



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Scholarships and Academic Awards Committee and Joint Grants Committee, the United Church of Canada Foundation Board is pleased to announce the following grants made through its Spring 2024 granting cycle.

## The Seeds of Hope Granting Program:

*61 grants were awarded in the 2024 Spring round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$396,460. These grants are:*

### Children, Youth, and Young Adult Programs

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

- \$5,000 to **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fredericton and Oromocto** (Fredericton, NB) in support of the Inclusive Mentoring Program to Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion among the Immigrant Communities of Fredericton and Oromocto project. Their goal is to work with the Multicultural Association of Fredericton and the Wilmot United Church of Fredericton to build a Mentoring Program for the children in their community. A part-time Mentoring Coordinator will be hired from the Multicultural Association Community and together with BBBSFO Mentoring Coordinator guidance will work to identify mentees and mentors who will benefit from the project. Young people aged 5-16 will be successfully matched with caring adults.
- \$4,000 to **Kanata United Church** (Kanata, ON) in support of *the Celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Through Life Skills and Leadership project*. Centre33 is a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for 2SLGBTQIA+ identifying and questioning youth aged 12-17 years old. Participants will meet every week to engage in, co-create, and help lead life skills workshops like peer-support, financial literacy, post-secondary readiness, health advocacy, and more. We envision a project that will help participants to be peer-support leaders in our community.
- \$2,000 to **Pitt Meadows United Church** (Pitt Meadows, BC) in support of the *PMUC Community Music Camp for Children* project. The project will provide two free 5-day music camps for children, one in the fall of 2024 and the next in spring 2025. The camps will be led by a professional music educator and will present world music, including local Indigenous music, through video clips and live demonstrations. The children will be guided in singing, making their own instruments, and playing with their own instruments as well as demonstration instruments from countries presented.



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

- \$4,000 to **Willowdale Emmanuel United Church** (North York, ON) in support of the *WE Intercultural Young Family Ministry (WE Holy Fun program)* project. The name of the main project is "WE Holy Fun", which is an outreach program for children aged 4 to 11 years old. It is a 3-hour program every Sunday where parents can drop their children off at the church. Children have fun and joy through a variety of activities including music/dance, arts/crafts, sports/games, and Bible storytelling. Parents can participate in the adult worship service or relax with coffee/tea in the Friendship room.
- \$2,500 to **Emmanuel United Church** (Waterloo, ON) in support of the *Multiple Church Youth Group* project. To develop community integration for youth, including greater awareness of the world around them, and experiential opportunities. Facilitate their attendance at other faith communities, develop a greater awareness of Indigenous communities, to provide opportunity for youth to engage in experiences including creative activities. To facilitate their attendance once a month for an off-campus trip. This would include the cost to hire one additional staff member to facilitate trip taking, transportation costs, and entry fees.

### **From the Watkins Fund for Innovative programs and projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk, and the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund**

- \$15,000 to **Brunswick Street Mission** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Healthy Minds - Food Security Expansion project*. With Schools Plus, they currently provide food bundles to 25 low-income students at Citadel High School, taken home Fridays. They have confirmed the need for similar programming in other schools, expanding the program to an additional 60 students in three other Junior High Schools in the HRM. They will further expand to provide cooking and nutrition classes for these students in the Mission's kitchen, to help them feed themselves.
  - \$10,000 from the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund.
  - \$5,000 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

### **From the Watkins Fund for Innovative programs and projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk, and the Living Spirit Fund**

- \$10,000 to **Nutrition Blocs** (Ottawa, ON) in support of the *Shelter Nutrition and Catering for Kids (SNACK) Program* project. The SNACK Program will provide 175 school-aged children with 4 culturally-appropriate lunches/week. These recently migrated refugee families face many barriers: financial, language, skills, etc. and are sheltered in motels without kitchens. The inability to cook cultural home-cooked meals leads to children arriving at school hungry, and without a lunch. Most food banks and food charities do not provide prepared meals or culturally appropriate foods, which pushes these families into further food insecurity.
  - \$7,700 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative programs and projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk
  - \$2,300 from the Living Spirit Fund



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

### **From the Watkins Fund for Innovative programs and projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk**

- \$8,000 to **Abiona Centre For Infant & Early Mental Health** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Food 4 Thought 2 Program project*. The cooking program is being expanded for the vulnerable young mothers and their children. In it they will learn the necessary skills/knowledge to confidently prepare healthy and budget-friendly meals for their young families. Prior to the pandemic they ran a smaller program which was on hold. The program is being re-vitalized/grown to ensure all clients in the transitional housing program benefit. The ever-increasing food costs and number of clients served makes this program vital.

