



Centennial Granting Fund Winter 2025 Results

The Joint Grants Committee met on January 22nd and reviewed forty-five applications for the second 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!

From the Centennial Granting Fund

- \$700 to **Westlock Pastoral Charge** (Westlock, AB) in support of their event, *100 Years of United Church Community, Revisit the Past, Recognize the Present and Look Forward to the Future* occurring on June 8, 2025. Rainbow and Westlock Pastoral Charges will celebrate together with:
 - a service that includes both the traditional and indigenous worship approach
 - joyous hymns from all the eras including choir and special instrumental pieces
 - stories from all ages about life in the church
 - an old fashion church picnic held on the church lawn.
 - all communication inviting the community to the event will be encouraged to bring a friend to learn about and experience our United Church faith community.
- \$850 to **MacKenzie United Church** (Portage la Prairie, MB) in support of their event, *Banner Making*, occurring on May 20, 2025. There is a local quilting group that will be contracted to sew the banner. Material will come from congregational members. Material will focus on/symbolize the celebration of McKenzie United Church history and ministry in Portage la Prairie, MB, as well as celebrating the UCC 100th anniversary in the context of the 100th anniversary theme - Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice. The Worship Committee is spearheading this project with the help of Leith Saunders who is in formal association.
- \$1,500 to **Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church** (Brighton, ON) in support of their event, *Midwinter Gala: Celebrating the United Church's 100th Anniversary*, occurring on February 8, 2025. The Midwinter Gala: Celebrating the United Church's 100th Anniversary will be a Gala Event featuring a catered meal and live entertainment by local musicians Ian Simpson and Stephanie Bird. Attendees will have the opportunity to have their photo taken in front of a backdrop featuring the United Church's Centennial logo. Photos will be shared with attendees electronically after the event and on TSA's Facebook page. There will be a large cake with the UCC 100th Anniversary logo for dessert. Decorations will feature the UCC's anniversary logo and its colours.
- \$1,600 to **Bedeque, South Shore, and Bedeque North Pastoral Charges** (Bedeque, PE) in support of their event, *Celebrate with Wonder 100 Years and Still Going*, occurring on June 8, 2025. These rural pastoral charges located in central-western Prince Edward Island are collaborating to offer a joint Centennial Worship service of Celebration and Outreach at Camp Abby in Western, PEI. Camp Abby is an accredited United Church Camp. Their plan is to offer a mixture of historical worship based on the 1925 order of service with some traditional hymns and to also use some of the Centennial worship material offering new hymns with a focus on our Call and Vision.



- \$1,500 to **St. Paul's United Church** (Midland, ON) in support of their event, *Rooted in History, Growing with Purpose - 2025 UCC Centennial Project*, occurring on June 8, 2025. This project has two components. It will engage the congregation and surrounding community in planting 100 trees of various native species through individual and group efforts, on private properties, public parks and conservation areas, and the local cemetery(ies) and a one time outdoor service and picnic in June 2025 to celebrate the UCC Centennial and the results of the tree planting project. Partners and supporters of the event will include Severn Sound Environmental Agency (providing low cost trees annually), local garden centre (providing trees at a discount), local cemetery and the Town of Midland, as well as Scouts and other groups at the church. The event will also host an outdoor service and picnic engaging user groups, surrounding faith communities and United Church congregations from neighbouring communities. Interested members of the congregation would be invited to sponsor a tree in the form of a monetary donation and/or in caring for the tree as it takes root, to honour the memory of a loved one, in gratitude or in an act of hope of the future. Outdoor service in a park which will also have a catered picnic lunch with free-will offering and some donated items such as deserts.

- \$2,500 to **Prince Edward County United Church Ministers Association** (Picton, ON) in support of their event, *United Church 100th Anniversary: A Year of Celebrations*, occurring on May 31, 2025. The United Church ministers and communities of faith of Prince Edward County seek to tell the story of the movements of the Holy Spirit as lived out by The United Church of Canada since union in 1925. Together, they seek to deepen and invigorate churches' tradition of collaboration and solidarity with each other and the communities they love, as they acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the United Church, as they recognize progress in healing, and as they nurture the spirituality that sustains. They are further guided by the "Bold Discipleship, Deep Spirituality, Daring Justice" call of the United Church.

