

## **Ecclesiastical Fund**

The essential roles of the Synod's Ecclesiastical Fund are to assist parishes to acquire, repair and maintain churches, church buildings and manses and to assist with funding the salaries of the academic staff of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Learning.

At the National Commitments Committee meeting, which was held two weeks earlier than the Ecclesiastical Fund committee meeting, there was general agreement that of the funds allocated by Synod for academic salaries \$50,000 would come from the Ecclesiastical Fund leaving \$511,956 from the Fund available for allocation to parishes for churches, buildings and manses.

There were 16 applications for funding this year asking for a total of \$1,080,690. This amount included Insurance and Building reports already approved by the 2009 AGM. Of the six large applications for amounts ranging from \$100,000 - \$300,000 two had advised the Committee formally by letter that a large application would be forthcoming and two were urgent and unavoidable requests for Camp Sewage Schemes.

After prayer, informed comment from presbytery representatives and careful discussion the committee made the allocations as set out in the schedule. In each case the decisions were unanimous.

This year we said goodbye and thank you to two long serving and valuable members Graeme Steel and Colin Hay and welcomed new member Russell Morton. I would like to thank each committee member for their good humour and wise counsel and Fergus Sime, Executive Officer, for his help.

Graham Hill

Convener