



2020

Indigenous Program Funding for The United Church of Canada

Available Healing and Reconciliation
Grants for Indigenous Communities
of Faith

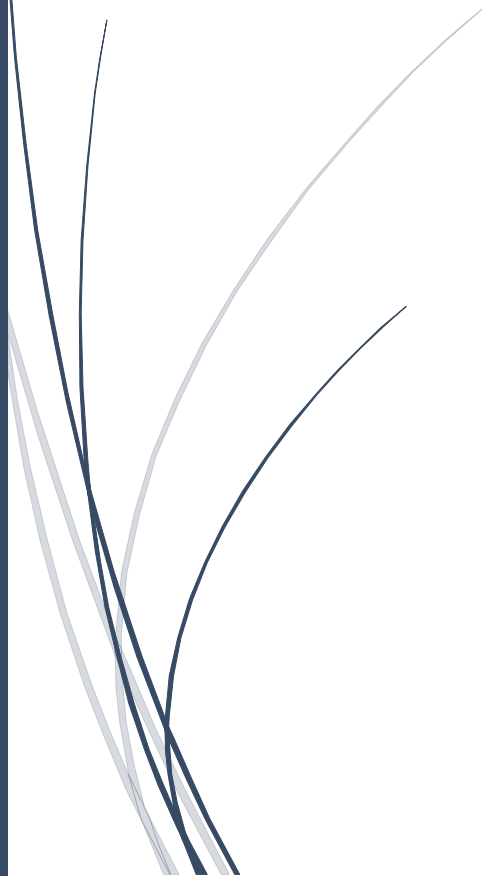


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Justice and Reconciliation Fund

The Justice and Reconciliation Fund was established in 2000 by the Residential Schools Steering Committee of The United Church of Canada to assist the church in understanding and responding to the legacy of harm and broken relationships that have resulted from the Indian Residential School system.

The fund supports projects, initiated by regional councils, communities of faith, outreach/community ministries, and education centres that foster dialogue, reconciliation, and relationship-building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Projects initiated outside the church that meet the goals of the fund and involve church members as participants are also considered.

The fund considers projects or events that are educational and relationship-building initiatives created specifically to facilitate dialogue, understanding, and right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples within the context of Indian Residential Schools and related Indigenous justice and rights issues. Since its creation, the fund has supported projects across the country and disbursed over \$755,000.

The Justice and Reconciliation Fund is distinct from The Healing Fund, which provides financial support to healing projects initiated in Indigenous communities by and for former students and their families. Projects supported by the Justice and Reconciliation Fund usually do not qualify for Healing Fund support.

Funding criteria and procedures

Wherever possible, the planning and application process should also be a joint Indigenous/non-Indigenous endeavour.

Specifically, the Justice and Reconciliation Fund supports projects or events with one or more of the following goals:

- To promote understanding of the United Church's role in the Indian Residential School system and of the impact of this system on former students and their communities
- To foster direct community-to-community engagement or face-to-face encounters between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the church and with the larger community
- To assist nation-to-nation events involving church members that support advocacy in solidarity with Indigenous rights
- To support United Church members in implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The fund has an annual budget of \$100,000 and usually does not grant more than \$15,000 to any one project.

A group can apply for a grant to a maximum of three years in a row, and can receive a maximum of \$15,000 each year.

Who can apply for funding?

- congregations, regional councils, education and theological centres, and outreach/community ministries
- ecumenical initiatives where there is a commitment to cost-sharing
- groups outside the United Church if funds permit and there is provision to involve United Church members

How and when are decisions made?

The Review Committee is made up of one representative of the Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools and one representative of Indigenous Ministries. Proposals are reviewed as they are received throughout the year and funded as funds permit.

Application process

Please apply at least two months before your project begins. Your application must be accompanied by a budget statement showing expenses and other sources of revenue. Proposals that do not meet the criteria or applications that are not complete will not be approved. A final project report upon completion of the project is required.

An application form to assist you in providing the information for your funding request is available at the link below.

Website

www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/justice-and-reconciliation-fund

The Healing Fund

The Healing Fund, established in 1994, is a grant that supports healing initiatives in Indigenous communities to address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system. Many name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating—a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Indigenous communities may apply for up to \$15,000 to create healing, culture, and/or language projects.

