



Thanks to the generous members of the United Church and the General Council Office, we are pleased to announce the following grants made through:

## The Seeds of Hope Granting Program:

***31 grants were awarded through 2019 fall round of the Seeds of Hope Granting program at the United Church of Canada Foundation totaling \$320,375.***

### Events, Lectureships, & Workshops

#### **The Alfred J. Mitchell Fund**

- \$5,000 to ***Bracebridge United Church*** (Bracebridge, ON) in support of Muskoka Earth Festival. The Muskoka Earth Festival will take place at the Bracebridge Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 30, 2020. It will draw together a diverse set of communities into a celebration of a shared commitment—living sustainably, and finding common cause, in an era of climate crisis. There will be a learning pavilion hosting TED-type talks and follow-up conversations, DIY workshops teaching practical skills, a Deeper Well space for those interested in eco-spirituality, fun children’s activities, promotional displays by community-based environmental organizations, and a green marketplace connecting people with earth-friendly technologies, products and services.
- \$5,000 to ***Sisters Together*** (Scarborough, ON) in support of “Nevertheless, She Persisted”. This project will bring together 50 women in ministry, from within the United Church of Canada as well as other denominations. The inaugural gathering is April 20-24, 2020 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. It includes speakers, worship, spiritual reflection, relaxation time, and creative discussions – in a safe space, to rest, and to be able to share the issues they face. If successful and desirable, further events could be planned. Ultimately, it is intended that this event is a beginning in building a community which goes beyond just the event itself.
- \$1,000 to ***Forest Grove United Church*** (North York, ON) in support of Equity as a Leadership Competency. Ministers, students and United Church Staff in Southern Ontario will be invited to a day that includes listening to first-hand accounts from Elders and Story-keepers of the Residential School experience. Then they will be led in a theological reflection and facilitated conversation with the intent of arriving at principles to foster equity in Communities of Faith. This is intended as a pilot that, if merited, could be established as a seminar for all ministry personnel in various locations across Canada.



- \$14,000 to **Cruxifusion** (Burlington, ON) in support of a 2020 Cruxifusion Gathering: “Proclaiming Jesus, Crucified and Risen, Our Judge and Our Hope”. The three-day 2020 Cruxifusion Gathering will invite Christ-centred United Church of Canada ministers and student ministers from across Canada for a time focused on “Proclaiming Jesus Christ, Crucified and Risen, Our Judge and Our Hope.” This will happen through theme speakers, preachers, communal worship, prayer, and organic fellowship. Cruxifusion is a network of United Church leaders who share a Christ-centred faith and hold to a “generous orthodoxy” theologically.
- \$20,000 to **Toronto Christian Resource Centre** (Toronto, ON) in support of Taste of Regent Park. The project will establish Taste of Regent Park as the community’s annual market event, animating Regent Park’s central green space as a weekly, family-friendly world market, while increasing community safety, celebrating Regent Park’s vibrant cultural diversity, and providing opportunity for residents from all walks of life.

## **The James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund**

- \$5,000 to **First United Community Ministry Society** (Vancouver, BC) in support of The Downtown Eastside Partnership Circle Initiative Events. The Downtown Eastside Social Justice Partnership Circle is a fledgling initiative from First United. Effective January, the Partnership Circle initiative meets monthly with representatives from various congregations to improve awareness in congregations of pressing social justice issues and to build community leaders’ capacity to Marshall Responses. Every quarter, Partnership Circle participants organize a city-wide event to inform congregants of pressing social issues. Events feature two speakers, an inspiring subject matter expert followed by a presenter from the Partnership Circle team who facilitates a discussion regarding possible responses to the issue in local congregations.

## **The United Church of Canada Foundation’s General Fund**

- \$400 to **St. Andrew’s Westminster United Church** (London, ON) in support of Tools and Strategies to Improve Mental Health Workshop. This is a one-day workshop focusing on mental health. They are attempting to provide a workshop every spring with a different focus around mental health. As part of their Mission and Outreach they will make this event available to their wider community as the success of their previous event demonstrated the extreme need for support and dialogue around mental health.

## **United Church Camps**

### **The United Church of Canada Foundation’s General Fund and The United Church of Canada Camping Trust Fund**

- \$13,350 to **Gesstwood Camp & Education Centre** (Essex, ON) in support of Faith in the Forest- Adventure play Summer Camp. Faith in the Forest is an overnight summer camp



program. Campers will attend camp free of charge and campers will be selected from their contest submission. They will explain why they want to attend a Christian Camp, discovering faith, exploring nature, making friends and building skills. The contest is open to inner city, underprivileged students. Gesstwood Camp partnered with public school board to run this contest/select the campers.

