

MISSION IMPACT FUND

Investing in Mission on the Frontline

GUIDELINES 2024



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST® CHURCH

I. INTRODUCTION

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has as its strategy reaching the world under a thematic focus of, **I Will Go!** This focus envisions every level of the Church, every institution and every member engaged in some way to fulfill the commission to reach the unreached for Christ! Aligning financial resources to support this strategy is a commitment church leaders need to make as part of their organizational stewardship. The local church stands on the frontline of reaching the world in the various communities where they are located. Supporting the local church in applying **I Will Go** is an investment in mission where the greatest impact can be realized.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the **Mission Impact Fund** is to allocate financial resources to be used in supporting **I Will Go** initiatives with special preference to those being administered by local churches. By providing support to local churches whose project submissions are approved, it expresses the intent of the General Conference to:

- Inspire existing local churches to engage with, and meet the needs of, their communities in new and innovative ways
- Invest in the frontline mission of local churches
- Impact the world for Christ one community at a time

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS

The source of funding for the **Mission Impact Fund** will primarily come from unrestricted maturities of planned gifts from church members. In addition, contributions may come from designated donations to support this investment in frontline mission. As funds are received from unrestricted maturities or donations designated, they will be applied to the **Mission Impact Fund** as follows:

- 80% of Unrestricted Maturities
- 100% of Designated Donations

IV. ACCOUNTING AND USE

General Conference Treasury has established the **Mission Impact Fund** as a separate fund. Reports will be issued showing the total amount available to invest in **I Will GO** projects and the budgeted amount to spend for the upcoming year. The budgeting guideline is to spend up to 20% of any unrestricted maturities or specific donations received in the subsequent year and each year thereafter. This provides a balance of not

spending all resources in one year while not holding the money unspent for an indefinite period.

The General Conference Strategic Planning and Budgeting Committee will approve the budgeted amount available for distribution each year and General Conference Treasury will advise Divisions how much is available.

V. PARTNERSHIP AND PROMOTION

General Conference Treasury will partner with the Planned Giving & Trust Services Department (PGTS) to administer the **Mission Impact Fund** to ensure the financial resources are appropriately applied, and the results actively promoted.

PGTS will promote the Mission Impact through Division PGTS departments world-wide.

VI. DIVISION GUIDANCE

Divisions are responsible to promote the Mission Impact Fund within the context of their territory and in harmony with their strategic plan.

One approach to promoting this fund may be to generate ideas at the Division for projects at the local level that are in harmony with the Division's strategic plan. Or, another approach, may be to allow for innovative ideas to originate at a local church and require approval and support for the project at the Conference and Union before being considered at the Division.

Projects may be implemented at multiple churches and still be considered one project.

It is the responsibility of the Division to ensure all funding is used as stated in the project proposal and to submit reports for all projects approved within its territory. If final or interim reports for approved projects are not submitted to the GC PGTS Department, then funding for future projects within that Division will be put on hold.

VII. APPLICATION

To apply for funding, a Mission Impact Fund Project Proposal is required to be submitted through the PGTS Department of the related Division Office. The application portal will open in January of each year. A unique project application link will be issued to each Division for each year. Contact the Division PGTS Direct to see if your project would qualify. Contact information for the Division PGTS Director may be found at the General Conference PGTS Department webpage willplan.org/missionimpactfund.

All communication regarding the project proposal must be directed to the applying organization's next higher organization and Division Planned Giving & Trust Services department. Local organizations are not to communicate directly with the General Conference.

The project proposal includes the following:

1. The profile of the local organization(s) implementing the project
2. The purpose and intended impact of the project
3. The detailed plan to accomplish the project
4. The budget for the project which also indicates financial resources committed by the local organization(s) and availability of additional resources from other sources
5. Description of measures for determining the project's success
6. The KPI of the Strategic Plan the project is addressing and how it is doing so
7. Description of how the Division will ensure the funding is used as intended

VIII. DIVISION REVIEW

The Division PGTS department is tasked with completing the following pertaining to the Mission Impact Fund Project Proposal:

1. Ensure the accuracy of the information contained within the project proposal
2. Submit the proposal for review to the Division approval process
 - a. If the proposal meets with the organization's approval, consideration should be given to providing additional financial support to the project
3. Attach to the proposal minutes from the approving committee affirming operational support and specifying any financial commitment approved

IX. SUBMISSION TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Once support is given for the project proposal by the Division, the proposal is to be submitted to the General Conference PGTS Department for review and approval by the Mission Impact Fund Advisory Committee.

In 2023, and each year thereafter, project proposals must be submitted to the GC PGTS Department by **May 1**. Proposals will be reviewed, and funding decisions announced at the Annual Council of the same year.

X. MISSION IMPACT FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Mission Impact Fund Advisory Committee will review all project proposals submitted by the application deadline each year. The committee will have complete discretion on whether to recommend funding a project proposal to the General Conference Strategic Budget and Planning Committee.

XI. FUNDING

Funding for project proposals recommended by the Mission Impact Fund Advisory Committee and approved by The Strategic Planning and Budget Committee will be directed to the applying organization’s Division office. It is the responsibility of the Division to ensure the funds are distributed to the approved organization. It is within the Division’s discretion to release all the funds in one or more distributions to the organization.

XII. PROJECT REPORTS

All approved projects must submit to the General Conference PGTS Department through the local organization’s Division Office a final project report once the project has been completed and interim reports if the project lasts multiple years. An example of Project Report is available for download via the General Conference PGTS Department webpage willplan.org/missionimpactfund. Project reports are due January 31, 12 months after the the the year the project was approved for funding.