



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA **FOUNDATION**

Thanks to the generosity of United Church people, we are pleased to announce the following grants made through:

The Seeds of Hope Granting Program:

38 grants were awarded in the 2026 Spring round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$170,780.

Children, Youth, and Young Adult Programs

From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund and the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

- \$8,000 to **Parkdale United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of their *Peace Camp: Creative Healing for Ukrainian Refugee Children* project. Parkdale United Church will host an eight-week, arts-based Peace Camp for Ukrainian refugee children in Calgary. Led by Ukrainian artists, the camp uses drama, visual art, music, storytelling, mindfulness, and non-competitive play to create a trauma-informed space of belonging and creative expression. Offered at low cost, the program nurtures resilience, builds community, and invites children to explore and embody what peace means in their lives.
 - \$4,000 from the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund
 - \$4,000 from the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund

- \$4,000 to **Silver Spire United Church** (St Catharines, ON) in support of their *Queer Kids Bible Camp* project. Queer Kid Bible Camp brings together 2SLGBTQ+ youth in grades 7-12, along with friends and allies, in a welcoming church setting. They build relationships with peers and trusted adults in a safe, affirming community. The year culminates in a weeklong camp featuring outdoor activities, creative expression, and opportunities to explore queer history, theology, and their own spiritual identities and sense of belonging.

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

- \$10,000 to **Saint Columba House** (Montreal, QC) in support of their *Play & Thrive: play therapy to support growth, expression, and connection for at-risk children* project. Saint Columba House is expanding its Child-Centred Play Therapy Program, which provides free, one-on-one therapeutic support to children facing emotional, behavioural, and developmental challenges.



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Building on a successful pilot serving 12 children, the program will scale to reach 32 annually across multiple community programs. Delivered in partnership with Concordia University, it combines clinical care with family support to address critical gaps in accessible mental health services, helping children build resilience, strengthen relationships, and thrive.

From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust Fund

- \$2,000 to **Filipino Christian Fellowship** (North York, ON) in support of their *Camp KAPWA: Faith, Future, and Family Wholeness* project. Camp KAPWA is an all-encompassing, 5-day event designed to solidify faith & identity and mobilize social justice for marginalized children and even their families. Moving away from Vacation Bible School traditional models, they contextualize theology by sharing Indigenous Filipino values, connect parents to holistic support networks, and immerse children in high-barrier skill workshops. This innovative approach hopes to diversify career aspirations, tackle resource inequities, and foster connection, culminating in a community Fiesta.

Peace and Justice Programs

From the Peace & Justice Endowment Fund

- \$2,000 to **1JustCity** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of their *Expanding Community Drop-in Hours* project. 1JustCity has recently expanded Drop-in hours at all three community Drop-in Sites (Previously noon-3pm, now 9am-3pm.) There has been great attendance during these expanded hours, but the community would benefit from activities like arts and craft supplies, games, and more to use while they are in the space. These will provide staff and volunteers with simple methods to build relationships with guests.

Faith and Justice Programs

From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$10,000 to **The Canadian Council of Churches** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *NATI-RETI, North American, Turtle Island - Regional Ecumenical Theological Institute* project. NATI-RETI 2026 is a fully immersive residential theological learning program designed as a pilgrimage across borders. By engaging the unique religious and social landscapes of the United States (Detroit) and Canada (Toronto), participants will explore the deep intersections of faith and public life. It is designed to nurture visible unity, emphasize justice, and foster connections across national, confessional and denominational lines to reimagine the church's witness in a polarized world.
- \$2,000 to **Healing Pathway Society** (Ottawa, ON) in support of their *Naramata Healing House: Summer Experience* project. Practitioners will gather throughout a 6 week period for 1 week time periods at the Healing House at Naramata Centre, BC, the birthplace of Healing Pathway Society.



