

In June 2021, the Executive approved the following framework for funding in Shining Waters Regional Council:

Who We Will Fund

Shining Waters Regional Council has provided and may continue to provide grants to:

- Camps and other programs for children, youth and young adults
- Community Ministries
- Ecumenical and Interfaith Chaplaincies
- Indigenous Ministries and Right Relations
- Missions
- Outreach Ministries

The region may consider providing grants to other ministries that meet the criteria for grants if funds are available.

All funded ministries must show a demonstrated commitment to:

- living in right relations with Indigenous peoples and responding positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church;
- becoming an anti-racist church and/or community;
- welcoming people of all ages, abilities, races, sexual orientations and gender identities, and any other forms of marginalization into, and removing barriers to, their participation in the church and/or the community;

In considering grant applications, SWRC will use as a lens the mission and ministry for every Regional Council as provided in The Manual (6.3.4)

- joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- local, regional, national and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work;
- ministry with children, youth and young adults;
- honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry; and
- living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

What We Will Fund

- becoming an Intercultural Church
- camps and programs for children, youth and young adults
- communities living with poverty, income inequality and homelessness
- disability and aging

- ensuring a strong United Church presence across the region
- environmental programs
- Indigenous ministries and right relations
- innovative ministry
- LGBTQ2+ communities
- minority ethnic culture communities and ethnically diverse communities

Ministries that respond to more than one funding priority will receive first consideration.

How We Will Fund

a. Offer both Deep (multi-year core funding) and Wide (annually for specific projects or programs) Grants

The primary deep focus will be multi-year funding that will provide stability to ministries to establish relationships based in trust within the community they serve and for developing programs. The wide focus will be smaller annual grants for specific projects or programs. The majority of funding will go to multi-year grants with a small portion reserved for smaller annual grants.

Where possible, there will be an expectation that programs will move toward being self-sustaining. Annual grants for a project or program will be provided with the expectation that the project will become self-sustaining. The region will retain the possibility to decrease and end funding where appropriate. Reasons to end funding will be clearly articulated and may include that the program has become or is becoming self-sufficient, it is no longer effective or it no longer fits with regional priorities.

b. Develop a better understanding our Historic Relationships

A historic relationship in and of itself is not a reason to continue funding a ministry. Grant recipients need to be carefully screened to ensure that they reflect our current regional mandate and priorities. Accountability is also important. Even if annual applications are not required, there should be reporting on how the grant is being used.

The needs are much greater both deep and wide than the funds available to support them. There are some ministries we have funded for many years prior to becoming a region. There are some ministries that are relatively new recipients. Some programs and recipients could not continue to operate without our funding, or would be seriously handicapped. There is a desire to be able to fund new ministries but a recognition that to do so means reducing or unfunding others.

c. Have a closed application process for multi-year funding and an open process for annual grants

When the region has honoured commitments to core funding for ministries there could be an open application process for annual grants. The Grants and Mission Support Committee will be transparent with applicants as to the likelihood of success and support applicants in seeking other sources of funding.

There is a finite amount of funds. An open application process will impact on current recipients, some of whom will not be able to continue without this funding.

d. Consider the geographic footprint of our grants

Very few grant recipients are north of Steeles Avenue. Most grants are focused in metro Toronto. We are committed to making funds available in the northern part of the region, particularly rural areas, while still supporting important and necessary ministry in Toronto, particularly minority ethnic cultural communities and those living with poverty.

e. Funding sources:

- Mission Support Grants (from the Mission and Service Fund)
- Regional Fund (housed at PTCC*)
- Right Relations and Indigenous Ministries Fund (SWRC fund)
- St. Enoch's Fund (housed at TUCC*)
- Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund (housed at TUCC)

**Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation*

**Toronto United Church Council*

f. Application Process:

Grant applications will be considered by the Grants and Mission Support Committee in light of the above criteria. The committees will make recommendations to the Regional Executive. The Executive will make decisions on grants and forward to the appropriate funding body.