



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

FOUNDATION

The 2023 Annual Report

At such a time as this

Esther 4:14

The 2023 Annual Report

The United Church of Canada Foundation serves communities of faith and individuals all across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that this land is not ours, but is comprised of the territories of countless nations, who have not surrendered their land, but graciously share it with us. Today, we remember that we are all treaty people. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.

The United Church of Canada Foundation's purpose is to foster deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice by attracting and deploying financial resources. Through capacity building, convening, granting, and careful stewardship of funds entrusted to us, we support congregations, ministries, and programs that enrich The United Church of Canada, create a more just planet, and celebrate God's abundance in the world.

United, we are focusing on the future together!



IN REMEMBRANCE OF

Rev. Tim Reaburn

This past December, the Foundation lost our Board Chair, the Rev. Tim Reaburn. We were blessed by his leadership, and continue to mourn his passing with deep gratitude for his life and ministry. Tim's guidance, sense of humour, and caring hand have been sorely missed.



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

Jim Simpson

Please visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/2023report/ to watch a video message from United Church of Canada Foundation Board Chair Jim Simpson.



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Sarah Charters

“At such a time as this...” These words from Esther 4:14 have been on my heart and mind as we look back on the past year at the United Church of Canada Foundation. Amid economic uncertainty, social and political upheaval, and climate anxieties, it has been a challenging year for many. Yet, I continue to be heartened by the resilience, creativity, and generosity of United Church people as we lean into tackling these challenges together, working to create a better, more equitable world for all.

It seems like just yesterday we embarked on the ambitious 4-year strategic plan created to guide the Foundation’s works, operations, and initiatives, but we’ve now passed the halfway mark! As we reviewed our progress on the plan, I was drawn to how often we used the phrase “priority issues of our time” in the objectives and reflected on the connection to the passage from Esther. Yes, the Foundation is here to support a strong, vibrant future for the church, but that means taking deep, bold, daring action in the present.

We’ve been on a journey over the past few years, working to embed our values into everything we do, particularly through the four foundational priorities of **Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, Anti-Racism, Climate Justice and Support for Communities of Faith**. In our investments, through our grants, across our communications and in how we approach our work: we have been called “at such a time as this” and, through faith and generosity, we’re taking action. **At such a time as this**, we’re supporting our priorities; this is a testament to our living faith!

Throughout 2023, the Foundation continued to support the vital ministry of the United Church of Canada through a growing number of service offerings. We engaged in several new initiatives, some of which expand on current programming, some as a result of deeply listening to and learning from the communities and people we seek to serve, and others coming about as we identify opportunities for collaboration and innovation. I’m excited about the progress we’re making together, and to share some of the stories from the past year with you in this report. You’ll see that we’ve organized the stories by priority area, as a way to show the different ways we are living into our commitments. I hope you’ll also notice the interconnectedness of the priorities through these stories!

At such a time as this, I’m reminded of the power of community, the strength of our faith, and the importance of standing in solidarity. So many of the issues we face right now are urgent. We’re grateful for our relationships with you: our partners, colleagues, donors, and organizations journeying with us to address them in thoughtful and sustainable ways! We say this often, but the Foundation is truly blessed to connect joyful generosity with incredible work. As we inch closer to the second century of the United Church of Canada, we do so with hope and determination, knowing that United, we are making a difference in the world.

In Christ,

Sarah Charters
***President, The United Church of
Canada Foundation***



AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,

We supported our Priorities

Four priorities provide focus and meaningful context to the Foundation's ministry: anti-racism, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, climate justice and support for communities of faith.

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

Supporting Affirmation Journeys,
Assisting Thriving Churches,
Renovating Spaces

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 6

RECONCILIATION

Connecting Reconciliation
Movements, Supporting Bible
Translation, Providing Scholarships

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 8

ANTI-RACISM

Gathering To Celebrate Diversity in
the Church, Supporting International
Scholarship

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 10

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Transforming Church Gardens,
Established Scholarship Funds,
Supporting Workshops

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 12

AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,

We steward your gifts

Empowered by the generosity of United Church people, the Foundation provides meaningful grant and scholarship opportunities for ministries, organizations, individuals, and communities of faith. We actively seek and implement innovative and effective ways to encourage giving and investment in the Foundation.

