

THE VISION FUND

Grants for Flourishing Mission Programs

- \$25,000 per year for a triennium



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 Grants for Flourishing Mission Programs APPLICATION FORM

Part I

Project name: _____

Contact person: _____
(The individual who is the best contact person for questions about the project.)

Phone (contact person): _____ E-mail (contact person): _____

Applying body: _____
(The congregation, education centre, campus ministry, and so on to which the cheque would be made out.)

Full mailing address (applying body): _____

Presbytery/district: _____ Conference: _____

Has this project received Vision Fund money in the past? yes no

If yes, when, for how much, and what elements of the project have changed? _____

Amount requested: _____

Project/program timeline: _____

Name and phone number of a member of your congregation and/or local community not directly connected to the project: _____

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 provide a summary of past to future plans, stating vision and goals. (What do you hope to accomplish?)
2. How do these goals relate to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Vision (see below)?
3. Who will benefit, and how will they benefit? (Congregation/youth and young adult/community; include number of youth and young adults who will benefit. If this is a joint application between church bodies, mention how many per group.)
4. How have youth and young adults been involved in the planning and decision making?
5. What environmental implications have you considered for this program/project? Please provide an Environmental Plan.
6. How will you evaluate the project/program and report back to the Vision Fund Committee?
7. Please provide a complete three-year budget for the project, including a funding plan beyond the three years provided by the Vision Fund.
8. How will you provide for diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, geography? Please provide an Inclusivity Plan.
9. What duty of care provisions are in place? Please provide a Duty of Care Plan.

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.

The Vision Fund Flourishing Ministry Program Grants

- 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 emailed to: visionfund@united-church.ca

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 Flourishing Ministry Program Grants 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 for new funding for Exemplary Mission Programs. General Council will secure funds that will increase the Vision Fund’s annual allotment to \$200,000”—setting aside \$50,000 annually, \$25,000 each year over the triennium to two prominent mission-related programs. (GCE November 12–14, 2011)

This document will help you navigate the process toward a successful application to the Vision Fund. It explains in detail why the questions on the application form are asked, and what kind of information is hoped to be gleaned 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 flourishing ministry grants” at www.united-church.ca. The application form is reviewed every triennium, and each question on the form 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

Project name: This helps in sorting the various applications.

Contact person: It is necessary to have a contact person for the committee to communicate with if there are questions concerning the application. Also, if the application is granted, it is necessary to have someone to send the funds to.

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.

Applying body: This is the congregation, education centre, campus ministry, and so on to which the cheque would be made out. The fund accepts applications by faith communities in Canada, recognizing that this includes groups outside congregations (e.g., camps, community ministries).

Has this project received Vision Fund money in the past? One of the criteria for receiving a grant for a Flourishing Mission Program is that the program is established and has previously received money through the Seed Grants for New Initiatives in Youth and Youth Adult Ministry. The idea is that the program has an established history and track record with the Vision Fund.

Amount requested: By policy, the Vision Fund Flourishing Ministry Program can give grants of up to \$25,000 per year over a three-year term to successful applications.

Project/program timeline: It is helpful the timeline of the program, and it helps in the budgeting process to know when the money should be granted.

Name and phone number of a member of your congregation and/or local community not directly connected to the project: The vast majority of applications reviewed by the committee are

for legitimate projects 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 in the project who knows about it and is able to confirm its validity.

Part II

The second part of the application provides a detailed description of your project 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 provide a summary of past to future plans, stating vision and goals. (What do you hope to accomplish?)

The committee is looking for a clear, comprehensive, and concise description of the program, including the reason you believe it is necessary to The United Church of Canada at this particular time. Please state how the vision and goals have changed over time, if they have. Indicate what you have learned and experienced that caused changes from initial goals. Include the theological rationale for the program and the faith content included in it. The program should embrace methods whereby people enter relationships marked by service and engagement with God's mission in the world.

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. Who will benefit, and how will they 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 whom it benefits. When answering this question it is helpful to be fairly specific. For example, the answer "All of God's creatures" is not particularly helpful to the committee, even if it is true. An answer like "The 150 participants in the program" or "The participants of the program and the clients of the food bank we will work in" is much more helpful.

4. How have youth and young adults been involved in the planning and decision making?

All else being equal, the committee is much more likely to look favourably on an application that comes from youth for youth, as opposed to an application that comes from an adult for youth. That is not to say an adult can't be involved; however, it is preferred that the youth have a large role in planning the event. Ideally the application will be submitted by a youth. This shows the commitment of the youth to the project.

5. What environmental implications have you considered for this program/project? Please provide an Environmental Plan.

Care for the earth requires active efforts. The Vision Fund takes this principle very seriously and will be considering 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. *The Green Guide for Faith Communities*, one of the tools and resources available at www.greeningsacredspaces.net, provides some helpful ideas and tips.

6. How will you evaluate the project/program and report back to the Vision Fund Committee?

In the interest of good stewardship, the Vision Fund Committee needs to know what its money is being used for and how the project is received. Funded programs must provide an annual written evaluation. Report annually on

- how the church at large is supporting the program and what other supports would be useful
- how the program is meeting stated goals, or how the goals need to be altered to support unexpected outcomes
- how the money has been used to date

General Council youth ministry staff and a member of the Vision Fund Committee will engage in a mid-triennial check-in with program leaders. If, through the formative evaluation process, it is determined that the program is not meeting anticipated goals, the funding could change. A final evaluative report must be submitted at the end of the three-year grant period.

7. Please provide a complete three-year budget for the project, including a funding plan beyond the three years provided by the Vision Fund.

In some ways this is the most important question on the application. If you need assistance in preparing a budget, please seek help. **Failure to attach an appropriate budget may result in a delayed or denied application.**

A properly prepared budget shows the committee that the applicants have put a lot of thought and effort into their project. It shows you have considered in detail the variables that affect the project. It also shows at a glance what the money is being spent on and where it is coming from.

The committee basically looks for two things in a budget. They expect to find a list of income and a list of expenses. Usually the income is listed first and the expenses second.

8. How will you provide for diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, geography? Please provide an Inclusivity Plan.

At the 39th General Council, The United Church of Canada agreed to “commit itself to becoming an intercultural church.” This commitment means “that intercultural dimensions of ministries [will] be a denominational priority in living out its commitment to racial justice, where there is mutually respectful diversity and full and equitable participation of all Aboriginal, francophone, ethnic minority, and ethnic majority constituencies in the total life, mission, and practices of the whole church.” Inclusivity can also relate to gender and sexual diversity as well as regional diversity.

For more information and guidelines to assist you in creating an Inclusivity Plan, search “gender” and “intercultural” at www.united-church.ca.

9. What duty of care provisions are in place? Please provide a Duty of Care Plan.

It is incumbent upon all United Church of Canada organizations and programs to develop and follow a Duty of Care Plan. Exercising a duty of care involves taking steps to avoid causing foreseeable harm to another person or his/her property. For more information and guidelines to assist you in creating a Duty of Care Plan, search “duty of care” at www.united-church.ca.