

Celebrate the joy of giving

with the Toronto United Church Council

For more than 100 years, the Toronto United Church Council and its predecessor organizations have quietly shared in dozens of church and community projects.

Originally serving only the Toronto region, the Council has now extended its reach northward to include the broad area defined by the nine presbyteries of the Toronto Conference of the United Church. Its projects reflect the region's geographical and cultural diversity, broad rural, suburban and urban mix, and wide-ranging social and spiritual needs.

Money, time & talents help churches, others in need

The Council's money, time and talents have provided start-up, infrastructure or operating funds for summer camps, job counselling, social services, strategic planning, building construction and redevelopment.

While the Council's elected representatives, many volunteers and small staff have worked quietly, their work has been significant: The Council's balance sheet currently lists assets of more than \$17 million, and its annual operating budget totals just under \$500,000.

The Council's assets come from gifts and bequests, investments and sales of surplus property. Often its grants and loans support utilitarian purchases – for example, freezers, roofs and furnaces – or programming needs – for instance, the hiring of consultants to guide congregations in strategic planning. The assistance nevertheless makes an impact, allowing the mission of the church to progress and freeing other resources to support other activities and missions.

The Council's voting membership includes the members of the Toronto Conference's nine presbyteries – Dufferin-Peel, Grey, Muskoka, Simcoe, Toronto Don Valley, Toronto Scarborough, Toronto South, Toronto West, and York presbyteries. A 24-member board of directors and an eight-member executive committee governs the Council.

The Council often works in partnership with other groups, from both the church and the broader community.

Sample Council projects and their impact

◆ Camps and camping opportunities

The Council owns Camp Big Canoe, Lake Scugog Camp and Sparrow Lake Camp. It operates two of the camps and leases the third, Camp Big Canoe, to York Presbytery.

The Council also supports the Camping Opportunities Fund in partnership with the Toronto Conference of the United Church, which annually provides about 300 full or partial camperships for children and mothers who might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend a summer camp.

Camp is totally fun! My counsellor is cool. I see my old friends and always make new friends. We do fun stuff, like canoeing,

swimming, hiking, bonfires, out-trips and crafts. I miss camp. I love it!

— *Jamie Keast, former camper,
Lake Scugog Camp*



Jamie Keast at Lake Scugog Camp

◆ Centennial Library

The Council loans items from its Centennial Library, a growing collection of books and audiovisual resources on congregational growth and development, strategic planning, and stewardship. The usual lending period is one month. The only fees charged are for return postage and any costs resulting from material damage or loss.

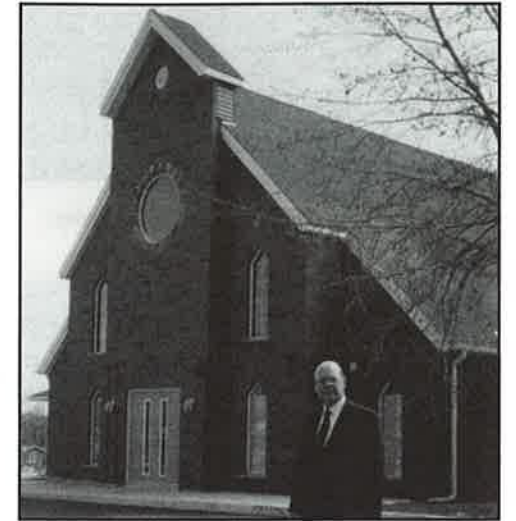
◆ Grants and loans for new church development in Northwest Barrie

In 1994, the Council provided bridge financing for initial construction work on the Northwest Barrie United Church. The following year, the Council purchased two adjoining lots for church parking; and in 1996, it issued a 25-year mortgage for the balance of the construction costs.

The new 275-seat church serving Barrie's growing northwest corner offers worship and community space to a population nearing 22,000. It is the only established church in the top end of the city. The congregation has appreciated the Council's staff,

who assisted greatly in putting the land and financial package together.