### **From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund**

- \$10,000 to **McDougall United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of the *Soul Cellar* project. Soul Cellar is comprised of several programs spanning various platforms targeted at the young adult/adult community exploring the unravelling of traditional religion for a new way of experiencing God and life together. Topics include: Why Deconstruct? Is God Queer? Sex Without Shame, Artificial Intelligence, Holy Books: What All Religions Share, Truth and Reconciliation, Black Lives Matter, Addictions, what to "Believe"\_: Personal Creeds, Poverty in a Land of Abundance, LSD: Hallucinogens and God, and Labour Unions.

### **From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Chalmers- Wesley United Church** (Quebec, QC) in support of the *English and Swahili Language* project. Have English Language lesson twice a month for at least two years and Swahili lessons once a week over the summer school break. The program will involve trained language teachers who are also our Christians. They hope to improve the languages of these children in the next two years or so. The outcome of the project will be measured by the development of language proficiency of these children.
- \$5,000 to **Good Tree Korean United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Korean Heritage Exploration for Youth* project. This project welcomes youth from all racial backgrounds as well as Korean-Canadians who may have lost touch with their cultural roots due to immigration or other circumstances. Their inclusive initiative offers a space to reconnect with and explore the richness of Korean heritage. Through engaging classes and seminars, participants gain insights into Korean traditions, fostering cultural appreciation and understanding. Whether rediscovering roots or exploring anew, this initiative serves as a bridge across generations and cultures.

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



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

- \$1,000 to **Shaughnessy Heights United Church** (Vancouver, BC) in support of the *Upper Skeena Connection* project. They plan on meeting the expectation of a Camp Spirit experience (a regional program that offers 4 morning and two evening events for learning and sharing in the Theme curriculum- led by youth and young adults and mentors). Many years ago, the work was provided solely by Shaughnessy Heights United Church - there was a collegial relationship that led to the engagement, and now, full circle, as Camp Spirit cannot provide the support this year.

### From the Davey Family Endowment Fund, and the Ann Baker Estate Trust Fund

- \$10,000 to **Sackville Pastoral Charge** (Sackville, NB) in support of the *Tantramar Community Connect* project. The aim of this program is to foster relationships between students and seniors and develop long lasting friendships. The program will pair groups of students with a senior buddy to meet weekly and share food, participate in games and activities or just provide company to the seniors. Coordinators will work with Nursing Homes Without Walls to recruit senior buddies and match them with students with similar interests.
  - \$5,000 from the Ann Baker Estate Trust Fund
  - \$5,000 from the Davey Family Endowment Fund

### From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$5,000 to **Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Young Adult Social Justice Initiatives: Eco-Spirituality/Queer Spirituality* project. To facilitate university student leadership and community building in social justice, particularly in the areas of eco-spirituality as well as queer Christian spirituality. Young adults have identified these two areas as priority concerns in their lives, in the church, and in the world. In this project, two student interns will be hired to develop regular programming and to create places for support and connection to advance inclusion for all and care for creation.

### From the United Church of Canada Foundation General Fund

- \$10,000 to **Sackville United Church** (Sackville, NB) in support of the *QS4A (Queer Space 4 Adults) project*. A queer peer support group that is facilitated by a registered clinical social worker. Feelings of connectedness and belonging with a queer community has been associated with positive mental health outcomes, reduced minority stress, and an affirming queer identity for queer populations. Their project aims to create connection and community by offering more opportunities and visibility for the queer community to form these connections by carving out safe(r) queer spaces to share their stories.



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

- \$6,500 to **Saint Columba House** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Playful Pathways: Healing Hearts, Building Futures. Child Centered Play Therapy Pilot Program for At-Risk Children and Youth* project. The Playful Pathways program, a 20-week initiative in collaboration with Concordia University, focuses on Child-Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) for 15 children facing Adverse Childhood Experiences. Led by CCPT-trained therapists, weekly sessions will enhance emotional well-being and social skills. The initiative also includes trauma-informed care training for staff, ensuring holistic support of all our children. By enrolling staff in Concordia's play therapy graduate certificate, the project both addresses immediate needs and builds long-term organizational capacity.

## United Church Camping Programs

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

- \$1,000 to **Camp Bimini** (St Pauls, ON) in support of the *Day Camp* project. Having a Day camp option decreases social anxiety and stress of overnight camping for both campers and parents address request for day camp option from parents' positive day camp experience will lead to a child who is more confident and comfortable with camp environment leading to a camper returning to camp; (hopefully) eventually become an overnight camper new initiative option to increase our camper numbers and revenue potential to trial with other age groups or camp weeks.

