

PROPOSAL # 3
HORSESHOE FALLS REGIONAL COUNCIL
2025 11 22

Title: First Thirds Ministry Fund

Originating Body: EM

What is the issue?

When congregations disband and sell their property, a portion of the proceeds comes to the Regional Council to be used to enable it to provide ongoing support and resources to Communities of Faith (CoF) and for new church development. The issue is that this statement is vague enough to be able to do a lot of things, but it is vague enough that it becomes challenging to act upon it.

Why is this issue important?

As a Regional Council we want to honor the legacy of those who have paved the way before us, and to be able to continue to help serve active communities of faith.

What might Horseshoe Falls do?

The Regional Council might create the following fund setting it up with a transfer of \$200,000 from the property fund:

The First Thirds Ministry Fund

Terms of Reference

Available Funds

Available funds per year: maximum of \$40,000 in total with a maximum of \$10,000 per application/program. When new money comes into the Property Fund the Executive in consultation with the Discipleship and Justice Commission will assess if funds need to be added to The First Thirds Ministry Fund.

Granting Body and Oversight

HFRC Discipleship and Justice Commission

The Discipleship and Justice Commission to report annually to the Regional Council on how the funds have supported CoF First Thirds initiatives

Criteria

For ministry or programs with Children, Youth or Young adults (up to 30ish years of age)

- 1) Grants will normally be one-time grants to a maximum of \$10,000;
- 2) Grants in excess of this amount or for a multi-year project will require the applicant to meet with the Discipleship and Justice Commission.
- 3) Future grants for the same program/application are not guaranteed to be at the same level as past grants.

- 4) Some examples are, but not limited to: Money to help run a vacation bible school, assistance for funding of a new position for a church or collection of churches who is working in first thirds ministry, a grant to help with food costs for a year for a first thirds program, funding to help put on a one time event for children, youth or young adults, funding to put on a training event for first thirds ministry leadership for multiple communities of faith, funding to help send first thirds participants to experience wider UCC events.

Procedure

Applications to be completed by a Community of Faith and submitted to the HFRC Discipleship and Justice Commission.