# Minutes for Mission 2020 Snippets

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|  | **Date and title of Minute** |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service help fund the Near East Council of Churches’ Shija-ai Clinic in Gaza. The clinic monitors 22,000 children. | **Jan 5: Healthy Babies in Gaza**Near East Council of Churches |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries across Canada, like First United Church in Vancouver, that honour people who have passed away—from the opioid pandemic or other reasons—and otherwise would be lost and unknown. | **Jan 12: Holding Space for Life**Canadian community ministries and First United Church, Vancouver |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support three United Church of Canada education centres. One of these is Tatamagouche Centre, where mending the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people includes sharing Mi’kmaq traditions and knowledge. | **Jan 19: Easing Past Ills: Tatamagouche**Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, NS |
| Mission & Service provides grants to United Church camps like Camp Whitney in Alberta, where children between the ages of 6 and 15 can explore their relationship with God, nature, and each other. | **Jan 26: Special Days at Camp Whitney!**Camp Whitney, Whitney Lake, AB |
| Black History Month is a time to honour and celebrate the contributions of Black people in Canada and to look at the past while giving thanks as we look forward to the future. The history of Black people in Canada is part of the history of The United Church of Canada.  | **Feb 2: Celebrating Black History Month**United Church intercultural work |
| Mission & Service supports United Church camps like Pearce Williams. At the camp, children gain self-esteem, confidence, independence, and many more life skills that will help them succeed. Summer camp helps children develop into leaders, thinkers, and doers; it helps them discover who they are away from their everyday lives. Above all else, camp gives children a fun space to grow. | **Feb 9: What Is Camp?**Pearce Williams Camp |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. This project was created to encourage storytelling around the 1988 decision to welcome gay and lesbian people into full membership and ministry in the United Church—a welcome that in 2009 was expanded to include “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.”  | **Feb 16: A Way to Heal**Iridesce: The Living Apology Project |
| Farmers learn best from one another. The Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) supports farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange through interactive model farms. OAIC is one of our long-standing Mission & Service funded Global partners. The farmer-to-farmer would not exist without your gifts for Mission & Service. | **Feb 23: A Chicken Farm in Kenya**Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) |
| Your gifts to Mission & Service help support ministry personnel, lay individuals, and pastoral charges with important financial assistance during difficult circumstances. | **March 1: Supporting Ministers Financially**Office of Vocation |
| Mission & Service supports chaplaincy in hospitals, universities, and prisons, as well as supporting student chaplains through your support of theological education. | **Mar 8: A Tiny Baby**Michael Garron Hospital Chaplaincy |
| Camino de Emaús is a vibrant ministry serving hispanophones (mainly from Chile) and francophones in Montreal, thanks in part to support from Mission & Service.  | **Mar 15: Camino de Emaús**Camino de Emaús |
| The Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children’s Rights (KAACR) serves as a platform for like-minded youth to engage in communications and advocacy on ending violence against children in Kenya. | **Mar 22: Protecting a Child’s Rights**Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children’s Rights (KAACR) |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service work to create opportunities for the wider church to understand what it means to be an intercultural church, including supporting the White Privilege Working Group. | **Mar 29: White Privilege**United Church anti-racism and intercultural work |
| Thanks to a grant from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund, supported by your gifts for Mission & Service, Faith United Church and the Indigenous peoples of Kingston, ON, are creating a garden for reflection and reconciliation that contains Indigenous sacred medicine plants.  | **Apr 5: Planting a Path to Reconciliation**Faith United Church, Kingston, ON |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries like The Downtown Mission of Windsor, ON, which provides food, shelter, and advocacy for people who struggle with homelessness and poverty. | **Apr 12: Windsor Downtown Mission**The Downtown Mission, Windsor, ON |
| Dalhousie University Multifaith Chaplaincy in Halifax provides counselling and a sanctuary on campus, and feeds 40‒60 students each Monday night, many of them international and exchange students. | **Apr 19: Dalhousie University Chaplaincy**Dalhousie University Multifaith Chaplaincy, Halifax, NS |
| On-the-ground Mission & Service partners like People’s Action Forum in Zambia and the Moravian Church in Nicaragua, as part of the Ecumenical Water Network, play important roles in establishing community access to water—from digging boreholes to providing training on pump maintenance and protecting the water supply. | **Apr 26: Access to Clean Water**Ecumenical Water Network, People’s Action Forum (Zambia), and Moravian Church in Nicaragua |
| As we begin Asian Heritage Month, we look back to one our past Overseas Personnel Caroline Macdonald (1874–1931), a missionary to Japan. She became deeply involved in work with prisoners and their families, and her prison reforms live on today in Japan. | **May 3: Past Overseas Personnel: Caroline Macdonald**Past overseas personnel |
| Many people who attend summer camp come from a long line of campers, following in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents. Our gifts for Mission & Service make United Church camps like Sherbrooke Lake Camp in Nova Scotia possible.  | **May 10: Loved by Generations: Sherbrooke Lake Camp**Sherbrooke Lake Camp, New Ross, NS |
