

**Halifax Presbytery Restricted Legacy Funds  
Transition of Legacy Funds into the 3 Court Model  
Funds Review Team Proposal  
Appendix B**

## **Innovation Fund**

**Purpose:** The Fund is to be used to support communities of faith (congregation or pastoral charge) within Region 15 who are seeking to implement innovations in the way they use their physical facilities, who have a plan for moving forward and require some additional financial support. Support from the Fund is in the form of a grant. Areas of support are described below and are intended as general guidelines rather than completely definitive:

- To implement facility improvements that result in reductions in the cost of operations, improved access to the facility, establishing connections and outreach to the greater community, implementing new programs, and any other innovations arising from the following:
  - Space repurposing
  - Addressing accessibility issues
  - Energy efficiency improvements
- any application that can demonstrate a valid facility innovation that has not otherwise been contemplated in the guidelines above.
- New faith community formations can also qualify for a grant towards acquisition of equipment, furnishing and fixtures.

This funding is not eligible to be used to maintain the status Quo. Projects responding to regular maintenance issues or major facility repairs such as roof replacements represent status Quo Projects. Building retirements may be eligible for a grant if it can be demonstrated that it is part of a strategy to ensure the congregation's continuance.

**Eligibility:** Any faith community within Region 15 who can demonstrate a plan for moving forward including a demonstrated commitment to follow through as well as financial need. The faith community must not be in arrears for any United Church assessments or have been in receipt of an award from this Fund within the same Calendar year. Funding is available as standalone grants or may be in combination with funding assistance available from the Hunter Fund, the Church Extension Board or any other United Church Fund.

**Maximum Grant:** \$7,500 per congregation. Multiple faith communities can partner and each apply for funding to support a common initiative.

**Application Intake:** Applications may be submitted for review throughout the year. Funding decisions will be made on submitted applications, provided they are complete in every aspect, at the next scheduled meeting of the appropriate Regional body assigned the responsibility of grant application review and approval. Applicants may be asked to make a short presentation, by teleconference or in person, in support of their request.

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**Application for an Innovation Fund Grant**

**Congregation:**

**Contact Information**

**Name/Position:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Phone number:**

Please provide up to two pages to describe your Innovation Project making sure you cover the following categories as appropriate.

- Share your vision and goals
- Demonstrate that your faith community is sustainable
- How will this project support the personal and spiritual enrichment of your faith community?
- Demonstrate how the building facility in question continues to have relevance to your ministry
- Demonstrate how the proposed building facility improvements represent an innovation that will support your mission.
- Describe how the project can contribute to creating, sustaining or increasing Building Funds held by the congregation.
- Provide a detailed budget for your project, including all costs and sources of funding and to what extent project implementation will reduce annual operating costs
- Provide copy of any Hunter Fund application made.

Specify the amount you are requesting as a grant. Grants available for 10% of the approved Project Budget, up to a maximum of \$7,500.

Grant applicants may be asked to make a short presentation as the grant is considered.

All grant recipients will be expected to provide a follow-up report to indicate to what extent their project objectives were accomplished.

Please email grant applications to the Regional Council 15 attention Jennifer Whitemore at the address noted below [jwhitemore@united-church.ca](mailto:jwhitemore@united-church.ca).