



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:

*31 grants were awarded through 2022 Spring round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$222,208.*

### Children, Youth, and Young Adult Programs

#### **From the Wesley C. Smith Fund**

- \$1,000 to *Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre* (St. John's, NL) in support of *the Sports Field/Recreation Upgrades project*. They aim to make the field and basketball court accessible to individuals with accessibility needs. They will fill any holes in the field as well as seed and soil to create accessibility for all. A pathway to the basketball court will be placed to allow campers in wheelchairs to access the basketball court. Additionally, they aim to repave the basketball court to allow it to be accessible, as it is currently uneven in places.
- \$10,000 to *the Massey Centre for Women* (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Reimagining and Reintroducing Volunteer Program to Help Young Families* project. The project will introduce volunteers to 3 sites at Massey Centre. Volunteers will support programming for families including workshops for children/youth, recreational programming, and respite. This project is needed at this time because Massey Centre amalgamated with Humewood House and now has more sites. This project is needed to change their systems to virtual to make volunteer recruitment more efficient across locations.

### Camping

#### **From the Camping Trust Fund**

- \$2,500 to *Silver Lake Camp* (Kincardine, ON) in support of the *Silver Lake Dining Hall Build* project. Silver Lake Camp is looking to raise \$2.5 million dollars over the next 2 years to build a new Dining Hall. To date, they have raised over \$600,000 through generous donors and church communities. The new dining hall will include many updates that will help to address some current issues and increase usable space. Some of these updates include accessible bathrooms, increased meeting space, basement storage, modernized kitchen area, more space for dining with increased airflow, large outside dining deck on upper level, and indoor laundry facilities.

### **From the Camping Trust Fund and the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Camp Bimini** (St. Pauls, ON) in support of the *New entrance and parking lot project*. Their existing camp entrance is narrow, on the side of the hill with existing blind spots to the busy road traffic on the county highway. The safety of their campers and their families is a major concern. Their project is to establish a new camp entrance with increased visibility at the base of the hill and create a parking lot on our property that will be a safe distance from the busy road.

### **From the Wesley C. Smith Fund and the Ann Baker Estate Fund**

- \$4,500 to **Lambton Presbytery United Church Centre** (Lambton Shores, ON) in support of the *Accessible flooring for Lambton Centre's Children Centre* project. Lambton Centre wants to install accessible-nonslip flooring in the living room and hallway from the accessible washrooms of the Children's Centre to provide safer programming access for youth with disabilities. This will increase opportunities to participate in services/programs. This will allow for more independence/autonomy and a more enjoyable experience and they will have a more inclusive environment, where everyone feels they belong. The installation will be done by the volunteers at Lambton Centre.
- \$20,000 to **the Tatamagouche Centre** (Tatamagouche, NS) in support of the *Supporting Youth Leaders & Intergenerational learning in the Maritimes* program. Tatamagouche Centre is blessed with a wide diversity of communities - multi-faith, multi-race, gender-diverse and multi-generational. We tackle divisiveness through encounters, learning programs, gatherings and retreats focused on spiritual growth and justice. Young leaders are the future of our social movements. Intergenerational learning ensures the passing of legacies. This project ensures that youth voices and voices are well-supported directly and with Elders and represent the diversity of youth in our communities across the Maritimes.

### **From the Wesley C. Smith Fund**

- \$7,000 to **Camp Cosmos** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Camp Cosmos- Accessibility Program*. Camp Cosmos' Accessibility Program allows children with disabilities to experience the joy of camp in a safe and supported environment. They are one of the only camps in Montreal where children of all abilities learn and play together, and the only one that offers free accompaniment services. With the help of the Accessibility Director, who adapts programming to meet each camper's needs, and a Shadow who, campers with disabilities can truly shine.
- \$1,000 to **Norwich United Church Summer Camp** (Norwich, ON) in support of the *NUC Summer Camp Program*. This is the 16th year of their Summer Day camp and leadership program. NUC hire students who plan, organize & implement eight weeks of affordable, faith based, summer camp. Senior staff mentor younger staff in planning and presenting weekly activities and themes. Young people from grades 7 - 10 attend the leadership camp and then assist with younger campers the rest of the summer who enjoy a variety of activities based on weekly themes.