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In the mornings they will worship, reflect, learn new techniques and discuss. The afternoons will be spent offering Healing Pathway sessions to participants at Naramata Centre.
From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$5,000 to **College Street United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of their *Crucified Woman: The Play* project. *Crucified Woman* will be part of the Toronto Fringe Festival, July 1st - 11th. Telling the story of the statue *Crucified Woman's* journey to Bloor Street United and Emmanuel College. At the same time acclaimed author Margaret Laurence's books were attempted to be banned across the province by Evangelical Christians. This play tells a story often forgotten in our tradition, it is College Street United Church's hope to share this story to the wider public.

From the Faith and Mission Endowment Fund

- \$5,000 to **West River United Church** (Cornwall, PE) in support of their *Grace App* project. *Grace* is a Christian spiritual routine-building app designed to help users actively live out their faith through daily practice. Rooted in the teachings of the Bible, it enables users to build personalized routines including prayer, fasting, reflection, confession, and giving. Through progress tracking and guided structure, *Grace* helps cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, deepen one's relationship with God, and integrate faith into everyday life in a modern, accessible way.

From the United Church of Canada Foundation General Granting Fund

- \$10,000 to **Robertson-Wesley United Church** (Edmonton, AB) in support of their *Deaf Accessibility Project*. The project works towards full inclusion of the deaf community into Robertson-Wesley's current demographic. There are 3 core areas, executed simultaneously. 1) Research the Edmonton Deaf Community and connect with existing networks, focusing on the underserved identities of Deaf-Queer-Christian individuals. 2) Offer interpretation at weekly worship, key programs and other church events. 3) Educate all members and expand the skills of adults experiencing hearing loss, nurturing an inclusive community and individual relationships.

Programs Supporting Communities of Faith

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults

- \$1,000 to **Grace United Church** (Napanee, ON) in support of *The Joyful Noise Project*. This is an intergenerational community music initiative in Greater Napanee designed to reduce social isolation and foster connection through inclusive music-making. The project will combine choir singing with learning, playing, and sharing music on the ukulele, including the purchase of instruments and beginner instruction. Through regular rehearsals and community performances, participants of all ages will build skills, relationships, and confidence while nurturing creativity, spiritual expression, and a sustainable model for ongoing ministry.



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- \$1,860 to **Cedar Park United Church** (Pointe-Claire, QC) in support of their *Midweek Musical Connections* project. Midweek Musical Connections is a series of six Tuesday evening concerts, September-May. Professional musicians will perform their favourite pieces, describing what to listen for and engaging with the audience. Each event will be livestreamed. This innovative, outward-facing programme offers an opportunity to gather in community to enjoy high-quality music. By offering radical hospitality and sharing information about who Cedar Park UC is and what Cedar Park UC does, the Community of Faith will be further developed and strengthened.

From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$1,000 to **St. Paul's United Church** (Thunder Bay, ON) in support of their *Women's Circle at St. Paul's* project. Women's Circle at St. Paul's United Church in Thunder Bay is a series of free, small group gatherings (10-30 participants) designed to foster connection, shared faith, and storytelling among women from diverse backgrounds. Open to the wider community, each session features guest speakers and guided conversations. The project creates an inclusive, welcoming space where women can build relationships, explore spirituality, and share lived experiences.

From the Faith & Mission Endowment Fund

- \$1,750 to **Carlisle United Church** (Hamilton, ON) in support of their *Carlisle United Church Community Family Events* project. Building on the success of summer Vacation Bible Camp and its connection with community youth campers and volunteers, the plan is to invest in and expand reach to community families by offering seasonal programmed events through the year. Events include back-to-school Blessing of the Backpacks event, Community Family Carol Sing event, and Community Family Easter event. Each planned specifically to connect with community families via advertising, hospitality, programming, and technology.

From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund

- \$4,500 to **Eglise Unie Saint-Marc** (Ottawa, ON) in support of their *Spiritual retreat: Together let's build an inclusive, dynamic community united in faith* project. St. Marc United Church is a very diverse religious community, bringing together eight nationalities and approximately one hundred fifty people, including more than Seventy-five children. In order to strengthen Christian faith and social cohesion, a three days spiritual retreat will be planned, from Friday evening to Sunday evening, in a spirituality center.

