



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

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

## The Seeds of Hope Granting Program:

*30 grants were awarded in the 2024 Fall round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totalling \$145,700. These grants are:*

### Anti-Racism Programs

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

- \$2,000 to **St. Andrew's College** (Saskatoon, SK) in support of the *Being and Doing Church Otherwise: (De)Coloniality, Identity, Faith, and Culture in Canada* project. Being and Doing Church Otherwise is an edited volume that gathers a diverse group of leading theological voices from a variety of disciplines—theology, practical theology, Indigenous studies, ethics, biblical studies, and liturgics—to assess the present state of affairs on Turtle Island from decolonial perspectives, contributing clarity and concrete examples to the discussion. The book will be published by McGill-Queen's. Support for this project will make the book affordable and accessible to a wider audience.
- \$6,000 to **Saint Luke's United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Newcomers Community Ministry Feasibility Study* project. Saint Luke's United Church seeks to engage newcomers in the welcoming tradition of Christ. With the capacity provided by a new part-time staff person, they will: build on the gifts and skills of current members, create new ways of being community within and beyond the congregation, connect newcomers with the resources and social services needed to thrive, help build a strategic plan for the mutual benefit of individuals and the community for the common good.



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## From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund

- \$10,000 to **Camp Fircom Society** (West Vancouver, BC) in support of the *Decolonization is a Community Act* project.

The Gathering Our Medicine team will support UCC Congregational and Ministry Leaders in a multi-day immersive cultural experience to bridge understanding and foster growth through dialogue, education, cultural awareness, additional resources, and transformative experiential learning. This experience will support the United Church as it moves forward in its role to help the community and acknowledge the organization's role in upholding colonialism and racism, which has resulted in profound generational harm to Indigenous peoples.

## From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust

- \$3,200 to **Emmanuel College** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Tackling Anti-Asian Racism: Tapping into Lived Experiences of Canadians of Asian Descent Actively Practicing Faith and Spiritualities of Christian and Other-Than-Christian* project.

The *Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies* (CANAAT) will become the *Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies and Spiritualities* (CANAATS), and the project will include organize a conference on tackling anti-Asian racism issues, strengthening solidarity among Asian UCC ministers and lay leaders, and support students to attend PANAAWTM in 2025 & 2026.

## Indigenous & Reconciliation Programs

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

- \$5,000 to **1JustCity** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of the *Indigenous Cultural Program - Bringing in Elders and Knowledge Keepers* project.

This project is dedicated to working towards reconciliation in a way that is meaningful to the community and follows best practices by learning to be more effective in its efforts, in consulting with Indigenous leaders. Experts will share their knowledge and teachings with guests and their Indigenous staff team. The project will provide all support from Elders and Knowledge Keepers to promote healing, truth-telling, and cultural understanding and appreciation.



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### From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults, and the Living Spirit Fund

- \$10,000 to Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary (Calgary, AB) in support of the Creating Strong Cultural Identities through Elder to Youth Engagement project. \$5,000 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults and \$5,000 from the Living Spirit Fund. This project seeks to plan and host sessions, likely 2 hours long, with Elders and Youth, while providing food for the participants. An honorarium will be given to the Elders, and a small stipend will be offered to the youth who participate. The youth will share their experiences and what they have learned on Tik Tok or other social media platforms.

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

- \$2,000 to **Bella Coola Pastoral Charge** (Bella Coola, BC) in support of the *Consultation on the digital repatriation of cultural treasures from the Humboldt Forum in Berlin to the Nuxálk Nation in Bella Coola, BC project*. This day-long consultation, hosted by the United Church in Bella Coola, will bring together leaders of the Nuxálk Nation, leaders of the church, and two descendants of Norwegian collectors to discuss the benefits, challenges, and concerns surrounding a digital repatriation of Nuxálk cultural treasures from a museum in Berlin. If successful, the consultation will launch a pilot project to create 3D scans of the cultural treasures to be given to the Nuxálk Nation.