| The Wampum-Neechi program at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris, ON, brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth for six days to forge new friendships, enjoy summer days together, and learn about Indigenous (Haudenosaunee and Cree) history and cultural values. | **May 17: Wampum-Neechi Program 2019**Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre and the National Indigenous Church |
| Mission & Service supports partners like the National Council of Churches in Korea that are working to unite North and South Korea through a path of peace. There have been non-violent gatherings at the Demilitarized Zone as well as walks for peace. | **May 24: Searching for Peace in the Korean Pennisula**National Council of Churches in Korea, Korean Voices for Peace, and World Council of Churches |
| Thanks to a Mission & Service Vision Fund grant, a group of youth from the former Toronto Conference was able to record their inspirational song—“Our Generation”—which has become the theme song for the Mission & Service music video. | **May 31: Our Generation**Vision Fund grants for youth |
| Mission & Service supports work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. One of them was Alvin Dixon, an Elder and activist within the United Church who helped to guide the church to an apology to Indigenous peoples and to become a driving force behind the demand for a public inquiry into conditions at the residential schools, which led to the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. | **Jun 7: Remembering Alvin Dixon**National Indigenous Church, United Church reconciliation work |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries like Stella’s Circle. People come to Stella’s Circle’s Emmanuel House, a residential counselling centre in St. John’s, NL, for a variety of reasons. There they receive counselling and other support to move forward with their lives. | **Jun 14: Second Chances**Emmanuel House of Stella’s Circle, St. John’s, NL |
| In May 2019, The United Church of Canada returned a significant piece of land to the Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit people of Delaware Nation in Ontario. It took the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to bring the transfer to fruition. We are thankful that Mission & Service has played a part in the Truth and Reconciliation process within The United Church of Canada. | **Jun 21: Making a Home Whole Again**National Indigenous Church, United Church reconciliation work |
| Pembizo Christian Council operates a safe house in Nairobi, Kenya, for LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit refugees from Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan. The refugees who live here dream of a day they are resettled in Canada or another country where they can live freely without fear of imprisonment.  | **Jun 28: A Safe Home**Pembizo Christian Council, Kenya, United Church refugee work |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support United Church camps like Camp Bimini in St. Paul’s Station, ON, where children and adults can enjoy memorable experiences in God’s creation.  | **Jul 5: Awesome and Awe-Filled: Camp Bimini**Camp Bimini, St. Paul’s Station, ON |
| The work of the church is accomplished through working with others—some full ministries of the church, including community-based organizations, as well as through relationships with organizations and coalitions we know as national partners. Mission & Service supports partnerships with community ministries across Canada | **Jul 12: Community Ministries Make a Difference**Community ministries across Canada |
| Imagine growing up in a place of conflict, where you live in constant fear of violence. This is what it is like to grow up in Gaza. Mission & Service supports Defense for Children International-Palestine, that offers programs for children in that region that help them just be children. | **Jul 19: Protecting the Children**Defense for Children International-Palestine |
| The United Church of Christ USA is a full communion partner of The United Church of Canada. Every few years, it organizes the national Widening the Welcome conference jointly hosted by its Disabilities Ministries and its Mental Health Network. The conference is one way for the church to become more accessible. The United Church of Canada offered financial support for United Church of Canada people to attend the conference, which was possible through Mission & Service. | **Jul 26: Widening the Welcome**The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service fully support the Embracing the Spirit grant program for communities of faith with innovative ideas. Westmount Park United Church in Montreal has been able to grow its initial grant into a Faith in Nature vision of the church—a belief that nature connects us all. In one project, the church planted ginkgo seeds from Green Legacy Hiroshima as a symbol for a nuclear-free planet. | **Aug 2: Growing a Green Legacy**Westmount Park United Church and Embracing the Spirit |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service that support the work of The Healing Fund make possible opportunities for Indigenous youth to explore their culture, learn from Elders, and gain confidence and leadership skills. | **Aug 9: Touch the Earth**The Healing Fund, Zam-mi-nan aki (Touch the Earth) cultural retreat |
| In Jamaica, the Larry Chang Centre provides housing, health supports, access to education and skills training, and help with obtaining documentation and ID to LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit young adults who would otherwise be homeless. | **Aug 16: LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit Youth**Larry Chang Centre, Jamaica |
| The equine assisted learning program is a Healing Fund project supported by Mission & Service. By interacting with horses over a week, Indigenous youth learn leadership skills and gain confidence to deal with the challenges they face. | **Aug 23: Unique Teachers, Unique Students**The Healing Fund equine-assisted learning program |
| Every three years, Rendez-vous brings together United Church young people for worship, service, prayer, community, and learning. Thanks to your gifts for Mission & Service Rendez-vous is able to happen every three years in a different part of the country—including in Calgary in 2020. | **Aug 30: Rendez vous in Review**Rendez vous |