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 14

AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,

We rose to the occasion

 1,550+

Attendees across 16 information webinars

 \$6,800,000+

Processed through 370+ gifts of securities

 \$565,750

Awarded to 94 grantees through the Seeds
of Hope program

 \$107,000

Awarded to students as part of 27 scholarships

 \$100,000,000+

Assets managed by the Foundation

 4

Campaigns to support: Theological Education
and Leadership, United Church Camps, 2SLGBTQIA+ Global
Solidarity Fund, and Mission and Service Endowment Fund



Photo: Erik Lo Forte

Visiting a site of Black Canadian identity

We feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit Africville and Africville Museum to learn about its rich history and culture.

The experience was a powerful reminder of the importance of celebrating our diversity and preserving our heritage, and the devastating, lingering results of racism.

We were inspired by the resilience and strength of the community's residents in the face of horrific abuses, discrimination, and racist misuse of law. We left feeling grateful for the experience, but also motivated to ACT on building a more inclusive and just society. This includes sharing the painful story of Canada's destruction of Africville.



Photo: Erik Lo Forte

Gathering together in fellowship

In September, the Foundation gathered at Atlantic School of Theology in beautiful Halifax for an inspiring few days learning with and from each other at our in-person Board meetings. We're grateful for their hospitality!

There, we also hosted our annual Board Reception where Janice Noble (Executive Director at Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp) and The. Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell (author, educator, and 2022 McGeachy Senior Scholar) were our featured speakers. Foundation Directors, our Joint Grants Committee, scholars, grantees, staff, and other local Foundation supporters met and mingled, sharing stories and testimony. Perhaps not quite a Maritime kitchen party, but certainly 'Spirited'!

Witnessing the power of Foundation grants

The Foundation board were graciously invited to meet with and take a tour of the Brunswick Street Mission, a long time grantee and partner of the Foundation who are located in the North End of Halifax, where they support both the physical and mental needs of those experiencing poverty in the community.

Lisa Harrison, Executive Director of Brunswick Street Mission, told us: "The food bank is so important, but it's a band-aid. That's why we focus on social and mental health supports. Help people keep their dignity and point them into other services."

They also partner with another organization that runs a safe injection site in the dining room. Brunswick Street Mission received a Seeds of Hope grant for their Outreach Program. The outreach component of the injection site connects in with the free breakfast offered in the dining room before the injection site takes over.

It was a blessing to witness this life-changing work firsthand.



Photo: Erik Lo Forte

At such a time as this,

We support our communities of faith

From coast to coast to coast, we are proud to support hundreds of congregations, ministries, and church-centred causes. This year, we supported a church on its Affirmation journey, empowered donors to pay congregation debt, and helped a congregation transform their space.

 **\$296,000**

Awarded through **51 Seeds of Hope grants**

 **\$151,500**

Awarded through **7 grants from the New Ministries Fund**

 **\$200,000**

Awarded through **13 other grant programs**

**Active and Loving God,
At such a time as this,
Help us help each other
No matter where we are.**

Amen.

Helping thriving churches with their debt

In the face of rising real estate costs and mortgage rates, one couple proposed a creative use for their existing long-term fund at the Foundation to help otherwise-thriving churches pay down their significant debts.

Working with the Foundation, the couple developed metrics to determine the characteristics of a 'thriving' congregation. Using these metrics along with available data to indicate indebtedness, several communities of faith were encouraged to apply for funding during the Spring 2023 grant round. However, all United Church communities of faith were eligible to be included in the process if they met the criteria. In addition to addressing the financial barrier, the grant was about defining and celebrating success.

Eight applicants received a small grant of \$625 as recognition of their effort put forward in creating and submitting the application.

Four congregations received the remaining balance of the funds: North Bramalea United (Brampton, ON), High River United (High River, AB), Okotoks United (Okotoks, AB), and Westminster United (Whitby, ON).

While this grant was a one-time funding event, the donors were happy with the result of this initiative, and we were thrilled to help bring their vision to reality.



Photo: Rosedale United Church

A New Hub for Music and Community

When Rosedale United Church (Toronto, ON) first envisioned their community HUB project, they sought a Seeds of Hope grant to transform their space into a café. Faced with building permit difficulties, they instead pivoted to a new vision: a concert and performance hall.

Conscious of community, the members of Rosedale United sought ways to use their building to be a gift for their neighbours. The Rosedale Hub renovations were envisioned as a

way to open up the church building to all members of the community as a place to gather and flourish.

