



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: MINISTRY INITIATIVES TRUST		REFERENCE NUMBER REG-007
DATE APPROVED 31 July 2025 by Bishop-in-Council		VERSION 2.0
IMPLEMENTATION DATE Immediate	REVIEW DATE AND FREQUENCY As required but at least 3 yearly	RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW Bishop-in-Council

1. PURPOSE

A Ministry Initiatives Trust is a component of “Restructuring for Mission and Ministry” approved by the Synod in September 2020. This document communicates the principles for the operation of the Ministry Initiatives Trust.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to ministry and mission conducted or controlled by an entity of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton substantially within the geography of the Diocese.
- 2.2 This policy does not apply to the activities of Diocesan schools, Anglicare North Coast or Lismore Parish Centre Pre School except where they are participating in the proposed ministry with another entity or entities of the Diocese.

3. DEFINITIONS

“Corporate Trustees” – The Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton

“Diocese” – the Anglican Diocese of Grafton.

“Finance and Information Systems Manager (FISM)” – the senior Diocesan employee responsible for the financial management of the Diocese.

“Marks of Mission” - the Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission. They express the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic and integral mission. “The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service
- 4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

“Ministry Initiatives Trust (MIT)” – a trust under the management of The Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton accumulating a share of the funds realised in selling places of worship as part of “Restructuring for Mission and Ministry”.

“Parish” – a Parish of the Diocese as defined by Chapter 10 of the Grafton Diocesan Governance Ordinance 2008 including a Transitional Ministry District.

“Restructuring for Mission and Ministry” – a plan to encourage new forms of ministry suitable for the Diocese in the present and the next 20 years which includes the alteration of existing ministry structures (e.g. boundaries and property) to assist with the sustainability of ministries.

“Senior Clergy Team” – those members of the clergy who hold any of the following roles acting in consultation: Bishop of Grafton, Dean of Grafton, Diocesan Archdeacon, Regional Archdeacons and Ministry Support Officers.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Quoting from “Restructuring for Mission and Ministry” (page 28):
“The new Ministry Initiatives Trust is being established to seed those initiatives for mission or ministry that have one or more of the following features:
- A new initiative that could be replicated elsewhere in the Diocese;
 - A mission or ministry initiative benefitting a region;
 - A mission or ministry resource suitable for use across the Diocese;
 - A mission or ministry initiative supporting an area that lacks the necessary resources to implement this initiative.”
- 4.2 The Ministry Initiatives Trust (MIT) is to promote new ministries rather than maintenance of existing of ministries.
- 4.3 The MIT is to encourage the novel and innovative initiatives rather than sustain the status quo.
- 4.4 The MIT is to support initiatives that substantially promote the first two of the Anglican Communion’s Marks of Mission.
- 4.5 The MIT is not for the promotion of commercial ventures.
- 4.6 The MIT is not for the purchase of buildings and property or construction of new buildings however some use of the funds for adjusting existing buildings for the needs of a particular ministry initiative may be considered.
- 4.7 The MIT is not a capital preserved trust fund. Where there are sufficient initiatives justifying funding from the MIT, the trust may be accessed beyond annual earnings but not to the extent where the fund is exhausted prior to 2027. The maximum amount of funds to be allocated in any one year shall be the previous year’s earnings of the MIT plus 15% of the uncommitted principal of the MIT.
- 4.8 Applications will be invited annually and the merits of each application compared prior to funding being determined. This may mean that not all compliant applications will receive funding and not all of the funds allocated in that year will be awarded. The maximum expenditure of the MIT should only occur when both the quality and quantity of applications is high.

5. REQUIREMENTS

5.1 APPLICATIONS TO THE FUND

- 5.1.1 Applications for funding from the MIT shall open on 1 April of each year and close on 30 June of that year.
- 5.1.2 Applications shall include a Ministry Initiatives Trust Application Form (Schedule A) but also may include such other information as the applicant(s) wishes to form part of their application.
- 5.1.3 Applications can be made for annual funding for a period of up to but not exceeding 3 years.
- 5.1.4 Applications are to be submitted to the Registrar who shall ensure that applications are collated and provided to each member of the Senior Clergy Team.
- 5.1.5 In exceptional circumstances, the Senior Clergy Team may consider applications received outside the dates provided in 5.1.1.