- \$2,500 to **Calgary and Area UCC 100 Anniversary Committee (St Thomas United Church)** (Calgary, AB) in support of their event, *United Church Celebrates 100 Years*, occurring on June 8, 2025. Representatives from various communities of faith within the Chinook Winds Region in Calgary have been meeting for the past three months to develop various initiatives in support of the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Their focus is on 3 main elements:
 - City-wide worship service in recognition and in honour of this important milestone
 - The development, marketing and sharing of a collective list of "100 Events to Celebrate 100" organized and occurring throughout Calgary by the various member churches throughout 2025 leading up to the celebration
 - Creating a legacy project in honour and in recognition of this important milestone.



- \$2,500 to **Cowan Heights United Church** (St. John's, NL) in support of their event, *Deeply Rooted: A Centennial Garden of Faith and Community*, occurring on June 1, 2025. This project will transform an underutilized section of Cowan Heights United Church's property into Deeply Rooted, a 30x30-foot reflective park created to honour the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. At the heart of this project is a celebration of the church's century-long legacy of resilience, faith, and service. The garden will feature a walkway with educational plaques forming a timeline of pivotal moments in the United Church's history—highlighting its growth, impact, and contributions to social justice, reconciliation, and inclusivity. Fruit-bearing trees and shrubs will symbolize the church's mission to nurture both body and spirit while addressing food security and fostering community connection. Benches and reflective spaces will offer moments of peace and contemplation. The project will launch with a community centennial dedication ceremony with music, storytelling, and opportunities to plant trees and engage with the timeline. This event will unite church members, neighbours, and friends in celebration of the milestone. The event will leave a lasting legacy, as the park space dedicated will become a living testament to the United Church's enduring legacy. Beyond its creation, the garden will serve as a site for reflection, contemplation, educational programs, community gatherings, and outreach events, ensuring that its legacy extends far into the future.
- \$2,500 to **Emo-Devlin Pastoral Charge** (Emo, ON) in support of their event, *Celebrating the UCC 100th Anniversary Joint Worship Service*, occurring on June 1, 2025. They intend to celebrate the 100th Anniversary as a cluster event, which will include congregations from across the district, including Rainy River, Nestor Falls, Fort Frances and Atikokan. Their planned capacity is up to 100 people. They would gather for a special worship service at 11:00 am, in Emo Knox United Church, and convene for lunch in the hall afterwards. They will rely on a familiar ordained minister to present the Reflection, and contribute to the planning. Members of their district churches will be invited at least 8 weeks in advance about the celebration logistics. Notification regarding attendance from outlying guests is necessary for planning. Those guests planning to travel over 50 total km to Emo for the service are encouraged to car pool and may present mileage claim for reimbursement of mileage exceeding 50 km, to a maximum of \$100. Their invitation may include guest Communities of Faith to contribute to the service in the form of scripture readings, historic testimonials, prayer leadership or music.

The worship service will be designed by the celebration committee around the suggested format/program provided by the UCC, with customized attention to memoirs, and music. Special performances may be injected into the service format. The service bulletin will be a compilation of UCC history nuggets, local/cluster history features, some imagery, and the program.

Music is of particular relevance to their worship experience. Their last acquired hymnary was [More Voices](#) in the last century. Therefore, they plan to mark the 100th year and celebrate the next 100 years by acquiring the UCC new digital music resource, "[Then Let Us Sing](#)" once available.



- \$2,500 to **High River United Church** (High River, AB) in support of their event, *Singing Through 100 Years*, occurring on May 30, 2025. A musical event for lay people of all ages, regional staff, and ministry personnel, starting Friday evening, continuing through Saturday, culminating with a Centennial celebration in worship on Sunday morning. For those in smaller congregations (such as many of the rural congregations) the opportunity to gather to sing in a larger group is nourishing and inspiring, as well as a way to celebrate together. Their goal is that this event will energize those attending and help them celebrate the centennial the next Sunday (and beyond).

