

THE VINCENT ALFANO FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. *The origins of the Fund*

The Vincent Alfano Fund was established in October 2014 to honour the forty-year ministry of Reverend Vincent Alfano and his twenty-year leadership as Executive Director of TUCC (Toronto United Church Council).

Throughout his ministry Vince was committed to the development of new generations of church leadership. Noting that the church risks becoming ever more inward focused, his vision was to provide financial support for new leaders able to emphasize community engagement. The Fund supports leaders who are developing a ministry that explores faith beyond the church walls and assists communities of faith to communicate the ministry vision and story. These leaders do not have to be on an ordination pathway but will be expected to be developing a capacity to reflect theologically on their work.

2. *What the Fund offers*

The annual income of the Fund will be used to support a ministry within the TUCC service area offering an internship or other learning opportunity that meets the guidelines below.

It is anticipated that \$10,000 will be available each year. In addition, TUCC anticipates \$1,500 will be awarded, at its discretion, to equip and train the intern/individual to enable them to maximize the learning potential of their internship or placement/project.

Grants will normally be paid in two equal installments, at the beginning and mid-point of the internship or placement/project.

3. *Internship/Learning Opportunity Guidelines*

Applicants to the Fund should demonstrate that the internship or project includes provision to meet the following requirements:

- I. A trained and appropriate supervisor (or equivalent) must be appointed. The person appointed as supervisor should have demonstrated effectiveness in this role.
- II. The theological rationale for the project or location should be articulated and explored during the project.
- III. A project or placement with a service/community development element should include, as an explicit goal, reflection on the faith development dimension of the project. Depending on the context, this should be understood as including the applicant, service providers, clients, and volunteers.
- IV. The development of skill in identifying, fostering, and assessing partnerships. This should involve lay as well as professional service partnerships.
- V. The placement/project should help the student develop skills in helping the sponsoring congregation(s)/organization connect with their surrounding communities and develop the capacity of those congregations/organization to share the good news in word and deed.

VI. The placement/ project should include a strong element of cross-cultural learning (with culture defined broadly to include ethnic, economic or class boundaries).

VII. The student/learner should be able to indicate how the placement/project is integrated into their own discernment of their sense of vocation (understood as including ordered ministry or some other vocational direction).

VIII. Grant recipients will be expected to write a progress report on their internship or placement/project at its mid-way point, as well as a final report at its conclusion. The final report may involve a presentation at TUCC's Annual Meeting. The reports will be the property of TUCC.

4. Applications

a) Application to the Fund can be made at any time, but deadlines may be set from time to time.

NB: Potential applicants are encouraged to make informal enquiries with the TUCC Executive Director before submitting an application. TUCC is happy to assist in the shaping of projects that will meet the goals of the Fund.

b) The application should include:

- A covering letter.
- A description of the internship or placement/project identifying how it will meet the requirements 3. I to 3.VI above (not more than two pages).
- A description of how the placement/project connects with the applicant's discernment of their future vocation (see 3.VII).

The completed application should be sent in electronic format to:

The Executive Director, TUCC via mail@tucc.ca