— *Rev. Tom Lowry, minister,
Northwest Barrie United Church*



Rev. Tom Lowry with Northwest Barrie United Church

◆ Grant to renovate a building housing a social ministry project

In cooperation with the City of Toronto, Council is renovating its building at 761 Queen Street West, which houses training facilities and workspace for unemployed and underemployed people who want to establish their own businesses.

The Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses has been a partner in the ongoing redevelopment of 761 Queen Street West. We appreciate the respect the Toronto United Church Council has demonstrated for our efforts at creating employment for people who have been involved in our mental health care system.

— *Diana Capponi, coordinator,
Ontario Council of Alternative Businesses*



Diana Capponi with construction permit for 761 Queen Street West renovation

◆ **Grant for two presbyteries' joint multicultural ministry**

The Council partially funded the hiring of a new, full-time minister for the multicultural ministry of the Toronto South and Toronto Don Valley Presbyteries.

This was another instance in which the TUCC helped launch a new presbytery program. Start-up funding is most important so that embryo projects can come into being, demonstrate benefit and later assumed as fully funded programs. We look to TUCC for this type of help to continue.

— *Murray Cutler, chair, Multicultural Committee, Toronto South and Toronto Don Valley Presbyteries*

◆ **Operating grant for Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry**

The Council awarded a grant to this partnership of Anglican, United, Baptist and Presbyterian churches, who are striving to develop a healthier neighbourhood in their southeast Etobicoke area by "creating community" and organizing economic development projects.

The grant from the Toronto United Church Council ... encourages other denominational partnerships and funding. With the help of the TUCC, the people in Stonegate are growing in their commitment to work together for the good of their community. They are finding out that by pooling their resources, skills and abilities, they can make important change.

— *Cheryl Bradbee, executive director, Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry*



Cheryl Bradbee, Stonegate Community Ecumenical Ministry

◆ **Funding of mission strategy**

The Council shares in the funding of mission strategy for Toronto Scarborough Presbytery and other presbyteries.

Our mission strategist has helped our presbytery redefine its mission and change the way we function as a court. Most of our congregations have benefited from the strategist's support of our pastoral relations and oversight committees and work with our mission strategy team, congregational workshops and crisis-intervention assistance. This staff position has become an essential resource for our presbytery.

— *Beth Moore, past chair, Toronto Scarborough Presbytery*



Beth Moore, Toronto Scarborough Presbytery

◆ **Mortgage for construction of manse**

The Council provided a mortgage for the construction of a new manse for the Dundalk Pastoral Charge, which serves the Dundalk and Hopeville congregations, which are located in a rural area of Grey Presbytery.

When our congregations investigated financing for our new manse, we approached our area banks and credit unions, as well as the TUCC. The support TUCC gave us, through its capital development loan program, made the choice for financing very easy. The interest rate was unbeatable, and the terms and service were excellent.

— *Bill Findlay, chair, Joint Board of Trustees, Dundalk Pastoral Charge, Grey Presbytery*



Bill Findlay with new manse

Types of funding available

The Council offers both grants and loans. Bequests from those who have remembered the Council's ministry in their wills enable much of the work. Some donors specify that their gifts be used for special purposes, such as the care of children or inner-city social needs.

Council's grants are outright gifts, but its loans are secured by promissory notes or mortgages. The Council follows standard business practices in awarding loans, but its interest rates are quite favourable. Also, it has sometimes been willing to assume a deeper position of risk than a secular lending institution might, reflecting its commitment "to the service of God for the extension of the Christian Gospel to the improvement of the human condition" (from the Council's statement of purpose).

Applying for a Council grant or loan is simple: You begin the process by writing a detailed letter to the Council, explaining your project and its financial requirements.

To share in the Council's celebration of giving...

The Council invites you to share in its quiet, but powerful, ministry by offering your expertise, prayer, money, resources or time. We also invite you to remember the Council's work in your will.

For more information, please call, write or fax...

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