



connecting resources with ministry



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January 20 2016

Council at Work in 2015: Highlights from the Year in Review

The work of The Toronto United Church Council is an extension of your congregation's ministry.

TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL

The Toronto United Church Council works with the church community to connect resources with ministry. Offering access to professional advice, financial support and leadership development, Council helps our church address the social and spiritual challenges of the day.

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Toronto United Church Council works with and on behalf of the presbyteries, congregations, camps and social ministries of the United Church within Toronto Conference. Historically, we have played the role of matchmaker – matching successful church ministries with resources that contribute to their success. Those resources include both financial and knowledge resources and in the case of camps and other ministries, real property. Outlined below are a few “snapshots” of the work accomplished in 2015.

Council's (New) Vincent Alfano Fund

In recognition of the Reverend Vince Alfano's contribution to the work of Council over a period of 20 years, [a fund has been established](#) to help teach new clergy how to engage successfully with community. The fund was built with a generous gift from Council itself and more than 80 contributions from individuals and organizations.

The Centre for Church Development and Leadership

Janet Marshall and a volunteer team lead Council's work with congregations and presbyteries. The team brings new expertise in congregational development to program partners as the next steps of building vital mission-focused churches are forged. **In 2015, the CCDL worked with over 40 congregations (on their own and regionally) and 3 Presbyteries.** You can read more about some of the CCDL's latest work on [Council's news page](#).



The CCDL is working with Living Waters Presbytery to grow the United Church in East Gwillimbury

The Camping Opportunities Fund

The purpose of [this fund](#) is to help five United Church camps accept campers whose families don't have the resources to pay camp fees. It helps keep the camps rolling and ensure access for all children. **More than 625 campers got help this year as the fund raised in excess of \$150,000.** Have a look at some of the fun campers had in 2015 in this [video from Sparrow Lake Camp](#).



Kayaking lesson at Camp Scugog

The Camping Opportunities Endowment Fund

This fund will help send kids to camp in perpetuity. A bequest of \$127,000 was received in 2015 and that gift alone will send six children to camp every year.

The Toronto Waterfront Marathon

Once each year camping enthusiasts, in pairs and small groups, run or walk [a marathon](#) (for some of us, 5 km is a marathon) and ask friends, family and church members to support their effort with pledges of support for funding our camps' building projects. In 2015, 212 donors supported 18 walkers and raised \$15,490. Since 2008, we've raised \$139,049 for this type of upkeep at our camping properties.

Celebrating Our Young Leaders – the James Baillie Volunteer Service Awards

A bequest made seven years ago has enabled Council to experiment with several initiatives to help young people take leadership roles in the church. Currently, the James Baillie Awards are available to be awarded to 20 young

people annually. The awards recognize exceptional leadership in community and church. Nominated by their congregations, the youth are awarded a \$500 grant and a certificate of appreciation. The next round of applications is due May 30 2016. [Download an application form.](#)



Kierra McGregor (Collier Street United Church) and Erin Woods (Kimbourne Park United Church) are two of the most recent Baillie Award recipients.

The CRC Endowment Fund and the Nancy Peters/Massey Centre Endowment

Putting down roots creates a need to build up future funding sources. Council has helped donors establish funds for the perpetual support of some of our Church's oldest ministries. The Toronto Christian Resource Centre has worked in the downtown Regent Park neighbourhood for more than 50 years and Council has been its partner. Council's endowment fund will contribute to that ministry in perpetuity. Similarly, passionate donors have started a fund that supports the annual operating expense of the Massey Centre for young mothers and children.



Time for art at the Massey Centre

Special Funds – Family Funds that enhance ministry across the Conference

For more than 100 years, Council has partnered with church members to establish family endowments to benefit particular ministries. More information on these types of funds can be found in the most recent issue of Council's [Partners](#) publication.

The Investing in Ministry Fund

[The Investing in Ministry Fund](#) helps Council make capital loans available to congregations needing to invest in their churches. New investments by congregations in 2015 brought the total value of the fund over \$13 million.

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