From the Ann Baker Estate Trust Fund

- \$1,500 to **Grace United Church** (Napanee, ON) in support of *The Mustard Seed Project*. The Mustard Seed Project will establish a community hub in Greater Napanee focused on food security, connection, and access to resources. The project will create raised garden beds for



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growing fresh food and develop a small technology hub at the church, providing access to computers, job search support, and digital resources. Rooted in faith and community care, the initiative fosters dignity, inclusion, and skill-building while creating a sustainable model for long-term community support.

- \$5,000 to **Roseneath United Church** (Roseneath, ON) in support of their *Radical Flourishing! Radical Joy!* project. Roseneath United Church is planning for 100 women to attend a three-day, two-night retreat, and then they will return to their communities to fulfill the goals to which they have committed. The program will start with registration, worship, and a Keynote speech, and Break Out groups for discussions, learn new songs from Then let Us Sing, Smudge, Swim & Hot Tub, Wagon Ride, Video -Oshkigmong: A Place Where I Belong, photo session with T-shirts, Goal setting and evaluations.

Environmental Programs

From the Living Spirit Fund and the Environmental Fund

- \$10,000 to **Islington United Church** (Etobicoke, ON) in support of their *Circuit & Soil: An Automated Hydroponic Expansion for Food Sovereignty* project. Circuit & Soil scales its urban farm by integrating JustVertical racks with a Raspberry Pi automation system and a custom robotic arm. This Smart Farm brain automates nutrient delivery and maintenance, overcoming labor barriers to provide year-round produce for the Maybelle Food Program. By building this DIY robotics lab in-house, Circuit & Soil is creating a scalable, open-source model that empowers communities of faith through STEM innovation and technological food sovereignty.
 - \$4,500 from the Environmental Fund
 - \$5,500 from the Living Spirit Fund

From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund

- \$2,000 to **Trinity St Andrew's United Church** (Brighton, ON) in support of their *Sharing Gardens and Table* project. To expand the sharing container gardens and sharing table to increase quantities of vegetables and to add some berries to the gardens for the sharing table for people facing food insecurity. Trinity St Andrew's United Church wants to hire for 35 hours a week a gardener/educator. The gardens are supported by the children and youth and the Youth and Christian Education and Outreach Committees and the Grannies of Northumberland.
- \$2,300 to **Newburgh Centreville Pastoral Charge** (Newburgh, ON) in support of their *Churches Care for Creation in Eastern Ontario* project. The pastoral charge plans to host a "Climate Motivator" intern, hired through the United Church of Canada "Climate Motivator" program with funding from the federal government. The intern will share their time for 8 weeks between the local county and the National Church, including five days of advocacy training in Ottawa. A



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further 4 weeks will be for developing environment-related curriculum materials based on the intern's knowledge of environment, climate change, and local and national action.

- \$2,500 to **Brunswick Street Mission** (Halifax, NS) in support of their *Urban Garden Expansion* project. In partnership with YouthNet, a youth program located nearby, the plan is to expand Brunswick Street Mission's garden program to Youthnet's property. The gardens will be maintained to grow herbs and vegetables that will be harvested through the growing season and added to prepared foods that are distributed through the Food Bank, Café, and new community pantry. They plan to purchase and install 6 garden beds and a community pantry.

From the Peace & Justice Fund

- \$5,000 to **St. Paul's United Church** (Riverview, NB) in support of their *Sowing Climate Hope: Faith Communities for Pollinators and Planet* project. The Climate Motivator and mentors will develop workshops to build native plant gardens and a Peace Pole at faith communities. The Climate Motivator will also engage with members of parliament, MLAs, city councillors and other decision makers to advocate for climate justice. The Go Project provides week-long training in Ottawa for the Climate Motivator. Bees for Peace will support the Climate Mentor in providing a week-long pollinator camp for children in June and garden events.
- \$2,000 to **Norval United Church** (Georgetown, ON) in support of their *Norval United Inclusive Faith Reflections Pollinator Garden* project. This project seeks to create an inclusive, eco-friendly garden that supports reflection, worship, and environmental action. It aims to improve accessibility, enhance biodiversity, address climate impacts, and deepen community and spiritual connection with the land. This will be achieved by building accessible pathways, planting trees and pollinator-friendly gardens, maintaining and expanding garden beds, and offering eco-education through summer programs, outdoor worship, and community plant giveaways in partnership with other churches.