The successful opening of the Rosedale Hub was kicked off in a big way: with a Gordon Lightfoot tribute concert that saw 14 performers playing the rock star's greatest hits. More than 300 people attended the concert and the following reception at the church.

More than just an evening of fun and music, the Hub provides space for Tai Chi and yoga classes, choir practice, and, yes, more concerts and recitals. Congratulations to Rosedale United Church on your new vision; we are happy to have played a part in your transformation!



Photo: Rosedale United Church

Supporting congregations in their journey to Affirming

In March 2023, St. Paul's United (Grande Prairie, AB) became Alberta's only Affirming Congregation north of Edmonton. In doing so, they completed a long journey of education, introspection, and discernment, supported by the Foundation through the Seeds of Hope granting program.

The decision to become Affirming is not a casual one: congregations must deliberately and consciously choose to make the choice to become an Affirming Congregation.

A key aspect of becoming Affirming is to be explicit and purposeful about accepting 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Doing so not only educates congregation members about issues, but it also builds relationships with local 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

"We would have struggled to have the money to do the things that



Video: United Church of Canada Foundation

we did," says Susan, a member of St. Paul's Affirm Ministry Team. "They gave us a grant of \$6000, and we used every dollar—and more. It's very, very appreciated."

The Foundation was thrilled to provide support through a Seeds of Hope grant, helping their community of faith collaborate with local 2SLGBTQIA+ groups and Indigenous communities to convene learning events on gender, diversity, and identity as they relate to faith.

We want to congratulate our friends at St. Paul's United Church for their radical love and courage. Your new Affirming ministry gives hope of a brighter world to so many in your community and beyond.

Watch the video message at unitedchurchfoundation.ca/2023report/communities-of-faith/

At such a time as this,

We strive for reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours

Here on Turtle Island, we remain dedicated to recognizing and confronting the wrongs we as settlers have inflicted on Canada's Indigenous peoples. Among other initiatives, the Foundation has helped a regional council hire a Reconciliation awareness officer, supported the publishing of the Bible in the Mohawk language, and provided scholarships to Indigenous students.



\$50,750

Awarded through 10 Seeds of Hope grants



\$119,500

Awarded through 3 other grant programs

Present and Merciful God:

At such a time as this,

Help us to recognize the pain we have caused

And create new and brighter futures.

Amen.

Supporting Indigenous students in their education

The Foundation is proud to provide scholarships for Indigenous students through the Waase Abin Indigenous Endowment Fund. The Fund was established by donors from Peterborough, Ontario in 2010 to help support Indigenous youth seeking to enter or continue post-secondary education. The donors are delighted to receive updates on scholars each year and to support students as they achieve their dreams!

"Receiving the scholarship has shown me that other people believe in my academic journey and in my potential as an Indigenous student," says Keisha, who received the scholarship in the spring of 2021.

For Briana—who received her scholarship in 2020—the award is about more than money. "I've been able to focus on my studies and worry less about my finances. That's allowed me to achieve better grades, but it's also allowed me to prioritize my mental health."

"Oftentimes, Indigenous students do not receive the encouragement and acknowledgment that we deserve, especially as we often have to jump through more barriers than other students in these institutions," says Keisha. "Receiving this scholarship boosted my confidence in myself, in my intelligence and in my capability of supporting my community."



Creating new ways to read the Bible

The Holy Bible in Mohawk is now published! This complete translation of the Bible into the Mohawk language is available through the devotion, knowledge, and artistry of Harvey Satewas Gabriel. Moderator Carmen Lansdowne called it “the most important book published in 2023”!

Fostered by generations of women in the Gabriel family and the communities of Kanesatake and Kahnawake, this translation was also made possible through the support of Kanesatake United Church, the Kanesatake Mohawk Council, Canadian Bible Society and

a grant from The United Church of Canada Foundation.

All profits from the sale of the Bible will go to Indigenous language projects through the Indigenous Church and the Foundation.

Some of the Foundation team joined the celebrations in Kanesatake on September to launch and dedicate the Bible. We are blessed to have played a role in helping this important work to publication.



Scan the QR code to watch the video message, or visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/2023report/reconciliation-with-indigenous-peoples/

Building a more-connected Reconciliation movement

Recognizing the heightened barriers Indigenous communities face in Canada, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Region Council (QC) began the Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera program to raise awareness and mobilize acts of justice.