This weekend will take them on a musical journey through the ten decades of The United Church of Canada. It will highlight and introduce Then Let Us Sing, the musical supplement published in honour of the 100th anniversary, to congregations in the Chinook Winds region, with invitations going to communities of faith in Northern Spirit, Pacific Mountain and Living Skies regions to join in the event. (Currently it is the only Then Let Us Sing event planned for western Canada.)

The Rev. Dr. Catherine MacLean has been invited to offer reflections on how we have sung 'deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice' through the past 100 years, why hymn words change, and why congregations no longer sing some "old favourites." Members of the Then Let Us Sing development team as well as other local musicians will lead several sessions, singing old favourites and learning new pieces from TLUS. Saturday workshops will provide opportunities to learn more about singing in other languages, making music in small congregations, using other instruments (besides piano/organ) to lead congregational song, prayer writing and more.

Application is being made to the David Ferguson Music Fund (United Church of Canada – Calgary) to cover registration fees for youth participants. In addition, any adult bringing a young person with them to the event, will receive a reduction in their own registration fee. Sunday worship will be focused on celebrating the 100 years of The United Church through song.

- \$2,500 to **The United Church of Canada Korean Network** (Toronto, ON) in support of their event, *UCC Korean Network General Meeting and the UCC Centennial Celebration*, occurring on May 13, 2025. The UCCan Korean Network General Meeting and United Church of Canada's 100th Anniversary Celebration, taking place from May 13 to 15 at Willowdale-Emmanuel United Church in Toronto, will bring together ministry personnel and lay leaders to honor the church's history and envision its future. Featuring worship, fellowship, workshops, and cultural celebrations, this event will foster reflection, growth, and connection. Established in June 2021, the Korean Network aims to empower Korean communities within the UCC through initiatives focused on support, advocacy, education, fellowship, and engagement. Through regular online and in-person meetings, small group activities, newsletters, and support for other Korean groups within the church, the Network plays a vital role in strengthening intercultural ministries and promoting the United Church's new vision of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.



- \$2,500 to **St Andrew's United Church** (Lacombe, AB) in support of their event, *100 Trees Project*, occurring on June 7, 2025. They plan to plant 100 trees as a living legacy for their community. Their broad vision is to transform a 1.7 Acre Municipal Reserve into a natural forest ecosystem, planting native species as well as shrubs, forbs and grasses. Their motivation is to mitigate the effects of climate change and be true to our Creed "to live with respect in Creation". Under the direction of an ecological landscape designer, they will create a natural space of peace and contemplation, accessible to all, with pathways to wander and benches to rest. UCC Foundation funds will be used for signage, dedication expenses and some structures.

- \$3,000 to **Grace United Church** (Barrie, ON) in support of their event, *100th Anniversary Block Party*, occurring on May 31, 2025. Their event is a block party bringing together neighbors and their congregation to enjoy an afternoon at the church property to celebrate the centennial. Their goal and intent is to get as many feet in the 'door'/on the property to grow their community's awareness of their Affirming congregation and the benefits of being a part of Grace's strong community. Plans include:
 - local businesses (with tents, giveaways)
 - local community groups that use their multi-purpose spaces (Girl Guides and Scouts, etc.)
 - local radio station playing music
 - BBQ run by church members, soft drinks and water bottles with 100th anniversary logo
 - special 100th anniversary mocktail (by free-will offering)
 - Plant Sale
 - children and youth activations run by children and youth volunteers of the church
 - bouncy castle
 - petting zoo
 - speech by a UCC staff member (TBD)
 - speech by their minister
 - local MP, MPP, ward, city councilor visits (TBD)
 - performance by the choir,
 - 'Walkway Through History' installation inside the church showcasing the highlights of each decade of the UCC as well as the accomplishments/successes the church has had within their own community of Barrie
 - "Living Library Book" volunteers to talk about moments in time at our church
 - by entering the walkway, participants will be entered into a draw for a prize
 - 360 photo booth
 - tours of the church like our nursery, sanctuary, and multi-purpose spaces.

The members of the Joint Grants Committee are:

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