| Mission & Service has been supporting Deaf ministry in and around St. John’s, NL, for 33 years, providing community, worship leadership, and pastoral care to people of all ages. | **Sep 6: Deaf Ministry in Newfoundland**St. John’s, NL |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support the important work of reconciliation, including the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering every three years. In August 2019 the Gathering was held on the territory of the Chippewas of Rama near Orillia, ON, where Indigenous members decided on the structure and priorities for the self-determining Indigenous church within the United Church. | **Sep 13: National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering 2019**National Indigenous Church, United Church reconciliation work |
| Mission & Service‒funded global partner the Cuban Council of Churches has united two goals in a pilot project: encouraging sustainable farming and creating churches that are more inclusive of people with disabilities. | **Sep 20: Disabled Farmers in Cuba**Cuban Council of Churches |
| Our Mission & Service grants for community ministries like Bissell Centre’s Outreach Housing Team offer hope for safe and affordable housing to homeless people, as well as followup support. | **Sep 27: Bissell Centre Offers Hope and Housing Help**Bissell Centre, Edmonton |
| Women for Change is a Mission & Service‒funded global partner that empowers girls and young women in Zambia, especially in rural areas, through education. The United Church Women have decided to support Women for Change as their major project for three years. | **Oct 4: Access to Education in Zambia**UCW and Women for Change, Zambia |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological education in seven theological schools across Canada. Emmanuel College in Toronto is one of them. | **Oct 11: Taking a Leap of Faith**Emmanuel College, Toronto |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries as well as Healing Fund projects like the weekly sharing circle at St. Matthews Maryland in Winnipeg. This community ministry offers health and wellness programs to meet basic needs and help families thrive. | **Oct 18: Sharing Circle Lifts Indigenous Voices**The Healing Fund and St. Matthews Maryland, Winnipeg |
| Thank you to our ministers. Thank you for the sermons, the prayers, and the visits. Thank you for the times you leave your own families to sit with someone else’s. Thank you for your leadership and your late nights. Thank you for answering God’s call and living it out in The United Church of Canada. Thanks to our gifts for Mission & Service, ministers are supported through training at theological schools and education centres and through continuing education. | **Oct 25: We Love Our Ministers!**Theological schools, education centres, and continuing education for ministry |
| Mission & Service partner the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon offers Palestinian refugees aged 11–15 a program called Children on the Go. It teaches conflict resolution and offers vocational training | **Nov 1: Young Palestinian Refugees**Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon |
| The United Church of Canada has a rich history of saints who have gone before us but whose influence is still being felt. Betty Gale was a missionary who showed the amazing things Mission & Service can do. Born in China to missionary parents, she returned there in the 1930s after training to be a nurse. The Second World War took its toll on Betty and her husband Godfrey Gale as they spent the years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.  | **Nov 8: A Mish-Kid of China: Betty Gale**Past overseas personnel |
| Inspiring young people to make the world a better place is the vision of The GO Project, a ministry of Islington United Church in Toronto. Since its inception in 2007, the project has welcomed more than 1,500 staff and participants in its children- and youth-focused ministries. Not only have the lives of young people been transformed, but Spirit-filled young people have also returned to their communities and their churches to help change the lives of others. | **Nov 15: Transforming Young Lives and the World**The GO Project |
| There is no place like camp for campers and staff alike to live life to the fullest, experience the beauty and wonder of creation, and build meaningful relationships. Thanks to your gifts for Mission & Service, campers can continue to have meaningful experiences at Camp McDougall in Thessalon, ON. | **Nov 22: Experiencing Magic at Camp MacDougall**Camp McDougall, Thessalon, ON |
| Our gifts for Mission & Service make United Church camps, like Golden lake Camp in Ontario, places where many are transformed. | **Nov 29: Growing at Golden Lake Camp**Golden Lake Camp, Golden Lake, ON |
| Mission & Service‒funded global partner the World Student Christian Federation‒Africa Region gives university students a place to come together in education, faith, and activism. | **Dec 6: Leading the Way**World Student Christian Federation |
| Access to education is a challenge in many parts of the world, particularly in rural areas, and it’s one that Zambia’s Mission & Service partners Women for Change and People’s Action Forum are tackling.  | **Dec 13: Providing Quality Education in Zambia**Women for Change and People’s Action Forum, Zambia |
| For decades, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar faced religious and ethnic persecution, which escalated in 2017. Almost a million escaped to the town of Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh to what has become the largest refugee camp in the world. ACT Alliance, a Mission & Service global ecumenical partner, works at the camp distributing humanitarian aid in the form of food, shelter materials, warm clothing, hygiene kits, safe water, and emergency medical help. | **Dec 20: Humanitarian Aid for Rohingya**ACT Alliance |
| The Diocese of Durgapur of Mission & Service partner the Church of North India runs the Anti Human Trafficking Program. Youth, children, and their parents/guardians are trained to recognize human trafficking and taught ways to protect themselves and help others from being trafficked. | **Dec 27: Fighting Human Trafficking**Church of North India |