



Vision Fund

Seed Grants for New Initiatives in Youth and Young Adult Ministry

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

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works.”
Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

Preamble

Donations to the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada support the Seed Grants for New Initiatives in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The aim of the Seed Grants program is to support new initiatives 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. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available for individual projects.

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.

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 new or substantially changed programs serving youth and young adult ministry. If you have any

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

questions about the eligibility of your group or your project, please contact the Program Assistant (visionfund@united-church.ca; 416-231-7680 or 1-800-268-3781 ext. 4142).

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.

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. If you are applying for funding for an existing program, you must clearly describe how the program will be changed and explain why Seed Grant funding is required to support this change.

Funding for Staff

Funds from Seed Grants may not be used to support existing staff. In exceptional circumstances, the committee may consider applications for partial funding for new or temporary staff. Please contact the Program Assistant (visionfund@united-church.ca) if you intend to request funding for new or temporary staff.

Funding for Pilgrimage Experiences

A pilgrimage is a short-term intercultural immersion experience usually one to two weeks in length within Canada or globally. These may be referred to in your context as mission trips,

immersion experiences, education and exposure trips, exchanges, or service learning opportunities. The United Church of Canada principles of Global Partnership should inform your goals and objectives. You must follow these guidelines if you intend to apply to the Vision Fund in support of a pilgrimage experience:

- Applicants must connect with People in Partnership staff (pip@united-church.ca) at The United Church of Canada. People in Partnership are a great resource for planning your pilgrimage.
- A church or faith community can receive funds for a pilgrimage no more than once every four years. If your church or faith community has previously received funding for a pilgrimage, you must demonstrate in your application that new youth and young adults are involved in the planning and organization of the experience.

Because Seed Grant funding may at times be limited, priority will be given to trips involving United Church of Canada partners. Priority will also be given to exchange programs (both sending and receiving).

Funding for Technology and Other Equipment

Applications to support the purchase of technology or other equipment will be considered. However, your application must clearly demonstrate (a) that the technology or other equipment will be used primarily to support youth and young adult activities, and (b) that a new or substantially changed program of youth and young adult ministry will be supported by the technology or other equipment.

Additional Matching Grant

If you have undertaken local fundraising activities in your community, you may apply for an additional matching grant of up to \$3,000. To be eligible for a matching grant, youth and young adults must be substantially involved in fundraising activities, and a substantial part of fundraising activities must already be complete. You may apply for an additional matching grant when applying for a Seed Grant. However, matching grant applications will only be considered if a Seed Grant is awarded. Proof of funds raised may be required before release of funds.

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 by phone 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 event. It also shows at a glance what the money will be spent on and where it is coming from.

For example, a sample budget for a mission trip may look something like this:

Income	
Grant from Vision Fund	\$3,000
Other grants	
Gift from congregation	\$250
Fundraising	
Proceeds from sale of cookies	\$11,000
Proceeds from cotton ball sales	\$25,000
Other sources	\$0
Total	\$39,250
Expenses	
Travel	
Air fare: 15 x \$600	\$9,000
Room and board: 15 x \$500	\$7,500
Leader's travel expenses	\$10,450
Events	
Talent show: 15 x \$75	\$75
Bus tour	\$1,000
Salary and honoraria	\$0
Other	
Host gifts	\$1,000
New well to be donated to host	\$10,000
Total	\$39,250
Income less expenses	\$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).

Environmental Impact

Our faith calls us to live with respect in creation as faithful stewards of shared resources. Some projects—especially those involving international travel—have substantial environmental impacts. An environmental impact mitigation plan will help you to minimize the environmental impact of your project.

Authorization Form

To submit an application to the Seed 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 the Program Assistant (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.