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

- \$10,000 to **Fred Victor Centre** (Toronto, ON) in support of *the Fred Victor Urban Community Gardening Program*. The Fred Victor Urban Community Gardening program is providing people living on low incomes with immediate access to fresh, healthy food at a time when many families have been experiencing increased food insecurity, job loss, and rising housing and food costs. This program provides a vital outlet for safe, socially-distanced outdoor activity to engage the community and provide children and youth opportunities to engage in learning about nutrition, health, gardening and ecology.
- \$3,250 to **Chalmers Community Services Centre** (Guelph, ON) in support of *the Opening our Doors* project. When COVID hit in March 2020, they closed down all of our cafe programs, which meant that they shut out a large group of community members who needed a safe place to go. The "Opening Our Doors" project is dedicated to finding a safe way to open our cafes again.

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

- \$18,500 to **Brunswick Street Mission** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Outreach Program: Community Engagement* project. Their Outreach Program is a trauma-informed program for those experiencing poverty in our community and is designed to provide flexible and responsive mental health supports for community members in distress. The program has been running in its current form for 2 years and primarily offers on-site, drop-in services. We plan to expand our program to begin offering in-the-community services, sending our outreach worker to the most difficult to reach people in our community.

## Events

### **James Robertson Memorial Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Duncan United Church** (Duncan, BC) in support of *the Palestinian Farmers* project. The project, coordinated with the assistance, support and advice of the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (A United Church of Canada Network) brings Fayez and Mona (Taneeb) Owda, farmers from Palestine, to meet organic/off grid farmers, Indigenous people living under Canadian law and community members. They will share and learn techniques of Organic/off grid farming, share their philosophy of organic farming as resistance and share stories of living under occupation.
- \$1,800 to **Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (Beausejour, MB) in support of the *Visit by Palestinian farmers Fayez and Mona Taneeb*. The project goal is to build cross-cultural solidarity on questions of economic and agricultural justice. They will host a Palestinian farmer to share

his story of sustainable agriculture under oppressive conditions in the West Bank. Fayez is a farmer that Adrian met on a United Church delegation to Palestine last year who has been invited to make a cross-country tour of Canada to share his story.

- \$10,000 to **Westworth United Community of Faith** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of *the Walking the Paths of Residential Schools* project. Working closely with Indigenous mentors, Rev. Gloria Cooke and Rev. Stan McKay, the Team has crafted a week-long educational event to shine a light on the United Church's Brandon Residential School, and the Assiniboia Residential School, formerly located in the River Heights area of Winnipeg. Rev. Cooke will speak Saturday evening on her experiences in Residential Schools and Rev. McKay will lead Sunday worship with an emphasis on Indigenous Spiritual Practices.

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

- \$4,500 to **Five Oaks Centre** (Brantford, ON) in support of *the Decolonization Course*. This course has two formats within its structure: two weekend retreats and a four-week program, to respond to TRC Action #59; #60, by creating a program for white leaders to deconstruct colonialism and offer ways for the church to be reconstruct and transform themselves in ways that do no harm. The course will strive to identify negative and harmful interpretive patterns and see alternative possibilities, for leadership in and outside the church
- \$4,500 to **Five Oaks Centre** (Brantford, ON) in support of the *Indigenous Governance 101* project. Indigenous Governance 101 will be created and presented in consultation with the Indigenous Program Coordinator and Six Nations Elder. They will hire a leader to write curriculum and lead programming on the basics of Indigenous Governance. The curriculum will be structured to help newcomers and settlers to better understand the function and culture of Indigenous communities.

## **Faith Formation & Congregational Ministry**

### **From the Living Spirit Fund**

- \$8,000 to **River Bend Integrated Community Ministries Inc.** (Saskatoon, SK) in support of *the Mental Health Sharing Circle*. The Sharing Circle creates a sense of place and a culturally safe space for those who may have experienced Residential School and Sixties Scoop Intergenerational Trauma, Mental Wellness and Addictions, Grief and Loss, Homelessness, Gang involvement and various Abuses. It is a place where we learn to stand up and take a stand with our Story, our Truth, our Beliefs and our Healing. Unity is real Strength.