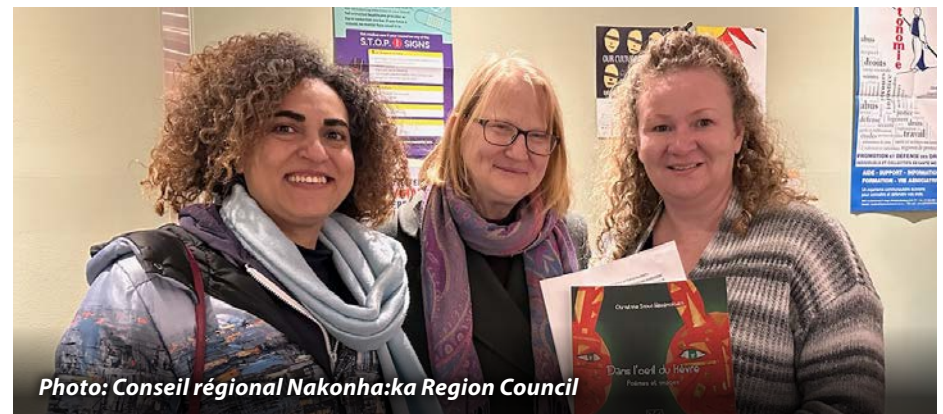
For the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, it was important to elevate Indigenous voices and to join in their fights against

injustice, rather than seeking to control the narrative.

With a Seeds of Hope grant in 2023, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council was able to hire a coordinator for the Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera program.

The program seeks to inform, but also connect. Through newsletters as well as posts on social media, Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera is reaching out to and building relationships with Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives. In one case, newsletters were used to source personal care items for the Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtiá:ke.

As we seek to broaden our connections with Indigenous Peoples, we applaud the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council and their Respect & Kanoronhkwátshera Aviyah for their efforts in fighting injustice.



At such a time as this,
***We are striving
to be Anti-Racist***

Knowing that we are all One in the Body of Christ, we are committed to becoming an Anti-Racist organization and supporting diversity movements across Canada. This year, we supported anti-racist gatherings, helped universities change course offerings, and provided scholarships to international students.



\$296,000

Awarded through 51 Seeds of Hope grants



\$200,000

Awarded through 13 other grant programs

**Vibrant and Multifaceted God,
At such a time as this,
Help us to look beyond differences
And celebrate your love together.**

Amen.

Examining Anti-Racism in Curriculum

In June, faculty from five United Church theological schools came together at Emmanuel College in Toronto. The group gathered to critically reflect on how anti-racism work is being enacted in their varied theological schools and how to embed anti-racism in the schools' curricula. The Foundation was pleased to support this important event through a grant from our Convening Fund.

The group also discussed ways to create stronger spaces for collaboration, and how to continue the journey towards strengthening personal and institutional anti-racism work. The conversations were rich and deep and they are excited about the pathway they are creating!

The gathering was co-planned by General Council Office staff Adele Halliday (Anti-Racism and Equity Lead) and Jennifer Janzen-Ball (Executive Minister for Theological Leadership). General Secretary, Michael Blair, also joined the gathering for part of the time.



Photo: PJ Boyd

Introducing newcomers to a diverse church

The Montreal Diocesan Theological College, 'Dio' (Montréal, QC) was able to hold a 5-day gathering to provide a supportive and engaging introduction to The United Church of Canada ethos, theology, and values, as well as orient United Church newcomers to the church's key commitments and work in justice, interculturalism, and reconciliation.

"There was excitement about the church's strategies to strengthen existing faith communities and to grow new communities of faith! This is a ministry for which many of the group feel a strong passion and call and they rightly recognize that they are a core group who are already engaged



Photo: Montreal Diocesan Theological College

in this work," says Alyson Huntly, Director of United Church Studies at Montreal Dio.

The program invited folks from diverse contexts, cultures, and national origins who are serving in ministry in the United Church as Admission Ministers, Ministers in Diaspora Congregations, and as United Church students in the Candidacy Pathway to participate in the gathering. The program was made possible thanks to a Seeds of Hope grant.

"There are some things we can do [by Zoom] but having the personal connection with our bodies not just our heads, is necessary to really know one another and build networks of support for our ministry in remote places. Otherwise, we are isolated," shared one participant.

