



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:

*19 grants were awarded through 2018 Fall round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$164,960.*

### Events, Lectureships, & Workshops

#### **From the James Robertson Trust Fund and The United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund**

- \$16,500 to **Canadian Memorial United Church** (Vancouver, BC) in support of the Reconciliation Matters Reconciliation Dialogue Circle.
  - \$10,000 from the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund
  - \$6,500 from the United Church of Canada Foundation's General FundReconciliation Matters is implementing a two-day reconciliation dialogue circle in February 2019. The event will have 80-100 participants, roughly half of which will be Indigenous. Their dialogue circle will involve a facilitated step-by-step process guided by Indigenous facilitators. They will use both a large circle and smaller break out groups. The Indigenous participants and facilitators will include both residential school survivors and intergenerational survivors.

#### **The Peace & Justice Fund**

- \$2,800 to **Knox United Church and Vancouver Island Partnering Churches** (Parksville, BC) in support of When God was Flesh and Wild: Stories in Defense of the Earth. Through 5 unique workshops and a Sunday worship, storyteller Bob Haverluck (a 2015 McGeachy Scholar) will lead participants in exploring the bias for the wellbeing of creation in Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- \$2,000 to **St Andrew's Wesley United Church** (Vancouver, BC) in support of Heartbeat 2019. Heartbeat is a collaborative concert featuring young adult musicians and artists from diverse communities and is an agent of change. This concert focuses on promoting diverse representations across cultures, religions, gender identities, and sexual orientations by using art to show how these differences can be in conversation with each other, not conflict. Through the Heartbeat performance, they support artists to co-create performances that highlight their diversity and show how one can be changed by that relationship. New to the 2019 event will be "Open Table" space: where faith communities will host a meal and peace-building conversations with the mostly young adult attendees, in order to further build connections between communities. This project is about departing from the fear of the "other" and the prejudice that



goes along with it, to neighbourly love, and dialogue that will create stronger, more vibrant and more supportive communities.

### **The Alfred J. Mitchell Fund**

- \$400 to ***St. Andrew's Westminster United Church*** (London, ON) in support of Anxiety Matters. This is a one-day workshop aimed at helping themselves and others to manage anxiety in the modern world. As part of St. Andrew's Westminster's Mission and Outreach, they will make this workshop available to their wider community, to help in the ongoing work to remove stigmas from mental health issues and raise awareness of effective strategies and the importance of dialogue.

## Faith Formation & Congregational Ministry

### **The United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund**

- \$5,000 to ***Forest Grove United Church*** (North York, ON) in support of Finding Our Third Congregation. Forest Grove United Church has an active community on social media, up to 600 unique hits a week, many of which are anonymous. Forest Grove aims to discover the size and reach of their online congregation and find ways to integrate them more fully into the life of their other two congregations ("traditional" Sunday morning and families that attended Grove Music School Tuesday and Wednesdays).

## Seniors Ministries

### **From the Ann Baker Fund**

- \$5,900 to ***Robertson-Wesley United Church*** (Edmonton, AB) support of Spirited Arts Movement. The Spirited Arts Movement is committed to creating space for all ages to be inspired and to have their artistic selves unleashed. Through visual arts, drama, writing, movement, music, and digital arts, Robertson-Wesley United Church will offer artistic workshops on topics of healing and justice. One of these workshops will offer Art Therapy to residents in long term care.
- \$7,000 to ***Visions United Church*** (Moncton, NB) in support of Spirit of Music. Spirit of Music is a new pilot project which develops an outreach ministry based in music and spirituality. This program intends to develop a cluster ministry with United Churches to identify socially isolated seniors within the church's care radius, focusing on those who can no longer attend weekly worship and church events. It then creates musical-spiritual events within the home of the isolated seniors. The pilot intends to become a teachable outreach model for other United Churches and their pastoral care teams.

### **From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults**

- \$17,265 to ***Tatamagouche Centre/Atlantic Christian Training Centre*** (Tatamagouche, NS) in support of Seniors' Spirituality Program Stream. The Seniors' Spirituality Program Stream will



highlight senior leadership, spirit, and connections for personal and social transformation. To guide this work, the Tatamagouche Centre will be establishing a Seniors Program Advisory Group. Through this stream they will also offer program scholarships for low-income and marginalized seniors.