5.2 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

- 5.2.1 All applications shall be considered by the Senior Clergy Team after the closure of the application period.
- 5.2.2 The following attributes shall be considered favourably where present in an application to receive MIT funding support:
 - (a) A new or innovative ministry is established
 - (b) A clear link to the Marks of Mission with an emphasis on the first and/or second Mark of Mission
 - (c) The initiative could provide a good model for ministry in other parts of the Diocese
 - (d) The initiative could generate useful resources for ministry in other parts of the Diocese
 - (e) The initiative has congregational support
 - (f) The initiative is consistent with the Ministry Action Plan of the Parish
 - (g) The Parish has allocated some of its financial resources to the initiative
 - (h) More than one Parish is an active participant
 - (i) The initiative is likely to be sustainable
 - (j) Key Performance Indicators have been identified
- 5.2.3 The following attributes shall be considered unfavourably where present in an application receiving MIT funding support:
 - (a) The participating Parish(es) has sufficient financial resources to conduct the initiative without MIT funds being provided
 - (b) the named Parish(es) is not a genuine stakeholder or participant in the initiative
 - (c) The initiative is unlikely to be sustainable
- 5.2.4 The following attributes shall cause an application for MIT funding support to be rejected:
 - (a) The initiative is neither new nor innovative
 - (b) The initiative is not significantly related to either the first or second Mark of Mission
 - (c) The application includes the purchase of buildings or property or the construction of a new building

- (d) The application involves building maintenance
- (e) The Parish is not a significant and integral participant in the initiative
- (f) The initiative establishes a commercial venture

- 5.2.5 The Registrar shall provide the Senior Clergy Team with details of the maximum funds available for expenditure in the current year.
- 5.2.6 The Senior Clergy Team may use any methodology or scoring system as they believe appropriate to assess and rank applications providing that the criteria in 5.2.2, 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 are followed.
- 5.2.7 The Senior Clergy Team may ask questions of applicants and seek further information from some or all applicants for the purpose of determining the suitability of an application.
- 5.2.8 The decision of the Senior Clergy Team is final and there is no appeal or review available for applicants.
- 5.2.9 The Senior Clergy Team may, where they believe it is warranted, make a decision of funding, conditional upon the provision of further information or an addition or amendment of the plans outlined in the application.

5.3 REPORTING

- 5.3.1 At the conclusion of the annual determination of applications, the Senior Clergy Team shall provide the Registrar with a list of the applications that shall receive MIT funding and the funds to be allocated along with a list of the applications that did not receive funding.
- 5.3.2 The Senior Clergy Team may include reasons and comments with the information provided at 5.3.1 but is not obliged to do so.
- 5.3.3 Using the information at 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, the Registrar shall:
 - (a) make a summary report to Bishop-in-Council and Synod;
 - (b) make a report to the Corporate Trustees to guide the planning and allocation of trust funds;
 - (c) advise each applicant with details of the outcome of their application and any conditions or expectations that apply.

5.4 EXPECTATIONS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- 5.4.1 Successful applicants will be expected to:
 - (a) report not less than annually to the Bishop-in-Council on the progress of the initiative including indicators of success, problems encountered and expenditure incurred.
 - (b) provide at least one article with photographs for the North Coast Anglican
 - (c) accommodate enquiries from other Parishes and ministries looking to undertake a similar project
- 5.4.2 Provide any report requested by the Registrar or Finance and information Systems Manager related to the administration of this funding and/or the funding program.

6. FORMS

- 6.1 Ministry Initiatives Trust Application Form (Schedule A). This is available for download on the website of the Diocese.

7. REFERENCES

Restructuring for Mission and Ministry

<https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Restructuring-for-Mission-and-Ministry-Daring-to-Live-into-Gods-Future-for-Us.pdf>

Declaration of Trust – Ministry Initiatives Trust

<https://www.graftondiocese.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Ministry-Initiatives-Trust.pdf>



SCHEDULE A

MINISTRY INITIATIVES TRUST APPLICATION FORM

Applicant details:

Organisation Name			
Contact Person			
Email		Phone Number	
Role in Organisation			

Partners in application:

Organisation Name			
Nature of involvement			
Contact Person			
Email		Phone Number	
Role in Organisation			

Duplicate this form to add details of other partners in this application where applicable.

The Initiative

Title of Initiative			
Description of Initiative (in brief)			
Funding Justification (in brief)			
Funding requested	\$	☐ Once off funding ☐ Funding over years	
Funding pledged	By applicant: \$	By partner(s): \$	

Signature:**Date:**

ALL APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ALSO SUPPLY DETAILED INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATION.