

THE VISION FUND

Continuing Education Bursaries for Leaders in First Third Ministry

- Volunteers and Congregational Designated Ministers:
up to \$500 per year
- Designated Lay Ministers and ordered ministers:
up to \$300 per year



To Support First Third Ministry
in The United Church of Canada

March 2016

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The 35th General Council of The United Church of Canada (1994) established a “youth and young adult fund to which congregations could apply for partial financial support for locally generated youth and young adult ministries and programmes.” (*Record of Proceedings 1994*)

Its purpose is to provide financial support for youth and young adult ministries and programs in The United Church of Canada.

For more information, contact:



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**The Vision Fund
Continuing Education Bursary
APPLICATION FORM**

Part I

Applicant name: _____

Mailing address (home): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Presbytery/district: _____ Conference: _____

Name and address of sponsoring pastoral charge, faith community(ies), or equivalent:

How are you involved in ministry in your faith community? _____

Continuing education conference, workshop, course, or training _____

Have you received Vision Fund money in the past? yes no

If yes, when and for how much? _____

Amount requested: _____

Event date: _____

Name and phone number of a member of your faith community not directly supporting this application:

Please note: If you are awarded a bursary, we will require your Social Insurance Number before we release any funds.

Date of Approval by Pastoral Charge/Equivalent

Print Name of Chairperson

Signature of Chairperson

March 2016

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected through this process is done in compliance with all applicable federal and provincial privacy legislation and adheres to the principles of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (S.C. 2000, c. 5).

Part II

On a separate page, please answer the following (include questions in your response):

1. Please describe the continuing education program, including your own purpose and goals for attending. (What do you hope to accomplish?)
2. How do these goals relate to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision? (see below)
3. How will you or your ministry setting benefit?
4. What environmental implications have you considered?
5. How will you evaluate the event and report back to the Vision Fund Committee?
6. Please provide a complete budget.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision

As accepted by the 36th General Council

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as [God] chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. (1 Corinthians 12:14–20)

As a part of the body:

- We believe youth and young adult ministry is an essential part of the church,
- We believe that youth and young adults need to gather separately within the church and together with the whole church,
- We believe that youth and young adults are active, vital participants in youth and young adult ministry,
- We believe that, for youth and young adult ministry to be effective, this ministry needs to be done in partnership with the whole church,
- We believe youth and young adults bring to the church a variety of special gifts because of their life experiences,
- We believe youth and young adults in the church, and beyond, hunger for spiritual nurture and pastoral care,
- We believe the church has much to offer to, and receive from, youth and young adults.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young... shall see visions, and your old... shall dream dreams. (Acts 2:17/Joel)

We have a vision of a church that...

- I. Recognizes that youth and young adult ministry must be owned by and integrated into all parts of the church community.
- II. Provides a Christian environment where youth and young adults are welcomed, heard, valued, nurtured, and supported both personally and spiritually as equals in local congregations, church courts, at camps, and on campuses.
- III. Provides opportunities and resources for youth and young adults to gather in faith, friendship, and community locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- IV. Continues to identify, develop, and update the youth and young adult ministry network across the church to facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources, and people.

- V. Provides training and continuing education to support ministry with youth and young adults for paid accountable ministers, and specific training programs for youth and young adult ministry leaders (lay and ordered).
- VI. To provide leadership opportunities and training for youth and young adults that nurtures both their leadership skills and spiritual life.
- VII. Provides programs and opportunities with a global perspective that develop and encourage the mission and outreach awareness of youth and young adults, both in Canada and around the world.
- VIII. Respects, values, and ensures youth and young adult ministry within the Intercultural and Diverse Communities network, the All Native Circle Conference, and le Consistoire de Laurentien, while recognizing and valuing the gifts their ministries bring to the whole church.
- IX. To encourage worship that inspires youth and young adults' participation and spiritual development.
- X. Ensures appropriate and safe pastoral care for youth and young adults, including those outside of church membership, especially in times of change, challenge, and crisis. This care recognizes the diversity of our life experiences and commitment to the inclusion of marginalized youth and young adults.
- XI. Honours and respects all expressions of faith that are searching and questioning, and that draws from and challenges our traditions and historical faith in God and Jesus Christ, so that we can be both rooted and dynamic.
- XII. Recognizes and responds appropriately to issues of particular importance to youth and young adults.

Submitting Your Application

Applications may be mailed to:

The Vision Fund
The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Applications may be faxed to 416-231-3103, attn: Vision Fund
or e-mailed to: visionfund@united-church.ca

Please note: If you are awarded a bursary, we will require your Social Insurance Number before we release any funds.