### **From the Faith and Mission Fund, and the Living Spirit Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Cave Springs Camp** (Lincoln, ON) in support of the *Adult Faith Enrichment* project. They will provide opportunities and experiences for adult participants to explore and deepen their spirituality within the natural environment of Cave Springs Camp. Events will include retreat days, nature church services and educational opportunities where participants can gather to explore their personal faith journeys through spiritual practices, the arts, conversation and community, and nature. They will provide 3-5 experiences a year. Invitations will be extended through church and community networks.
  - \$2,500 from the Living Spirit Fund
  - \$2,500 from the Faith and Mission Fund



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

## From the Faith and Mission Fund

- \$2,500 to **Camp Bimini** (St Paul's, ON) in support of the *Enhance Christian Education program project*. Recruiting role model Christian Education leaders would provide optimal interaction with campers at daily sessions. Mentoring counselling staff members will build their confidence and skill to lead/participate in a morning watch, grace, vesper or worship service. Providing an honorarium to CE leaders will partially compensate loss of income from missing work. Accommodating the CE leader's children and supplying supervised daycare will address family needs. Offering funds for materials to eliminate out of pocket expense for leader.

## From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$2,000 to **Camp Tapawingo** (Saskatoon, SK) in support of the *Camp tapawingo mental health initiative program for staff and campers project*. Building a staff Mental Health Initiatives Program using training from the Mental Health 101 training and the High five training program will give their summer staff valuable tools and resources to use for mental health regulation and to recognize when their campers need support with regulation. This will build a strong and healthy young staff to provide a quality and meaningful camp experience for all.
- \$2,000 to **Sparrow Lake United Church Camp** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Restorative Practices Staff Training project*. Restorative Practice is a term that encompasses a variety of empathy building and community healing techniques which implement the principles of non-violence in addressing conflict. By training staff in these techniques, and practicing them regularly with campers, they hope to reduce conflict by building greater connection and empathy. Activities like 'Circle conversations' games and activities that build empathy, and restorative justice practices will be employed.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

## Peace and Justice Programs

### **From the Peace & Justice Endowment Fund**

- \$2,500 to **Korean Rainbow United** (North York, ON) in support of the *Rainbow Connection* project. The primary objective is to translate relevant UCC resources and materials on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues and queer theology into Korean. Since they as a group have participated in and partnered with Korean 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, translate materials, supporting videos, talks, and forums related to queer theology and 2SLGBTQIA+ rights provide opportunities to transform any distorted awareness and recognize and embrace diversity. They will provide an online safe space to share the concerns and struggles of 2SLGBTQIA+ people and allies in Canada.
- \$2,000 to **St. Andrews United Church** (Hamilton, ON) in support of the *St. Andrews United Church Fridge & Pantry* project. Picture this: a welcoming space stocked with fresh, nutritious foods, available to anyone in need. It's about creating & offering a safe space for individuals struggling with mental health, wellness, addictions, trauma, and grief. Through partnerships N2N and supports through Community Fridges HamOnt, + existing Giving Garden, they will create a sustainable network of support, strengthening our commitment to social justice and reflects their belief in serving others as an expression of their faith.

### **From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust Fund**

- \$5,000 to **North York Korean United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *2SLGBTQIA+ Allies in Faith* project. This project equips Christian parents, guardians, and allies with tools to embrace LGBTQ individuals. Through interactive discussions, educational seminars, personalized guidance, and inclusive fellowship, they blend faith with acceptance and identity. Providing nuanced perspectives on scripture and championing LGBTQ rights as an embodiment of Christian compassion, their goal is to cultivate empathy and unity. They strive to foster a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued, understood, and supported in their journey of faith and identity.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

## Faith and Justice Programs

### **From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Bathurst United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Faith in a Time of Genocide* project. Faith in a Time of Genocide demands bold discipleship. This conference will empower disciples to confront hard questions. What does it mean for our faith to see Christ dwelling among displaced Gazans? Racism undergirds settler colonialism, apartheid, and genocide. In Canada, anti-Palestinian racism tries to silence calls for justice. Yet, in dark times of suffering and death, God brings life. We must not despair but work together with God, midwifing new life.
- \$10,000 to **Grace United Church Brampton** (Brampton, ON) in support of the *Umoja at Grace: Building Unity Through African History and Culture* project. Grace, a community hub, will host cultural workshops and events in our Sanctuary, organized by the African Museum Committee, with the goal of fostering an understanding and appreciation of African history and the African diaspora, building unity within the community.

