

# Vision Fund Continuing Education Bursaries

## Program Description



“Whoever welcomes one of these...children in my name welcomes me.”  
Mark 9:37 (NIV)

### Preamble

Donations to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada support the Vision Fund Continuing Education Bursaries. The aim of a bursary grant is to support the development of leaders in first third ministry in The United Church of Canada.

In 2023, the General Council Office conducted a review of its grants and granting functions to ensure that all United Church grants are aligned with the new Strategic Plan and to support the organization in achieving its goals. Vision Fund grants will continue to support first third ministry with members, ministries, and partners of The United Church of Canada.

The objectives of the strategic plan include:

- **Invigorate Leadership:** Adapting and Innovating for Bold Discipleship
- **Embolden Justice:** Collaborating to Mend Church and World
- **Deepen Integrity:** Living Climate Commitments
- **Journeying Indigenous Pathways:** Attending to the Calls to the Church
- **Strengthen Invitation:** Humility and Confidence in Sharing Faith
- **Nurture the Common Good:** Equity and Sustainability in Resources

Before applying, please consider how your attendance at a conference, training, or continuing education event supports The United Church of Canada’s Strategic Plan objectives:

- **Invigorate Leadership:** Does the learning opportunity provide leadership development supporting you in your ministry with young people? Does the program or event assist you in your own vocational discernment or in how to support youth in their own discernment?
- **Embolden Justice:** Does the experience help you learn about advocacy or how to initiate a justice activity? Does the opportunity align with calls from global or ecumenical partners to create a more just world? Will it help you gain wisdom from Indigenous, racialized, or LGBTQIA+ leaders and elders?
- **Deepen Integrity:** Does the learning opportunity assist you in leading the church toward reducing carbon outputs? Does the event help you better support young people in using their voices to advocate for ecological justice? Does the opportunity help you learn how to assist young people in responding to climate disasters? Does the learning event help you reconnect with the earth and refresh you for ministry with young people?
- **Strengthen Invitation:** Does the event or opportunity assist you in sharing your faith and commitment to The United Church of Canada with young people? Does the event help

you learn how to renew existing ministries with young people? Does the learning opportunity help you create a new community of young people? Does the event teach you to reach out beyond those not currently involved in the community or organization's existing participants?

## Eligibility

We welcome applications from volunteers, congregational designated ministers, and designated lay and ordered ministers from United Church of Canada faith communities. Volunteers and congregational designated minister 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.

If you have any questions about the eligibility of your group or your project, please contact the Program Assistant at [visionfund@united-church.ca](mailto:visionfund@united-church.ca).

## Evaluation

Applications are assessed according to three criteria:

### 1. Suitability

Is there a clear plan for the continuing education program? Is the need for this training clearly described?

*Have you provided a clear description of the training event and a complete budget so that the committee can evaluate the suitability of the proposal? The committee can only make a decision based on the information that you provide in your application.*

### 2. Outcomes

How will the training event benefit your ministry with youth and young adults, your faith community, and the broader world?

*Have you clearly explained how your project will make a positive impact for youth, your community, and the broader world? Consider how your project will serve the calling of The United Church of Canada, as expressed in A New Creed (1968, rev.): "to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil."*

### 3. Alignment

How does the project support the Strategic Plan of The United Church of Canada?

*Have you clearly explained how your project aligns with at least one objective area of the Strategic Plan, as outlined in the Preamble above?*

## Preparing Your Application

Application forms are provided as editable files in Microsoft Word format (.docx). Please use these files for your application.

It is important that you provide complete responses to all questions. If an application is incomplete, the committee may not be able to give it full consideration. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word or you require assistance with completing an application, please contact the Program Assistant at [visionfund@united-church.ca](mailto:visionfund@united-church.ca).

## Project Budget

The project budget is often the most important part of an application. A properly prepared budget shows the committee that you have put thought and effort into your project. It shows that you have considered in detail the variables that affect your event. It also shows at a glance what the money will be spent on and where it is coming from.

For example, a sample budget for a training trip may look something like this:

Income	
Grant from Vision Fund	\$500
Other grants	\$100
Gift from congregation	
Total	\$600
Expenses	
Travel	\$300
Air fare	\$200
Room and board	
Events fees	\$150
Registration	
Total	\$650
Income less expenses	\$(50)

**Please note that the Vision Fund is unable to provide funding for projects that result in a profit (i.e., income less expenses is more than \$0).**

## Submitting Your Application

Please e-mail all required documents to [visionfund@united-church.ca](mailto:visionfund@united-church.ca) before the due date announced on the website as Word (.docx) or PDF (.pdf) file. Since the committee meets very soon after the due dates, late applications may not be considered until the next meeting of the committee.

If you do not have access to e-mail or require assistance with submitting an application, please call the Program Assistant at 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781, ext. 4186.