- \$4,250 to **Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (Beausejour, MB) in support of the *Planting of Seedlings* project. The Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is planting 700 seedlings this spring. They have 500 hazel nut seedlings and 200 Saskatoon seedlings on order for planting at the centre. The centre was to replenish some of the trees that have been lost due to age. The new seedlings would provide our guests with the opportunity to harvest nuts and berries.
- \$750 to **Trinity United Church** (Beamsville, ON) in support of the *Johnny Appleseed Project-Raised Gardens*. Building 3 raised vegetable garden beds will supplement the local food bank at Community Care West Niagara and the local migrant workers food boxes supplied by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, Fresh flowers from the cutting garden will also be offered to the clients of those organizations. COVID 19 hampered the in-person activities at Trinity Beamsville. This project will renew team work for volunteers at Trinity United Church as we live our vision for ministry and mission.
- \$10,000 to **Harrow United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of the *Honoring Truth and Reconciliation* project. At Harrow United Church, we believe that Truth and Reconciliation is the most definitive and important work for our nation and our community in this generation. We also believe that God is calling us to participate in this journey, and to respectfully engage with indigenous and settler community members, community organizations, schools, and the City of Winnipeg to educate, and to nurture relationships and understanding.

### **From the Living Spirit Fund and Gilmore Park United Church Fund**

- \$2,200 to **Uganda Martyrs United Church of Canada** (North York, ON) in support of the *Spiritual Enrichment Program*. This grant will allow them to participate in the Seed Consulting coaching and course about spiritual gift development.

### **From the Faith and Mission Fund**

- \$1,000 to **Westminster United Church** (Whitby, ON) in support of the *Spiritual Practices for Connection and Well-Being* project. Spiritual Practices for Connection and Well-Being is a project that will build and strengthen meaningful relationships (with God and one another) through small group opportunities for all ages, focusing on spiritual practices. The project involves research, development and implementation of a program to facilitate experiences of faith and spirituality both in person and online for church members and the wider community, while also building and equipping people with gifts and skills to continue this ministry.
- \$4,000 to **Eglise Unie Saint Jean** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Intégration au quartier* project. This project aims to reposition the mission of openness and welcome characteristic of St. Jean's and its historic building located in the heart of Montreal. To accomplish a profound transition towards attentive collaboration with the organizations of the neighborhood and their



diverse needs. The church works alongside EDGE to explore the possibilities of pastoral and social redeployment in the neighborhood.

## **From the Foundation General Fund**

- \$50,000 to ***Jordana Wright and Activate Space (Jubilee United Church)*** (Toronto, ON) in support of Active Space. Activate Space is a social enterprise that grew out of the United Church of Canada. It helps congregations excel as vibrant financially sustainable community hubs by connecting them with mission-driven organizations in their own local neighbourhoods who would like to share sacred and communal space. Led by a young Black female leader in the Church, it serves as a bridge between established congregations and a diversity of new partners representing the future of the Church.

## Environmental Programs

### **From The Environmental Endowment Fund**

- \$2,500 to ***Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre*** (Beausejour, MB) in support of the *New Well - pump, wiring, piping* project. The Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is needing to drill a new deeper well as the current well is showing signs of drying up as the water table is low due to the drought conditions over the past 5 years. The level of water in the well is 10 feet below the level that was recorded in 2016.

## Peace, Justice, and Leadership Programs

### **From the Peace and Justice Fund**

- \$6,000 to ***St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie*** (Grande Prairie, AB) in support of the *St. Paul's Affirming Journey*. St. Paul's United Church would like to offer a panel discussion, an open house, book talks, have their community actually see and be able to chat with individuals who are Gender Queer in an effort to learn about the challenges they face daily. Their goal is to provide a meaningful opportunity for open dialogue and connect with youth. The ultimate goal is to host a vote and become an official Affirming Church in the spring of 2023. There are no designated Affirming congregations north of Edmonton (450km south east of Grande Prairie).
- \$10,000 to ***the United Church of Canada Church in Mission Unit*** (Toronto, ON) in support of the 2nd phase of the 2022 People's University being organized by the the Karl Lévêque Cultural Institute (ICKL). This year's People's University is focused on "Participatory democracy: philosophical foundations and historical experiences." This is particularly important as Haiti is at a critical point in its history. In July 2021, the president of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, was assassinated

leaving a vacuum of power after being accused of wide spread corruption, being implicated in violence and ruling by decree. Since Moise's assassination, members of the Core Group, including Canada have called for swift elections. At the same time, a broad movement of 418 organizations of civil society, 105 popular organizations and 85 political parties and groups have called for a Haitian solution to the crisis, demanding a transitional government made up of different sectors of Haitian society that would break with the past political practices and enable deeper change within Haitian society.

