



Thanks to the generous members of the United Church and the General Council Office, we are pleased to announce the following grants made through:

The Seeds of Hope Granting Program:

From the Alfred J. Mitchell Fund

- ***Five Oaks*** (Burk's Falls, ON) \$2,320 in support of Luther's Legacies Conference which marks the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses by Martin Luther and will engage key Canadian scholars as presenters on the theme of Luther's legacies for the present moment.

From the Camping Trust Fund

- ***Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society*** (Lacombe, AB) \$2,500 in support of Kasota East Camp to repurpose and relocate a food kitchen/booth to provide greater opportunities for rental income.

From the Davey Family Fund

- ***Kamloops United Church*** (Kamloops, BC) \$2,110 in support of the Kamloops PRIDE choir the first of its kind in the area and a collaboration by the congregations and Kamloops PRIDE.

From the Faith and Mission Fund

- ***St. Andrews United Church*** (Turo, NS) \$3,750 in support of the Spirit Quest for Teens project which is outreach to youth in the community aged 13-19 through a fun and faith based environment with sports, music, dance and a café. There will also be a focus on leadership development.

From the Living Spirit Fund

- ***Montreal City Mission*** (Montreal, QC) \$15,000 in support of the Women Weaving their Dream project which bring together Syrian and refugee women and provide culturally sensitive workshops that will create a safe space to express their feelings of loss and grief, articulate the challenges in the new context and their dreams for the future. Once a network has been formed that allows this kind of sharing and mutual support, the women thus empowered will be ready for the next phase which will focus on economic participation and the skills needed to either join the workforce, create one's own small business or engage actively in volunteer work.
- ***Ecumenical Campus Ministry*** (Guelph, ON) \$12,000 in support of the Ecumenical Worship Campus project that will create a weekly worship community with services at a time that no



local congregation of any denomination offers, and will build to be a community of 66% students and 33% community members.

From the Kingscourt United Church Endowment Fund

- ***Coe Hill-St. Ola-The Ridge Pastoral Charge*** (Coe Hill, ON) \$500 in support of the Messy Church, Summer Pilot Project.

From the Ann Baker Fund

- ***Bedford House*** (Peterborough, ON) \$20,000 in support of the Bridging Teams project. Bedford House will gather congregational mentors to walk with low-income people living in poverty. With training and guidance, passionate volunteers will create circles of support and grow relationships across class divides.

From the Wesley C. Smith Fund

- ***St. Paul's United Church*** (Saskatoon, SK) \$2,000 in support of the Sutherland school reading and feeding project that will encourage elementary school children to use and improve their reading while engaging in cooking as a life skill. One a month the congregation will host students and mentor and support their reading and cooking efforts.

From the James Robertson Trust Fund

- ***Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre*** (Beausejour, MB) \$5,000 in support of the Mamawe Ota Askiihk project; Indigenous community leaders and settler allies with gather together and engage in hands-on skills while gaining understanding about decolonizing faith and food and living into reconciliation.
- ***Alberta and Northwest Conference*** (Edmonton, AB) \$4,500 in support of the "An Awkward Conversation in the Church"- A conversation about race, discrimination and the Mission of the United Church of Canada project. The conversation will take place over a two day symposium to discuss the contemporary issues of race and discrimination in the Canadian context and in light of the Mission of the Church, and to consider ways that Alberta and Northwest Conference might respond to these issues.

From the William Naylor Trust

- ***Highlands United Church*** (North Vancouver, BC) \$3,700 in support of Faith Fest 2017: Soul on Fire. An intergenerational weekend to energize the congregation and determine their capacity to hold a similar event for the wider church.

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults

- ***Trinity United Church*** (London, ON) \$18,900 in support of the happy Neighbour, Healthy Home project in which Trinity will take over leadership and responsibility for a program that will change the culture of a nearby apartment complex through community building, a parish nurse and other programming reflective of the needs of the residents.



From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

- **Cranbrook United Church** (Cranbrook, BC) \$5,000 in support of the Laundry Facility project; by investing in an appropriately sized washer/dryer unit to enhance the quality of dry goods & clothing made available to our street poor through our free clothing cupboard and being sold at thrift store prices to our low-income families, aboriginal families, and foreign students. It may also be made available to their visitors in the future.
- **St. Columba House** (Montreal, QC) \$9,500 in support of the Saint Columba House Enhanced Academic Perseverance Program, which will pair children with behavioural issues and Personal Care Assistants (PCAs). PCAs are essential because they support the academic, social and emotional aspects of the child's learning, while assisting the group leader with any challenges that may arise.

