

The Toronto United Church Council

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TUCC and COVID-19 April 9th Update

TUCC has continued to develop its response to the challenges facing communities of faith during the current COVID 19 pandemic. Within the context of denominational and regional responses, the focus in the past weeks has been on supporting the ministries for which TUCC has particular responsibilities.

The [Investing In Ministry Fund](#) has created a unique partnership where communities of faith can invest available reserves which are then available for loan to those needing to undertake capital work. TUCC provides the oversight and accounting services to make this possible.

Steps have been taken to support all the partners in this relationship:

- from April 1st borrowers will only be expected to pay the interest owing on loans.
- from May 1st a six-month deferral of both principal and interest payments will be available.
- investors are being offered a twelve-month, interest-free loan equivalent to a 5% return on their investment for 2020 with the loan to be available from April 30th.

These measures will provide a little over one million dollars to communities of faith and ministries to assist in managing through the crisis.

TUCC has convened meetings of the leaders of the five [overnight camping ministries](#) to discuss together how they can make plans for their summer programs. Each of the five camps is showing amazing creativity in our current very uncertain situation, and TUCC is actively exploring ways in which it can support these efforts.

The [Innovative Ministry Centre](#) is busy finding ways to adapt its current training program to the realities of physical distancing. A special online session on 'Leadership in Crisis' has already been held and others will follow, while the upcoming second weekend meeting of the pilot cohort will take place online.

The [Centre for Church Development and Leadership](#) continues to provide support to the Living Presence Ministry and to congregations thinking about their mission and how to respond within a Covid-19 landscape.

All properties under TUCC [property management](#) have been closed and continue to be monitored by staff for safety and security. Advice on how to manage property relationships and other issues continues to be shared through our blog [Property & Mission Review](#).

The staff, directors and committees of TUCC continue to investigate ways in which TUCC can play its part in the continuing work of developing faithful response to the current crisis in partnership with you and the wider church. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us if you have questions or are looking for advice.



Ross Leckie, President



Ron Ewart, Executive Director