We want to congratulate Montreal Dio for an incredible event of fellowship and diversity. Your work reflects the love and vibrancy of our church!

Supporting International Scholarship

Korea has a long history and deep roots in the United Church. At Emmanuel College (Toronto, ON) alone, over 100 Korean graduates have made important contributions to theology, ministry, social activism around democratization, peace, gender justice and unification issues since it opened in 1928. In October, Emmanuel College held an event to both fundraise for and to celebrate the creation of a new scholarship for international students from Korea and those of Korean descent, bringing together current Emmanuel students, alumnae, and supporters and champions of the College's work.



Photo: Sarah Charters



Photo: Sarah Charters

The Foundation was proud to have attended this event and provide a seed of support towards the creation of the scholarship.

The scholarship will provide support to students as they complete a PhD at the school, easing some of the financial burden that comes with the high cost of international tuition fees.

Sungmin Park also shared thoughts on the struggle of international students: "Studying is survival" and "scholarships aren't additional, they are necessary". Thank you to Emmanuel College for a great evening bringing awareness to and funding for this important initiative.

Emmanuel College hopes to grow their scholarship endowment fund to \$100,000 in the coming years, to better support international scholars. Congratulations to Emmanuel College as they seek to increase opportunities for students to grow in scholarship!

At such a time as this,

We are living with respect in Creation

The New Creed invites us to Live with respect in Creation, a call that is more important now than ever before. This year, we helped transform a garden with native plants, established a fund for scholarships, and supported an environment-focused workshop.

 **\$35,750**

Awarded through 7 Seeds of Hope grants

 **\$40,000**

Awarded through 3 grants from the New Ministries Fund

Growing and Creating God,

At such a time as this,

Help us grow with each other

And care for our earth.

Amen.

Looking at Creation in a new way

The Denman Island United Church (Denman Island, BC) wanted to showcase a different, spiritual view of Creation through their Elements of Creation workshop. The weekend event highlighted the activist Reclaiming Movement that honours the earth and holds it as sacred. The event was made possible thanks to a grant from the Environmental Fund.

Bringing together diverse views of sacredness and nature, the Elements of Creation workshop invited attendees of all demographics, beliefs, and backgrounds into Denman Island United Church's Gathering Place for a weekend of learning and reflection.

In addition to learning about the Reclaiming Movement, Denman Island United Church hoped that the event would also be an opportunity for fellowship and healing for those who had negative experiences while attending churches in the past.

Money supporting the event came from the Environmental Endowment Fund, which was established in 2012 with a gift from Moderator Mardi Tindal.

The fund supports the church's initiatives which enable it to live with respect in Creation as a denomination and spirit-filled people and to actively work towards leaving our environment in a better state than we found it.

Watch the video message at unitedchurchfoundation.ca/2023report/climate-justice/



Photo: Jessica Smith

Transforming a garden to better suit native species

Thanks in part to a Seeds of Hope grant, Eden United Church (Mississauga, ON) completely transformed their old garden space into a peaceful, reflective place with a pollinator garden containing over 300 native plants, trees, grasses, and shrubs. We were delighted to join the dedication of their Peace Garden on September 24th; it was a powerful experience to witness the impact of this project on their faith community!

The native plant movement seeks to provide natural, healthy environments for native species of bugs, birds, butterflies, and critters of all sizes. Native plants and species have evolved over 10,000 years to suit each other, while non-native plants do less to feed and shelter native species.

By transforming their church garden, Eden United seeks to live up to their namesake and create a haven for native pollinators. In doing so, they're also preserving native species—many of which are in decline—and natural green spaces.

The Eden Church Peace Garden Committee would love to share notes on their process of growing a native plants garden with anyone interested in starting their own! Contact the Foundation to get in touch.

