



Centennial Granting Fund

Fall 2024 Results

The Joint Grants Committee met on October 7th and reviewed twenty-five applications for the inaugural round of the Centennial Fund.

The following communities of faith are recipients of a grant to support their celebrations for the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary. Congratulations to all!

Centennial Fund

- \$3,000 to **Alpha Korean United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of their event, *Centennial Intercultural Music Exchange - Winter Edition*, occurring on December 22, 2024. Alpha Korean United Church has a rich heritage of music from their early days as the first Korean United Church in Toronto. They are proud of their Korean heritage and are also learning to bridge many facets of their changing congregation through intercultural ministry.

This initiative is an opportunity to refresh, reconnect, and redefine their connections within their congregation's many faces - bringing old and young, new immigrants and long-established citizens, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generations, and in particular an opportunity to welcome and reach out to the newest faces in their congregation from other cultural backgrounds and reach out to the communities around them through music and through their shared connections in the UCC.

- \$2,500 to **Crescent Fort Rouge United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of their event, *Artfest Arts Show 10th Anniversary*, occurring on May 9-11, 2025. The UCC Centennial happens to coincide with CFRUC's 10th anniversary of its Arts Festival. The Arts Festival was seed funded by UCC's Embracing the Spirit fund and marked a significant turn into the future for CFRUC. CFRUC has benefited from the experience, skills and motivation of a retired professional archivist who works weekly at documenting CFRUC's history which dates back as a church to the late 1800's. They want to attach a professionally mounted display of photos and descriptors attached to their art show which is 3 days, 9-11 May 2025. This will include articles chronicling the history of social justice with UCC such as the adoption of LGBTQ ministers and the first apology to Indigenous people, carrying it all forward to who the UCC/CFRUC are in 2025. Their art show is an annual 3-day event attracting hundreds of the public and offering a show with on average 30-40 artists with 130 pieces of art including a children's show. There are community art activities and a community barbecue - all free to the public. It throws open the doors and invites people in! They are known to get TV/radio and print coverage and between the 100th anniversary of UCC, the 10th anniversary of Artfest and their social justice ethos it is sure to attract public coverage.



- \$3,000 to **Eglise Unie de Sainte-Adele** (Sainte-Adele, QC) in support of their event, *Celebrons 100 ans de presence*, occurring on December 7, 2024, June 15, 2025, and October 11, 2025. The December 7, 2024 event will consist of a launch of the United Church's centennial Year - concert: live music, guest artists and songs, followed by a get-together (small lunch served). The June 15, 2025 will consist of a Centenary Worship and dinner - a time to meet, share and celebrate with current members and participants, alumni and neighbors of the congregation (invitation to other congregations). Finally, the October 11, 2025 event will consist of a Centennial community dinner with the surrounding Sainte-Adèle community to share the history of the United Church and its social commitments - invitation to community partners.
- \$3,000 to **Emmanuel College** (Toronto, ON) in support of their event, *Celebrating the United Church's Centennial Through its Heritage of Preaching*, occurring on November 13, 2024, March 23-24, 2025, May 4, 2025, and June 25, 2025. The proposed events will provide opportunities for people to gather to celebrate the United Church's Centennial and some of its historic achievements through looking at its history as recorded in some sermons by United Church preachers that have been published with introductions and commentary in the book *Moments in Time: Sermons from The United Church of Canada 1910-2020* by HyeRan Kim-Cragg and Don Schweitzer (United Church Publishing House, 2024). Using some of these sermons as lenses, different sermons at different events and places, these events will joyfully celebrate and critically commemorate key events, figures, developments and themes in the United Church's history leading up to its centennial, and reflect how these form a heritage for the present and may shape the future.
- \$1,500 to **Gladwin Heights United Church** (Abbotsford, BC) in support of their event, *Embracing Justice and Spirituality*, occurring on June 7, 2025. A two day celebration is planned. On the Saturday there will be a worship service in remembrance of past members of the congregation followed by a butterfly release. The butterfly release is a symbol of remembering the past and looking forward to the future. Families from both current and past congregation members and previous Ministers will be invited to attend. On the Sunday there will be a worship service emphasizing the history of the church, their initial plans and how they have grown and developed over the years. They will plant a Japanese Maple to signify their commitment to their continued climate activities. The tree will be a centre piece of their centennial celebration garden. The park bench and plaque will be placed beneath the tree. The banner which they will design and make through the UCC will be hung in a prominent place in the narthex.
- \$4,000 to **New Brunswick Southwest Cluster United Churches** (Kingston, NB) in support of their event, *NB Southwest Cluster Joint 100th Celebration Worship*, occurring on June 16, 2025. Eighteen United Church Pastoral Charges/Communities of Faith in the Southwest Cluster (as defined by FSLDW Region Pastoral Relations) will come together at one location for a joint worship to celebrate 100 years of being United Church of Canada. They anticipate 900 will be in attendance. As none of the FSLDW United Churches have the capacity for 900 they will rent space at a central high school, Saint John High.