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk, and the Living Spirit Fund

- **Cataraqui United Church** (Kingston, ON) \$15,000 in support of the Friends of the North Misiway (Cree for Everyone) project. This will establish a used clothing program and food bank in an isolated region in the North. Clothing and food will be transported to the site and volunteers will train to manage it. This partnership follows the partnership principles of the United Church of Canada.

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk, and the Ina Grafton Gage Fund

- **The Agnes Pratt Home Foundation Inc.** (St. John's, NL) \$50,000 in support of the "Change of Face" project. Funds will be used to improve the Southview nursing Unit which provides care for residents with moderate cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. The changes they plan to make have been shown to improve patient experiences (e.g. less aggression) in other facilities.

From the Peace and Justice Fund and the Brian and Belva Piercy Fund

- **Camp Kee-Mo-Kee** (Komoka, ON) \$12,000 in support of Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Heritage Week which a collaboration with the neighbouring First Nations community to offer First Nations programming aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of First Nations culture to both aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth. Funds will be used to help create a compelling presentation about the week that can be used in future fundraising including research documenting the experience of campers and counsellors through pre and post-camp surveys.

From the Kingscourt United Church Endowment Fund, and the Davey Family Fund

- **Wellington Square United Church** (Burlington, ON) 5,000 in support of their Community Garden for Friday Night Community. The Friday night community is 250 friends from the



community that share in fellowship and a meal. The participants and other volunteers would plant, weed and water the garden and would be welcome to pick and enjoy the fruits of their labours. The garden will not be closed off so anyone will be welcome to help and harvest at any time.

From the Living Spirit Fund, the Kingscourt United Church Fund, and the Foundation General Fund

- ***Nations Uniting*** (*Ohswéken, ON*) \$10,000 in support of the Reclaiming Our Path project which will help a group of youth and young adults gain an understanding who they are, how their family line and learned behaviours from the families raising them, peers and the community impact who they are. Using an indigenous framework and traditional teachings, they will have the opportunity to re-frame who they are and begin to walk a new path towards a future of hope and create healthy future leaders. We will address the challenges they face and give them the tools and resources to move forward in a good way.

From the United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund

- ***Eagle Ridge United Church*** (*Coquitlam, BC*) \$10,000 in support of the Children and youth Support program which will include parent and tot programing, spiritual care and will recruit and train volunteers to provide support for children and families in the community that are low-income and refugees.
- ***The United Church Downtown Mission of Windsor*** (*Windsor, ON*) \$10,000 in support of their The Wellness Centre- Transitional Youth Shelter – the first such shelter in the County. It will not only provide a safe place to sleep for youth aged 16-22 but will also bring together community supports and operate holistic wellness services, counselling and care plans for participants.
- ***Erin Mills Youth Centre*** (*Toronto, ON*) \$20,250 in support of the Pathways for Young Women in Ridgeway Community project that will dedicate a staff person from April 2017 to June 2018 to support young women who are experiencing vulnerability through poverty and racism. The staff person will reach out to young women age 13-19 in the Ridgeway Community of Mississauga, partnering with schools, police, and other community agencies to address issues facing young women in our community in order to advance their long term well-being. We envision the creation of youth-led afterschool drop-in programming as well as special events throughout the year to support the development of young women.
- ***The Faith and Formation Task Group of the United Church of Canada***. \$12,000 in support of the consultation event titled "*Faith Formation for the denomination that the United Church of Canada is becoming*". This event comes at pivotal time as the changing structure of the church is imminent. Using learning from the Church of England that went through a similar process 10 years ago, the church will host a consultation of a small diverse group of national leaders who will deliberate and provide strategic input into developing a new and creative approach to deepen and strengthen the vital faith of people in The United Church of Canada.



From the Gertrude Cole Endowment Fund

- *The United Church of Canada's Church in Mission Unit.* \$12,000 in support of an accompanied trip to Palestine and Israel for United Church clergy in June 2017.

From the Ann Duncan Gray Scholarship

- *The United Church of Canada's Church in Mission Unit.* Up to \$6,000 in support of paying tuition fees at the University of Toronto for a student from the Methodist Church in Colombia.
- *The United Church of Canada's Church in Mission Unit.* Up to \$6,000 in support of funding two visiting scholars to Emmanuel College, University of Toronto, from the United Church of Zambia Theological College.