## The United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund

- \$9,000 to ***George Pringle Memorial Camp*** (Shawnigan Lake, BC) in support of Camp Pringle Ropes Course Revitalization. Camp Pringle's high and low ropes courses have been an integral part of their camping ministry for nearly 20 years. The courses foster self-confidence and social awareness and encourage collaborative problem solving and teamwork from the participants. During their 2018 annual course inspection many of the elements failed inspection. This grant will help complete their revitalization project prior to the start of their 70th anniversary camping season to aid in furthering their United Church camping ministry.
- \$1,000 to ***Camp Menesetung*** (Goderich, ON) in support of I AM AWESOME: A Weekend retreat for LGBTQ+ Youth. Situated in a rural Huron County, local youth who identify on the LGBTQ+ spectrum have very limited supports in the area and often face discrimination at school or in the home. May 2020, they hope to find local leaders who identify as LGBTQ+, hire workshop speakers who can speak to the rural experience, and put on an amazing Friday-Sunday empowerment/community building retreat for LGBTQ+ local youth hosted at Camp Menesetung at a subsidized rate to build community and provide education/support to those who often face discrimination for their identity.

## The Camping Trust Fund

- \$1,500 to ***Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre*** (St. John's, NL) in support of "Camp Refresh". The sport field at Burry Heights property has been in inadequate condition for some years. Many pothole-sized imperfections in the grass have been filled in year after year, however this maintenance has not been adequate in keeping the field level. There are also a few protruding rocks that pose a tripping issue as well. They aim to re-soil, level, and reseed the entirety of the field, dramatically improving its condition and its usability. In addition, they will reseed the area directly in front of the main porch, the lawn between the two buildings, where many individuals travel and sit at the picnic tables.

## Housing Programs

### The Ina Grafton Gage Trust Fund

- \$50,000 to ***House of Lazarus Matilda Resource Centre Inc.*** (Mountain, ON) in support of Places for People Dundas County. With limited low-income housing in their community, they are



looking to purchase a single-family home to convert into a two-family rental for low-income individuals/families in Dundas County.

## Faith Formation & New Ministries

### **The United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund**

- \$5,000 to **Westmount Park United Church** (Westmount, QC) in support of Birthing a non-profit for community, peace and ecology. This grant will allow Westmount Park to create a new non-profit that would manage programme along three themes of community, peace, and ecology. This non-profit would share the space of Westmount Park United Church.

## Seniors Ministries

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

- \$1,825 to **Forest Hill Pastoral Charge** (Fredericton, NB) in support of FHUC Floor Curling. FHUC Floor Curling will allow seniors and others to participate in an organized sporting activity that does not discriminate on the basis of physical mobility. The social aspect of the program will combat isolation and enhance social interaction, thus promoting good mental health and building a sense of community. The physical requirements of the sport can improve balance, flexibility, and range of motion, abilities that often decline with age. It will consist of one or more 2-hour curling sessions per week. Participation will be on a drop-in basis, although expansion of the program to include league play is anticipated.
- \$2,100 to **Trinity United Church** (Riverview, NB) in support of Seniors and Child Care Centre Love and Learn Together Project. With many seniors in their community of faith and surrounding community, and a Child Care Centre in their church building, they will bring these two generations together to build relationships, learn and play together, and participate in shared programs that benefit body, mind, and spirit.



- \$20,000 to **1JustCity** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of Indigenous Cultural Program. They will hire 3 new Indigenous staff people, one to work at each of their 3 outreach sites, who will work with them to establish a new Indigenous Cultural Program that will create new opportunities for healing and reconciliation inside and outside of their spaces. The majority of participants in their programs, and therefore the majority of people who would participate in this new project, are seniors – especially considering that street-involved and low-income individuals can be considered to have reached “senior” age by 45 based on life expectancy and aging-related ailments.
- \$20,000 to **Stella’s Circle** (St. John's, NL) in support of Home to Stay: Preventing Homelessness through Aging in Community for Seniors with Complex Needs. Building on Stella’s Circle’s Home to Stay pilot project, the goal is to prevent homelessness among seniors with complex mental health needs by enabling them to age safely in the community. An Occupational Therapist will complete individual home assessments with seniors to assist with falls prevention and make recommendations on home modifications. This intervention enables seniors to access the emerging Home to Stay social enterprise, avoiding unnecessary hospital visits, premature entry into personal care homes and allowing them to stay connected to their community. Home to Stay will provide hands-on construction training, through the home modifications for seniors, for 4-8 students who face barriers to employment, and prepare them for returning to work – a win for the students and a win for the seniors.
- \$19,500 to **Humber Valley United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of Humber Valley United Church Seniors Fitness and Wellness Project. HVUC will develop a range of new opportunities to enable neighborhood seniors to become part of the church community through an expanded Seniors Ministry Program. The plan was developed by a group of 12 community members including HVUC seniors, local 55+ club leaders, fitness providers for seniors, and two non-seniors.
- \$2,500 to **Crescent Fort Rouge United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of Outreach: A Partnership in a Digital Time. CFRUC will purchase and install a digital transmission suite which will allow the simultaneous transmission of live performances by our arts partners as well as Worship and meetings and/or the recording of the same for later transmission. It has the immediate outcome of allowing seniors in care facilities, assisted living, shut-ins and those who cannot travel easily to CFRUC due to mobility issues or weather, access to these type of onsite events.
- \$2,500 to **Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge** (Tatamagouche, NS) in support of Tatamagouche Community Navigator Program Feasibility Study. The Feasibility study for the Tatamagouche Community Navigator Program will research ways that other organizations and small, rural communities have responded to systemic issues of poverty, isolation, mental health, and lack of access to resources. The study will be accomplished through literature searches, interviews, and statistical analysis. The research consultant will develop and present a report for the Tatamagouche Community Initiative Working Group that will aid and inform the development of the program.