## Seniors and At-Risk Housing

### **From the Ina Grafton Gage Trust Fund, and the Amelia Toeper Elliott Memorial Fund**

- \$30,000 to **Gladwin Heights United Church** (Abbotsford, BC) in support of the *Gladwin Heights United Church Project*. This will be a 6-story wood frame building. With dedicated space for 3 congregations. Wind and Tide will operate a day care centre for 37 children. MSA Living with Disabilities will bring all their residential users under one roof which will enhance care and support for the disabled. Four floors low-income seniors providing safe, comfortable affordable homes for the most vulnerable population with limited income facing homelessness due to increasing rental rates.
  - \$25,000 from the Ina Grafton Gage Trust
  - \$5,000 from the Amelia Toeper Elliott Memorial Fund
- \$30,000 to **Glebe St. James United Church** (Ottawa, ON) in support of the *Dream Lebreton Flats* project. The Dream Lebreton Flats project will add 133 new affordable housing units, ranging from 1-3 bedrooms, to help address the housing crisis in Ottawa. These units will serve priority populations, including Indigenous families, women and children, veterans, recent immigrants, and adults with cognitive disabilities. Once built, over 400 individuals, many of whom are children, will call this community home and access a variety of support programs that will help them thrive.
  - \$25,000 from the Ina Grafton Gage Trust
  - \$5,000 from the Amelia Toeper Elliott Memorial Fund





# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

## Programs supporting Communities of Faith

### From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$8,000 to **Pacific Mountain Region** (Burnaby, BC) in support of *the Out of the Greenhouse, Into the Garden* project. Transitioning their Wild Church ministry and plants over to more sustainable volunteer led gatherings by training existing and new leadership in the ethos and practices of Wild Church BC. They will work to create a library of resources (gathering notes or in church language - bulletins and liturgies) that volunteers can draw on. The student, Phillip Breden, will have a learning goal that includes leading their Wild Church presence in the Okanagan area.
- \$3,000 to **St Lambert United Church** (Saint-Lambert, QC) in support of the *Sanctuary Alive: Connecting Community through Music, Dance, Word and Ceremony* project. They seek to enliven their Sanctuary by offering it for non-church special events that will showcase their vibrant artistic community via expressions of liturgy, word, music and dance. A new staff person - the Community Development Liaison (CDL) will lead this project. A rejuvenated website will draw individuals and groups to our beautiful Sanctuary. A successful first year will include consultations with our partner organizations as to their unique needs.

### From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$10,000 to **Kimbourne Park United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Community Kitchen* project. To develop a certified commercial kitchen in collaboration with their community: They will conduct a community consultation with current and potential Cater Toronto clients, and other current and prospective users to determine kitchen needs, they will also make necessary renovations, onboard food entrepreneurs, and support them with mentorship in food production, management, marketing, and financial literacy. Additionally, they will contract member of cohort for community meal planning and preparation. And transition to a weekly meal, and schedule appropriate support volunteers.
- \$1,100 to **Mount Zion United Church** (London, ON) in support of the *AED Purchase Project*. The AED purchase project aims to raise money for the purchase of a ZOLL AED Plus- Complete Package that includes everything from an alarmed cabinet for storage and signage to the AED machine with both Adult/Pedi pads. The goal is to provide life-saving assistance to not only the members of our congregation but to the organizations that use our facility on a short and long-term basis. Once mounted, qualified First Aiders will provide training.



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

- \$5,500 to **Oak Hill United Church** (Oak Hill, NB) in support of the *Once Around the Kitchen Cooking Classes* project. Two hands-on cooking courses consisting of six classes each for ten participants at a time from low income, food insecure households. They will receive an essential kitchen utensil kit. Classes will be held once a month at the Neighbourhood Works commercial kitchen. Participants will take home the food that is prepared and will be given recipes. Soft skills such as food budgeting, kitchen hygiene and food safety will be also taught.

### From the Kingscourt United Church Endowment Fund

- \$625 to **Brechin United Church** (Nanaimo, BC) in support of the *Bloom Where You Are Planted, Brechin United Church Women's Fall Retreat, 2024 project*. One day retreat in a park like setting for women in their congregation. The day will offer time for relaxation and spiritual nurturing. With guidance of a facilitator, they will share worship, conversation, music, community building and there will be time for personal reflection. The women will come away with feeling refreshed and invigorated.
- \$500 to **Riverview United Church** (Atikokan, ON) in support of the *Music for Outreach* project. They want to provide an enjoyable singing experience for listeners that integrates both Christian hymns and folk songs that are familiar and loved by their audience, be it the seniors in one of the senior residences in their town (we have three), their senior centre or the extended care wing of their hospital. Additionally, people that are not church attendees often request a memorial for a loved one which often includes secular songs.

## Leadership Programs

### From the Leadership Endowment Fund

- \$7,500 to **Atlantic School of Theology** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *School of Lay Ministry Pilot Project*. The program has the following components. Each month (September-June) there will be a topic focus. Participants are gathered into geographically-based groups. The format for each month: up to 1 hour of video introduction to the topic by an AST faculty member; up to 100 pages of introductory material; web-based participant interaction based on focus questions applying the material; monthly in-person gatherings in a local congregation hosted by local clergy; at least one visit from an AST faculty member in the year.