The Healing Programs Working Group (formerly called the Healing Fund Council), made up of representatives from diverse Indigenous communities across the country, determines the fund's criteria and evaluates applications.

Support for The Healing Fund is movement toward living out the United Church's [Apology to Indigenous Peoples](#) (1986) and [Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools and to their Families and Communities](#) (1998).

Funding criteria

Successful applications will most closely reflect the criteria outlined here:

- Applications will be specific as to how proposed projects will address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system and intergenerational trauma through innovative healing, cultural, and/or language projects.
- Priority will be given to first-time applicants. Successful applicants in good standing (i.e., have submitted their reports) may apply again after three years.
- Applicants will be Indigenous groups (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit), communities (urban, rural, or remote), or agencies.
- Projects will be part of a community-based program or grassroots initiative.
- Applications will request an amount for their project (up to a maximum of \$15,000) to use within one year starting from either June 1 (for March 15 applications) or December 1 (for September 15 applications).
- Applications will include two letters of support: one from a local agency and one from a member of the community.
- Projects will use trauma-informed practices (i.e., aftercare) to promote the emotional safety of participants, where necessary.
- Indigenous applicants may apply with non-Indigenous applicants. We encourage Indigenous and non-Indigenous applicants to follow the principles, norms, and standards of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) as a guide in your work together.

The Healing Fund will not consider applications that are

- from or for the benefit of an individual
- to reduce accumulated capital or operating deficits, or to retire debt
- for general operating costs not linked to a project that meets the fund's granting criteria
- for building projects
- for furniture or capital equipment purchases
- for salaries or wages
- for non-Indigenous churches/ministries
- for education tuition (more information about the Waase-aabin scholarship for Indigenous students is available below)

Application deadline

Applications for funding are due March 15 and September 15.

Website

www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/healing-fund

For more information, please contact:

Healing Programs Coordinator
416-231-5931 ext. 4485
1-800-268-3781 ext. 4485
healing@united-church.ca

Dorothy Jenkins Fund

Who may apply?

Indigenous Ministries and Justice personnel (i.e. ministers, volunteers, members).

Purpose

The Dorothy Jenkins Estate Fund supports initiatives that focus on the priorities named by the Indigenous communities of faith served by the National Indigenous Council: financial and economic prosperity, education/teachings, human resources, youth, stewardship, pastoral care, and traditional models. Therefore, The Healing Programs Working Group of the National Indigenous Council will consider funding projects that have an **emphasis on leadership** in the areas listed below.

Funding criteria

- Building a strong spiritual base in Indigenous communities of faith by engaging youth, Elders, urban, and two-spirit peoples in community. Together they will vision and build capacity in leadership and self-worth.
- Maintaining a strong complement of Indigenous ministry personnel, lay leaders, governing bodies, and theological schools, thus continuing to build capacity within Indigenous communities.
- Training, education, and developing culturally appropriate resources reflecting the diversity and gifts of the Indigenous community.
- Promoting healing and compassionate, appropriate, and supportive pastoral care to Indigenous communities of faith and regions.
- Planning for financial sustainability.
- Promoting community development strategies, healing models, and processes that reflect the wisdom, tradition, teachings, and values of Indigenous Christian spirituality that may be used in community and the world toward truth and reconciliation, healing the spirit, and building right relations.

Application deadlines

Starting in 2020, all applications will need to be submitted for the spring and fall funding cycles. Spring applications are due by March 15 to receive funding by June 1. Fall applications are due by September 15 to receive funding by December 1. Please plan to submit your application according to these funding cycles.

For more information, please contact:

Healing Programs Coordinator
416-231-5931 ext. 4485
1-800-268-3781 ext. 4485
healing@united-church.ca

Alvin Dixon Memorial Scholarship

The Alvin Dixon Memorial Scholarship was established in honour of Alvin's life and his dedication to the United Church and to education. This scholarship helps support Indigenous students seeking to enter or continue post-secondary education or to study at religious and spiritual centres. The Alvin Dixon Memorial Scholarship is a yearly scholarship that is available to Indigenous students enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies. Our priority is for students demonstrating both financial need and academic excellence. The scholarship may be awarded for multiple years to support the studies of selected candidates.

