



Regionalisation Fund Guidelines

Introduction

In the establishment of the Centre for Theology & Ministry \$1 million from the sale of *Otira*¹ was set aside to enhance education for ministry in rural and regional areas of the Synod.

Purpose

The Regionalisation Fund ensures that the rural and regional areas of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania are financially supported in the delivery of educational resourcing for discipleship and ministry.

Value

90% of the annual interest from the fund's capital will be available for use each year. Any balance of annual income not used by the end of the calendar year will be reinvested into the fund's capital.

Oversight

Responsibility for oversight of the fund belongs to the Ministry and Mission Committee. The Ministry and Mission Committee having oversight of the Guidelines delegates the distribution of the funds through applications to the Educational Grants and Scholarships Committee. The decisions and annual distributions of the Fund will be reported annually to the Ministry and Mission Committee.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be members of the Uniting Church, either ordained or lay;
- Applications from individuals, congregations and presbyteries are first to receive support from the Church Council, or the presbytery and complete and submit the Support Statement Form;
- Applications from eLM staff are first to receive the support of the relevant Manager and submit the Support Statement Form.
- Application for Regionalisation Grant Funding (by eLM staff) must clearly benefit education within the regions (as per the guidelines above) and not benefit or be seen to simply be extending the staffing budget or operations of eLM.

Potential Projects

- a project which helps to equip regional learning centres where people might gather for 'streaming of educational lectures/presentations;
- preparation of distance-mode training modules;
- subsidies for visiting scholars to work in rural congregations/Presbyteries;
- subsidies for rural people to attend Melbourne-based events (this should be a small proportion of the funds, since the aim is to take education to the people rather than to centralize);
- payment of honoraria to ministers and other qualified people to lead small rural or regional learning groups for those wishing to qualify as Lay Preachers or Pastors:

¹ *Otira* was originally the Methodist Home Missionary Education College, (located in Kew), and then the Lay and Continuing Education College for the Synod. It was sold to assist in the funding of the Centre for Theology & Ministry.

- funding for research facilitating educational resourcing of discipleship, ministry and mission in rural and regional areas;
- establishing and support for the 'Web of Learning' and on-line learning resources;
- support for presbyteries in the training and continuing education of pastors;
- support for young people in transition from rural to regional;
- Support for the production and sharing of worship resources for small rural congregations.

Selection Criterion

- Applications will be assessed in light of the activity/project enhancement of discipleship and/or ministry

Reporting Requirements

The reporting requirement of the grant is that at the conclusion of the study/project summary be made to the Educational Grants and Scholarships Committee giving;

- an assessment of the activity (as a guide to others who may consider this type of activity in the future);
- identification of the extent to which the educational goals were reached;
- comments on the value of the event for the person's ministry and/or targeted community/congregation.

It is expected that the acquittal report will be submitted within three months of the completion of the proposed course/workshop/event.

Application Process

Applicants need to complete the Application Form found [here](#).

The applicant will need to:

- provide a short (500 word) description of the proposed project;
- address the Selection Criteria;
- describe the format and timing of the Acquittal Report;
- indicate other funding sources (if any);
- indicate previous eLM (CTM) support (if any);
- complete and have signed the Congregation/Presbytery Support Statement.

Supporting documentation

Please attach the following:

- single page of information about the course/workshop/event (that is, publicity information, including website information)
- evidence of partnerships (if appropriate)
- completed and signed Congregation/Presbytery Support Statement.

Enquiries

For any enquiries relating to this grant please call Centre for Theology & Ministry
(03) 9340 8800

Applications may be submitted electronically online [here](#) or completed by hand and mailed to:

Grants
Educational Grants and Scholarships Committee
Centre for Theology & Ministry
29 College Crescent
PARKVILLE VIC 3052

Further information: grants@victas.uca.org.au