### From the United Church of Canada Foundation General Fund



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

- \$20,000 to **Montreal Diocesan Theological College** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Developing Bilingual and Low-Residency Programming to Support New Leaders: Phase I* project. They seek funding to expand the position of Director of United Church Studies to take the lead in launching an alternative program of preparation for ordered ministry that is available in a low-residency format, accessible in both English and French, and open to students from a range of educational backgrounds. Such a program is needed as the church adapts to new realities and will support the church's development as envisioned in its strategic plan.

## Environmental Programs

### **From the Environmental Fund**

- \$3,000 to **Sylvan United Church** (Mill Bay, BC) in support of the *Sylvan Summer Camp project*. A one-week long summer day-camp, using a curriculum focussed on Psalm 104 and weaving in care for the environment as a dominant theme. They hope to welcome up to 30 children grades Kindergarten to 6, offer a leadership program for youth in grades 7 and 8. It will be led by Rev Katherine Brittain, with volunteers from Sylvan, and up to 3 youth leaders from our choir program who will be offered a stipend.

### **From the Brian and Belva Piercy Endowment Fund**

- \$1,150 to **Oasis United Church** (Penticton, BC) in support of the *Land Steward Project*. The Land Steward Project encourages participants to deepen their relationship with the natural world and understand their interconnectedness within the greater web of creation. They also will connect with others to reflect on the impacts of human activity on the environment and explore ways to engage in activities to be protectors of and good stewards with creation. Gatherings consist of land-based practices, Climate Cafes for discussion and engagement and learning opportunities with local Indigenous leadership.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

## Seniors Ministries Programs

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

- \$2,000 to **Bloordale United Church** (Etobicoke, ON) in support of the *Support for Seniors - Life Long Learning* project. Provide a day programme 3 days a week with snack tea and coffee. The programme will include: welcome tea coffee meditation guided around gratitude, comfort, safety, and issues to be considered as a group; a programme section (with professional presenters); lunch; physical exercise centred on fall preventions, chair yoga, gentle walk.
- \$16,285 to **Calvin United Church** (Pembroke, ON) in support of the *A Bridge Model of Senior Wellness - Transitional Organization* project. The project will support the organization's transition from a pilot project for collaborative Parish Nursing into a sustainable model of inclusive faith-based holistic healthcare in 2026. Developing this model requires increased staff time to undertake research, data collection and analysis, partnership development, volunteer and communications strategies. These elements will strengthen the organization's ability to continue delivering holistic care to seniors in north-eastern Ontario, especially those identified as more vulnerable.
- \$1,200 to **Carstairs Bancroft United Church** (Carstairs, AB) in support of the *Reaching out to the Community of Carstairs and District* project. This project is a continuation of a pilot project launched in 2023. Food scarcity and the mental health of seniors are a serious problem in the Carstairs and District area. They will focus on these community needs by providing monthly dinners to the community and delivering and donating to local food banks. They will host a series of lectures and events designed to help the mental well-being of seniors.
- \$8,000 to **Case United Church** (Hamilton, ON) in support of the *Case Community Hub Phase II Project*. Case Community Hub Phase II Project, is creation of outreach programs for community individuals that provide emotional and fellowship benefits. Efforts to date concentrated on attracting local community groups to run their proprietary programs at Case. Phase II will develop outreach programs designed by Case. This will require seed money for planning, sourcing of instructors/speakers/advertising/etc and ramp up costs over a projected 2-year plan.
- \$4,500 to **Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach Centre Inc** (St. John's, NL) in support of the *Senior's Resizing and Rightsizing Cooperative* project. The senior's Resizing cooperative will be membership-driven for bulk purchasing and resizing groceries. Utilizing the membership as volunteers, they could resize many products to help provide consumable-sized goods. The cooperative's governance will be membership driven. A board of Directors will be established, and the cooperative will be registered under the Newfoundland and Labrador Cooperative Act. As joint owners, the members will be volunteers and sponsors.