Application deadline

The application and all supporting documents are due by September 15 each year. Applications that do not fit the criteria listed below will not be accepted. In addition, incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Eligibility criteria

- You are Indigenous (First Nation–status/non-status, Inuit, or Métis).
- You are enrolled in an accredited Canadian and/or international post-secondary educational institution (university or college) and/or religious or spiritual centre in full-time studies.
- You are in financial need.
- You have demonstrated good academic performance with a minimum 2.50 GPA.

Once you submit your application, a committee made up of six Indigenous volunteers from across the country reviews it using a blindfold process, which removes all identification details from your application. A decision letter will be sent to you in late November or early December.

For more information, please contact:

Healing Programs Coordinator
416-231-5931 ext. 4485
1-800-268-3781 ext. 4485
healing@united-church.ca

Waase-aabin Scholarship: Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post-Secondary Education

The Endowment Fund for Indigenous Post-Secondary Education was established in March 2010. Griffith and Christina Lloyd established the fund to help support Indigenous youth seeking to enter or continue post-secondary education. This is a yearly scholarship that is available to Indigenous students enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies. Our priority is for students demonstrating both financial need and academic excellence. The scholarship may be awarded for multiple years to support the studies of selected candidates.

Application deadline

The application and all supporting documents are due by March 15 each year. Applications that do not fit the following criteria will not be accepted. In addition, incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Eligibility criteria

- You are Indigenous (First Nation–status/non-status, Inuit, or Métis).
- You are between the ages of 18 and 29.
- You are enrolled in an accredited Canadian and/or international post-secondary educational institution (university or college) and/or religious or spiritual centre in full-time studies.
- You are in financial need.
- You have demonstrated good academic performance with a minimum 2.50 GPA.

Once you submit your application, a committee made up of six Indigenous volunteers from across the country reviews it using a blindfold process, which removes all identification details from your application. A decision letter will be sent to you in late April or early May.

For more information, please contact:

Healing Programs Coordinator
416-231-5931 ext. 4485
1-800-268-3781 ext. 4485
healing@united-church.ca

Embracing the Spirit

Embracing the Spirit is a learning network and an innovation fund. The goals of Embracing the Spirit are to

- spur innovation across the entire United Church of Canada network of faith communities
- make piloting programs easy and accessible
- ensure that successful initiatives continue to thrive and gain momentum
- create a learning network that supports innovative faith communities through connection and fostering collaboration
- support existing funding programs by encouraging faith communities to experiment and assisting in the early stages of idea development
- support both new and renewing faith communities

Eligibility criteria

Application process and deadlines

Embracing the Spirit has three grant levels:

- Innovation Grants (up to \$5,000)
- Growth Grants (up to \$25,000)
- New Ministry Grants (multi-year grant funds offering up to \$25,000 per year for three years)

We recommend that all grants start at the innovation level to support them in the long term. Embracing the Spirit accepts applications four times a year for innovation grants and two times a year for growth and new ministry grants. The application deadlines are

- January 15: Innovation grants
- April 15: Innovation, Growth, and New Ministry grants
- July 15: Innovation grants
- October 15: Innovation, Growth, and New Ministry grants

Embracing the Spirit is committed to providing a minimum of 10 percent of its overall grant allocation (\$100,000) to Indigenous-led and Indigenous-supported ministries.

When you are interested in applying for an Embracing the Spirit grant, please be in touch with Carla Leon at carla@edge-ucc.ca or your capacity builder. Each applicant should speak to either Carla or their capacity builder before submission, and we recommend doing this as early as possible. Carla can also walk you through the options for submitting applications to Embracing the Spirit—i.e., a written or verbal application.

After applications have been received, they are reviewed by Indigenous Ministries and the Joint Grants Committee. Funds for approved grants generally arrive about 1.5

Continuing Education Bursaries for First Third Ministry Leaders

Support is available for continuing education events with a focus on First Third Ministry (children, youth, young adults, camp, campus ministry, family ministry). Volunteers and congregational designated ministers (CDMs) can receive up to \$500 per person, per year; designated lay ministers (DLMs) and ordered ministers can receive up to \$300 per person, per year.

Application deadlines are January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

Grants for Flourishing Ministry Programs

Each triennium, grants of \$25,000 per year are available for up to two exemplary, transformative, and ongoing ministry programs. These programs embrace methods for people to enter relationships marked by service and engagement with God's mission in the world.

The application deadline is October 15 in years preceding a General Council.

Please visit www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/vision-fund for up-to-date forms and program information.