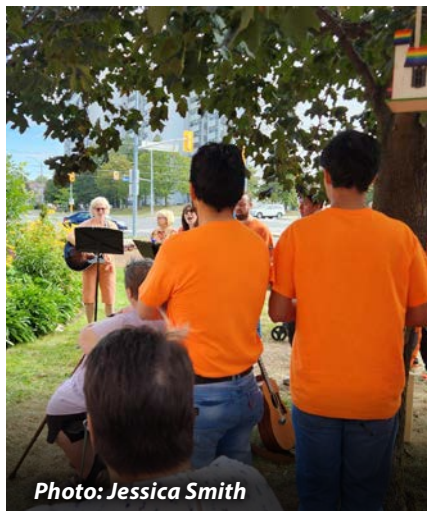


Photo: Jessica Smith

Honouring a former Moderator's legacy

The Very Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Phipps, the United Church of Canada's 36th Moderator, faithfully served in the role from 1997 to 2000. Rev. Phipps died on March 4th, 2022. To honour his advocacy and commitment to justice, the Bill Phipps Memorial Fund was established at the Foundation to provide bursaries to Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis students engaging in social and climate justice.

During his time as Moderator, Bill championed, and led by example, a style of engaged, prophetic ministry that has been central to the ethos and witness of The United Church of Canada. After his tenure as Moderator, he continued as a strong advocate for Indigenous rights, peace, justice, and ecological integrity.

Bill's kind of leadership is needed more than ever as the United Church and many community-based organizations address the challenges of the 21st century.



Photo: Family of Rev. Phipps

A leadership style that is contextual, relational, and passionate for the common GOOD.

To honour Bill's legacy and lifelong commitment to social and climate justice, The Bill Phipps Memorial Fund will also assist leadership development in innovation and sustainability within The United Church and other community organisations.

In May of 2023, the Fund was officially launched with a special service at Hillhurst United Church in Calgary, AB. We are grateful to the family and friends of The Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps for creating this Fund and entrusting a part of Bill's legacy to the Foundation. Today and always, we are thankful for his life and work.

At such a time as this,

The Foundation is actively stewarding your gifts

Every year, we are inspired by the incredible generosity of United Church people. Through investments, granting, and giving opportunities, we are proud stewards of these meaningful gifts.

\$100,000

At the end of December, the Foundation hit a milestone of \$100 million managed funds! This achievement is testament to the generosity in the church and—most importantly—the real impact your gifts will have through the Foundation’s granting and investing.



AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,

We are empowering the generosity of thousands of donors

The Foundation could not be as effective or impactful without the incredible support of our donors, both individuals and organizations. United, we are creating astounding impact across Canada and around the world. Thank you!

Joining to change present and future

At Thanksgiving, we gave thanks for a church that is humble and willing to change. The United Church of Canada has committed to becoming an anti-racist church and in step, the United Church of Canada Foundation has committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. In a landmark campaign, we came together with the United Church of Canada in support of Mission and Service anti-racism work. The campaign invited gifts to support the current works of Mission and Service, as well as supporting future programs through the Mission and Service Endowment Fund at the Foundation, helping us work towards these commitments now and into the future.

Visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/explore-funds/mission-service-endowment-fund/ to make a contribution to the Mission and Service Endowment Fund.



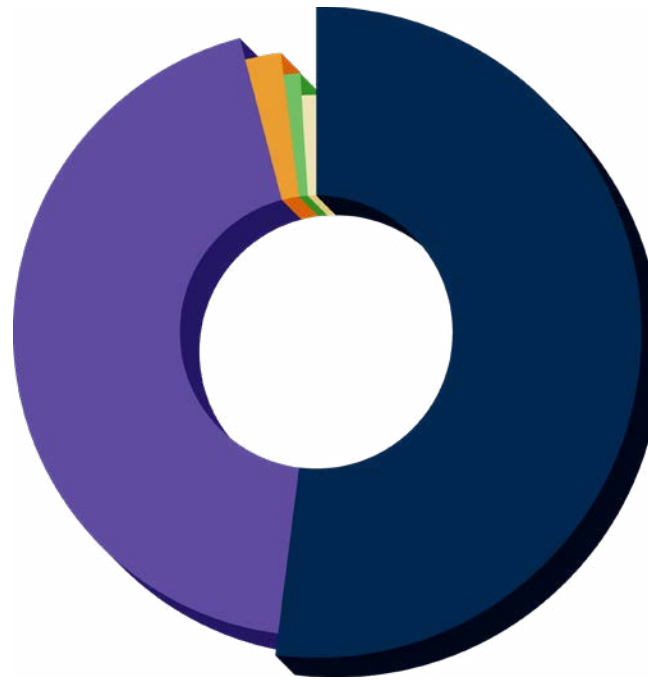
AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,
We are committed to investing with intention and impact

As part of our Strategic Plan, the Foundation is working towards having 50% of our investments into Impact Investments by 2027. Impact Investments are investments into stocks and options that address urgent challenges and align with social and environmental justice. These investments have more than just a financial return: impact investing offers the Foundation another way to interpret investment “success”.

