

**2024 Report to National Gathering DUCC
from the Administrative Committee of the
Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry**

Susan Butler-Jones

The Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry was established in memory of Diaconal Minister, Barb Elliott. It supports innovative and/or nontraditional ministries that find it difficult to secure regular funding. Funding should be seen as seed money to get new projects started, or for new aspects of existing programs, or to enable a one time special project, and not for support of ongoing work. A project is only eligible for one grant. An accountability report is required by the ministry following the implementation of the project.

Funding criteria and application form are available on the website:

<https://www.ducc.ca/grant-opportunities/barbara-elliott-fund/>

Donations to the fund to remember, honour or celebrate someone or a particular event or ministry are always appreciated, and can be made by contacting the United Church Foundation:

<https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/>

The members of the administrative committee of BETFIM are,
Susan Butler-Jones

Denise Davis-Taylor

Ken DeLisle

Marilyn Burnard

The committee meets by Zoom as needed. Applications are reviewed, and decisions re funding are made as soon as possible (usually early March) following the February application deadline. Decisions are made in accordance with the Funding Criteria. All applicants are contacted with the decision of the committee as soon as possible following our meetings.

We attempt to promote the Fund through announcements and stories in the DUCC news. We invite those who have benefited from the fund to write a brief article that could be included in the DUCC news. The Fund has supported many creative and beneficial projects over the years.

2023

During 2023 we had two rounds of applications, our regular one in February and an additional one in the fall since we had not awarded all of the available funds in the spring.

We were pleased to offer funding to the following projects:

Spring Application 2023

1. Bold Discipleship for the Common Good - Phase 1

submitted by The Four Amigos - four coaches with EDGE (A network for Ministry Development of the UCC) in partnership with The Centre for Christian Studies and Atlantic School of Theology. Contact person: Eric Tusz-King

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:
Drawing on lived wisdom and personal and professional experience, and evidence-based we envision a "Holy Experiment" in nurturing Bold Discipleship for Common Good. Small groups will be invited to journey together in character-transforming discipleship communities of practice, discovering, sharing and engaging common foundational wisdom and practices that are transformational to both personal and world change. We need strong, authentic, trusting relationships with one another, embracing intentionality and mutual accountability in order to become morally courageous advocates for common good. These small diverse communities of practice, comprised of people from both outside and inside the church, will gather twice monthly for a period of twelve to eighteen months.

Phase 1 of this Holy Experiment will create two communities of practice (ideally 5 - 6 participants in each) working with an experienced community of practice coordinator.

Selected participants in these initial communities of practice ('seed groups') will be individuals who are recognized to be 'early adopters' who express willingness to continue through Phase 2. There will be opportunity for both personal reflection, growth and learning how to create similar spaces and opportunities for others.

Fall Applications 2023

1. *The GO Project on CHURCHx*

submitted by:

The GO Project; Shining Waters Regional Council

Contact Person: Alana Martin

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

The GO Project's curriculum initiative is a transformative educational endeavor designed to address a pressing need within United Church of Canada communities. This initiative responds to the demand for progressive, inclusive, and justice-centered curriculum resources tailored for children, youth, and leaders. Through collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships, the project seeks to redefine how faith-based education is delivered and experienced, contributing to the vibrancy and expansion of local faith communities.

2. *The International Interfaith Network Face to Face gathering convened by ICHRP Global Conference and General Assembly, Bangkok, November 6-9, 2023.*

Submitted by: Beaconsfield's Initiative & ICHRP Canada-Global- Beaconsfield United Church.

Contact Person: Patricia Lisson

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines' upcoming conference stands as a testament to the synergy between justice, faith, and action. By uniting under the banner of "The Peace We Want," participants will engage in meaningful discussions, training, and collaboration that directly align with the criteria outlined by the Barbara Elliott Trust Fund. This exceptional endeavor exemplifies the pivotal role faith and justice play in creating a better world for all. Your financial support will

be used to promote the face-to-face International interfaith Meeting by enabling participants from the Philippines and South East Asia to attend. Of course, your support will be recognized in all our publications and conference information and before the face-to-face meeting.

2024

We were pleased to offer funding to the following projects:

1. K-Queer Workshop series "Rainbow Insights"

submitted by: Korean Rainbow United (캐나다연합교회 무지개연대); a queer Christian Korean group inside the United Church of Canada for both queer members and allies, clergy and lay members.

Contact person: Hyerim Park

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

"Rainbow Insights" is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at providing educational opportunities for individuals fluent in Korean and English living in North America and Korea to enhance their understanding of 2SLGBTQIA+ issues. Recognizing the importance of fostering inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, our project seeks to bridge the gap in 2SLGBTQIA+ education by offering comprehensive resources and learning experiences.

"Rainbow Insights" is a dynamic workshop series designed to provide comprehensive 2SLGBTQIA+ education quarterly. This series will feature impactful guest speakers, language translators, and recorded videos, ensuring a wide-reaching and lasting impact.

2. Guaranteed Livable Income Forum

Learn. Listen. Activate.

submitted by: Niagara Region Guaranteed Livable Income Resource Group and Silver Spire United Church, St. Catherine's ON

Contact person: Valerie Pitt

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

With the help of advocates, stakeholders, economists, faith leaders and politicians, we are planning a community forum for March 23, 2024, at Silver Spire United Church in St Catharines. Silver Spire has an ongoing relationship with people in the downtown core. They also have experience offering forums on relevant and essential topics in the community. This project will draw upon the expertise and knowledge of people who participated in the GLI pilot sharing lived experiences. Speakers and facilitators from Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, Deirdre Pike (Niagara Anglican Diocese), Elaine Power, author, advocate, and professor, Queen's University, Senator Kim Pate, Economist Ken Wang and Loyd Marenescu, Artist Jessie Golem (also a participant in GLI pilot project), Andrea Budgie, Sylvia Keismat and Brian Walsh on faith and poverty and a viewing of a discussion of a documentary, a project from the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty.

There will be ample opportunity for participants to connect through coffee and snack breaks and an extended lunch break, encouraging conversation and networking. Small group sessions will include advocacy and political action, GLI and the artist, documentary and discussion, faith and poverty, food security, social determinants of health, and art and storytelling for change. As the event title suggests, facilitators aim to create an environment where people move from reflection to faith in action.

3. Singing for Earth

submitted by: The United Church in Meadowood, Winnipeg
contact person: Caryn Douglas

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

Climate anxiety is real, and many feel overwhelmed by the problem. We have heard that people long for leaders to help them deal with their feelings and to support them in taking action. The Outreach Committee has reshaped its mandate to include a focus on Climate Action and has an ambitious plan to educate and motivate the congregation to reform our relationship with Earth and be advocates and motivators.

The arrival in 2023 of Jeremy Vallance, as the choral director at UCiM, sparked the idea of a Greening project focused on singing. He has a particular gift to use music as a tool for self-awareness and healing along with a background in community choirs and spiritually grounded music. He has led similar kinds of programs in the past.

Singing for Earth is a 5 day camp/event (Monday, July 29 to August 2, 8:30 to 4 pm) to be held at UCiM. We envision interweaving singing with body work and workshop/activities that allow for integration of learning and the development of skills and resources for Climate Action.

The singing is not geared to performance, but to participation, as each person is supported to find their voice and to experience the power of being in an intentional community. The accompanying activities will complement the singing and will include time outdoors.

Reports

Part of the criteria for awarding grants from the BETFIM is to send a report of the project to the BETFIM Team.

Reports Received since 2022:

1. ICHIRP Global Conference