



Centennial Granting Fund Spring 2025 Results

The Joint Grants Committee met on April 8th 2025 and reviewed one-hundred-thirty-five applications for the third round of the Centennial Granting 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:

- \$3,000 to **Broad View United** (Victoria, BC) in support of their event, *100th Anniversary Festival of History and Culture*, occurring on June 14, 2025. A Centennial Festival recognizing and celebrating the 100 years of history that has led to this point in time as an inclusive, forward-thinking, faithful denomination. The main event will be a carnival-like experience that takes place on June 14 from 3-7 pm and will include:
 - Interactive exhibits that highlight key moments in UCC history.
 - A giant International Food Fair drawing from BVU's extensive intercultural community.
 - Tickets will be sold on a sliding scale with all proceeds being returned to the Mission and Service Fund.
 - The second part of this celebration will occur over 4 Sundays in June, where 1/4 century will be highlighted each week. Two former moderators (Very Rev Jordan Cantwell and Very Rev Gary Paterrson) will participate as guest preachers and worship will be broadcast so others can participate and view online.
- \$1,500 to **Burin Epworth Pastoral Charge** (Burin Bay Arm, NL) in support of their event, *A Scoff Worthy of 100 Years!* occurring on June 7, 2025. A celebration banquet to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada followed by a guest speaker and a time of music.
- \$1,700 to **Calvary United Church** (London, ON) in support of their event, *"Sing Out with Joy" a hymn sing-a-long celebrating the centennial of the United Church of Canada*, occurring on June 7, 2025. An uplifting time for churches in London, ON and the surrounding area to come together and sing out loud the hymns of the first 100 years of the United Church of Canada. Included will be the hymns of the inaugural service on June 10, 1925 and popular hymns through the decades including new hymns from "Then Let Us Sing." Special guests artists: Jazz Vespers Quartet and Singer Sonja Gustafson. A freewill offering will go to United Church of Canada centennial designated funds (as per the June 8th offerings envelope) and Mission and Service.
- \$2,900 to **Camrose United Church** (Camrose, AB) in support of their event, *Summer Celebrations*, occurring on June 21, 2025. Several activities are planned throughout the summer.



Large banners will be displayed on their property with a variety of messages promoting the church, the National 100th year anniversary, and the local church anniversary. These banners will include the church's mission statement, "Together we celebrate and share God's Love", the Affirming Ministry, "proclaiming an inclusive welcome to all people in the full spectrum of gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic identity, age, ability and social class." They will construct a mobile float to be entered into local parades and surrounding community parades. Elements of this float will also be used in a static position to promote the church. The summer activities will culminate in a large potluck suppe, to which they will invite people who have drifted away from personal attendance to church activities, current adherents and members, and the community in general. They will take out ads in local newspapers announcing the anniversary and activities, use their Facebook list, and mail out personal invitations to people on their membership, newsletter, and mailing lists. They will use this potluck supper to promote and educate people about what their church is currently doing. There will be displays celebrating the past and intended future.

- \$4,000 to **Central Labrador Pastoral Charge** (Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL) in support of their event, *Celebrating 100 Years of Spreading the Message*, occurring from May 24-25, 2025. Labrador is a vast land, commonly called "the big land". Geographically it is much larger than the island of Newfoundland but sparsely populated and spread apart. Happy Valley-Goose Bay is central to the pastoral charges both south and west. There are 600 kilometers from HVGB to the pastoral charge in the south and roughly the same in the west, one way. They will bring everyone together for this event, starting with a banquet on Saturday, the 24th and then the service on the 25th.
- \$2,000 to **Central Okanagan United Church** (Kelowna, BC) in support of their event, *Hymnspiration Service & Speaker Series*, occurring on June 1, 2025. They will have two events: one in the Spring and one in the Fall, that will include artists and speakers. In June, they will have a "Hymnspiration" service to celebrate United Church composers and hymnwriters. They want to celebrate how these contemporary composers and hymnwriters offer fresh expressions of theology that reflect the United Church's commitments to justice and inclusion. A Fall Speaker Series from September to November, will feature a special series of conversations with guest speakers that acknowledge and raise awareness of some of the more difficult aspects of the history as a denomination over the past 100 years.
- \$1,000 to **Christ United Church (with St John's UC, Wall St UC, Trinity UC, and Algonquin UC)** (Lyn, ON) in support of their event, *Singing the Century 100th Anniversary of the UCC Celebration Event*, occurring on June 8, 2025. The churches have coordinated with the local city officials to allow the usage of the Court House Green for an afternoon of song. Area Music Directors and choir members will lead guests down memory lane with treasured musical arrangements from the past 100 years. They will celebrate the music of the United Church of



