

**IV 'SEEDS for GROWTH' FUND REGULATIONS (REGS IV 2022) (AMENDED BY REGS IV 2023 AND REGS III 2024)**

*Edinburgh, 23 May 2022, Session 6*

1. The Church of Scotland *Seeds for Growth Fund* ("the Fund") shall be established from 1 January 2023.
2. Responsibility for the Fund shall rest with the Assembly Trustees who act as the Trustees of the Unincorporated Entities Scottish Charity Number 011353 ("The Trustees"). The Trustees may establish a body to oversee the Fund on their behalf.
3. The purposes of Seeds for Growth funding are to support the numerical and spiritual growth of the Church of Scotland through:
  - (i) Developing mission through new worshipping communities,
  - (ii) Developing and nurturing faith in those under the age of 40, and
  - (iii) Fostering discipleship and revitalisation within established congregations, with the aim of growing an existing congregation or developing a new worshipping community.
4. The Fund shall operate for a 7-year period until 31st December 2029. A review conducted by the Trustees shall take place after the first three years of operation and shall measure the success of the Fund against previously agreed criteria to determine future direction and investment.
5. The Fund shall replace the *Go For It* Fund. Administration of grants already awarded out of the *Go For It* Fund shall become the responsibility of the Fund. Monies already committed in the *Go For It* Fund at 31 December 2019 shall be transferred to the Fund.
6. An application to the Fund may be made by (i) a Presbytery or a group of Presbyteries, or (ii) provided that prior approval of the relevant Presbytery or Presbyteries has been given and that validation of this is supplied to the Committee along with the application, a congregation or congregations.
7. Applicants to the Fund should be able to show that they have worked diligently to: (i) raise funds from local sources (including the Presbytery/ies and congregation(s) making or involved in the application); and, (ii) raise funds from appropriate external sources. Funding, up to 100%, will not necessarily be contingent on funding being provided by any other body.
8. The Trustees shall provide core funding from the unrestricted funds held on behalf of the Unincorporated Entities. This money shall cover both grants to be paid from the Fund and the administration of the Fund.
9. The Fund may be supplemented by other funds raised within and beyond the Church.
10. The Terms of Reference for use of the Fund set out in the Schedule below shall be developed and monitored by the Trustees and any amendments shall be approved by the General Assembly as part of the annual reporting on the operation of the Fund. The Trustees may also fund grants from restricted funds held by the Unincorporated Entities if the purpose is consistent with donor restrictions.
11. The Trustees shall be responsible for monitoring the ongoing effectiveness of the Fund. The Trustees shall report annually on the work of the Fund to the General Assembly with a focus on how the Fund is achieving its primary aims as set out in section 3 of these Regulations.

## **SCHEDULE**

### The *Seeds for Growth Fund* Implementation Group Terms of Reference

#### Committee

1. The Seeds for Growth Fund Implementation Group (the “Committee”) is a Committee of the Assembly Trustees.
2. The purpose for which the Committee is established is to oversee the operation of the Seeds for Growth Fund on behalf of the Assembly Trustees. In carrying out those duties the Committee shall adhere to the relevant Regulations issued by the General Assembly and to the guidelines, criteria and governance requirements approved by the Assembly Trustees.
3. The size of individual grants, guidelines, criteria and governance requirements shall be reviewed annually by the Assembly Trustees in consultation with the Committee. Grants in excess of £75,000.00 shall require individual approval by the Assembly Trustees.

#### Criteria

The Committee shall assess applications in accordance with the following criteria.

1. Collaboration with other partners, specifically including ecumenical co-operation, will be encouraged where such collaboration furthers numerical and spiritual growth of the Church.
2. Applications must demonstrate a visionary approach and must set out the anticipated effect of the project at a congregational or Presbytery level and include a clear plan and measurable targets.
3. Applications must provide a realistic assessment of how the project will continue beyond the period of funding and whether it will generate growth elsewhere within the Church.
4. Applications must include means of developing and sharing related experiences and good practice across the Church.
5. Applications must be focused on a defined project.
6. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the following prioritisation:
  - Developing mission through new ecclesial communities and church planting
  - Engaging in intergenerational approaches to and participation in worship

#### Governance

1. The operation of the Seeds for Growth Fund shall initially be overseen by a Committee of nine persons, increasing to eleven from 1 June 2024, two of whom will be Assembly Trustees. The other members shall be appointed by the Assembly Trustees working in collaboration with the Nomination Committee. Members so appointed shall serve a three-year term, renewable unless otherwise determined by the Assembly Trustees. Of those first appointed, four shall serve three years renewable and three shall serve two years, renewable for a three-year term. Members appointed from 1 June 2024 shall be appointed for a three year term. Trustee members shall serve during their appointed term as an Assembly Trustee.
2. The Committee shall meet at least five times per year to consider strategy and applications. On special cause shown the Committee may consider an application outwith those times; but in so doing the Committee must determine both that there is an urgency as to the application which requires a special meeting and also that the application is of such importance that to consider it without comparison with other applications would not improperly disadvantage such potential applications.

3. In carrying out their duties the Committee will engage with applicants through regional teams and carry out the process of assessment with local Presbytery representatives. The Committee shall have the ability to co-opt additional non-voting members who hold requisite expertise in certain areas onto the Committee as required.

4. A quorum of the Committee shall be five, whether attending in person or by electronic means. One attendee must be an Assembly Trustee and one must be the Convener or another Assembly Trustee specifically nominated by the Convener for the purpose of the meeting in question.

5. Grants of £1,000 and below can be awarded at the discretion of the Grants Manager. Any such grants awarded will be presented for information to the next meeting of the Committee.

6. The Committee shall maintain Minutes of their meetings, duly approved by all members attending within two weeks of the meeting. The Minutes shall include a full account of the work of the regional "team" with a synopsis of all applications received and the reasoning for recommendations made to the Committee.

7. In respect that the Assembly Trustees are the Charity Trustees for the assets to be used by the Seeds for Growth Fund:

- (i) the Minutes of meetings of the Committee shall be sent to the Assembly Trustees within one month of the meeting;
- (ii) in carrying out their duties the Committee shall submit quarterly reports to the Assembly Trustees as to their administration of the assets of the Fund and any proposed strategy for future operation, such report to be in terms of a template to be provided by the Assembly Trustees;
- (iii) the Committee shall maintain such accounts as the Assembly Trustees require;
- (iv) the work of the Committee in considering and granting applications shall be carried out in accordance with a budgetary framework, agreed with the Assembly Trustees; and
- (v) any liability arising out of the acting of a Committee member in good faith shall be borne as if the acting of an Assembly Trustee.