nurturing a 'holy discontent' that arises from our desire to give practical expression to our vision of God's purpose for creation – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly attitudes to power, wealth, status and security both within and beyond our Union. (Matt 6:9-10)

These values and priorities link into the national Baptist Vision of 'Growing Healthy Churches in relationship with God's Mission.' We believe that the next season of the SCBA is to create more synergy with the national vision, values and priorities. The SCBA is committed to supporting Baptist Together and working with those in national roles to build together for God's Kingdom. More information on [Baptist Together can be found here](#).

One of the recommendations that come out of Project Violet was the need for churches and missional communities create opportunities for women to exercise their gifting. You can read about Project Violet and [the findings here](#).

As Justice is an important part of mission and sharing a hunger for God's Coming Kingdom, we ask that all applications where there is a building involved are encouraged to seek to become a Eco-Church, [information can be found here](#).

**Part Four:** you will be asked about how sustainable the project is and what the future might look like.

**Part Five:** you will be asked to let us know how the application has been discerned. Please send in the minutes of the church or leaders meeting where this was agreed.

## Next Steps:

1. Contact your Regional Minister to talk about where God is leading you in applying for a Mission Grant
2. Fill in the Application Form (see Appendix 1 for criteria);
3. Send the forms to the SCBA Office (if a hard copy is required, we will let you know) Applications for Mission through Ministry, Special Ministry and Chaplaincy Grants need to be submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> May. Applications for Mission Project Grants can be made throughout the year.

Following receipt of an application the Mission Grants Team will arrange a visit from up to two people from the Mission Grants Team. They will then report back to whole team about the mission opportunity. A decision is then made provisional by the team and agreed by the Staff, Finance and Admin Working Group of the SCBA Council. You will know the outcome of your application by the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

## Churches that are Successful

As a partner ministry it will be expected that you:

- Take part in the formal review process as outlined in your grant approval letter.
- Work with your Regional Minister and the SCBA
- Enter into a Mission Training Programme or alternative as outlined in your grant approval letter.
- Attend the annual Mission Partnership Day for resourcing and equipping your church/mission.
- Attend the SCBA leaders' days
- Allow the telling of your story, through different forms of media, to encourage others.

If successful, a grant will not normally be paid before 1<sup>st</sup> January the following year. In the case of church-based students, churches will have to cover the full costs for the first 4 months of the first

academic year, unless they have applied a year earlier. *Ministries receiving grants are reviewed annually or after the event based on the fruitfulness indicators.*

## Appendix 1: Criteria for Mission Grants

### Partnership Grants

Churches applying for a Partnership grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Minutes of the church meeting where it was agreed to apply
- Financial Data form (automated Excel spreadsheet)
- Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year)

In considering an application the SCBA will be applying the following guidelines:

- Evidence that the church is seeking to connect with its local community in ways that are appropriate to its culture and in addition to its worship services.
- Connecting with people in the community (not just by the minister).
- A mission strategy for engaging with what God is doing in the local community and in the various connection points with people outside the local church by congregational members.
- A commitment to work in 'consultation' with association and/or cluster colleagues/churches, as well as being involved in local association life.
- Processes for 'discipling' congregational members – equipping and enabling them to grow as disciples of Jesus and as a result engage in the mission of God.
- In allocating grants, we will also bear in mind the presence of other missional churches in the surrounding area, giving priority to those places where there is currently no other Christian group engaging in God's mission.

We recognise there will be particular contexts that currently don't meet the above criteria but where maintaining an incarnational Christian presence is of strategic importance. Under such exceptional circumstances a grant application might be considered.