Canada with old favorites from inception, some songs that represent the changing church over the decades, and new music to usher in the next hundred years. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, hat, water and get ready to raise their voices in song. Light refreshments of cake, juice and watermelon will be served. With two other churches sharing the green and local United Churches outside of Brockville, they hope to have 100-150 people in attendance

- \$1,000 to **Churchill Park United Church on behalf of the South-Central Winnipeg Cluster** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of their event, *Centenary Worship Service*, occurring on June 8, 2025. Crescent-Fort Rouge UC, Churchill Park UC, Harrow UC, Augustine UC, Young UC, Fort Garry UC and Westminster UC will have a joint centenary worship service on June 8, 2025. To celebrate the exemplary history of United Church interfaith work, they will be invite interfaith guests to offer words of reflection and encouragement during the worship service.
- \$5,000 to **Eglise Unie St. Marc** (Ottawa, ON) in support of their event, *Celebration of Worship followed by a concert and sharing of a community meal*, occurring on June 8, 2025. The Saint Mark Community of Ottawa will hold a special service, followed by a concert and a community meal. The Saint Mark Parish is composed of members from various communities. This service will showcase the diversity of the communities with various instruments and hymns. A concert will be held after the service, followed by a community meal. This will be an opportunity to invite former pastors and leaders who have served at Saint Mark, as well as leaders from the various parishes of the United Church of Canada.
- \$1,200 to **Eglise Unie St-Pierre et Pinguet and Chalmers-Wesley United Church** (Quebec, QC) in support of their event, *Re-member Tomorrow Gathering*, occurring on June 8, 2025. They plan to have a joint worship service for two Communities of Faith (COF) in Quebec City. Following the service, there will be a joint lunch to bring these two communities of faith together by sharing food. They also want to create a “Memory Wall” where participants can mark significant moments in their faith story with the United Church on a shared timeline, celebrating how their congregations have been sources of inspiration and support over the years.
- \$2,500 to **St. Paul’s United Church** (Paris, ON) in support of their event held at Bethel Stone United Church, *Grant River Collaboration Centennial Celebration*, occurring on June 8, 2025. The Grand River Collaboration is a collective of United Church ministries across Brant and Oxford counties in Southern Ontario, dedicated to fostering connection, faith, and community. On Sunday, June 8, these ministries will come together for a significant joint worship service, commemorating the centennial of the United Church of Canada. The event is expected to bring together approximately 200 individuals. This gathering will honor the rich history of the United Church of Canada, celebrate its ongoing mission, and look to the future of faith-based community-building in the region. Through this celebration, they aim to strengthen the bonds of the Grand River Collaboration and inspire a renewed commitment to working together for the



common good.