- \$1,000 to **Knox Didsbury and Olds United Church** (Didsbury, AB) in support of their event, *Community Parades*, occurring on July 1 and August 16, 2025. They would like to build a float to enter in both parades to let the larger community know about the church anniversary. The 2 congregations have been working together on special events because they are so close to each other.
- \$2,000 to **Pictou United Church** (Pictou, NS) in support of their event, *"Still Life" - Drama & Dessert in Three Pines!*, occurring on May 1, 2025. "Still Life" is a radio play / radio drama based on the book of the same name by the Quebec and Canadian author - Louise Penny. "Still Life" revolves around the beloved community of Three Pines, and the lives of Penny's now iconic characters of Chief Inspector Gamache and friends. As we celebrate our UCC centenary, Pictou United wishes to return to the fine art of the radio play which was birthed in the 1920s, just as another "birthing" happened- our United Church of Canada!
- \$1,432 to **Saltcoats United Church** (Saltcoats, SK) in support of their event, Yorktones Gospel Acapella Gospel Quartet & An evening with Ellen Kolenick, occurring on November 24, 2024. *The Yorktones Gospel Acapella Quartet* event will take place in the historic Saltcoats United Church. It will be an afternoon of music followed by a time of food (desserts) and fellowship. The *Evening with Ellen Kolenick* will see Ellen returning to her hometown. She was raised in the United Church and her music often reflects her connection to community and church. They anticipate that she will include several hymns written by Rev Walter Farquharson. Historical plaques will be unveiled and displayed at both concerts.
- \$2,000 to **Westminster United Church** (Thamesford, ON) in support of their event, *100th Anniversary Mass Choir and Events*, occurring on December 29, 2024, April 27, 2025, and June 8 2025. They are planning to lead a mass choir and provide three events in celebration of the upcoming 100th Anniversary -one the Sunday after Christmas, the second the Sunday after Easter, and the third the Sunday before the actual Anniversary of June 10th. These will have a worship component, lots of great music, some fun and fellowship, and a celebration of who "we've been, who we are, and who we hope to be as a Church" ... together! They are extending this invitation to the churches of the former Oxford Presbytery and local churches of the Region ... and anyone who would like to take part.
- \$1,000 to **Zion United Church** (Armstrong, BC) in support of their event, *UCC Centennial Homecoming Weekend*, occurring on June 7 and 8, 2025. This will be a weekend event starting with a Saturday Pancake Breakfast and touring of the church buildings and a "Thru the Century" display. This will be followed by a Saturday Banquet, and Sunday Celebratory Worship with social time following. Special invitations will be sent to former members` community leaders` other churches of Armstrong area, and United Churches in the wider area. As well, the event will be promoted by advertising and social media to encourage participation by members of the community. In addition to this "main event" they will be doing promotion in the community with the 100th anniversary theme and a subtheme of "All are Welcome at Zion United Church" at various community events throughout the year.

The members of the Joint Grants Committee are:

- Royal Orr (Chair)
- Jane McDonald
- The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy
- Rev. Kathy Brett