Read more about our commitment to Impact Investing at unitedchurchfoundation.ca/united-church-foundation-impact-investing/



Scan the QR code to watch an interview with Sarah Charters, or visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/2023report/stewardship-and-giving/



2023 ASSETS MANAGED

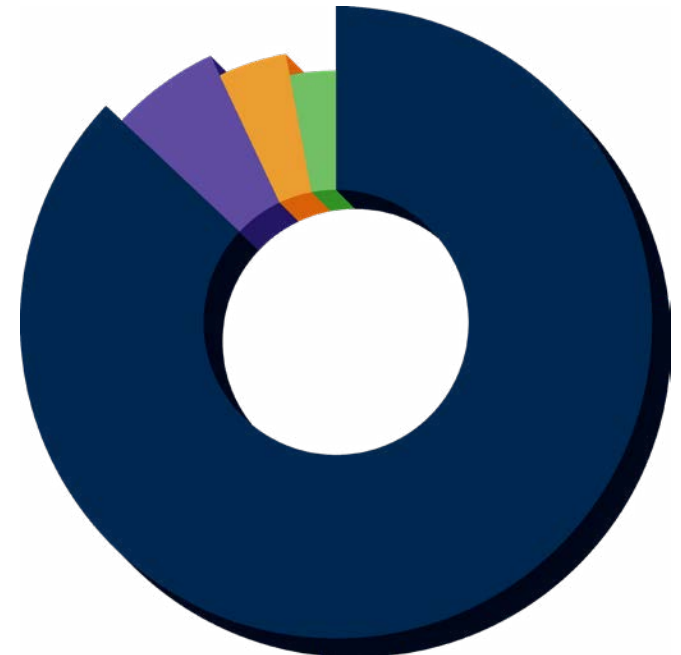
\$105,346,697

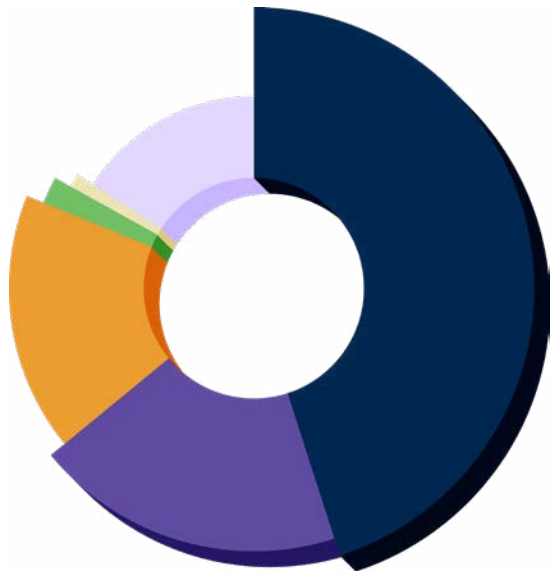
- \$54,539,067 Externally-Restricted Funds
- \$46,677,062 Endowed Capital
- \$2,336,228 Internally-Restricted Funds
- \$1,134,455 Gift Funds
- \$659,885 General Operating Funds

2023 EXPENDITURES

\$11,441,039

- \$10,048,878 Grants (from short & long-term funds)
- \$675,898 Management & Administration
- \$410,051 Charitable Activities
- \$306,212 Fundraising Expenses





2023 GRANTING
\$10,048,878

- \$4,502,623
Congregations
- \$1,134,455
Theological Schools & Retreat Centres
- \$1,955,711
GCO & Regional Councils
- \$49,037
Camps
- \$1,758,317
Community Ministries & Ecumenical Partners
- \$1,604,632
Other

AT SUCH A TIME AS THIS,
We are committed to supporting innovative and important ministries, initiatives, and causes

As a main vehicle for outreach and action, granting remains one of our highest priorities. In 2023, we are thrilled to announce that granting crossed more than \$10 million for the first time in the Foundation’s history. Almost half of that (45%) was granted to congregations across Canada to support their vital works and ministries.

Aligned with our strategic pillars, as well as the specific wishes of our donors, the Seeds of Hope and other granting programs awarded more than \$1 million in 2023.

