

Trustee Application Information

The Church of Scotland Housing and Loan Fund for Retired Ministers and Widows and Widowers of Ministers

We are grateful for your interest in becoming a new Trustee of the Fund. Please read on to find out more about what this involves and the specific skills we require to complement those who are currently on the group.

The Housing and Loan Fund celebrated its 50th birthday in 2019. The General Assembly of 1965 recognised the difficulties faced by Ministers in providing their own house for retirement and had approved the setting up of a "Retired Ministers' Housing Fund". The Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (forerunner of the Ministers' Pension Scheme), the Ministry Department and The Baird Trust contributed money towards the setting up of the Fund.

Currently the Fund owns 190 houses all over Scotland. Retired Ministers pay rent equivalent to 50% of market rent, whilst widows and widowers and bereaved civil partners of Ministers pay 25% of market rent.

The Fund can also give loans up to 70% of the maximum house purchase (currently capped at £200,000). There are around 100 loans in place at the present time. Short-term Bridging Loans are available in limited circumstances.

The Trustees endeavour to ensure that all their houses are well-maintained and benefit from improvements to keep them up-to-date and to provide the occupants with a safe, warm and comfortable dwelling.

The day-to-day running of the Fund is dealt with by 3 members of staff – the Secretary, the Property Manager and the Support Assistant.

The Fund has a maximum of 11 Trustees: up to three Ministers of the Church and one member of the Church appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Faith Nurture Forum; up to four persons (either Ministers or members of the Church) appointed by the General Assembly on the nomination of the Fund's Trustees; and up to three individuals appointed by the Baird Trust.

The present vacancy is for a Church Minister or member to be nominated by the Fund's Trustees and approved at the General Assembly in 2022.

The Trustees must maintain a wide skills base. If you feel that you have skills and time to offer or have previously held a trustee position elsewhere then we would be delighted to have an application from you.

If you would like to explore the idea further before coming to a decision as to whether this might be for you, then, do please contact the Secretary and she will be happy to speak with you.

Yours sincerely

Rev MaryAnn R Rennie, Chair

Hazel Bett, Secretary

hbett@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel 07929418762