- \$13,245 to **1JustCity** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of Seniors Art Workshops. Too often, seniors experience social isolation; seniors living in poverty even more so. 1JustCity piloted bringing in Art City, a local art program, to work with seniors as part of a larger health program. As a direct result of this and seniors accessing their drop-in asking for social and art opportunities they have created this project which will make art a fixture for seniors to come together and work through their troubles.
- \$1,700 to **Grace United Church** (Brampton, ON) in support of Grace Court Seniors Outreach. Grace Church proposes to reduce isolation among seniors at Grace Court by hosting social activities and events and encouraging the residents to take on programming responsibilities. Grace Court is a low-income seniors' apartment building of 65 units. Grace Court was built by members of Grace United Church and the Grace Court Board is primarily composed of Grace Church members.
- \$5,855 to **Chalmers Community Services Centre** (Guelph, ON) in support of Training for a Safer Community. The Training for a Safer Community project is being developed to provide diverse and relevant training and education to their volunteers, most of whom are seniors. As CCSC grows and develops, they are experiencing more and more difficult and potentially unsafe situations in their space. Through the training and educating of volunteers, they can provide quality, informed, and safe service to their guests.
- \$10,000 to **Women of the Dawn Counselling Centre Inc.** (Regina, SK) in support of Elders Passing On Knowledge and Language to the Community. The project will address healing needs by offering a 3-6 month residential "Elders Healing a Community" program. The Program will provide information about Residential School impacts and offer individual and group counselling, group sessions, sharing circles, and guest speakers. The Project will also teach the Aboriginal Community on the importance of language and culture in today's society.
- \$8,815 to **Oak Table Inc.** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of SING FOR JOY! This project will provide an opportunity for people who may otherwise experience barriers to participate in singing with others and to provide seniors with a place where they can make social connections and where they can feel welcome and valued. It does not require participants to be good at singing; it is somewhere anyone can go. Their outreach ministry is full of those experiencing trauma, mental health issues and daily struggles with poverty and isolation.
- \$10,980 to **Kingston Road United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of Mindfulness meditation program: Fostering resilience in seniors under stress. This program will offer meditation programming on a regular basis and expand on the current program. The majority of participants are retirees or seniors dealing with life-changing transitions/stressors such as acute or chronic illness, depression, poverty or loss of a spouse. The participants are people from within their congregation and the broader community. The programming combines contemplation with outreach and hospitality.
- \$20,000 to **Montreal City Mission** (Montreal, QC) in support of Seasons/Saisons: A Program for newcomer and Canadian born seniors. Seasons/Saisons is an innovative pilot project that will reach out to newcomer seniors, respond to their psycho-social needs and connect with local



seniors through workshops and artistic projects. Despite specific challenges, both groups of seniors have much to offer once an inter-active space is created for them to meet.

- \$5,000 to **Parkview Apartments Incorporated** (Corner Brook, NL) in support of Seniors Activities. Parkview Apartments Incorporated will develop and provide seniors programming and outreach for the seniors living in the apartments, in their congregation, and living in the surrounding Corner Brook area. Programming will include a soup kitchen, and health and wellbeing programs such as exercise classes, health education sessions, healthy eating, and art classes. This program will be beneficial to the seniors and will help create greater self-reliance.
- \$2,500 to **St. James Centennial United Church** (Parry Sound, ON) in support of Community Kitchens. The Community Kitchens program will invite seniors living on their own to come out to prepare and eat a meal together. There is usually enough food left over to take home for two more meals and a typical session is four hours long and can have a group size of 8 - 18 participants. The program also offers coordinators who design healthy meal plans on a budget.
- \$20,000 to **Trinity United Church** (Gravenhurst, ON) in support of Gravenhurst Against Poverty-Dignity & Community Through Nourishment. Gravenhurst Against Poverty (G.A.P.) began in December 2017, as several concerned citizens of Gravenhurst and Trinity United Church's Outreach Team gathered to discuss the issue of alarming levels of poverty as it relates to food and food security. G.A.P. brings many different service groups, organizations, churches, government, businesses and residents together not only to identify challenges and build awareness.
- \$10,000 to **Silver Falls United Church** (Saint John, NB) in support of Fund To B Square. Silver Falls United Church are both a senior and youth-based church that have active missions and outreach projects including a Brown Bag Lunch Program which provide 235 lunches to local school children. 90% of the people that make this program possible are senior volunteers. This Seeds of Hope grant will be used to help replace the flooring and underlayment in one of their halls to enable projects like this continue in a safely.

