

# connecting resources with ministry



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**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.

**Issue 023**

**September 22, 2014**

## **The Little Church that could....with a little help from the *Investing In Ministry Fund***

On September 7<sup>th</sup> Lemonville United Church, a small country church just outside Stouffville, officially marked the opening of its new accessibility retrofits. A combination of determination, spirited generosity, local engineering smarts, and a bridging loan from Council's *Investing in Ministry Fund* were the ingredients for this successful \$200,000 project - a major undertaking for a congregation that averages around 50 worshippers on a Sunday.

The [linked pictures](#) indicate just how serious the problem was - count the number of steps to the front door! They also show the solution: A small addition on the side of the building that has allowed a ramp to be opened to the basement. A new elevator then takes you to the sanctuary. At the same time, the addition has allowed the creation of accessible washrooms on two floors. No small feat on a small land footprint with a cemetery hard against the side door.

How was this financed? Leveraging an existing investment in the *Investing In Ministry Fund* as collateral,

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the congregation undertook to make repayments on their bridging through special fund-raising efforts and applications to grant-making bodies. This enabled them to keep the income from the original investment flowing over the duration of the build. The loan is almost fully paid off – and this well inside the two year duration .

The folks at Lemonville are happy to share their experience with others, and the wider church community. The *Investing in Ministry Fund* is, of course, there to be of assistance as well.

Contact [Ron Ewart](#) at Council for more details.



*Lemonville United Church celebrates a new entry ramp, elevator, and accessible washrooms with a dedication service.*

### **Centre for Church Development & Leadership Team Starts Another Busy Season**

This Fall sees Council's church development consultancy work continuing in high gear. Ron Ewart and Bonnie Greene are hard at work with three congregations across three different Presbyteries engaged in [Church Futures](#) programs – a special program for congregations who feel that they are at a crossroads in their life and must make

clear choices about new directions.



CCDL's new [\*Mission Action Plan\*](#) program focuses on strengthening key systems within the congregation. A large congregation in Toronto will be spending time over the next year working with Bonnie & Ron on its 'belonging system.'

Centre staff have also been instrumental in developing Toronto South East Presbytery's Mission Articulation process and continue to act as trainers and support to the volunteer team giving guidance to congregations developing their profiles under the Effective Leadership Program.

The first stage of a study of imminent population change and growth in the Queensville, Sharon & North Newmarket area for Living Waters Presbytery has been completed. The findings of the study will be shared with the Presbytery and congregations in the coming months.

The Centre's educational program continues in partnership with Emmanuel College and United in Learning. There is still time to join [\*the Holy Currencies program with Eric Law\*](#). The third and final workshop in the series takes place on November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Click the link above for registration details.

For further information on any of these programs contact [Ron Ewart](#).

### **The *Investing in Ministry Fund* Welcomes a New Investing Congregation**

This month we welcomed a new investor to Toronto United Church Council's *Investing in Ministry Fund*; Jubilee United Church in Toronto's north-east has placed some of its financial resources with the Fund. Two Scarborough congregations' have also added to their existing investments this month. Our thanks go out to Jubilee, St. Mark's United, and to the Church of the Master; ***we appreciate the commitment!***

The *Investing in Ministry Fund* is now valued at nearly \$9.7 million. Of that total, \$6.3 million has been placed with 23 borrowing congregations to help with capital projects from new boilers to new buildings.

\$1.5 million more is held in reserve for loans already approved for other congregations and the remainder is invested pending new loan applications.

If you have questions about the Fund, please visit [Council's website](#) or contact Jim Patterson at 905-771-5124 or at [jim@tucc.ca](mailto:jim@tucc.ca).

### **Welcome Wendy Sims to Council's Staff Team**

Council is pleased to announce that Wendy Sims has joined Council's staff as the permanently appointed *Administrative Assistant: Governance, Finance & Office Administration*. Wendy comes to us from

Metropolitan United Church where she worked for just over two years as Office Administrator. She also has previous administrative experience in business property management. We are very happy to have her on our staff team.



**Reminder: Walk or Run  
for United Church  
Camps on October 19**

United Church camps are special places where young lives are awakened to community and youthful leaders are nurtured. If you haven't signed up already please consider joining Council on October 19 to fundraise for the five



**Reminder: Baillie  
Volunteer Service  
Award Applications due  
October 31**

Is there a young person in your congregation who volunteers their time to be with with people in need? Who makes an effort to be a blessing to their community and their world? Please consider nominating this person

camps in Toronto Conference in the *Scotiabank Waterfront Marathon*.

Every dollar raised through the marathon helps to protect and restore the quality of the camps' buildings and properties. As an incentive for you to help, if you run or walk with us you will have your individual registration fee covered. For more information and instructions on how to register for free, contact Ali Hayes at [ali@tucc.ca](mailto:ali@tucc.ca) or 905-771-5124 ex. 31.

Your support of our marathon efforts is truly appreciated. If you can't walk or run please consider making a pledge. \$5, \$10, \$20 - any amount helps! Links to support Council's team (fundraising for all five camps) and each of the camp teams are below.

for Council's *Baillie Volunteer Service Award*.

The Award is a way to thank volunteers for commitment and dedicated service to a ministry endeavour of a United Church congregation or mission unit.

Recipients will be presented with a personalized certificate and a cash award of \$500 to assist with their financial needs for education, travel, and personal care.

Selection of recipients occurs twice annually. Application deadlines are May 30th and October 31st. For more information on award eligibility and selection criteria and to download an application form [click here](#).

[Pass It On Team](#)

[Camp Big Canoe](#)

[Camp Simpresca](#)

[Lake Scugog Camp](#)

[Sparrow Lake Camp](#)

[Ryde Lake Camp](#)

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