



The Academic Awards and Scholarships Sub-Committee

Key Points

One new member is needed for this sub-committee that recommends recipients for various scholarships and prestigious awards.

Vacancies: One vacancy

Key skills: Strong academic background, knowledge of emerging theological directions, ability to assess applications

Meeting expectations: One online meeting annually, significant reading and preparation

About this Volunteer or Elected/Appointed Member Opportunity

Mandate

The mandate of this sub-committee is to provide recommendations to the Joint Grants Committee of The United Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada Foundation on awarding scholarships, bursaries, and other academic awards. The sub-committee provides expertise and insight on the suitability of applicants for awards. The Joint Grants Committee oversees appropriate recognition of awardees, and may request the assistance of the sub-committee in those celebrations. The sub-committee is responsible for:

- reviewing applications for awards from the McGeachy Senior Scholarship Trust, the W. Norman McLeod Scholarship, the Roy Davidson Award, the V. Blatherwick Trust, and any other academic or scholarship funds that may arise from time to time
- recommending to the Joint Grants Committee the most suitable candidate for each award, the amount of the award, and rationale for award
- making recommendations to the Joint Grants Committee for improving the application, adjudication processes, and any other items that aid in the improvement of the program

The sub-committee is guided by the terms of each fund, the donor's intent, and the annual award amount available.

Membership

The sub-committee will be made up of three to five members appointed by the General Council Executive and The United Church of Canada Foundation.

Member Skills and Experience

Members of the sub-committee will have:

- the capacity to discern and reflect on emerging theological trends and directions within the United Church
- the ability to assess applicants' current leadership experience as well as their potential for future leadership
- significant knowledge of our theological schools; strong academic and subject-matter expertise in relevant disciplines
- broad knowledge of The United Church of Canada and involvement in the work of the United Church beyond their community of faith

United Church Relationship: Active participant

Expectations and Term

- **Online meetings:** Once per year, typically in mid-April, on a weekday during regular office hours. Meetings generally last two to three hours.
- **In-person meetings:** None
- **Expectations between meetings:** Review of the applications and supporting materials in advance of the meeting. This allows meeting time to focus on discussion, deliberation, and decision-making. All materials are provided electronically and in advance of any meeting.
- **Additional appointment possibilities or expectations:** None
- **Appointment term:** Three years beginning in December 2026, with the possibility for reappointment for a second three-year term.
- **Language:** Meetings are conducted in English. The majority of meeting materials and applications are provided only in English. Members need to be comfortable operating in an English-language environment.

For all Elected and Appointed Member Roles

The following expectations apply to all elected and appointed member roles for denominational committees and task groups.

Elected and appointed members will be:

- active in a community of faith or ministry
- committed to the calling of the United Church and willing to discern God's yearnings for this work
- predisposed to collaboration and teamwork
- able to listen and discern

- committed to right relations, the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the vision of becoming an intercultural church, and the journey to becoming an anti-racist denomination
- comfortable with and able to participate in electronic meetings
- able to commit the time required for this responsibility

Elected and appointed members agree to a [Behavioural Covenant](#) as a way of committing to mutual relationships, responsibilities, and accountabilities.

All boards and committees of the General Council play a role in living into the [Call and Vision](#) of the United Church in fulfilling their responsibilities. Boards and committees work in partnership with the General Council Office as it implements the objectives of the strategic plan.

Equity Commitment

The United Church is committed to working toward the full participation of people with disabilities; youth and young adults; people who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, racialized, or francophone; people active in French ministries; people who speak a primary language other than English or French; and people from marginalized communities not named here. This is a part of the United Church's commitments to equity and self-determination, as well as eliminating barriers and working toward the full participation of all peoples. Individuals with these identities and lived experiences are encouraged to express interest.

To the extent possible, each committee or task group will reflect the broad diversity of The United Church of Canada, with particular attention to its equity commitments and the presence of both lay people and ministry personnel from across the geography of the church.

Visit our [opportunities page](#) for information on this and other opportunities.

Use our [online nominations form](#) to nominate someone or express your own interest.

Deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2026