From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$2,000 to **Glen Cairn United Church** (Ottawa, ON) in support of their *Glen Cairn United Church (GCUC) Mini-Forest* project. GCUC expects to plant in spring 2026 a rapid-growing and self-sustaining Miyawaki Mini-Forest on an underutilized portion of its property that is currently sod, covering 200m² with 600 native saplings. The Mini-Forest is a practical means for the community to become better stewards of the land, compiling proven environmental benefits eventually with a place of meditation and reflection for all.

From the Kingscourt United Church Endowment Fund

- \$5,000 to **St. Mary's Road United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of their *Camino MB Climate Support Community* project. Camino MB Climate Support Community will create nine monthly gatherings and four retreats to build an intergenerational climate action support community.



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Retreats will include: contemplative walking reflectionjournalingsharing storieseating togetherplanning creative climate action initiatives. Participants will engage in creative projects (such as poetry writing, book making, video creation), share stories of gratitude, pain and hope, and make commitments for the next month, eat together, be active together.

Seniors Ministries Programs & At-Risk Adults

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults

- \$2,000 to **Silver Spire United Church** (St. Catharines, ON) in support of their *Silverfest: Celebrating the Spirituality of Aging* project. Silverfest is a weekend gathering for seniors that combines worship, learning, and community-building. Featuring keynote speakers, music, and a wide range of workshops, the festival supports physical, spiritual, and social well-being. Participants engage topics such as aging, faith, creativity, and end-of-life planning, while enjoying fellowship and shared experiences. Silverfest addresses isolation by creating a vibrant, affirming space where older adults can reconnect with purpose, build relationships, and celebrate their ongoing role in community and faith.
- \$2,000 to **Hope United Church** (Halifax, NS) in support of their *Strengthening Community - Intergenerational Intentionality* project. Hope United Church wishes to host deliberate and intentional events aimed at strengthening inter-generational connections within the church and within the wider community. Some of these will likely dovetail with the Affirming process (currently underway). Hope UC believes that these events will create and foster belonging, build community (and combat loneliness), and strengthen connections. Possible events include: cooking nights, movie and discussion nights, board game nights, trivia nights, and a self-care fair.
- \$5,000 to **Services and Housing In the Province** (Mississauga, ON) in support of their *Housing Access & Stabilization Pilot* project. SHIP's Housing Access & Stabilization Pilot supports adults experiencing homelessness in Waterloo Region as they transition from shelter or transitional programs into subsidized permanent housing using portable rent subsidies. An Access & Transition Coordinator will coordinate referrals and move-ins, provide early-tenancy stabilization support, and connect participants to essential resources including income supports, health care, and food security. The pilot aims to reduce transition delays and help 24-28 adults remain housed at 3 and 6 months.

From the Ina Grafton Gage Trust Fund

- \$10,000 to **Right at Home Housing Society** (Edmonton, AB) in support of their *Edmonton Pride Seniors Group Housing* project. Edmonton Pride Seniors Group Society, in partnership with Right at Home Housing Society, is developing a first-of-its-kind affordable housing community in Edmonton for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors. The project will provide safe, inclusive, affirming rental homes where residents can age in place with dignity. The building will include universal design accessibility, a mixed-income affordability model, and shared spaces that reduce isolation and



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build connection. Community consultation will guide the project, including culturally respectful inclusion of Two-Spirit seniors.