The following points should be borne in mind when considering making an application:

- A church applying for a grant should normally be contributing 5% of its general income to Baptist Together Home Mission.
- The normal maximum grant is 50% of stipend.
- All grant-supported churches should pay their minister a stipend equivalent to the Home Mission stipend figure agreed each year by the Baptists Together trustees (or its pro rata equivalent) and adhere to the recommended terms of appointment agreed by the national settlement team. Churches should also pay their minister all legitimate expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Pioneers and church planters may apply for a grant that remunerates for the equivalent of one or two working days per week (depending on what is 'worked' for that purpose).
- The church should ensure that giving by the church to non-Baptist causes does not normally exceed % of the total given by the church to Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

- Where grants are for additional staff/team members then you must be able to show how this role is missional at its core.
- Normally, we have expected grants to be awarded to churches/missional communities calling an accredited minister. Where a church wishes to call an unaccredited minister partly financed by grant funding, the SCBA will need to give their approval prior to a call being issued.
- The financial capacity to 'support' a stipend initially for a minimum of three years (including any grant that is awarded) is required.
- To enable stability and planning, the SCBA normally anticipates funding in respect of new grants continuing for an initial three-year period, usually at a reducing rate (assuming the basis on which the grant was awarded remains unchanged). The process will involve an initial review and mission accompaniment of some kind in the year before a grant is expected to begin, a light touch intermediate review for the first two years the grant is paid followed by a full review in the spring of the third year. If the review leads to funding continuing for up to a further three years the pattern will then be repeated (two years of intermediate review followed by a full review). The intermediate review will be conducted by one or two visitors using the partnership visitors' form. The initial and full review will be undertaken by a member of an association team and two other visitors/mission accompaniers.
- If the minister or 'worker' leaves the church/ missional community the grant will not automatically continue. A full review will take place to determine this.
- Historically, once a grant has been agreed it has often been assumed that the grant would remain in place if needed for the duration of that ministry. This assumption is no longer appropriate or possible. The expectation is that the grant will normally reduce to nil as quickly as possible rather than funding continuing indefinitely.
- In situations where a grant is discontinued, payments will continue to be made throughout the required notice period.
- Where the continuous decline in income of a church means it is impossible to keep their current minister, a Partnership Grant will not normally be suggested or offered. This challenging financial situation will need to be communicated at the earliest possible opportunity to one of the regional ministers so that the Association can help the church to discern its immediate needs, priorities and options. This will also enable the current minister to discern and decide about their options with as much notice as possible.
- In determining the level of grant, account will be taken of the level of general reserves held by your church or missional expression.

## Pioneering Grants

Churches/Missional Communities applying for a Pioneering grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Financial Data form (automated Excel spreadsheet)
- Missional Communities / Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year) if applicable

Pioneering Ministries are ministries in a context usually outside of an existing church; these may be an 'emerging' initiative or a church planting/replanting situation.

The normal practical criteria (as per the previous page) and processes do not apply, but the Association must be able to demonstrate that the situation being funded is missional.

There must be an accountability structure in place to oversee the work which is being financed and periodic reviews should take place to assess the development of the work.

Where an individual is working part time and/or bi-vocationally the expectation would be that the finance they receive would cover their time at a rate equivalent to a minister on standard stipend.

A similar pattern of three yearly reviews will be followed, with two intermediate reviews followed by a more thorough review.

## Mission Project Grants

Whilst any project will be considered, please note that priority will be given to those which into one of the following categories:

- Innovative and creative evangelist initiatives which will involve working with those who cannot yet be considered as disciples of Jesus Christ with a view to enabling people to discover and respond to His love with faith and discipleship.
- Initiatives which are intended to help alleviate poverty or its effects. Where groups are excluded from resources or deprived of certain facilities, they may be regarded as poor for the purpose of these grants.

Churches applying for a Mission Project Grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- Churches are also required to submit a copy of their most recent account (i.e. from the preceding year)

## Chaplaincy Grants

Churches applying for a Chaplaincy Grant will need to complete the following:

- Application Form
- A report from the Chaplaincy
- Financial statement showing the actual and anticipated expenditure of the chaplaincy, as well as the expected sources and amounts of income required to meet that expenditure.