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

- \$3,500 to **Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach Centre Inc.** (St. John's, NL) in support of the *Seniority - Past, Present, and Future* project. This initiative is innovative and attempts to utilize the Seniority Project to be seniors produced for seniors and allow them to make the inclusion of information more readily available, as well as timely and utilize two already successful programs to improve their marketability to sponsors to ensure that programming can continue once the funded project expires. This will help to complete the circle of senior focus elements for our senior inclusion program.
- \$3,000 to **Kingston Road United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Our Past Becomes Our Future Project*. The Our Past Becomes Our Future Project (OPBOF) aims to digitally preserve KRU congregates stories and approach to faith. Senior congregates will be given the priority to participate; however, all congregates will be encouraged to volunteer their stories. Youth will film and edit these stories, which will then be shared on KRU social media, and with the interviewee's family. Youth participants will be provided mentoring and training in interview techniques, camera work and video editing.
- \$10,000 to **Knox United Church UCW** (Dwight, ON) in support of the *Knox UCW Food Rescue Program* project. 15 senior volunteers meet weekly to prepare and process food. The old kitchen and preparation areas are inadequate and must be updated. The number of seniors working in the food prep areas exceeds the safe load limits of the old floor. The floor is not insulated and the area cold and uncomfortable. For the program to continue, structural work is required, along with insulation and an accessible restroom for the safety and comfort of our volunteers.
- \$20,000 to **Montreal City Mission** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Roger Snelling Phase 2 Pilot (RS2) Project*. The RS2 pilot project will address unmet needs for frontline services as well as spiritual support to vulnerable and isolated senior populations. Through a literature review and qualitative interviews to determine those needs, along with individual, pastoral accompaniment and group gatherings, they will aim to respond to individual needs, as well as inform policy and practice. Ultimately, their goal is equitable, empowering and affirming services/ care for all individuals regardless of sexual of orientation/gender identity.
- \$5,000 to **Rainbow Community Places** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Rainbow Community Places - Moving Places* project. Rainbow Community Places (RCP) is a new, innovative model for 2SLGBTQIA+ community outreach ministry in the UCC. Through this project, the Toby's Place and Dorothy's Place programs of Birchcliff Bluffs UC will be moved to RCP to give them long-term sustainability and build a foundation for developing new programs. By investing in RCP, Seeds of Hope will help create a valuable resource centre for United Churches throughout Canada offering affirming ministry programs.
- \$5,000 to **St. Paul's United Church** (Saskatoon, SK) in support of the *Community Engagement: Combating Social Isolation and Food Insecurity* project. The project aims to address social isolation and food insecurity through a series of community-centered programs. These include a



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

weekly community breakfast program, a monthly craft and games night, and a series of family friendly events tied to significant occasions throughout the year. By fostering a sense of belonging, providing nutritious meals, and offering engaging activities, the project seeks to create a supportive environment that promotes social interaction and addresses nutritional needs.

- \$5,000 to **Stella's Circle** (St. John's, NL) in support of the *Building Community at Caribou Legion Manor* project. This project will increase the capacity of seniors to plan and carry out programs that they determine will benefit their wellness, social participation, practice of faith, and skills development by supporting a volunteer Tenants Committee. The project also includes structural changes and upgrades to the Manor's community spaces to improve the Manor's functionality for communal gathering and worship, as well as to provide innovative ways to deliver the programming the seniors seek to deliver.

### From the Ann Baker Fund for Innovative Seniors' Ministry

- \$5,000 to **Cedar Park United Church** (Pointe-Claire, QC) in support of the *Digital Ministries Innovation* Project. The Digital Ministries Innovation project (DMIP) is about creating new, theologically progressive, affirming ministry content and resources, and optimizing the delivery of that ministry content to create, foster and enhance faith- or spiritual- community in digital/online spaces. The DMIP will strengthen the bonds and connection between the physical community of faith and those who affiliate primarily through online connections, so that all are involved in its shared identity and mission.
- \$4,000 to **Fred Victor** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Increased Security for Vulnerable Senior Women* project. This project is to enhance the security and safety measures for vulnerable senior women living at the transitional housing, Mary Sheffield House. The installation of security cameras and Help Panic buttons throughout the facility will provide an additional layer of protection, a deterrent to potential trespassers, and increase accessibility to emergency response for residents and staff.

### From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund

- \$4,500 to **Pacific Mountain Region** (Burnaby, BC) in support of the *Circles of Connection* project. The May 2024 retreat at Bethlehem Centre is an opportunity for retired clergy in the Pacific Mountain Region to come together for two nights and three days. They will provide opportunities for participants to make connections with other retired clergy. The program will offer times for connecting with faith: through worship, music and prayer. Their leadership team will facilitate these circles of connection.



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

## Anti-Racism Programs

### **From the Brian and Belva Piercy Endowment Fund**

- \$6,000 to **First United Church** (Waterloo, ON) in support of the *Music Connections: innovative, intergenerational and intercultural ministry through music at First* project. Music Connections at First United Church aims to foster community through music. The project offers accessible, high-quality music experiences for children and families, including free "Tiny Tunes Concerts" and an intercultural "Together in Tune" choir. With First United's rich musical history and commitment to becoming a more intergenerational and intercultural church, they aim to build relationships, empower racialized communities and celebrate diversity through music.