Anti-Racism Programs

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Programs and Projects in Addressing Poverty and Children at Risk

- \$2,000 to **Neighbors International** (Calgary, AB) in support of their *Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment Program* project. This project aims to empower 25-30 racialized black immigrant youths and newcomer youths through hands-on sessions on business idea generation, startup, financial management, marketing strategies and real world side-hustle. It would foster a youth entrepreneurial mindset. Underserved youths would learn financial literacy, and would be able to launch personal businesses, have increased financial confidence. This investment will turn their ideas into income-generating opportunities, boost economic participation and building a more inclusive, prosperous community

From the Living Spirit Fund

- \$10,000 to **Plymouth-Trinity United Church** (Sherbrooke, QC) in support of their *Threads of Hope: Swahili-Speaking Refugee Women's Sewing and Empowerment Initiative* project. Threads of Hope is a 12-month, faith-rooted initiative led by MFSS in partnership with Plymouth-Trinity United Church providing 20-30 Swahili-speaking refugee women with accessible sewing training. Delivered entirely in Swahili, it combines skills development, community support circles, and pastoral care to promote inclusion, well-being, and income opportunities. Through ecumenical collaboration, the project reduces isolation, builds belonging, and fosters sustainable economic empowerment within a safe, culturally responsive, and spiritually grounded community setting.
- \$5,000 to **Central Okanagan United Church** (Kelowna, BC) in support of their *Solidarity Action Network* project. The Network centres Congolese, Sudanese, and South Sudanese solidarity on unceded Syilx lands. The Network moves beyond charity through three pillars: physical sanctuary, mutual aid, community education and activism. Rooted in traditional frameworks: Lisanga (Congolese practice of collective sanctuary) Naffir (Sudanese tradition of mutual aid) Ubuntu (African philosophy of interdependence), this initiative unites diverse peoples and faith practitioners as neighbours learning to live in right relationship with one another.

From the United Church of Canada Foundation General Granting Fund

- \$8,000 to **University of Winnipeg Office of Research and Innovation** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of their *In the Shadows of Genocide: Palestine, Settler Colonialism, and an Ecumenical Call to Action* project. *In the Shadows of Genocide: Palestine, Settler Colonialism, and an Ecumenical Call to Action* is an ecumenical conference bringing together scholars, theologians, clergy,



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activists, and community partners to centre Palestinian Christian voices and Indigenous perspectives. Building on strong United Church of Canada leadership and participation, the project fosters theological reflection, truth-telling, and ethical action in response to ongoing violence in Palestine, while producing accessible resources to support justice-oriented ministry, education, and public witness.

Indigenous & Reconciliation Programs

From the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries with Senior Adults

- \$2,870 to **ArtHeart Community Art Centre** (ArtHeart) (Toronto, ON) in support of their *Wiingashk kwe, Niinin, aka: 'The Sweetgrass Chicks & Frank* project. This new project creates income generation for Indigenous elders (residents of Wigwamen Terrace) through paid honorariums for teaching traditional Indigenous cultural arts/crafts (i.e.: basket-making, medicine pouches, dream-catchers, jewelry, drums) to their peers during regular free weekly Friday afternoon art program "Wiingashk kwe, Niinin" that gathers Indigenous elders & older adults to share and connect through art, storytelling and celebrating cultural practices. This will be supported/facilitated by ArtHeart in collaboration with Council Fire.

From the James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund

- \$5,000 to **Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre** (Beausejour, MB) in support of their *LGBTQ2S+ and Healthy Relationships Learning Circle* project. Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre will host a June Learning Circle to provide Indigenous Ministry Training students with LGBTQ2S+ education and Healthy Relationships training. Rooted in Indigenous teachings and Christian faith, the project equips students with practical tools to create safe, inclusive, and affirming ministry spaces. Through facilitated learning, sharing circles, and reflection, students will strengthen their leadership, support community wellness, and advance the United Church's Calls to Action.

From the Peace & Justice Fund

- \$1,500 to **Grace United Church** (Lloydminster, AB) in support of their *United for Reconciliation Events* project. Event 1 will take place on May 22 with an educational bus tour for up to 44 people to travel from Grace United Church to the historical Frog Lake site, Onion Lake residential school sites, and the Fort Pitt Historical Site to learn about local history and treaty signing. Event 2 will be in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Lyndon Linklater from the Office of the Treaty Six Commissioner will present on treaties after the Sunday service.

