



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 Watkins & Ann Baker Funds for Innovative Seniors' Ministry

- **Visions United Church** in Moncton NB: \$2,400 for the *Spiritual Memoir Project with Seniors* Spiritual memoir is the story of how the Sacred is present in the ordinary stories of life. Everyone has several (or many) "stories", and this is especially true for seniors. Through the processes of Spiritual Memoir individuals recognize not only the importance, but the spiritual depth, of their history. This leads to an awareness of the many ways these "stories" can be shared with others, particularly younger generations. This project tests and develops several processes (workshops, interviews, booklet/workbook, and online resources) inviting seniors to learn about spiritual memoir, consider the sources of spiritual memoir in their life, and write or record stories to share.
- **House of Lazarus** in Mountain ON: \$4,253 for the *Tea and Talk Program* which offers seniors a regular opportunity to get together and learn valuable information about available resources, access information and share their concerns and questions with professionals. Every effort will be made to ensure that transportation is not a barrier to participation.
- **Wesley Urban Ministries** in Hamilton ON: \$10,000 for *Advanced Care Planning for Seniors Workshops* that will research, develop and implement a series of workshops for vulnerable seniors focusing on written advanced care direction. Wesley program participants and seniors in the surrounding area will be the primary participants but there will also be a workshop for local United Church members and Wesley volunteers.
- **Oak Table Community Ministry** in Winnipeg MB: \$2,655 for *APPLIED Literacy: App based literacy for adults*. Many of Oak Table Community Ministry's elderly guests struggle with basic reading. This program will allow them to learn to read in a new way that does not intimidate or make them feel stigmatized for being illiterate. App based literacy will help participants learn words that they need to understand daily. From

being able to understand a bus schedule, instructions in a doctor's office, to a grocery list and social media, improved literacy will impact all areas of the participants' lives.

- **Knox United Church** in Winnipeg MB: \$37,500 over two years for *the Aminata Sillah Seniors Café* to undertake a feasibility study, planning and implementation of the Café. Knox intends to create a café for newcomer seniors (immigrants and refugees) that will particularly focus on newcomer women. It will be a place where they can gather for conversation – including English fluency development - mutual support, learning, adaptation, recreation and intercultural engagement. Once it is up and running the Café will operate as a social enterprise.
- **St. Andrew's United Church** in Calgary AB: \$20,000 for *The South Calgary Neighbourhood Hub* which will allow one-stop access at St. Andrew's Centre to a range of meaningful activities, social agencies, referral resources, and government services, with a focus on engaging seniors and their caregiver families in a setting informed by congregational hospitality and pastoral care. The Hub will operate in collaboration with agencies and groups in communities in the Glenmore to Shawnessy area. It has been developed through an intensive collaboration process, including a series of community engagement roundtables sponsored by EDGE Network, with funding by The Calgary Foundation in 2014-15.
- **Chalmers Community Services Centre** in Guelph ON: \$2,345 for the *Seniors Mending Clothes and Hearts* project which is based on the success of our mending and café programs offered at our Chalmers Downtown location. While guests wait around the sewing table for their items to be fixed, they are invited by volunteers who are mostly seniors, to enjoy coffee and snacks, to “window shop” through racks of clothing and to talk with one another. This grant will support the creation of the program at a new, additional, location.
- **Trinity United Church** in Minto NB: \$500 for the *Trinity Senior Shuffleboard Project* which will encourage positive social interactions within the community and be a valuable outlet for the seniors. The Project will provide a time of physical, mental, and social activity within the realm of wellness for those in attendance.

The New Ministries Fund:

A. New Grants

- **French Ministry at Plymouth-Trinity** in Sherbrooke, QC: \$25,000 for a pilot project that will live out an ecumenical and intercultural sustainable community of faith, combining covenantal African values of solidarity/community and in accordance with the vision of radical inclusivity of the United Church.
- **Calgary Queer Ministry** in Calgary, AB: \$25,000 per year for two years to offer weekly gatherings in the form of Spiritual Reflections and Small Groups with the goal of fostering strong discipleship within their community. Targeting the LGBTQ+ community, the desire is to bridge the gap between the faith and queer communities, providing a safe space to explore, contemplate, heal, learn, grow, and to discover and re-discover this mystery that we call God. They would also like to begin to stream their services live so those that cannot join in person can still be connected to the community and spiritual growth.
- **“BE” Ministry** in Sackville, NB: \$12,500 for the event-based, emerging ministry with a foundation of United Church values that does not meet in the physical traditional church and is focused on creating a community of faith.
- **Wesley United Church** in Stouffville, ON: \$17,000 for the “Share the Music” program that gives seniors an intercultural experience, joy of life, empowerment and gifts. The program has a demonstrated record of “I Can’t” being transformed to “I Can” and through interactive musical participation seniors discover the freedom to share personal life stories, inspiration and faith.

B. Continuing Grants

- **Alderwood United Church** in Toronto, ON: \$25,000 representing the second installment of a three year grant for a mentorship ministry with ordained church leaders
- **Portuguese Ministry** in Toronto, ON: \$25,000 representing the second installment of a three year grant to develop the ministry Igreja Ponte de Graça which is a Portuguese Community of Faith in partnership with College Street United Church and Toronto Southwest Presbytery
- **Filipino Ministry** in Toronto, ON: \$25,000 representing the second installment of a three year grant to develop the ministry that is building a Filipino migrant church and friends in Toronto’s Southwest Presbytery
- **Toby’s Place** in Toronto, ON: \$25,000 representing the final installment of their grant for Communities That Care offers the church a way to recapture this missional aspect.



The program uses technology and personal relationships to engage local businesses and individuals to share from their abundance with those in need.

- **Church Wide Open** in Sooke, BC: \$7,500 representing 50% of the final installment their grant to develop the ministry which is a variety of ministries including home cells and Messy Church. They are experimenting in engaging the community by creating community spaces and ministering to individuals and families in their contexts.
- **Edge Network** in Toronto, ON: \$25,000 to continue to support the New Ministry Development of The United Church of Canada.