



MIDDLE RIDGE UNITING CHURCH
264 Stenner St Middle Ridge

16th – 18th June 2023

PROPOSAL: Extension to MDF deadline

I propose that the Presbytery:

1. request the Synod Standing Committee extend the deadline for approved missional plans to spend old* MDF accounts from October 2023 to June 2024.
2. devise a “method of support” to assist congregations in discerning how best to utilise their MDF funds.

(* In this proposal, “old” means 7 years old or older.)

Background & Rationale

In 2022, the Council of Synod (Synod-in-session) adopted a new policy regarding MDF accounts. One part of this resolution determined that MDF accounts that are 7 years old or older require an approved missional plan by October 2023. Congregations with MDF accounts of this age but without an approved missional plan will lose “ownership” of the account for it will pass to the Presbytery.

Despite this new policy being adopted and communicated for over 12 months, some congregations are only just realising the implications and therefore only just determining what to do with their funds. The temptation will now be to rush a decision on how to spend the money before it is handed over to another council of the Church. The risk of spending this money on less-than-effective projects will be increased.

However if the deadline was extended and congregations were offered suitable support for discerning an effective missional plan, this MDF money will be spent more appropriately.

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If you have questions, please email before the meeting.