From the Alfred J. Mitchell Trust Fund



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- \$2,000 to **Port Nelson United Church** (Burlington, ON) in support of *their Collaborative Ministry in pursuit of Truth and Reconciliation* project. Grace, Port Nelson, Munn's and St. Paul's UC are Affirming churches in South Halton that hope to work together on projects to strengthen the ministry to support the Affirming teams in each congregation. This event is being offered the weekend before the National Truth and Reconciliation Day. It's an opportunity for the communities of faith and the wider community to engage in the work of reconciliation and to explore what that might look like in the local context.

2SLGBTQIA+ Programs and Projects

From the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund and the Living Spirit Fund

- \$10,000 to **Southminster-Steinhauer United Church** (Edmonton, AB) in support of their *Evergreens Community GSA* project. Evergreens young adults will build on the existing program for youth, providing an alcohol-free space for 2SLGBTQ+ young adults to be their authentic selves and to learn and grow together. They will engage with each other and the world through discussion, food, book studies, games nights, guest speakers, and bi-monthly outings.
 - \$5,000 from the Living Spirit Fund
 - \$5,000 from the Wesley C. Smith Estate Fund

Other Grants

5 grants were awarded through the Foundation's Trust-Based Granting Program, totalling \$216,000. 1 grant was awarded through a special request from the General Council Office, totalling \$42,000.

Trust-Based Grants awarded to Organizations through special request

- \$50,000 to **Symons Valley United Church** (Symons Valley, AB) in support of the *SVUC Stewardship Plan* project from the United Church of Canada Foundation General Granting Fund. This is the third year of a three-year grant in support of this community of faith.
- \$75,000 to **Chinook Winds Regional Council** (Okotoks, AB) in support of the *Camp Caravan* project from the United Church of Canada Foundation General Granting Fund. This is a three-year grant with \$20,000 awarded in 2026, and \$25,000 to follow in 2027, and \$30,000 in 2028.
- \$100,000 to **The Go Project** (Bracebridge, ON) in support of *The GO Project Strategic Implementation Plan* project from the United Church of Canada Foundation General Granting Fund. This is a three-year grant with \$36,000 awarded in 2026, and \$32,000 to follow in each of 2027, and 2028.



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- \$120,000 to **Montreal City Mission** (Montreal, QC). An unrestricted grant to support Toward 2035 envisioning from the Judith Sim Fund. This is a two-year grant with \$60,000 awarded in each of 2026 and 2027.
- \$150,000 to the **Canadian Bible Society** (Toronto, ON) in support of the *Hope is Rising for Kwak'w ala* project from the Judith Sim Fund. This is a three-year grant with \$50,000 awarded in each of 2026, 2027, and 2028.

Special Request from the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada

- \$42,000 to the **Church in Mission Unit** in support of the *Support to Cuba Humanitarian Response* project from the Melville and Margaret Rossie Fund. The long-term impacts of COVID-19, US sanctions, and repeated exposure to hurricanes and droughts have made it extremely difficult for the country to recover and have contributed to the rapid deterioration of people's living conditions. This period has been marked by extreme food and energy shortages, transport constraints, strain on an already fragile healthcare system, and increasing social vulnerabilities. Cuban partners are delivering timely, life-saving humanitarian assistance, including food, psychosocial support, non-food items, and hygiene kits. The grant will support Mission and Service partner, the ***Christian Centre for Reflection and Dialogue***, in developing urgent and vital humanitarian assistance and will provide for the purchase of an Electric Vehicle to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance which will improve people's living conditions and well-being in vulnerable communities.



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Research, Scholarship, & Academic Awards

6 awards were granted as a part of the Black Clergy Network Scholarship Fund, totalling \$30,500. 19 awards were granted as part of the United Church of Canada Foundation's Research, Scholarship, and Academic Awards program totalling \$163,500.

Black Clergy Network Scholarship

Clergy in Training Award

- **Tsafack Matsop Antoine Sygnola:** Attending the Montreal School of Theology.
- **Wonder Chimvinga:** Pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at St. Andrew' College (Saskatoon).

Post-Secondary Scholarship

- **Hewitt Holmes:** Pursuing a Ph.D in Theology at the University of Durham.
- **Sarah Kauri Charles (Kinoti):** Pursuing BA of Education at Bishop's University.