Seeking greater collaboration with grantees

As a new approach to our granting process, the Foundation has begun integrating Trust-Based Granting strategies into our Seeds of Hope grants. Traditional granting methods place the majority of power with the granters, leading to an inherently unbalanced relationship. Instead, Trust-Based Granting invites collaboration and community with our grantees.

In practice, Trust-Based Granting seeks to eliminate barriers during the application process, to make the grants more accessible. In particular, this approach benefits marginalized organizations whose work is important but whose metrics may not match those demanded by a traditional model.

“The traditional granting model is rooted in colonialistic practices that can inadvertently reinforce systems of oppression and power,” says Erik Lo Forte, Foundation Lead. “We’re taking a more deliberate approach to collaboration that involves both listening to the grantee’s needs, and recognizing that they are the experts in what they’re trying to do.”

For more information on this Trust-Based Approach, please visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/trust-based-granting/



A twist on Giving Tuesday



Photo: Family of Dr. Margot Roach

In late Summer 2023, we were sad to learn of the passing of a long-time Foundation supporter, Dr. Margot Roach of Tatamagouche, NS. However, inspired by Dr. Roach's faithful generosity (she set up several United Church charitable annuities to benefit the ministries she valued) a portion of her legacy gift for the Foundation was put to creative use we hope she'd be proud of.

To celebrate Giving Tuesday a bit differently, the Foundation embarked on a short (24 hours) but productive and meaningful "reverse" campaign. We gave folks the opportunity to designate \$25, no strings attached, to any of the Foundation's 9 Mission Focus Funds. All they needed to do was choose the fund and that was it,

the Foundation would add \$25 in their name, via Dr. Roach's annuity gift. We also offered that if donors made an additional gift of their own, we'd match that as well, up to \$25 (effectively turning their \$25 gift into \$75 to support ministry in the area of their choosing).

We launched on the morning of Giving Tuesday, explaining our fun twist and included our gratitude to Dr. Roach for making this initiative possible.

The campaign was a great success! 249 made designations in the 24-hour giving period, and 35% of them made gifts of their own. Overall, more than \$10,000 was added to the nine Mission Focus Funds in a single day. We learned a lot about our supporters, deepening

existing relationships and sparking new ones. We also received many heartwarming messages during the campaign. Here's what we heard:

I am pleased to give, as Margot Roach was a good friend, here in Tatamagouche.

Just a quick note to say I was impressed and thrilled by the "Reverse" Giving Tuesday idea! Brilliant!

Dr. Margot Roach was a long time friend. I'm so grateful that her legacy of giving to the United Church is continuing in this wonderful way! I will dedicate in memory of a mutual friend of Margot's and mine, Betty.

Just a quick note to say that I LOVE the Foundation's Giving Tuesday drive this year! It was so easy and fun!! Great job to you and the whole team.

Supporting scholars

In support of 2018 McGeachy Scholar the Rev. Janet Gear, the Foundation launched the Navigating Landscapes of Faith: Diving Deep with Rev. Janet Gear initiative. Participants were invited to better understand their own faith and that of their church community through a multi-week

book study, culminating in a live webinar event with Janet.

As part of the initiative, we distributed several copies of Rev. Gear's book *Undivided Love* through a giveaway, and one community of faith received the full video series of Rev. Gear's book *The Theological Banquet*. We also hosted a free in-person event, hosted by the Very Rev. Gary Paterson at Oakridge United Church (Vancouver, BC), discussing Rev. Gear's works and

scholarship. The event was attended by dozens of curious theologians as well as streamed across the internet for those unable to attend.

The Foundation—through the McGeachy Scholarship, the Rowntree Scholarship, and other programs—is proud to support current and future theological scholarship in Canada.

For more information on how we're supporting scholars, please visit unitedchurchfoundation.ca/grants/scholarship-research-grants/





THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FOUNDATION

1-866-340-8223 | fdn@united-church.ca

unitedchurchfoundation.ca

3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4

Copyright © 2024

The United Church of Canada Foundation provides service and support to all courts of the Church and United Church-related institutions and organizations.

The Foundation facilitates gifts of stocks, mutual funds, etc., provides grants for innovative and unique programs and projects run by United Church-related organizations, and facilitates the longterm support of all courts of the Church and their mission and service.