### From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$8,000 to **First United Church Community Ministry Society** (Vancouver, BC) in support of the *Reconciliation in Action and Indigenous Cultural Safety*. The Indigenous Spiritual Care Chaplain will generate written, video, and visual art content about Indigenous justice and spirituality for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Red Dress Day, and other significant days. This content will be shared with communities of faith and the public to advance understanding, provoke conversations, and engage in reconciliation. The Chaplain will also integrate Indigenous cultural safety training into their mentorship of the student pastor.

### From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund

- \$5,000 to **Signal Hill Life Education Society** (Langley, BC) in support of the *Empower Roots: Indigenous Education for Strength and Self-Worth project*. Empower Roots: Indigenous Education for Strength and Self-Worth aims to create culturally resonant video resources for high school students. Using life-affirming Signal Hill secondary resources, these materials will be adapted through an Indigenous lens and developed by Indigenous leaders. The videos will address topics such as mental health, leadership, and self-worth, providing Indigenous youth with tools that reflect their cultural heritage while promoting personal growth and resilience.



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### **From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults, and the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund**

- \$10,000 to **Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtià:ke** (Montreal, QC) in support of the *Supporting urban Indigenous Youth in Montreal through cultural means project*. \$5,000 from the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund and \$5,000 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults.

Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtià:ke will create a safe space for urban Indigenous youth. They will connect them to the other programs and health services they offer. They will provide access to Elders and support for receiving cultural teachings. They will position urban Indigenous youth to be the next generation of leaders through cultural teachings from Elders to combat racism. Some services to support this project include the 60's Scoop project, one Elder, a Health Navigator, a Wellness Coordinator, two part-time medical doctors, and one part-time nurse.

### Environmental Programs

#### **From the Davey Family Endowment Fund**

- \$4,000 to **Barrhaven United Church** (Nepean, ON) in support of the *Beauty and Abundance at Barrhaven's Multi-Faith Housing, The Haven project*.

This project seeks to create a clean and green environment by creating sustainable gardens for growing food and for beautification. This will increase food security, foster native plants to support pollinators. A horticultural student will help resident volunteers address each green space to ensure manageable plants for food and beauty. Volunteers, residents and family members will work with the student to ensure maintenance and sustainability.

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

- \$5,000 to **Bethel Stone United Church** (Paris, ON) in support of the *Bethel Community Memorial Gardens project*.

The project grounds remain empty with very little purpose other than to supply overflow parking for the Bethel Community Hall and the church across the road. Bethel Stone United Church wish to create a Memorial Garden for the Bethel community—a space for reflection, memorializing loved ones, and honoring those who have contributed to this project. This peaceful garden can also serve as a venue for outdoor weddings, photo events, baptisms, confirmations, and other family events.



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## Seniors Ministries Programs

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

- \$5,000 to **Gordon-King Memorial United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of the *The Arts as a Form of Spiritual Practice project*.  
This project will allow individuals to engage in new spiritual practices using singing and art. The project will have four main components for participants: art therapy to help deal with grief, art as a spiritual practice, singing as a spiritual practice, and singing in community to develop spirituality and community connection, as well as using music as a form of meditative practice. Participants are invited to join one or more components of this program.
- \$4,000 to **Hillside United Church** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Senior Music Social Club: Enhancing the Lives of seniors Through Music project*.  
This program will provide: Music Listening (30 min): Participants will enjoy a curated selection of classical and world music; Lecture on Music and Culture (30 min): Following the music session, an informal lecture on the cultural and historical context of music will be provided; Socializing and Discussion (30-60 min): An opportunity for informal discussion and socializing will follow the presentation. Music selections will be from both classical and global genres.
- \$2,000 to **North York Korean United Church** (North York, ON) in support of the *The Support Program for Korean Canadian Seniors Living Alone project*.  
The Support Program for Korean Canadian Seniors Living Alone aims to reduce social isolation and improve well-being among seniors by providing emotional support, social engagement opportunities, and digital literacy training. Through regular home visits, phone counseling, workshops, and classes, the project will help seniors stay connected with their community, maintain independence, and enhance their quality of life by addressing their unique cultural and social needs.
- \$2,500 to **Uganda Martyrs United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Uganda Martyrs Seniors Capacity Building project*.  
Seniors will engage in social and productive activities they enjoy while serving the church. This will help maintain their well-being and independence as they age. They need to be motivated and encouraged to see the benefits of being active and to find something they are passionate about. Uganda Martyrs United Church seeks to make this activity as social event, make exercise fun, encourage manageable goals, celebrate small accomplishments, and find accountability partners. Activities will be organized to meet the needs and abilities of the elderly.



