

MRC Questions and Answers

How does a congregation apply for a grant:

The congregation should fill out the grant application form and send it to Presbytery, who after approving it will forward it to Synod Property, who is the owner of the property, for signature. The application could hold much of the rationale for the suggested work the application includes but extra material for Presbytery and Synod may be included to address the 'Marks of Mission'. This extra material would not be forwarded with the grant application. Approvals by MRC and/or the Property Trust and/or FIP board in relation to expenditure and Council approvals still apply.

Does the congregation have to ask Presbytery if they can spend money on property or redevelopment:

That depends on the cost of the works, if Council approvals are required and if asbestos or other dangerous materials are involved.

1. For any amount of money if Council or other government approvals are required or dangerous materials are involved then Synod Property Trust will be required to sign the forms. Synod will ask Presbytery MRC for advice before signing off on the project. Best course of action is for the congregation to ask Presbytery MRC to facilitate the process. The application should include the Mission of the congregation.
2. Over \$10,000 and below \$50,000 Presbytery MRC should be consulted and approval sought. The application should respond to the 'Marks of Mission' and include all costs.
3. Over \$50,000 the Synod FIP board approves the application. They will seek the guidance of Presbytery MRC. Again, the application should respond to the 'Marks of Mission' and include all costs. Presbytery MRC and the Synod are happy to work with the congregation in the preparation of the application.

This process ensures that the congregation is getting best value and is missionally focussed, that the church is protected and that all short term and long term issues in regard to legislation and insurance considered and included.

We want to rent our manse secularly – can we?

Yes – but there are some things to consider.

- If you use a Real Estate you will lose a percentage in fees (possible 9% or more).
- If you rent it at market value you will have to pay Land Tax. (possibly 2%) This may add up to 30%-35% of the received rent and should be considered before proceeding to rent.
- It may be better to rent at 65% of the market value (no Land Tax is payable then) to a suitable tenant and give them the benefit of cheaper rent. Try advertising through local churches.
- Rental agreements and paperwork is still required and this can be accessed at the Presbytery office.

- Completed forms should be sent to Presbytery office for approval by MRC and signature by Synod Property Trust.