For More Information

Contact Amy Crawford:
Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781
Phone: 416-231-7680 ext. 4186
E-mail: visionfund@united-church.ca

The Vision Fund Continuing Education Bursaries for Leaders in First Third Ministries Guidelines

March 2016

The 35th General Council of The United Church of Canada (1994) established a “youth and young adult fund to which congregations could apply for partial financial support for locally-generated youth and young adult ministries and programs.” (Record of Proceedings 1994)

“The General Council, therefore, commits to making funds available, through a reorganization of the Vision Fund, to leaders seeking to pursue continuing education in the field of First Third ministry. General Council will set aside \$50,000 annually for continuing education bursaries. Special consideration will be given to leaders from remote settings.” (GCE November 12–14, 2011)

This document will help you navigate the process toward a successful application to the Vision Fund. It explains why the questions on the application form are asked, and what kind of information we hope to glean from your answers. The first step is to make sure you are using the current application form. The easiest way to do this is to download a copy from the United Church website: search “vision fund continuing education bursary” at www.united-church.ca.

The application form is reviewed every triennium, and each question is there for a reason. Please answer all the questions—it helps the committee tremendously to have a full application when making a decision.

Part I

Applicant name: This is the name of the person or faith community (if more than one person from one faith community plans to attend a single event) that will attend the continuing education event, workshop, or training.

Please note: If you are awarded a bursary, we will require your Social Insurance Number before we release any funds.

Presbytery/district and Conference: In years when money is tight, the committee tries to allow for an even geographic distribution of grants. If near the limit of the budget, an application is more likely to be considered from a region that is underrepresented.

Name and address of faith community(ies) or equivalent: A cap of \$1,000 per congregation/pastoral charge per year will be applied.

How are you involved in ministry in your faith community? Funds can be accessed by volunteers, congregational designated ministers, and designated lay and ordered ministers. Volunteers and CDMs can receive up to \$500 per person per year, and designated lay and ordered ministers can receive up to \$300 per person per year. Special consideration is given to leaders from remote settings, leaders who are themselves youth or young adults, and others who have no further continuing education funds provided to them.

Continuing education conference, workshop, course, or training: Please provide the name of the event and a web address if available.

Have you received Vision Fund Bursary money in the past? As stated above, there is an annual amount allowed per person or per faith community.

Amount requested: By policy, the Vision Fund Bursary can give grants of up to \$300 or \$500 per year based on ministry category (see above).

Event date: This helps in the budgeting process to know when the money should be granted.

Name and phone number of a member of your faith community supporting this application:

The vast majority of applications reviewed by the committee are for legitimate reasons and from legitimate sources. However, occasionally an application is received that seems a little off for one reason or another. For this reason, it is helpful to be able to speak with someone not directly involved with the application, who knows about it and is able to confirm its validity.

Part II

The second part of the application provides a detailed description of the event so the committee can make an informed decision. Remember that the only thing the committee knows about your undertaking is what you put in this application. The committee typically has several of these applications to review, so answer the questions clearly and concisely.

Please answer the questions asked in the order they are asked, and include the question as the heading for your answer.

1. **Please describe the continuing education program, including your own purpose and goals for attending. (What do you hope to accomplish?)**

The committee is looking for a clear, concise description of the event and how it will help you meet your own ministry or personal development goals.

2. **How do these goals relate to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision?**

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision is printed on the application form. It was from this vision that the 35th General Council established the Vision Fund in the first place. The more your application relates to this vision, the more likely it will be successful.

3. **How will you or your ministry setting benefit?**

The Vision Fund Committee has a duty to make sure the fund is dispersed in such a way as to further the goals of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision and the Youth and Young Adult Strategy approved in 2011. One of the tests used to gauge the success of the program is to determine its benefits. Please be fairly specific. For example, the answer “It will make me a better youth leader” is not particularly helpful to the committee. Something like “The focus of this workshop is intercultural youth ministry, and our church made a commitment to become an intercultural church” is a much more helpful answer.

4. **What environmental implications have you considered?**

Care for the Earth requires active efforts. The Vision Fund takes this principle very seriously and will consider all aspects of the project that show concern for the environment. Please visit www.united-church.ca to learn about the United Church’s work to actively care for the earth. Greening Sacred Spaces provides a carbon calculator and opportunities to offset your carbon usage: www.greeningsacredspaces.net.

5. **How will you evaluate the event and report back to the Vision Fund Committee?**

In the interests of good stewardship, the Vision Fund Committee needs to know what its money is being used for and how the event is received. Creative and interesting evaluations are encouraged that include commentary on the difference the event made in your ministry.

6. **Please provide a complete budget.**

Specify how the bursary will be spent.