

***Mission Support Funding Guidelines - Bay of Quinte Conference  
Support in Ministry Committee, 2006  
Endorsed by the Bay of Quinte Conference Executive March 2007***

**A. Rationale for Revisions to the Conference Mission Support Guidelines:**

The Bay of Quinte Conference Support in Ministry Committee is mandated to use Mission Support funding to maximize ministry across the Conference, and to see that there is adequate provision for the support of Pastoral Charges, Chaplaincies, and Outreach Ministries, both church and non-church based. Over the past few years, it has become clear to the Support in Ministry Committee that revisions are needed to the guidelines by which the allocation of Mission Support Funds happens annually in the Conference. This is due to a number of reasons, including:

- Our desire to encourage faithful ministry across the Conference, within the context of the provision by Presbyteries of pastoral assessment, planning, and oversight;
- Our desire to be judicious with the limited resources entrusted to us;
- The reality that the current requests received by the Support in Ministry Committee exceeds the annual Mission Support funding provided to the us;
- The projection from the General Council Office of a likely continued decline in overall Mission Support funding in the years ahead;
- Our perception and concern that many grant recipients receive annual funding without clear assessment having been done as to the future viability and sustainability of these ministries;
- Our perception and concern that many grant recipients have grown dependant upon Mission Support Funding, with no plans in place for alternative funding or self-sustaining ministry;
- Our perception and concern that new mission and ministry cannot be adequately funded when all present funds are going to ongoing ministries receiving annual ongoing funding.
- Our desire to use Mission Support funding to enable transformational change in those pastoral charges ready to embrace such change.

Therefore, the Support in Ministry Committee is proposing the revisions found in this document that will guide future funding of ministries beginning in 2007.

**B. Assumptions Regarding Mission:**

**1. There are Core Principles for Mission in the United Church of Canada. They include the following:**

- Congregations are the primary mission units of the church and need to be encouraged, challenged and supported to exercise their mission faithfully.

- Mission needs to seek, create, and support new opportunities and initiatives for ministry, and support long-term, sustainable and effective ministries.
- We are called to be both faithful and to take risks in doing mission.
- Mission must address unmet needs in the form of service and care, particularly for the poor, the suffering, the sick and the marginalized.
- Mission is enacted for empowerment, not dependence, and seeks always to move beyond charity towards addressing the root causes of suffering.

**2. Mission must be “owned” by all levels of the church to be most effective.**

- Mission priorities need to be determined in conjunction with the priorities of Presbyteries and the entire Conference, named from time to time by representative bodies.
- The use of Mission Support funding will always be accompanied by measurable local support by all interested parties.

**3. Mission Support funding must be allocated in ways that most effectively promote mission.**

- Mission Support funding from the conference will support local mission, and will generally be used in ways that will develop new ministry, extend existing ministry, and sustain ministries through periods of reshaping and redevelopment.
- Mission support funding will therefore give priority to those ministries that are willing to develop and implement a strategic plan, including time limitations for the need for mission support grants. Time Limitations, or “Sunset clauses”, allow for mission support funding to be made available to the broadest number of ministries.

**4. Ministries that are willing to engage in a transformational process to move towards greater health and stability should be encouraged with a range of supports, including Mission Support funding for those that qualify.** Participation in a transformational process would include:

- The articulation of a clear Mission Statement.
- The development of a five-year ministry plan.
- Measurable criteria for evaluating achievement of the ministry plan.
- A strategy for annual stewardship promotion within the ministry.
- Affirmation by the Presbytery Oversight Committee for the ministry’s plan within the context of the overall needs and goals as determined and articulated by that Presbytery for all the ministries within its bounds.

**C. Revised Guidelines for the use of Mission Support Funds:**

1. The first 25% of the Conference’s Mission Support funding will be allocated to those ministries that are willing to engage in a transformational process

towards greater health, stability, and vitality. These pastoral charges will need to be identified by their Presbytery as a mission priority.

2. New Ministries – a minimum of 5% of funds will be allocated to first time applicants each year. More may be available after other priorities are met.
3. Current overall priorities for Conference Mission Support funding will remain the same, i.e., i) Pastoral Charges, ii) Chaplaincies, iii) Church-based Outreach Ministries; and iv) Non Church-based Outreach Ministries in that order. However, it is the Support in Ministry Committee's desire that in future we not reach a situation where requests for funding from a higher priority category (for e.g. pastoral charges) results in no funding be available for a lower priority category (for e.g. Outreach Ministries). Therefore, funding for Pastoral Charges will not exceed 50% of the total Mission Support funding available for any given year.
4. Presbyteries endorsing applications for Mission Support funding will be asked to demonstrate how these applications fit in with their overall assessment of mission strategy and congregational viability within the Presbytery.
5. Supports will continue to be offered by the Conference SIM Committee, staff, and other Conference staff where appropriate to assist ministries in this process. Where requested, support will also be offered to Presbyteries struggling to determine an overall plan for ministry within their bounds, including the development of mission strategies and viability assessments.
6. Priority will be given to ministry applications that demonstrate the ongoing support of their Presbytery, measured in terms such as Presbytery financial support, wider congregational financial support, volunteer hours given, prayer support, accompaniment, and so on. Evidence of this commitment would come to the conference committee in the form of a narrative statement of the effective support offered by various Presbytery committees and congregations over the signature of the Chair or Secretary of Presbytery, as well as demonstrated financial support as appears in the audited financial statements of the recipient ministry. Specific measurable support is what is being looked for that demonstrates church commitment.
7. All applications are encouraged to include a projected timeline for their mission support funding needs.
8. If it is clear that a pastoral charge cannot reasonably be seen to be viable on its own resources in the foreseeable future, a decision may be made to adopt this ministry as a mission of the Presbytery. The Support in Ministry committee will consider the provision of grants when a pastoral charge will help to maintain a United church presence in a geographically isolated area, OR where a United Church presence would not otherwise be viable AND when there has been a careful consideration of the number of congregations and how various parts of the pastoral charge can be served with a worship and/or pastoral care ministry.

9. The current provisions for Parish Nursing Programs will remain the same, i.e., startup funding for congregationally-based parish nursing programming will be limited to a maximum of three years.
  
10. Pastoral charges whose total annual income as reported in the UCC Yearbook exceeds the maximum income eligibility threshold established by the General Council office, plus \$50,000, will not be eligible for consideration for a Mission Support grant. (This has always been the operating assumption of the Support in Ministry Committee, and was formally adopted in 2006 for the record.)