- \$10,000 to **Richmond-Melbourne United Church** (Richmond, QC) in support of Seniors Spiritual Wellness Program – Phase II. We are moving into Year 2 (Phase 2) of this pastoral care project. Before the project began, there was little or no pastoral/spiritual care for long-standing United Church seniors living at home or in the local seniors residences in the Richmond-Melbourne area of the Eastern Townships, QC. The Seniors Spiritual Wellness Program has allowed us to provide high quality pastoral and spiritual care for seniors in our area. The program has engaged seniors in ways which provide them with a sense of meaning, purpose, and ensures them that they have not been forgotten, by connecting or reconnecting them with the United Church and the broader community.
- \$18,000 to **Tatamagouche Centre/Atlantic Christian Training Centre** (Tatamagouche, NS) in support of Seniors' Spirituality Program Stream – Phase II. "The Seniors' Spirituality Program Stream PHASE II will build on the progress made in 2019, and further increase senior leadership and participation in a series of programs that will be offered at Tatamagouche Centre in 2020.
- \$4,700 to **Chalmers Community Services Centre** (Guelph, ON) in support of Building Healthy Community. Over the last five years, the number of guests who are new to Canada increases year over year. Many of these guests were seniors which was a surprise to CCS. Recently, they have had the opportunity to partner with Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington (IS), to provide a rounded a community experience as possible. In partnership with IS, they are starting a social group, whereby guests can drop in for knitting, board games, snacks and conversation. This group is being facilitated by IS volunteers, some of whom are seniors. Three Willows United Church is providing space and CCSC volunteers (all of whom are seniors) are providing support, snacks and coffee. The "Building Healthy Community" project is being developed to ensure all of the pieces of this partnership can be sustained in a meaningful way.
- \$600 to **Faith Centennial United Church** (Selkirk, ON) in support of Stewardship of the Soul. A series of initiatives to care for the seniors of their community by offering times of encouragement and support while community building, as well as evening events to ailing neighbours and those who have lost spouses and are lonely.
- \$20,000 to **Brunswick Street Mission** (Halifax, NS) in support of Building Improvements for Increased Accessibilities. Brunswick Street Mission is working on improvements to better serve those struggling with poverty and who require access to their building, programs, and services. To better serve their clients they need to renovate their current building space to improve the general layout to make people feel safe and improve accessibility.
- \$20,000 to **Windsor Park United Church** (Winnipeg, MB) in support of Improving the Experience of Faith and Spirituality by Creating a more Universally Designed Chancel. Windsor Park United Church is currently going through a process of renewal, re-invigoration, and self-evaluation. One of their key strategic goals in this process is to facilitate the experience of faith and spirituality. With the Seeds of Hope grant, they will design and construct a more functional and safe chancel that will increase the participation and contribution of people of all abilities, sizes, cultures, and ages. By redesigning this space they will also strengthen their capacity to provide expressive forms of ministry including music, drama, and other arts-based modalities.



- \$4,500 to **Five Oaks Centre** (Paris, ON) in support of Grandparent GROWE Camp. GROWE camp will be two, week-long residential camp experiences for Grandparents and their grandchildren. Children (ages 5-12) will attend GROWE day camp during the day operated by on-site partner Grand River Outdoor Wilderness Education. During the late afternoon, dinner and evening there will be opportunity for faith formation programming for adults and children together, rooted in the experience of being outdoors at camp together in a faith-based setting.
- \$13,000 to **Birchcliff Bluffs United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of Dorothy's Place: Expanded Outreach to LGBTQ2S+ Seniors. Dorothy's Place is going to realize their third goal and to broaden the scope of their existing programs including developing education materials, offering counselling supports and expanding their Rainbow Tea program.
- \$10,000 to **Wesley Urban Ministries** (Hamilton, ON) in support of Housing Support & Activities for Seniors and Older Adults, Special Care Unit. This is a residential, 24/hour staffed, harm reduction and managed alcohol program for men and women experiencing homelessness, addiction and serious health problems, using an evidence-based model.

