

## **POLICY FOR THE SUPPORT OF CHURCHES IN CRISIS**

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**DATED**

**2017**

The Circuit recognises that there can be a point in the life of a Church where its very existence is threatened. The reasons for this can be several but in general will hinge on a churches ability to sustain itself into the future when numbers, both financially and congregation wise, fall to levels where the Church cannot meet its commitments to both the Circuit and to its congregation and wider community.

The Circuit has set aside monies within the Model Trust Fund to support Churches where there is a compelling case for financial support to be given. A compelling case would have the following elements;

- a) Circumstances within the Church mean that it has insufficient reserves to meet its commitments in the short term;
- b) The Church has put a plan in place to address the issue such that sustainability from its own resources can be restored within a two year period and this plan has the support of the Church Council and its Minister;
- c) There is a clear commitment from the congregation to grow through mission and outreach through the plan referred to at (b);

Where a Church believes that it should get this support then a written case must be made to the Circuit Leadership Team by the Church Council and including a copy of the most recent church accounts.

The merits of any request for support from the Model Trust Fund will be moderated for decision by the Circuit Leadership Team and in particular the Superintendent Minister, The Honorary Treasurer and the Senior Circuit Steward. Their considerations will take into account the overall financial position of the Church including what it has in Reserve and how this has been considered in making any application for support.

The maximum amount that will be granted will be for a two year period and will be no more than 25% of each year's individual Church assessment. No further applications will be considered from this fund for the following 5 years after this 2 year period.

It needs to be understood that this fund is not to support property or asset based projects but it is to support the extension of God's Mission within a community where there is a clear vision on mission and need for the future but where the ability to deliver this is currently under serious threat whether it be as a result of internal or external factors.

**APPROVED BY THE CIRCUIT MEETING: ..... 2017**

**SIGNED BY: .....**

**(Superintendent Minister)**