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## From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust

- \$4,000 to **Good Tree Korean United Church** (North York, ON) in support of the *The Dementia Prevention Program project*.

The Dementia Prevention Program at Good Tree Korean United Church aims to address cognitive decline among Korean-Canadian seniors, with a particular focus on those with disabilities. By offering culturally tailored, evidence-based strategies through workshops, one-on-one consultations, and social activities, the program will foster cognitive health, reduce isolation, and improve digital literacy. Through personalized support and community engagement, the program will strive to build a resilient, connected, and healthier aging population within the Korean-Canadian community.

## Children, Youth, and Young Adult Programs

### From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$1,000 to **South Cayuga Community Church** (Dunnville, ON) in support of the *Instruments of Faith: Youth Ukulele Program project*.

The Instruments of Faith: Youth Ukulele program will begin with the purchase of instruments and supplies. Focusing on continual program development and growth, the Youth Music Leader will utilize an intergenerational approach, partnering youth with adults who have ukulele experience, to mentor them in an environment of mutual respect, sharing, and outreach. The program aims to expose youth to music in faith and engage more youth in church activities.

- \$5,000 to **Uganda Martyrs United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Youth and Young Adults Coordinator project*.

A Youth Coordinator will provide stability and continuity in programming for youth and young adults (YAYA). There is an increase in YAYA asylum seekers, and it is imperative that they are included in Uganda Martyrs United Church's programs to help them adapt to life in Canada. The church also has young adults raised in first-generation families who are struggling to navigate the two cultures they live in. A targeted program is vital for YAYA to be successful in life and the future of the church.





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## From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund

- \$3,600 to **Gaetz Memorial United Church** (Red Deer, AB) in support of the *Art for the Heart: A Youth Wellness Retreat project*. Youth in grades 8-12 will participate in workshops led by an accomplished practitioner in a medium of the visual or performing arts—a pilot for future collaboration across Canada. Each day will also include activities designed to build community, develop leadership skills, foster habits of wellness, and explore significant spiritual practices such as hope, gratitude, wonder, and generosity. Participants will be involved in strategizing about how to maintain relationships after the event.

## From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust

- \$4,000 to **Good Tree Korean United Church** (North York, ON) in support of the *Understanding and Supporting LGBTQ+ Children: A Program for Korean-Canadian Parents project*. This project aims to support LGBTQ+ parents within the faith community by fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion. Through educational workshops, counseling, and community discussions, the initiative will help parents navigate their journey in supporting their LGBTQ+ children. The goal is to dismantle homophobia and promote love and empathy within the church, creating a safe and inclusive space for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

## From the Rowntree Learning Fund

- \$4,000 to **Fairlawn Avenue United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Unity in Diversity, a 2SLGBTQIA+ research initiative project*. In collaboration with partner support organizations in other parts of the city, Fairlawn Avenue United Church will assess the needs and gaps in services and programs for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and their supporters in North Toronto. The church plans to achieve this through a combination of youth and parental surveys, educational workshops, and panel discussions to build community awareness and support. Additionally, they will pilot a weekly 2SLGBTQIA+ youth drop-in program at their church location.



