



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

**FOUNDATION**

*Focusing on the future together*

## **When your congregation is closing, it is a time of prayerful reflection, remembrance, grief, and gratitude.**

Difficult decisions are being made, many of which have folks wondering about the legacy of your community of faith and its ministry. Your congregation served an important role in your community, in the United Church, and in God's world. What will happen to the work you have been part of, supported and valued over the years?

There is a way for this vital ministry to live on! **The United Church of Canada Foundation** can help you create a lasting legacy of faith and service using your assets to establish a Long-Term Fund to support the work important to your community of faith. The Foundation's expertise in investing is something we have long offered to communities of faith to support their current and future ministry, but, establishing an Endowment Fund is *also* a great way to ensure that your work can continue even if your church closes. Our solid track record of excellent returns and prudent management of the over 500 funds we hold have meant that even in difficult economic circumstances, we maintain meaningful grants and support.

The process of creating a Fund is undertaken with sensitivity and appreciation for assets that have been generously given and carefully stewarded over time. You decide on the purpose of the fund and what the proceeds will support; grants can benefit any United Church ministries you choose\*.

An agreement is set up collaboratively to best meet your needs and our socially responsible investment policies ensure we're investing in organizations that align with the values and priorities of the United Church. There is an annual administration fee of up to 1.5%\*\* , and any remaining income is reinvested in your fund.

So, if children's ministry is important to your community of faith, or you are strong social justice advocates, or have always given generously for Mission and Service, any of these (and more!) can be supported through an Endowment Fund with the Foundation.

\*Or any registered Canadian charity not in conflict with United Church of Canada ethos. At least 50% of grants must benefit United Church ministry.

\*\*At October 2023. Fees subject to change.

Here are two examples from communities of faith who have extended their impact through endowment funds, even though their doors have closed:

*As their doors closed in 2014, **Ellesmere United Church** (Burnaby, BC) wanted a way to commemorate their ministry and carry on its legacy of helping others. Their Funds support several initiatives they valued:*

- to help defray regular expenses incurred by victims of human rights abuses in the Philippines. Nearly a decade later, the Legal Defense Fund (Philippines) continues to receive regular support from donors across Canada and beyond who stand in solidarity with human rights defenders in the Philippines, just as the people of Ellesmere did.*
- to benefit Pacific Mountain Region in its work in advancing education of United Church **Mission and Service** through programs, events, workshops, speakers, etc.*
- to support the ministry needs of a neighbouring congregation*

*The members of **Cawthra Park United Church** (Mississauga, ON) lived out their call to love and serve others as was evident by the depth and breadth of their outreach programs. Cawthra Park held its last service virtually in December 2020, but wanted a way to continue their support for the ministries they offered. They established a Fund using a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their property, which will now grant to ministries and programs offering health services, family services, seniors services, and food services through the Foundation's Seeds of Hope granting program.*

We're grateful to these congregations and others for their brave and bold decisions at a difficult time in the life of their community of faith; they answered the Call to "be the Church" even as they made the decision to close. If your congregation finds itself facing (or approaching) the reality of closing, the Foundation is committed supporting communities of faith, and we encourage you to contact us to discuss the enduring legacy of your ministry. Our phone number and email address are below, or search "*United Church of Canada Foundation Endowment*" for more information.

You may also find the following links helpful:

- [unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/we-sing-of-a-church-through-and-for-the-ages/](https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/we-sing-of-a-church-through-and-for-the-ages/)
- [unitedchurchfoundation.ca/investments/](https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/investments/)
- [unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/long-term-giving/endowments/](https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/long-term-giving/endowments/)

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[www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca](https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca)

*The United Church of Canada Foundation's purpose is to foster deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice by attracting and deploying financial resources. We support congregations, ministries, and programs that enrich The United Church of Canada, create a more just planet, and celebrate God's abundance in the world.*