## Seniors Ministries

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

- \$5,000 to ***Women of the Dawn Ministry*** (Regina, SK) in support of *the Kokums Helping Project*. Women of the Dawn Ministry have an Elders group and Office and would like to continue from the last project providing Elders services in their community. This grant will partially allow them to secure the materials needed to continue this work.
- \$5,000 to ***First Grantham United Church*** (St. Catharines, ON) in support of the *Re-entering Community, a Changed World, after Covid-19* project. This project will assist seniors experiencing social isolation to re-enter the community with confidence. The simple tasks, once taken for granted, are challenging now and seniors have been lonely in their own homes but feeling safe. Re-entering a busy world will introduce a new stress. Seniors are no longer in sync with 'normal' everyday life. This project will provide activities to build confidence will including exercise, mindfulness activities, nutritional education, and brain health.
- \$8,408 to ***Maison Saint Columba House*** (Montreal, QC) in support of *the Human Library Project*. Seniors Human Library is a project that will be initiated to better support the emotional, social participation, and inclusion needs of at-risk seniors within our organization and the greater Point Saint Charles community. In this project people (seniors) will be on loan instead of books to share their living history as it pertains to one specific topic of interest.
- \$2,550 to ***Grace United Church*** (Hanover, ON) in support of the Hand Chimes Music Program. Grace United Church plans to purchase hand chimes, and start with a hand chimes community music program that includes two ensembles: one for children, youth and families, and one for adults and seniors. There will be community outreach opportunities for people to try them and make music together, and through concerts. Heather Saumur is Children, Youth and Family Support staff with a Masters in Music who is ready and willing to lead this program.

## From the Ann Baker Fund

- \$4,000 to **St. James United Church** (Innisfil, ON) in support of the *Forest Therapy Without Barriers* project. This project will bring the virtual/interactive experience and benefits of Forest Therapy to people who cannot experience the benefits in the actual forest. "Home" includes private dwellings and Long-Term Care homes. Once weekly for 6 weeks, each person will receive a visit. Here, they experience the standard flow model of an outdoor walk but rather than walking the experience, items will be brought to them that will allow them to experience benefits of forest therapy.

## Research, Scholarship, & Academic Awards

**31 grants were awarded for Research, Scholarship, and Academic Awards at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$233,000.**

## From the Rowntree Scholarship

- \$30,000 to **Peter Woods and MacKay United Church** (Ottawa, ON) in support of the *New Edinburgh Neighbourhood Sound Walk*. Sound Walks create a hybrid experience of spirituality, neighbourhood identity and nature through community engagement. The ultimate product is a gps-based (available on any computing device) walk around the historic Ottawa neighbourhood of New Edinburgh, with accompanying soundtrack. Sounds (music and spoken word) will be accessible via earbuds, and will have emerged out of improvisational music and conversations created/curated within the MacKay Church building as part of the Sound Walk community-engagement process. Church turns 'inside-out'! Content will emerge from "Music and Meditation" events at MacKay Church. There will also be community recording events for gathering words and poetry reflective of local spirituality and geography. With a mix of artistic direction and community engagement, the Sound Walk content will then be engineered into an easily shareable online product. The local Sound Walk would then be promoted and released much the same as an album or film, but very much as an affirmation of community and local identity.
- \$24,000 to **Ross Bartlett** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Thriving Part-time Ministries project*. Based on completed research into the rapidly expanding phenomenon of part-time and bi-vocational ministry in the United Church (cf: Bartlett Jones *The Rise of Part-time Employment in Canada's Largest Protestant Denomination*, *Studies in Religion*, forthcoming; and Bartlett's *Real Ministry: How Part-time and Bi-vocational Clergy are Challenging and Empowering the Church*, forthcoming from Friesen Press), certain consistent factors in successful and thriving part-time pastorates have been identified. This study will focus on those characteristics and practices of congregations that offer the best possibility of success. After testing, the results will be formulated as best practices for the information of clergy, congregations and educational institutions. The project will involve survey taking, interviews with select clergy and congregations, and testing of results with experts and practitioners.



