

The Guild



INITIATIVE FUND

The Guild's report to the 2001 General Assembly included this proposal:

"The next step - and one possibly not far off - may be to offer groups at presbytery and congregational level, the opportunity to seek support for local projects and initiatives consistent with the movement's (Guild's) aim. This may mean using financial reserves to break new ground, but how can we not do that if we really mean to enable people, in the words of our aim, 'to express their faith in worship, prayer and action'?"

Since that Assembly, the Guild's finance and general purposes committee, after taking advice from the General Treasurer's department, has set up an Initiative Fund of £10,000. This money is part of the reserves which have built up over some years from the investment income on a legacy. **It is not money which has been paid by members in capitation fees for the operating expenses of the Guild, or given for any other specific project work.** The Guild's executive committee shared this proposal with council conveners at their 2001 conference, where it met with an enthusiastic response. Since then the fund has been made widely known and the first grants have been made.

What sort of projects are envisaged?

- Ideas for new ventures that would benefit the local community, from drop-in centres to community newsletters.
- Educational projects to raise awareness of particular issues or share skills.
- Initiatives that link our communities in support of projects in other parts of the world.
- Schemes which foster good ecumenical partnership and understanding while benefiting the wider community

In short, any worthwhile idea which Guild members may have, but for which the necessary funding to get it off the ground is lacking. We encourage you to be innovative and challenge our thinking so that initiatives develop in such ways which truly serve Christ at grass-roots level.

We hope that this explains clearly the nature and purpose of the Initiative Fund. In this development the Guild is in step with much current thinking in the Church. The *Church without Walls* report emphasises the need to empower the local church and encourage local ministry and mission to our communities and our world. We hope that in releasing some of the fruits of the careful stewardship of the past, we will be helping you to plant the seeds of future growth.