## Peace & Reconciliation

### **The United Church of Canada Foundation's General Fund**

- \$16,000 to **Roncesvalles United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of "Walls of Welcome" Fortress into Friendship Opening Event. Roncesvalles United Church are undertaking a unique initiative in reconciliation. History has taught us the importance of our indigenous community being given agency to tell their stories and choose their own way. "Walls of Welcome" seeks to make a bold statement through "giving" the soaring, cathedral church sanctuary walls to renowned indigenous artist Philip Cote, to create whatever he chooses to put on the walls.
- \$4,900 to **Lambton Presbytery United Church Centre** (Lambton Shores, ON) in support of Building Connections with our First Nation Neighbours. Lambton Centre is committed to building connections with their indigenous neighbours. In an effort to make right relations with these neighbours they are developing programs. Initially there will be the establishment of a sweat lodge.

## The New Ministries Fund:

**6 grants were awarded in the 2019 Fall round from The New Ministries Fund totaling \$140,300.**

- \$24,000 to **Hillhurst United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of Contemplative Arts Ministry. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant. Having a successful pilot run of Contemplative Arts Ministry in 2016 they aim to grow this project by having weekly gatherings and one on one spiritual direction, contemplative arts education and training, including



meditation and other contemplative practices, and special focused events designed to invite deeper exploration and personal insight. Hillhurst United Church wants to continue to attract a wide range of people looking for spiritual support and community building through this ministry.

- \$25,000 to **Southwood United Church** (Calgary, AB) in support of the Southwood Yong Adults (formally called Millennial Ministry) Project. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant. This is a project that puts time and resources towards engaging the millennial generation in the Christian faith and life of the local church. To accomplish this they have involved multiple strategies including but not limited to having a robust social media engagement plan, a focused effort on initiating deeper friendships and spiritual care with millennials both inside and outside the congregation, a ministry of hospitality/intentional community to be lived out in homes, the development of a millennial-specific spiritual formation track within the broader ministry programs of the church, and participation in local outreach projects reflecting justice, community building, and acts of charity and kindness.
- \$25,000 to **Birchcliff Bluffs United Church** (Toronto, ON) in support of Toby's Place. This is the third and final installment of a three-year grant. Toby's Place responds to the need for programs or safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in the South Scarborough area. It is a new safe where seekers in the LGBTQ+ youth community can come and find affirmation that they are loved as they are. They are building a space where identity, values and real hope can safely be explored and where a community meal and education will offer a deep and growing connection with other youths and the community as whole. A sanctuary where all youth are welcome.
- \$25,000 to **Huron Shores United Church** (Grand Bend, ON) in support of the Community Wellness Project. This is the second instalment of a three-year grant of \$25,000 per year. Huron Shores United Church will operate a Community Wellness Project that researches and develops activities and programs for the purpose of social inclusion. Programs would be suitable for everyone, could be instructor led or participant led, and may include social dining, music, games, a makerspace, and meaningful volunteer opportunities to work on social justice issues. The programs and activities would welcome all ages, gender identities, and socio-economic backgrounds, and would be offered at no, or low, cost to participants.
- \$25,000 to **Oxbow and Alameda United Churches** (Alameda, SK) in support of *R.E.A.C.H. (Rural Energy and Christian Hope)*. This is the second instalment of a three-year grant of \$25,000 per year. Oxbow and Alameda United Churches recognize that while it is common to wonder why people aren't coming to church, it is less common to make a point of asking people in what kind of faith formation environment they could imagine themselves taking part. They aim to create a series of consultative processes (in rural communities), including one-on-one conversations, written surveys, small group meals/discussions, and focus groups which will result in lasting relationships and an understanding the potential role that the church can play in the community. Once they have done this they plan to immediately begin activities in the community that might begin to draw new people in. The activities can include a grief support





group, continuance of weekly Friday Night Fuel suppers, Bible for Beginners Evenings, Drama Workshop, Drumming Workshop, and increased Social Media presence in the community.

- \$16,300 to **Stouffville United Church** (Stouffville, ON) in support of Creating Community for All. This is the second and final installment of a two-year grant. As Stouffville United Church enter the second year of their renewal, modernization and mental health wellness initiatives, there is a new pride in their faith community which has opened fresh conversations about themselves, their faith and their focus to Create a Community for ALL. Using 3 core values; Explore Spirituality, Embrace Action and Experience Belonging, their spiritual outlook is to deepen the congregation's understanding of these values through messaging that the Spirit is at work and God touches our lives in all we do inside and outside church. Part of the way they are accomplishing this is through Mental Health Wellness seminars, support groups, events and programs.

***If you have questions, 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)***