From the Rowntree Scholarship

- *Katherine Brittain* in support of her research on "Assessing if Messy Church is a family ministry that's right for us". Katherine Brittain tried Messy Church at her congregation but it didn't work which led her to question which situations and contexts are right for Messy Church and which situations and contexts require a different approach. Ms. Brittain will visit and assess "successful" Messy Churches in the UK and Canada to find the commonalities among them, and from this research develop a tool for congregations to discern if this ministry is right for their potential context.

From the Bill and Anna Jentsch Endowment Bursary

- *Tracy Crick-Butler*
- *Catherine Tovell*
- *Karen Medland*
- *Kelly Colwell*
- *Kristin Philipson*
- *Sheryl Johnson*
- *Alison Brooks-Starks*
- *April Hart*
- *Melanie Ihmels*

From the Victor Blatherwick Memorial Bursary

- *Sheng Ping Guo*
- *Kelly Colwell*
- *Sheryl Johnson*
- *Catherine Tovell*

From the Clifford Elliott Spirit of Saskatchewan Award

- *Taeil Young*

From the W. Norman McLeod Scholarship

- *Catherine Tovell*
- *Greg Brawn*
- *Greg Williams*
- *Kelly Colwell*
- *Kenji Marui*
- *Mary Taylor*
- *Sheryl Johnson*
- *Tracy Crick-Butler*
- *Kristin Philipson*

The New Ministries Fund:

- ***Camino Montreal*** (*Montreal QC*) \$25,000 per year for 3 years with a request after year one to submit a report on sustainability and succession planning before the release of the second installment; the board may remember meeting with Camino leaders when the board met in Montreal in November 2014. This ministry began as a mission associated with Camino de Emaús, a pastoral charge of The United Church of Canada, in the form of a local community of eight or nine individuals in Montréal's east end. Over the first two years, the community developed into a seniors' group, i.e., a grassroots community with new objectives more relevant to the concerns of that demographic, a population that is extremely vulnerable economically and subject to social instability. Since then, the community has continued its activities at the Camino de Emaús pastoral charge, which meets at Église Unie Saint-Jean on Sainte-Catherine Street in downtown Montréal. The group of nine grew and then grew some more, until today it comprises nearly 50 people who have adopted the name "Camino de Oro" (Path of Gold), a term that associates the name of the pastoral charge with the idea of "golden years." Given the development of Camino de Oro to date, they anticipate that the group will have eighty or more members by the end of 2017 and are requesting assistance to continue with the project.
- ***Camp Connect*** (*Thamesford ON*) \$15,000 onetime grant; Westminster will host a summer day camp from July 10 to August 25 for children in the surrounding community. Each week they take 30 children for a total of 210 spots over the summer. The camp will focus on Christian values and have themed weeks that include crafts, games, recreational sports, music, bible stories, drama, field trips, and swimming. The children will be ministered to each day by our Child & Youth Ministers. They will be planning daily worship celebrations that incorporate biblical truths as well as interactive activities that push children to delve deeper, songs that encourage praise, and hands on lessons that solidify abstract concepts for children. The camp will offer summer childcare to the Thamesford community for the first time. It will provide employment to local



youth and foster relationships with local families. The cost of camp is lower than a traditional daycare and there is financial assistance available for families in need. The hope is that this camp would also be a financial who otherwise wouldn't have them.

- **Hillhurst Contemplative Arts (Calgary AB)** \$24,000 with availability for further funding for 2 years at \$24,000 per year upon receiving yearly update reports; In 2016, Hillhurst was partially funded by a UCC Embracing the Spirit Growth grant to experiment with contemplative and spiritual nurturing programming. At the end of the year, as we honed the program, we attracted up to 40 people (23-84 yrs old) each week consistently, and the same number requesting personal counselling and support. The participation and feedback we received compelled us to prototype this program in 2017. The Board has received direct feedback pleading for the program to be sustained and for it to grow to encourage more experimentation using fine arts and other ways to stretch our ability to be still, to be in community, to be contemplative in how we live our lives. The demand for this program is significant and current participants are clear to our Ministers and Board that this program is one important way to attract people to Hillhurst, to “church,” and to the journey that will enrich their spiritual paths.
- **Living Church, Westmount Park United Church (Westmount QC)** \$25,000 with availability for further funding for 2 years at \$25,000 per year upon receiving yearly update reports; We have declared ourselves a Living Church (Faith in Nature Centre) and the project is to deliver continuity (from 2015/2016 origins) and growth. Worship always has a nature focus. We have a public monthly educational Climate Café and a cooperative garden: this March we opened up the sanctuary (transept) to create an all-age educational Nature Niche, and we have received an assessment of the flat roof (4000sqft) of the church hall as a potential green roof. All this in under 18 months, and we are now looking to developing our Living Church ministry through adequate staffing and income generation strategies.
- **Rising Spirit (Bashaw AB)** \$25,000 per year for 3 years; Rising Spirit Ministry will be an online community of faith bringing inspiration, connectivity, leadership, and healing encouragement to seekers and believers who are open to exploring the way we love, think and act in the world. It will leverage the incredible value of the new partnership between the Bashaw United Church and Ponoka United Church by ministering outside the walls of the church buildings. A virtual online congregation will be built, using social media channels and a new website, with strategy and content developed by ministry personnel and lay leadership from both communities. Rising Spirit Ministry intends to engage and inspire both those who attend church and those who do not, by creating a safe place for them to learn, engage with the message and connect with others in the virtual community. Online programs and resources will be designed to connect, share and build community: we want to encourage the "churched" to venture beyond tradition and the "unchurched" to feel they belong, on their own terms. This will be a living, breathing