- \$4,000 to **Gower Street United Church** (St. John's, NL) in support of their event, *Celebrating 100 Years United in Community*, occurring from May through November 2025. "Momentum" events to celebrate the Centennial of the United Church of Canada are planned for multiple dates.
 - May 6 Games Night
 - May 15 Coffee House
 - May 20 Gower Service and Social Club dinner and meeting
 - May 25 Downtown Pops Concert
 - May 27 100th Anniversary Banquet
 - June 1 Rainbow Melodies worship service (PIE Day/Pride Sunday)
 - June 8 100th Anniversary worship service
 - Oct 26 Women's Suffrage Sunday Lunch and Learn – Dr. Margot Duley
 - Oct-Nov Book Study – *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Edgar Budde
- \$3,000 to **Grey-Bruce United Church** (Owen Sound, ON) in support of their event, *Grey-Bruce United Churches 100th Anniversary Celebration and Gathering*, occurring on June 8, 2025. Sixteen pastoral charges, including two Indigenous United Churches, will work collaboratively to plan a worship service that includes children and youth, Affirming Congregations, United Church Women, a mass choir, church musicians. The service will include lay and clergy participation. Following the worship service, they plan to hold an old-fashioned church picnic to include food and fellowship.
- \$2,100 to **Highlands United Church** (North Vancouver, BC) in support of their event, *UCC Museum Gallery*, occurring in June 2025. For the entire month of June, the welcome space (which is street-facing) at Highlands UC will be transformed into a gallery of sorts. Easels will be set up with images and history of the United Church, creating a gallery-like atmosphere. The easels will display events in history, documented in a way that illustrates how major moments have shaped the national church, Highlands, and even the culture in which we live. During specified times throughout the week, 'the gallery' will be open to the general public, and volunteers from the community of faith will act as curators to help visitors—whether non-churchgoers, members of other denominations, or individuals with no experience of church—understand who the UCC is and all that it has accomplished over time. Volunteers will be well-informed about what is on display (e.g., 1988 info, TRC, 1925 union, various statements of faith, interfaith pursuits, social justice action, etc.) and will be able to resource and refer visitors to the national site for further information.
- \$1,500 to **Hillside United Church** (Halifax, NS) in support of their event, *A Century of Grace*, occurring on June 8, 2025. They are planning a weekend event, extending the invitation to the



local community as well as their mission partners—Khalsa Aid and the Punjabi Community. The weekend will begin on Friday night with a kitchen party and square dance, celebrating Nova Scotia culture. Saturday's activities will include a community BBQ, with entertainment featuring a bouncy castle, food trucks, and outdoor games such as washer toss. As part of the 100 Tables UCC initiative, they will support Lake City Works, a local social enterprise dedicated to empowering individuals living with mental illness by building on their strengths and providing employment opportunities. They will purchase a picnic table from Lake City Works, along with accessories to secure it and a flagpole, demonstrating inclusivity and support for diverse communities, including people of colour and LGBTQ+/Trans/Two-Spirit individuals. The weekend will conclude with a watch party in the sanctuary to view the 100th Anniversary service being held in St. John's, NL. This initiative aims to foster community spirit, celebrate diversity, and strengthen local partnerships.

- \$1,000 to **Innisfail United Church** (Innisfail, AB) in support of their event, *Innisfail Rotary Pro Rodeo Parade*, occurring on June 15, 2025. They will enter a float in the community parade and celebrate with a picnic afterwards.
- \$2,000 to **Kilworth United Church** (London, ON) in support of their event, *Intergenerational Camp*, occurring on September 13, 2025. Members of Kilworth United and Lambeth United Churches will host a church service at Camp Keemokee. They will organize a sleepover the night before at the Keemokee cabins for those who wish to stay. Activities will include campfires and the use of Keemokee's archery and bouldering facilities. They will also host networking workshops to share each other's gifts and find ways to collaborate in the future.
- \$3,000 to **MacKay United Church** (Ottawa, ON) in support of their event, *Jazz in June – Centennial Celebration*, occurring in June 2025. Each Thursday in June, MacKay United Church will host the Ottawa community to celebrate the United Church's 100th anniversary with a four-part event called Jazz in June – A Centennial Celebration. Celebrating each week in June will provide an extended opportunity for individuals in the community to learn about the 100th Anniversary, honouring the past and inviting participation in the future. This four-week series of Jazz in June will also be recorded by a local videographer, making it possible to share nationally with the wider United Church of Canada to mark this historic 100-year milestone. One of the artists invited to participate is national performing artist and theologian, Tom Reynolds
- \$5,000 to **Nashwaaksis United Church** (Fredericton, NB) in support of their event, *Celebrating 100 Years of United Church in the Fredericton Area*, occurring on June 8, 2025. This event will bring together at least 10 Fredericton-area United Churches to celebrate the centennial of the United Church of Canada. The history of the United Church's presence in the area, both past and present, will be highlighted as the struggles and triumphs of the past are acknowledged in their efforts to follow Jesus Christ. Looking forward with hope, they will reflect on the future of the



church in the area. It is hoped that this event will foster solidarity among the churches as they move forward together.

