



Vision Fund

Grants for Flourishing Ministry Programs in Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

"The farmer scatters the word." Mark 4:14 (CEB)

Preamble

Donations to the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada support Grants for Flourishing Ministry Programs. The aim of the Flourishing Ministry program is to support the growth of ongoing ministry programs that empower youth and young adults as they partner with others to enliven and transform The United Church of Canada in service of the mission of God.

Before applying, please consider The United Church of Canada's Vision for Youth and Young Adult Ministry,¹ outlined here:

- **We gather** so that youth and young adults discover their identity as Christians, within the expression called The United Church of Canada.
- **We unite** leaders and youth and young adults to collaborate, share experience and resources, and network and find support in our common call.
- **We equip** young people and their leaders to recognize and claim their gifts of the Spirit to enhance the church and their community, to confidently know, live, and share the stories of God's people, and to live as disciples of Christ, carrying out God's mission.
- **We engage** young people to act with love, pursuing the mission of God in the world, believing transformation and social and systemic change will create a more just world.

Before You Begin

All applicants must contact the Program Assistant (visionfund@united-church.ca; 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4142) before submitting an application to the Flourishing Ministry program.

¹ For the complete United Church of Canada Youth and Young Adult Strategy, visit the [United Church Commons](#).

Eligibility

We welcome applications from faith communities in Canada. We encourage groups that are not connected to a specific congregation to apply (e.g., camps, education centres, campus ministries, community ministries), but a relationship to some accountable United Church of Canada group is required. The committee will only consider applications for innovative, ongoing programs serving youth and young adult ministry. If you have any questions about the eligibility of your group or your project, contact the Program Assistant (visionfund@united-church.ca; 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4142).

Funding

Eligible programs may apply for up to \$25,000 per year for three years.

Evaluation

Applications are assessed according to three criteria.

1. Project feasibility

Is there a clear plan for the project? Are adequate resources in place to implement the plan?

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

Your project plan must also include a Duty of Care Plan and an Accessibility and Inclusivity Plan. See below.

2. Project outcomes

How will the project benefit 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. Project mission

How does the project support mission for youth and young adults in The United Church of Canada?

Have you clearly explained how your project supports the vision of The United Church of Canada for youth and young adult ministry, as outlined in the Preamble above?

Priority funding consideration is given to innovative youth and young adult ministry projects. The number of youth participating in the project is not considered a deciding factor, but youth involvement in the planning and organization of the project is required.

Funding for Staff

Funds from Flourishing Ministry grants are not intended to support current staffing requirements. Applications to fund existing personnel will be only considered if funding is requested to enable staff to dedicate more time to youth and young adult ministry program. If the application includes funding for staff, the following must be addressed in your project description:

- Selection and hiring must follow guidelines outlined in *The Manual* in addition to any local policies.
- Job descriptions must be clear and reasonable. Include these in the application.
- Plans must be in place for continued (multi-year) support and funding for the position beyond the period funded by the Flourishing Ministry program grant.

Please contact the Program Assistant (visionfund@united-church.ca) if you intend to request funding for staff positions.

Duty of Care Plan

Our churches are, and must continue to be, God’s house—places where people of all ages can come together for worship, faith formation, and service knowing that they are safe and secure in a community of faith and mission. A duty of care plan will help you ensure that all members of Christ’s body—particularly those most vulnerable—are protected.

For more information on The United Church of Canada’s standards for Duty of Care, please consult www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/duty-care and the [PDF download](#) “Duty of Care with Children’s Ministries.”

Accessibility and Inclusivity Plan

Jesus welcomed everyone, whether poor, rich, or just getting by, ill or healthy, self-made or educated, popular or a loner, secure or full of doubts. The United Church of Canada prides itself on welcoming everyone the way Jesus did, regardless of age, race, class, gender, orientation, or physical ability. Developing an accessibility and inclusivity plan will help your program dismantle barriers to full participation and create safe, trusting spaces that reflect the diversity of Christ’s body.

For more information on accessibility and inclusivity, consult the following resources:

- www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/disability-and-inclusion
- www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/gender-and-orientation
- www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/intercultural-ministries

Preparing Your Application

Application forms are provided as editable files in Microsoft Word format. 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 if you require assistance completing an application, please contact the Program Assistant at visionfund@united-church.ca or at 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4142.

Project Budget

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

For example, a three-year budget for a program may look something like this:

Income			
Grant from Vision Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Other grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fundraising			
Local fundraising	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Registration fees for events	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Other sources		\$0	\$0
Gift from local church	\$6,000		
Total	\$37,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
Expenses			
Travel			
Bus charters	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Events			
Outdoor safety training	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Site access fees	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Equipment purchase	\$10,000		
Salary and honoraria			
Part-time youth outdoor outreach worker, 75 hours @ \$20/h	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Other			
Total	\$37,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
Income less expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Authorization Form

To submit an application to the Flourishing Ministry grant program, you must include a signed authorization form. Please include a scanned or photographed copy of a signed authorization form when you submit your application form. Applications submitted without an authorization form may not be considered by the Vision Fund Committee.

Submitting Your Application

Please e-mail all required documents to visionfund@united-church.ca before the deadline announced on the website as Word (.docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) files. As the committee meets very soon after the deadline, 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 submitting an application, please call the Program Assistant at 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4142.