Research Scholarship

- **Shepherd Munikwa**
The United Church of Canada has articulated a strong vision of becoming an intercultural and anti-racist church. However, many within the church continue to ask an important question: How is this vision being experienced in the life of our congregations? This research seeks to explore that question by examining the lived experiences of both racialized and white members across the three Eastern Regional Councils. The project will involve interviews, cluster workshops, focus groups, and theological reflection sessions with clergy and lay members. These conversations will explore issues of belonging, leadership, power, and systemic structures within the church, while also creating space for communities to imagine practical pathways toward becoming a truly intercultural church.

Encouragement Award/Special Consideration

- **Svens Telemaque:** Pursuing theological studies at Concordia University.

From the Anna Jentsch-Bill Endowment Bursary

- **Hyun Hee (Deborah) Park:** Pursuing a Doctor of Practical Theology at McMaster Divinity College.
- **Rev Eun-Joo Park:** Pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Emmanuel College.
- **Rev. Dr. EunKyung (Grace) Lee:** Pursuing a Fundamentals of Transitional Leadership Training at Intermin Ministry Network and Conflict Management Certificate at University of Waterloo.



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- **Karen Kempe:** Pursuing an MDiv at St. Andrew's College and Traditional Medicine Learning Circle & Continuing Education Opportunity at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.
- **Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer:** Pursuing a Dmin at Tyndale University.
- **Qian (Erika) Liang:** Pursuing an MA at McGill and Mdiv at MST.
- **Sara Dales:** Pursuing *Learning on Purpose* continuing education at Centre for Christian Studies.
- **Tamara Connors:** Pursuing testamur (Diaconal Ministry) at Centre for Christian Studies.

From the Victor Blatherwick Memorial Bursary

- **Rev. Elijah Mwandila:** Pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at University of Pretoria.

From the W. Norman McLeod Scholarship

- **Rev. David Mugadzi:** Pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at St. Andrew's College
- **Rev. Jeffrey Dale:** Pursuing a PhD in Human Relationships at Martin Luther University College/Wilfrid Laurier University.
- **Rev. Shepherd Munikwa:** Pursuing an MA in Peace and Justice St. Stephen's University & Bethlehem Bible College.

From the Clifford Elliott Spirit of Saskatchewan Ministry Award

- **Rev. David Mugadzi:** Pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at St. Andrew's College (Saskatoon).
- **Rev. Mitchell Anderson:** Pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Tyndale University and Seminary.

From the Elizabeth White Bursary

- **Qian (Erika) Liang:** Pursuing an MA at McGill and Mdiv at MST.

From the Rev. John A McDermid Memorial Bursary

- **HyeLim Yoon:** Pursuing a Ph.D in Theological Studies at Emmanuel College.

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

- **Rev. Hewitt Holmes:** Pursuing a Ph.D in Theology at the University of Durham McGeachy Scholarship for Th.D and Ph.D Studies.
- **Rev. Brigid Maya Douglas:** Pursuing a Ph.D in Theologica Studies at Emmanuel College. McGeachy Scholarship for Th.D and Ph.D Studies.

From the McGeachy Senior Scholarship

- **Erin Green & Christine Smaller**
Generative AI is already present in the worship, governance, and formation life of the United



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Church of Canada — reshaping the practices through which ministry is formed and exercised, largely without theological examination or denominational guidance. This project responds to that reality.

The project enters a rapidly developing scholarly conversation at the intersection of practical theology, digital religion, and vocational formation theory — one that has not yet produced sustained, empirically grounded, and denominationally specific guidance for ministry practitioners. Drawing on empirical research with ministers, Lay Licensed Worship Leaders, governance leaders, theological students, and theological educators, it produces a theological framework, an AI Rule of Life workbook for all members of the Church, a denominational white paper, modular formation curricula, and a peer-reviewed scholarly contribution.

Throughout, the research is grounded in the denomination's particular character — its bilingual and intercultural identity, its relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities of faith, its commitments under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and its anti-racist commitments, its theological identity as expressed in its own confessional documents and vocational commitments, and the distinct realities of rural and remote Canadian ministry — ensuring that the guidance this project produces belongs to this Church and serves its vocation.

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