

Sustainability, Lay ministry, Finance

Sustainability of our buildings

We believe that a visible Christian presence in all our communities is important, and that we need to work with our ecumenical partners to maintain that Christian presence in an appropriate form. However we also recognise that in places we have too many church buildings which can hinder the work of mission. Therefore :

- We are committed to maintaining a Christian presence in the communities we are currently in.
- We are committed to developing any new work ecumenically wherever we can, and in ensuring a continuing presence in all the villages.
- We are committed to supporting those churches that are the only visible presence in a village as far as we can
- We are committed to supporting those churches that have identified a particular mission focus in their communities.
- We are committed to reviewing regularly where we need to prioritise our resources.

Finance

We are committed to using our financial resources to enable the circuit priorities to be furthered in line with Our Calling. We recognise that we need to prioritise ministry and mission. Therefore in developing a budget and deciding the criteria for the use of the Circuit Advance Fund the Circuit Meeting must ensure that its decisions are in line with those priorities.

Therefore:

- The Circuit Meeting will agree the criteria for the giving of grants to the church and regularly review these criteria
- The Circuit Meeting will ensure that the budget reflects the vision and calling of the circuit
- The Circuit Leadership Team will encourage local churches to set their budgets in line with circuit priorities
- As a circuit we will encourage all individuals in our churches to responsible giving

Criteria for awarding of grants from the circuit advance fund

- The project is mission or ministry orientated
- The project encourages the vision of the church expressed in "Our Calling"
- The church has identified its mission focus or
- The church is the sole Christian presence in the community
- The local church is showing responsible budgeting
- The local church is actively encouraging individuals to give responsibly

To encourage the local churches to think through these issues the local church will be encouraged to fill in an appropriate application form that the CLT will evaluate before bringing to the circuit meeting for approval.

Budget Priorities

The budget will reflect the need

- for training,
- to support all forms of ministry lay and ordained.
- to take seriously the circuit's responsibility as employers.
- To support ministry and mission

Lay ministry

Each person has a ministry and a role to play in the church. There are a variety of roles and not all are best served by an ordained person. Some people fulfil their calling outside of the church in service in the world, others are called to ministry within the church.

- We are committed to supporting all people in their ministry either inside or outside of the church
- For every task that needs to be fulfilled we will identify whether that role can be best fulfilled with ordained or lay people.
- We will seek to find the people with the gifts to fulfil any given role
- We will seek to empower them, support them, train them and equip them to fulfil that role.