

connecting

resources with ministry

The 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.





## who we are

The Toronto United Church Council is an Ontario not-for-profit organization that shares a close and vital relationship with the United Church of Canada, and draws its board members from within the United Church, and on occasion, from the wider community.

Throughout our more than 115 year history, our goal has remained the same: to empower our church to dream and to enable it to serve by connecting resources with ministry.

## who we serve

Our service area covers much of south-central Ontario, from Grey County to Muskoka to Lake Ontario. Together with 280 Toronto Conference congregations, 30 United Church social service agencies, and secular, ecumenical and interfaith partners, we seek to address the spiritual and material needs of people within our communities.

# council in action



In 2007, Council identified Toronto's Regent Park redevelopment as a priority investment for the Community Relief Fund. New construction undertaken by the Toronto Christian Resource Centre includes a new church facility and 88 units of affordable housing. This effort will help rebuild and reaffirm the United Church's presence in downtown Toronto.

# what we do

## Council connects these resources to ministry:

### Professional Advice

Council helps build strong and sustainable congregations. It provides or accesses professional expertise in strategic planning, financial management and fundraising, real estate development, property management, and insurance for local congregations and social ministries.

### Financial Support

In its support of vibrant places of worship and the active promotion of social justice, Council makes financing available by way of grants and loans to congregations and outreach ministries.

### Leadership Development

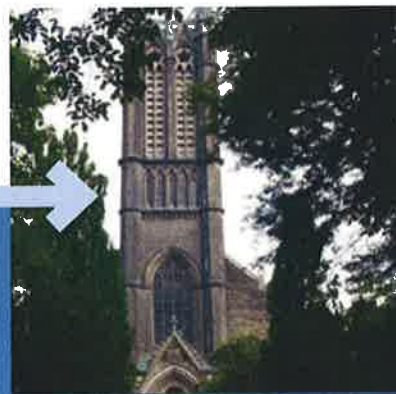
Council facilitates best practices in leadership across our church community. It offers networking and training for church leaders through its Centre for Church Development & Leadership.

### Asset Management

Council takes an active and cooperative role in the life of the United Church through the stewardship of Council's financial and real estate assets. Grateful for the generosity and confidence of our many donors and investors, Council draws on its 16 properties and 28 funds totaling over \$11 million to accommodate and finance ministry activities.



Through the training and networking programs of Council's Centre for Church Development & Leadership, Council helps congregational leaders gain the skills and support they need for effective ministry – whether that be in established situations taking steps to redevelop and renew their ministries, or in new ministry settings.

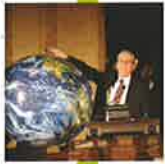


Since the Investing In Ministry Fund was launched in 2001, 27 congregations have invested over \$6 million. These pooled resources have provided loans for new construction, renovations and retrofits at more than 25 churches and 3 housing projects.

## Opportunities for investment



The **Investing in Ministry Fund** provides the means for churches and individuals to pool investments and realize good returns. Their capital is used as secured financing for church building, renovation, and development.



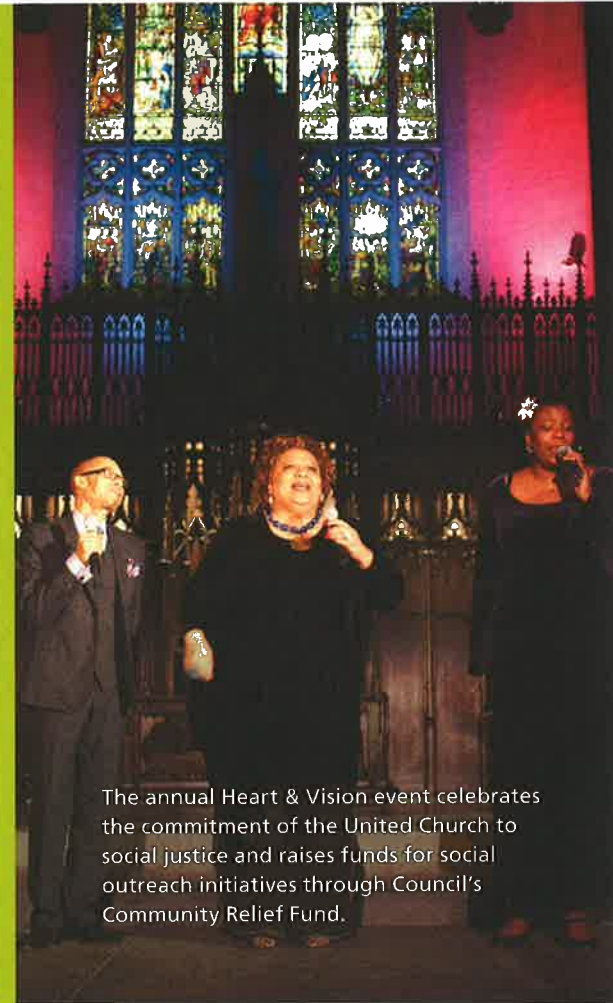
The **Community Relief Fund**, one of Council's oldest funds, partners in projects and with organizations that alleviate poverty and promote social justice.



Council's **Camping Opportunities Fund** provides funding to subsidize camp fees at five United Church affiliated camps. More than 500 children are accommodated annually through this fund.



**Unique funds**, such as Family Funds and endowments that support specific ministries, allow donors to fulfill their philanthropic goals for the church.



The annual Heart & Vision event celebrates the commitment of the United Church to social justice and raises funds for social outreach initiatives through Council's Community Relief Fund.



More than 40 churches, faith-based organizations and environmental groups express their respect for creation through the work of the Green Awakening Network. Council acts as the secretariat, facilitating membership development, fundraising, and the sharing of best practices to reduce the carbon footprint of our church buildings and homes.



Council has been sharing our church's faith story with the younger generation through United Church camping since 1912. Council owns and makes available the property for four Toronto Conference camps – Lake Scugog Camp, Camp Simpresca, Sparrow Lake Camp, and Camp Big Canoe – to provide leadership and spiritual development, outdoor skills and environmental education to more than 2200 young people annually.

## about us

The Toronto United Church Council's roots date back to 1892 when the Massey family mobilized the city's influential Methodists to build a more vibrant church and just society. Beginning as the church's banker and real estate advisor and in 1912 actually assuming responsibility for the City of Toronto's social services, Council has a long history of connecting church infrastructure to outreach ministry.

Council's Seven Years of Plenty campaign – its most ambitious fundraising effort in its history – plays a crucial role as Council continues to connect resources with ministry. Council's funds assist congregations as they retrofit and update their buildings, help outreach ministries as they serve society's most vulnerable, and help our camps achieve a level of excellence as they assemble a lifetime of memories for our youth.

Council invites you to make contact to see how Council programs or services might assist your congregation or mission unit in reaching its ministry goals.



## contact us

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