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## United Church Camping Programs

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

- \$5,000 to **Sherbrooke Lake Camp Council** (New Ross, NS) in support of the *Sherbrooke Lake Camp Seniors Camp project*.  
The overnight summer camp for seniors at Sherbrooke Lake Camp aims to foster community, inclusivity, and holistic well-being. Participants will enjoy engaging activities such as crafts, outdoor skills workshops, and campfire gatherings. These experiences will create a nurturing environment where seniors can build connections, share stories, and rejuvenate. The camp will prioritize accessibility and spiritual growth, offering a supportive space that enriches their lives and strengthens their ties to faith and community.

### **From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund**

- \$2,000 to **Living Skies Regional Council** (Moose Jaw, SK) in support of the *Camp-a-Palooza Curriculum Collab project*.  
Curriculum collaborators from each of Living Skies Regional Council's four summer camps, along with Rev. Lindsay Mohn (regional support staff), will work together to create a faith formation curriculum for use in summer 2025.

### **From the United Church of Canada Camping Trust, and the Judy Van Duzer Memorial Fund for Children's Ministry**

- \$5,400 to **Lambton Centre** (Lambton Shores, ON) in support of the *Walk With Us, Work With Us, Learn With Us project*. \$4,900 from the United Church of Canada Camping Trust and \$500 from the Judy VanDuzer Memorial Fund for Children's Ministry (this is this fund's inaugural grant).  
This project will see seniors enter into mentoring relationships with youth, sharing skills in the trades (carpentry, forestry, electrical, mechanical), to create and complete projects at Lambton Centre. This project will also see long-serving volunteers and UCC members serving youth in the community through working together, sharing food and faith together, and learning together. They will run on Saturdays throughout the year.





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## Peace and Justice Program

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

- \$10,000 to **Brunswick Street Mission** (Halifax, NS) in support of the *Brunswick Street Cafe project*.  
The café will provide a safe space for people in the community. This will be accomplished in several ways: Running structured programs designed to alleviate mental health stress, including art, music, games, sharing circles, cooking classes, and quiet times. Collaborating with third-party supports such as housing advocates, mental health trainers, legal counsel sessions, health care providers, hairdressers, and addictions counselors. Providing nutrition, including prepared meals, coffee, tea, water, and healthy snacks. Establishing a volunteer pathway program for clients to engage in volunteer opportunities.

### From the Kingscourt United Church Endowment Fund

- \$3,000 to **Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge** (New Minas, NS) in support of the *Centre 130 - Support for Those Living Precariously project*.  
Centre 130 will allow individuals to come to the church to refresh themselves and their belongings. It will have laundry and shower facilities available. All volunteers will be trained in First Aid, CPR, Naloxone administration, and Mental Health First Aid. Representatives from local social services will also be present when services are accessed during the week. Additionally, shelter and light sustenance will be offered.

## Faith and Justice Programs

### From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults, the Peace and Justice Endowment Fund, and the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$10,000 to the **Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation** (Vancouver, BC) in support of the *Healing Together: Two-Eyed Seeing Intensive project*. \$5,000 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults, \$3,000 from the Peace and Justice Endowment Fund, and \$2,000 from the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund.  
Healing Together: Two-Eyed Seeing Intensive aims to provide holistic, culturally safe care for Indigenous participants at the Dr. Peter Centre. By blending Indigenous knowledge with Western medicine, the project addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual impacts of Hepatitis C (HCV). Through the Two-Eyed Seeing framework, the Centre offers culturally informed treatments, traditional healing practices, and community support, fostering health equity and improving health outcomes for Indigenous peoples disproportionately affected by HCV.



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## From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$2,000 to **Beaconsfield United Church** (Beaconsfield, QC) in support of the *A Taste of Home or Beaconsfield United Church Sunday Soup Support project*.  
Beaconsfield United Church's (BUC) Sunday Soup Support or "Taste of Home" project aims to alleviate some financial burdens of newly arrived Nigerian refugee families by providing them with traditional Nigerian soup or stew monthly.