- \$2,500 to **North York Korean United Church** (North York, ON) in support of their event, *Korean Canadian Voices of United Church of Canada*, occurring on April 27, 2025. During this event, they will showcase a series of videos that capture personal memories and experiences of immigrating to Canada and discovering the United Church. These videos, produced in advance, will highlight the powerful moments of how newcomers found faith, community, and belonging. On the day of the event, they will gather to watch and discuss the videos together, sharing diverse perspectives and fostering deeper connections. Moving forward, they will continue to produce additional videos and create a dedicated website to collect and preserve these stories, continually expanding their communal knowledge and experiences.
- \$2,500 to **Oasis United Church (on behalf of South Okanagan UCs)** (Penticton, BC) in support of their event, *South Okanagan United Church Centennial Celebration*, occurring on June 8, 2025. They will bring together members from six congregations to celebrate the Centennial through shared food (including a birthday cake!), shared worship (including a hymn sing), and time for in-person fellowship. This will take place at Naramata Centre and the beach by the Centre, a traditional gathering place for many of them, offering the opportunity to enjoy community in a beautiful setting. A photo display will be set up to help people understand the history of the United Church, as well as the individual communities of faith. Additionally, a Centennial Photo Booth will be set up so attendees can take fun pictures to remember the day.
- \$1,500 to **Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge** (New Minas, NS) in support of their event, *Orchard Valley Centennial Carnival*, occurring on May 24, 2025. They have a three-fold approach:
 - A carnival with youth and adult activities and games, food, and music with the primary focus on their local communities.
 - An open house to present the recently renovated building, new sanctuary, and the activities in the life of the church.
 - A vendor fair to help draw in visitors.
- \$1,600 to **St Andrews United Church on behalf of the Rural United Churches Celebrating the Centennial of the United Church of Canada** (Elgin, ON) in support of their event, *Rural United Churches Celebrating the United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary*, occurring on June 1, 2025. This 100th Anniversary celebration is planned as an Outdoor Worship Service at the Delta Fairground. This rural event gathers together six churches from three pastoral charges: Delta-Toledo; Seeley's Bay-Olivet and Elgin-Portland; as well as the Addison and Athens United Churches for a total of eight churches. The Reverend Peter Bartlett will be the guest speaker and Celebrant in the Sacrament of Communion. There will be a combined choir with special music to enhance the worship. A short drama is being created with young people to sketch some of the



achievements of the United Church of Canada from 1925 to 2025. Finally, in typical United Church tradition, they will conclude with a picnic lunch, followed by performances from several musicians.

- \$2,000 to **St. Andrew's by-the-lake United Church** (Kingston, ON) in support of their event, *Kingston area United Churches celebrate 100 years of history*, occurring on June 8, 2025. Combined Worship Service with eight local United Churches participating in the service during the regular Sunday worship time. Each congregation will be invited to join in a massed choir and to remain after worship for a fellowship time. Offerings will be collected to go to the Mission and Service Fund.
- \$2,500 to **St. Mark's United Church** (Cannifton, ON) in support of their event, *United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary Celebration*, occurring on June 8, 2025. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube so that those unable to attend in person can participate in worship as well. Attendance is expected from nine or more area United Churches. The worship service will feature music and children's activities, followed by a picnic lunch and other activities centred around the anniversary theme. The speaker will be the Rev. Dr. John Young, and a joint choir from the attending churches will lead the singing.
- \$2,500 to **St. Paul United Church** (Westville, NS) in support of their event, *The Westville 100: Supporting Food for Focus*, occurring on June 21, 2025. This community-driven fundraising initiative with the goal of raising \$30,000 is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Food for Focus program. This vital program provides weekend food assistance to 50 children from 14 food-insecure families in their local elementary school. To achieve this, Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor will embark on a 100-kilometer walk in a single day, completing four 25-kilometer loops through Westville on June 21, 2025—a symbolic 100km for 100 years of the United Church of Canada. The event will unite community members, businesses, and local organizations in raising awareness about food insecurity and encouraging community-wide participation. Residents of Westville and Pictou County will be invited to walk alongside Mary for segments or the full distance, support the event as volunteers, or contribute through sponsorships and donations. This initiative embodies the spirit of the United Church of Canada, fostering community engagement while directly supporting families in need. The Town of Westville, the local elementary school, the town library, and other organizations have offered their support, making this a truly collaborative community effort.
- \$1,000 to **St. Stephen's College** (Edmonton, AB) in support of their event, *Exploring a Century of Intersections, Images, and Ideologies in Faith and Education*, occurring on May 5, 2025. We are planning a Day of Reflection to mark two centennials which exist in close proximity: both the United Church of Canada centennial and the 100th convocation of St. Stephen's College. The event will include (a) story telling circles, (b) a panel of College and faith community