## Indigenous & Reconciliation Programs

### **From the Peace & Justice Endowment Fund**

- \$4,000 to **Living into Right Relations** (Lachine, QC) in support of the *Respect and Kanoronhkwatshera* project. Respect & Kanoronhkwatshera will support communications between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, highlighting Indigenous initiatives for justice; Utilizing imaginative and peaceful public actions, they will name the injustices to be healed: housing, food security, child welfare, health care and prejudice; Through public actions, invite others to commit to promoting respectful, equitable treatment of all peoples living in Quebec; their part-time coordinator will co-create and maintain connections between interested parties; coordinate and promote public actions. Archive documentation of project.

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

- \$5,000 to **1JustCity** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of the *Strengthening and Redefining our Indigenous Cultural Programming* project. This project will bring in Indigenous teachers/Elders to educate the staff team on Indigenous culture and history and ensure that they can all have a deep understanding and appreciation. Host a community gathering at each of their three drop in sites which will include Indigenous leaders and guests from other community organizations; where they will solicit feedback on how they can strengthen their Indigenous Cultural Program. Bring 1JustCity staff and volunteers together to re-imagine their Indigenous Cultural Program.



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

### **From the Brian and Belva Piercy Endowment Fund**

- \$2,000 to **Inlet United Church Port Moody** (Port Moody, BC) in support of the *Celebrating the Springs Art Wall* project. We will invite the community to celebrate Artist Atheana Picha and the completion of The Springs Art Wall, with a blessing and feast in Coast Salish tradition. This event will take place at the church. Indigenous Elders, musicians and dancers will conduct the ceremony. The congregation will act as the family, offering welcome to all, a generous feast, blankets for the Elders and small gifts for all who attend.

## Research Projects and Programs

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

- \$9,000 to **Bedford House Community Ministry** (Peterborough, ON) in support of the On Class study guide: Exploring Canadian lived-experience of poverty project. In Bridging Teams under-resourced and well-resourced participants learn to cross the barriers of class. With Stories, Food, And Fun they will learn together about the Hidden Rules of Class, the cultural stigmas, and systemic causes of social divides. They have been using a Study Guide published in the U.S.A. with some success. In this project, they will develop a new, Canadian, Study guide for their Bridging Team process based on Canadian author, Deborah Dundas' On Class.

### **From the Rowntree Learning Fund**

- \$11,500 to **Bedford Pastoral Charge** (Bedford, NS) in support of the *Collaborative Ministry as a Charism of the Emerging Church* project. This research project will gather existing data and research, through interviews, existing surveys and reading, on Bermuda Nova Scotian camping communities, as well as demographic information from a proximal Community of Faith seeking transformation, in order to identify needs, capacities and strategic futures, for the purpose of developing experimental models of collaborative ministry toward a new ministry focused on renewed engagement with children, youth and young adults throughout the year.
- \$1,600 to **Keri Wehlander** (Penticton, BC) in support of the *Cultivating Online Communities of Faith* project. Cultivating Online Communities of Faith is a research project aimed at learning how online communities of faith are formed, supported and sustained. This project also seeks to understand who is most interested in these communities and what kinds of online platforms work best for those interested. Through this research project, the hope is to implement some exploratory projects through an existing community of faith and begin to nurture a strong online presence.





THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FOUNDATION**

## Other Grants

### **From the United Church of Canada General Fund**

- \$5,000 to **the United Church of Canada Theology and Ministry Leadership Unit** (Toronto, ON) in support of the Anti-Racism Theology Schools Proposal project. Gathering faculty from United Church schools who are engaged in research, writing, and teaching connected to anti-racism and decolonization is part of helping the United Church make progress on living into its equity commitments. This enables faculty and key GCO staff to be part of a collegial, peer group to share ways to address common challenges in this work; learn from one another, particularly through sharing pedagogical approaches, key resources, and research; dream together ways in which the schools and the church can continue to support each another in this work.

### **From the Convening Fund**

- \$15,000 to the **Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Cluster Animator Role*. The role of Cluster Animator is to work with communities of faith in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region for the specific purpose of establishing basic regional clusters. These clusters will provide a structure for lay persons and ministry personnel to meet and provide support to each other on a consistent basis.

### **From the Transformational Learning Fund**

- **Wonder Chimvinga** (Kincardine, ON). Wonder is pursuing an MTS at St. Andrew's College.