## From the C. Jean Moore Endowment Fund

- \$3,000 to **Trinity United Church** (Listowel, ON) in support of the *Cooking in Community project*.  
Over three 6-week sessions, groups of 8 will learn how to prepare nutritious meals using affordable ingredients. Participants will learn cooking techniques and shopping tips to assist them in making meals from scratch, which is much cheaper and more nutritious than buying prepared meals. Meals prepared together will be taken home by participants. Since cooking and conversation naturally go together, the program will also provide an opportunity for community building. Participants will be recruited through local outreach groups.

## United, We Grants

*6 grants were awarded in the 2024 Fall round from the United, We granting program totalling \$100,000. These grants are:*

## Grants awarded from the *United, We Granting Fund*

- \$25,000 to **Emberwood** (Edmonton, AB).
- \$25,000 to **Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (Beausejour, MB).
- \$10,000 to **Evergreen** (Toronto, ON).
- \$10,000 to **Montreal City Mission** (Montreal, QC).
- \$10,000 to **United Church Halfway Homes Inc** (Winnipeg, MB).
- \$5,000 to **Canadian Council of Churches** (Toronto, ON).
- \$7,500 to **Maison Saint Columba House** (Montreal, QC).
- \$7,500 to **Wild Rose United Church** (Calgary, AB).



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## Promotion Project Fund Grants

*6 grants were awarded in the 2024 Fall round from the Promotion Project Fund granting program totalling \$50,000. These grants are:*

### Grants awarded from the Promotion Project Fund

- \$10,000 to **Cedar Park United Church** (Point-Claire, QC).
- \$10,000 to **East End United Regional Ministry** (Toronto, ON).
- \$10,000 to **Hantsport Pastoral Charge (Avon United Church)** (Hantsport, NS).
- \$10,000 to **Trinity United Church** (Prince George, BC).
- \$3,300 to **Woodcliffe United Church** (Calgary, AB).
- \$6,700 to **Oasis United Church** (Penticton, BC).

## General Council Grants

*1 grant was awarded through special request from the General Council totalling \$15,000:*

- \$15,000 to **The United Church of Canada Office of Vocation** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Collaborative Ministry* project from *The United Church of Canada General Granting Fund*. The operational plan of the GCO names collaborative ministry as a core activity within the broader priority of leadership. Although there are an increasing number of collaborative ministry experiments across the country, there has been little training for clergy and lay people in this model of leadership. To meet this need, the GCO will launch a collaborative ministry training program for in 2025, comprising an in-person retreat and an online program lasting for nine months, where teams of clergy and lay people from diverse communities of faith will learn collaborative skills and build collaborative community.

## Other Grants

*1 grant was awarded through special request from Emmanuel College totalling \$15,000:*

- \$15,000 to **Emmanuel College** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Cantonese Certificate Program* from *The United Church of Canada General Granting Fund*.  
\$10,000 to be awarded in year 1 and \$5,000 to be awarded in year 2.  
This brand-new program is a trailblazer and a new adventure in terms of empowering Cantonese-speaking Christians. It is designed for lay Chinese Christians who are now living in North America. They are seeking to provide a safe, educational platform to explore and introduce inclusive theological traditions to more Chinese Christians in their native language. In the process, Emmanuel also hopes to build a progressive community to continue the work of transformation in churches and societies.



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## The New Ministries Fund:

***3 New Ministries grants were awarded in the 2024 Fall round from the Embracing the Spirit granting program totalling \$44,750. These grants are:***

- \$7,750 to **Christ First United Church** (Mississauga, ON) in support of the *Community Network Ministry project*. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant.
- \$22,000 to **First United Church** (Ottawa, ON) in support of the *Soul Space project*. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant.
- \$15,000 to **Ralph Connor Memorial United Church** (Canmore, AB) in support of the *Green Exodus 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)**