### **From the Anna Jentsch- Bill Endowment Bursary**

- *Ms. Lauri Ladd*
- *Rev. Andrea Allan*
- *Mrs. Jessica Gauthier*
- *Rev. Alexa Gilmour*
- *Ms. YunJung (Julia) Kim*
- *Rev. Sarah Bruer*
- *Mrs. Ilinca Poon*
- *Rev. Laurie Stevenson (Milito)*
- *Ms. Yujene Oh*
- *Rev. Britt Aerhart*
- *Rev. Kathleen Anderson*

### **From the Victor Blatherwick Memorial Bursary**

- *Rev. Marcie Gibson*

### **From the Clifford Elliott Spirit of Saskatchewan Award**

- *Rev. Ariel Siagan*
- *Rev. Oliver Dingwell*

### **From the W. Norman McLeod Scholarship**

- *Rev. Deborah Foster*
- *Rev. Jaylynn Byassee*
- *Rev. Britt Aerhart*

### **From the Elizabeth White Bursary**

- *Ms. Ching-Yu Huang*
- *Ms. Wing Yi Wong*

### **From the Alice K. McDonald Memorial Bursary**

- *Roxanne Bale*

### **From the Rev. John A McDermid Memorial Bursary**

- *Esther Guillen*

### **From the Gilmore Park United Church Bursary**

- *Rev. Brenna Baker*
- *Ms. Yujene Oh*
- *Rev. Kathleen Anderson*

### **From the McGeachy Scholarship for Th.D and Ph.D Studies**

- *Mr. Morgan Bell*
- *Rev. Ariel Siagan*

- **Rev. Samuel Grottenberg**

## **From the McGeachy Senior Scholarship**

- **Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell**

Dr. Fennell will take on a major academic study of the Holy Spirit (pneumatology) within the United and Uniting Church traditions that are affiliated with the World Council of Churches. “This research project will ask, first of all, what are the key faith commitments held within the United and Uniting churches about the Holy Spirit? Who is she? How does she relate within the Trinity? What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit with creation and human creatures? Secondly, [Dr. Fennell] will look at how these convictions are shaped by social location, histories of colonization and settlement/invasion, Eurocentric assumptions, and critiques of modernity embedded within other traditions and perspectives. Finally, [Dr. Fennell] will consider how these faith commitments relate to the Holy Spirit – and indeed how the Spirit herself – inform the practices of intercultural ministry and discipleship, such as prayer, worship, Biblical interpretation, everyday living, service to others, and public witness, as well as ecumenical and interreligious encounter and cooperation”. 40% will be released at the start of the study, 30% midway, and 30% upon completion.

- **Sandra Beardsall**

This is a publishing grant in support of A Space for “the Space in Between”: Creating an Online Toolkit to Foster and Support Ecumenical Shared Ministries in Canada. This work was created out of the work she did through her 2011 McGeachy Scholarship.

## **The New Ministries Fund:**

**6 New Ministries grants were awarded in the 2022 Spring round from the Embracing the Spirit granting program totaling \$145,000.**

### **First Instalment**

- \$25,000 to **Humber Valley United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Thrive 55+* project. First year of a three-year grant.
- \$25,000 to **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church** (Edmonton, AB) in support of the *SSUC Wild Sanctuary* project. First year of a three-year grant.
- \$25,000 to **The GO Project** (Oro Medante, ON) in support of the “*Out of the Box*” Curriculum project. First year of a three-year grant.

### **Second Instalment**

- \$25,000 to **St. Andrews United Church** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Transformational Leadership Initiative*. This is the second installment of a three-year grant. ;

### **Third Instalment**

- \$20,000 to **Burton Avenue United Church** (Barrie, ON) in support of *The Listening Post Barrie*. This is third and final year of a three-year grant



- \$25,000 to *Visions United Church* (Moncton, NB) in support of *Northeast Moncton Community Hub*. This is third and final year of a three-year grant.

***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)***