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

## Research, Scholarship, & Academic Awards

*34 grants were awarded as part of the United Church of Canada Foundation's Research, Scholarship, and Academic Awards program totalling \$194,274.70. These awards are:*

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

- **Alexandra Gilmour** in support of their studies at Pacific School of Religion, at Berkeley (D. Min)
- **Andrea Allan** in support of their studies at St. Stephen's College, University of Alberta (D. Min)
- **Bev Sharpe** in support of their studies at St Andrew's College (DLM Certificate)
- **Caitlin Smithers** in support of their studies at Centre for Christian Studies (Diaconal Diploma)
- **Denise Clarke** in support of their Facilitator Training Mental Health First Aid course at Canadian Mental Health Commission
- **Janice MacLean** in support of their attendance at Wisdom School Retreat at Ignatius Jesuit Centre
- **Jessica Knoyle** in support of their studies at St Andrew's College (M. Div)
- **Julia Lawrence** in support of their studies in Curriculum Studies at Acadia University (MA of Education)
- **Kim Vidal** in support of their attendance at Festival of Homiletics in Pittsburgh, PA
- **Linda McLaren** in support of their attendance at Soul Guiding Mentoring Program at Pacific Jubilee
- **Miriam Bowlby** in support of their studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Ph. D)
- **Sarah Wicks-Potter** in support of their studies at Montreal Diocesan Theological College (M. Div)
- **Sheryl Spencer** in support of their studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (D. Min)
- **Amy Haynes** in support of their studies at Vancouver School of Theology (Graduate Diploma of Denominational Studies)
- **Alexandra Fol** in support of their attendance at Music Matters event in Thunder Bay

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

- **Samuel Grottenberg** in support of their studies at the University of Aberdeen (Ph. D)

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

- **James Ravenscroft** in support of their studies at Emmanuel College (D. Min)
- **Luke Haisa** in support of their studies at St. Andrew's College (MTS)
- **Miriam Spies** in support of their studies at Emmanuel College (Ph. D in Theological Studies)



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

## From the Clifford Elliott Spirit of Saskatchewan Ministry Award

- **David Mugadzi** in support of their studies at St Andrews College (MA in Theological Studies)
- **Oliver Dingwell** in support of their studies at Emmanuel College (D. Min)

## From the Elizabeth White Bursary

- **Chinese Association of The United Church of Canada (CAUCC)**. CAUCC Gathering – to provide subsidies for members of Chinese UC's to attend gathering and honorarium for speakers.
- **Wing Yi Wong** in support of their studies in Theological Studies at Emmanuel College (Ph. D)
- **Sandy Hwang** in support of their studies at Vancouver School of Theology (M. Div)
- **Qian (Erika) Liang** in support of their studies at McGill University and Montreal Dio Theological College (MA and M. Div)
- **Ching-Yu Huang**. at Emmanuel College (Ph. D in Theological Studies)

## From the Alice K. McDonald Memorial Bursary

- **Lauri Ladd** in support of their studies at Centre for Christian Studies/Huron University College. (Diaconal Ministries Diploma Program)
- **Rebecca Whiting**. in support of their studies at St. Andrew's College (Certificate of Designated Lay Ministry)

## From the Rev. John A McDermid Memorial Bursary

- **Ariel Siagan** in support of their studies at University of Toronto (Ph. D in Theological Studies)

## From the Gilmore Park United Church Bursary

- **Benjamin MacRae** in support of their studies at Vancouver School of Theology (M. Div in United Church Studies)

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

- **Brigid Maya Douglas** in support of their studies at Emmanuel College (Ph. D in Theology)
- **HyeLim Yoon** in support of their studies at Emmanuel College (Ph. D in Theological Studies)



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

## From the McGeachy Senior Scholarship

- **Sungmin Jung** In December 2007 Sungmin Jung had a moment of awakening by encountering a verse from Paul's letter in 1 Corinthians 3:16 (Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?). He started to re-read the Bible with such a perspective that Christ is in me and all human beings regardless of one's race, religion, sexuality, language, culture, etc. From this his book publishing project began. It consists of 25 chapters that deal with Jesus' message in the New Testament according to the church's liturgical calendar from advent to Easter, with an allegorical method.
- **Michelle Voss** Interculturality is a central professional and spiritual concern for Michelle Voss. Her early academic work focused on the relations between Christians and Hindus; her teaching required her to learn and adapt to working with diverse individuals and communities. The proposed project arises directly from her experiences teaching emerging United Church of Canada leaders and their peers in the discipline of spiritual care. Her hypothesis is that the developmental categories offered by the IDI can advance the theory and practice, not only of interculturality, but of interfaith praxis as well.

## From the Roy M. Davidson Trust Award

- **Bradley Thomas Morrison** Assistant Professor, Practical Theology at Huron University, nominated by Jeffrey Crittenden.

## The New Ministries Fund:

*3 New Ministries grants were awarded in the 2024 Spring round from the Embracing the Spirit granting funds totaling \$75,000. These grants are:*

### Third Instalment

- \$25,000 to **Humber Valley United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Thrive55+* project. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant.
- \$25,000 to **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church** (Edmonton, AB) in support of the *SSUC Wild Sanctuary*. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant.
- \$25,000 to **The GO Project** (Oro Medonte, ON) in support of the *"Out of the Box" Curriculum* project. This is the third and final installment 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)*