## The New Ministries Fund:

***8 grants were awarded in the 2018 Fall round from The New Ministries Fund totaling \$176,800.***

- \$25,000 to **Westmount Park United Church** (Westmount, QC) in support of Living Church. This is the second installment of a three year grant. Westmount Park United Church have declared themselves a Living Church (Faith in Nature Centre) and the project to deliver continuity and growth. They have a public monthly educational Climate Café and a cooperative garden and they opened up the sanctuary to create an all-age educational Nature Niche. Their worship always has a nature focus and believe in the power of nature to connect us all. Furthermore, they are the only church community in Canada that they know of where each service there is a Faith in Nature focus.
- \$24,000 to **Hillhurst United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of Contemplative Arts Ministry. This is the second installment of a three year grant. Having a successful pilot run of



Contemplative Arts Ministry in 2016 they aim to grow this project by having weekly gatherings and one on one spiritual direction, contemplative arts education and training, including meditation and other contemplative practices, and special focused events designed to invite deeper exploration and personal insight. Hillhurst United Church wants to continue to attract a wide range of people looking for spiritual support and community building through this ministry.

- \$25,000 to **Southwood United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of the Millennial Ministry Project. This is the second installment of a three year grant. This is a project that puts time and resources towards engaging the millennial generation in the Christian faith and life of the local church. To accomplish this they have involved multiple strategies including but not limited to having a robust social media engagement plan, a focused effort on initiating deeper friendships and spiritual care with millennials both inside and outside the congregation, a ministry of hospitality/intentional community to be lived out in homes, the development of a millennial-specific spiritual formation track within the broader ministry programs of the church, and participation in local outreach projects reflecting justice, community building, and acts of charity and kindness.
- \$25,000 to **Birchcliff Bluffs United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of Toby's Place. This is the second installment of a three year grant. Toby's Place responds to the need for programs or safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in the South Scarborough area. It is a new safe where seekers in the LGBTQ+ youth community can come and find affirmation that they are loved as they are. They are building a space where identity, values and real hope can safely be explored and where a community meal and education will offer a deep and growing connection with other youths and the community as whole. A sanctuary where all youth are welcome.
- \$25,000 to **Huron Shores United Church** (Grand Bend, ON) in support of the Community Wellness Project. This is the first instalment of a three year grant of \$25,000 per year. Huron Shores United Church will operate a Community Wellness Project that researches and develops activities and programs for the purpose of social inclusion. Programs would be suitable for everyone, could be instructor led or participant led, and may include social dining, music, games, a makerspace, and meaningful volunteer opportunities to work on social justice issues. The programs and activities would welcome all ages, gender identities, and socio-economic backgrounds, and would be offered at no, or low, cost to participants.
- \$25,000 to **Oxbow and Alameda United Churches** (Alameda, SK) in support of *R.E.A.C.H. (Rural Energy and Christian Hope)*. This is the first instalment of a three year grant of \$25,000 per year. Oxbow and Alameda United Churches recognize that while it is common to wonder why people aren't coming to church, it is less common to make a point of asking people in what kind of faith formation environment they could imagine themselves taking part. They aim to create a series of consultative processes (in rural communities), including one-on-one conversations, written surveys, small group meals/discussions, and focus groups which will result in lasting relationships and an understanding the potential role that the church can play in the community. Once they have done this they plan to immediately begin activities in the community that might begin to draw new people in. The activities can include a grief support group, continuance of weekly Friday Night Fuel suppers, Bible for Beginners Evenings, Drama Workshop, Drumming Workshop, and increased Social Media presence in the community.



- \$17,800 to **Stouffville United Church** (Stouffville, ON) in support of Creating Community for All. This is the first installment of a two year grant. The second installment of the grant will be for \$16,300. As Stouffville United Church enter the second year of their renewal, modernization and mental health wellness initiatives, there is a new pride in their faith community which has opened fresh conversations about themselves, their faith and their focus to Create a Community for ALL. Using 3 core values; Explore Spirituality, Embrace Action and Experience Belonging, their spiritual outlook is to deepen the congregation's understanding of these values through messaging that the Spirit is at work and God touches our lives in all we do inside and outside church. Part of the way they are accomplishing this is through Mental Health Wellness seminars, support groups, events and programs.
- \$10,000 to the **Anglican Diocese of British Columbia** (Victoria, BC) in support of the Emmaus Community. This is a one year grant with the opportunity to apply for two more years of grant support. Emmaus is an shared ministry of the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada intentionally modeling a witness of radical discipleship, reconciliation, ecumenism and diversity.

***If you have questions about these awards, would like to apply for a grant, find out if your project is eligible for funding, or would like to learn more about the Foundation, please contact us at 1-866-340-8223 or by email at [grants@united-church.ca](mailto:grants@united-church.ca)***