representatives exploring the images and intersections that have shaped church, college and community in Alberta over the past century, (c) a panel of St. Stephen's students and alumni exploring various fields of UCC ministry practice (including ordained ministry, diaconal ministry, and public-sector ministries such as chaplaincy and counselling), (d) a response to the panels from the Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, and (e) an evening public address by the Moderator offering "words of challenge and inspiration for college, church, and community seeking to be diverse, courageous, hope-filled, compassionate, and globally conscious in the new century we face."

- \$2,500 to **St. Stephens on the Hill United Church (on behalf of the Greater Sudbury United Churches)** (Sudbury, ON) in support of their event, *Centennial Worship*, occurring on June 15, 2025. An outdoor Sunday worship and celebration marking the centennial of the United Church of Canada and the closing of the Festival of Faith (a learning event co-hosted by Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils). This event is hosted in partnership with Canadian Shield RC, as well as communities of faith including St. Stephen's on the Hill, Grace United, St. Peter's United, St. Andrew's United (Sudbury), Copper Cliff United, St. Andrew's United (Coniston), St. Mark's United, St. James in the Valley United, Larchwood United, St. John's United, All People's United, Trinity United (Capreol), and Trinity United (Lively). The worship service will feature leadership offered by Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and guest preacher John Bell, world-renowned composer and faith leader. The celebration includes four ordinations, communion, and performances by a massed choir, held at Grace Hartmans Amphitheatre in Bell Park, Sudbury. Congregations from across the region will participate, displaying their historic and current ministries, fostering a day of fellowship and community engagement.
- \$2,000 to **Trinity United Church on behalf of United Churches of North Bay and Area - UCFuN** (North Bay, ON) in support of their event, *North Bay and Area Centennial Weekend Celebrations!* occurring from June 6-8, 2025. The weekend of events is intended to bring together United Church and community people to celebrate faith through the arts (youth theatre company, stained glass window tour by designer and fabricator of Northern Ontario windows, music), and worshipping together in a community centre that reflects the beginning when union was celebrated in an arena. There is intentional focus on involving multi-generations. See attached brochure
- \$4,000 to **Uganda Martyrs United Church of Canada** (Toronto, ON) in support of their event, *Celebrating our Shared Journey of Faith, Unity, and Community*, occurring on May 25, 2025. They will have a Church service, music and cultural entertainment by the Church choir and other community groups, and a marketplace where there will be display of food, crafts and other items that reflect the shared heritage from local vendors. The General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair has been invited to be the keynote speaker who will reflect on United Church and its 100 year journey. A Catholic Father from Uganda will speak about the Uganda Martyrs and



their significance to Christianity in Uganda. A member of their Congregation will also speak about the journey as a United Church Community of Faith. We chose this date because June 3 is Uganda Martyrs Day celebrated by Ugandans around the world. We are named after the Uganda Martyrs who were killed by King Mwanga II for their unwavering faith between 1885 and 1887. This was a pivotal point for Christianity in Uganda.

- \$3,000 to **Visions United Church on behalf of the Southeast NB cluster** (Moncton, NB) in support of their event, *Southeast New Brunswick Regional Celebration*, occurring on June 8, 2025. A joint celebratory service for 15 communities of faith located within the southeast region of New Brunswick will be held at St. John's UC, the church with the largest sanctuary in the greater Moncton area. Expecting 500 to 700 participants, the service will be broadcast live. A variety of hymns that were popular throughout the past century will be sung. There will be a mass choir. During the sermon, a faith exploration event will be organized for the children, based on Godly Play. Since parking at St. John's UC is very limited, participants will park at a city parking lot and be bussed to and from St. John's.