community that engages in two-way conversation and sharing. It will connect us with other Ministers, congregations and guests, to enrich the messages and community's interactions.

- ***Southwood Millennial Ministry (Calgary AB)*** \$25,000 per year for 3 years; Southwood United Church will be putting intentional time and resources towards engaging the millennial generation (youth adults born from approx. 1980-1999) in the Christian faith and life of the local church. This will involve multiple strategic approaches, including but not limited to (1) a robust online-social media engagement plan, (2) a focussed effort on initiating deeper friendships and spiritual care relationships with millennials both inside and outside the congregation, (3) a ministry of hospitality/intentional community to be lived out in homes, (4) the development of a millennial-specific spiritual formation track within the broader ministry programs of the church, and (5) participation in local outreach projects reflecting justice, community building, and acts of charity/kindness. A key part of this project is the employment of a part-time Associate Pastor.
- ***Tamil United (Markham ON)*** \$8,000 per year for 3 years; Since January 2016 the church has been serving the Christian Tamil community in Ontario. Several segments of the project have been implemented since early 2016, when the ministry began with six congregation members. There are now forty attending regular services and members have been actively involved in programs such as bible studies, house prayer meetings, weekly visits to the seniors home which includes worship and communion for those who are sick (conducted by the minister), hospital visitation, and nineteen weeks of cake decorating classes, with diplomas issued by Wilton Cake Company, for women who are unemployed and under-employed. All of these ministry initiatives have been very successful, and they are requesting funding to support the ongoing ministry of their part-time minister.
- ***Toby's Place (Toronto ON)*** \$25,000 per year for 3 years; Toby's Place will provide a safe space in south Scarborough where LGBTQ youth will be nurtured in body and soul, in an area that currently has absolutely no services for LGBTQ youth. Toby's Place received a one-time Embracing the Spirit Growth Grant in 2016, which help them begin developing the ministry. They have tested feasibility, built strong community relationships and networks, hired staff, developed a youth advisory committee, a strong Steering Committee, and are now preparing to open doors in May 2017. We are building a space where identity, values, hope and faith can safely be explored and where a community meal and education will offer a deep and growing connection with other youth and the community as a whole. This is a collaborative project that will both seek and share experiences in launching and nurturing new expressions of church. We are committed to documenting our work and offering it as a model for other groups who are interested in discerning new programs in their own communities.
- ***Toronto South West Presbytery French Ministry (Toronto ON)*** \$20,000 per year for 3 years. The project brings together francophone and bilingual Protestants in Toronto and the



surrounding area in a faith community under the auspices of The United Church of Canada in order to respond to their spiritual needs in French, the langue in which they are most comfortable. Toronto South West Presbytery is developing the project in collaboration with the General Councils' Ministry in French Unit. The initiative intends to be an ethnically diverse French-language Protestant community of faith and mission. The organizing minister will provide and test a feasibility study for further developing the ministry.

- ***Alderwood United Church*** (Toronto ON) \$25,000 for the second installment of a 3 year grant; this ministry development is creating and expanding a network for a new generation of ministry leaders who are seeking mentorship in spiritual practices for themselves in their local area.
- ***Be. Maritimes*** (Sackville NB) \$25,000 for the second installment of a 3 year grant. BE focusses on bringing people together through their vibrant, progressing events, as an emerging ministry, showing love to all, being with One, nurturing faith and gathering in community. They wish to enhance the experience and need for our communities as a faithful people. The ministry is based on United Church values, one that does not meet in the physical traditional church and one that looks towards the future for the needs of its people