

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council – United Church of Canada

Policy on donations by communities of faith to charities outside the purview of the United Church – February 2023

Whereas the 1925 Model Deed applicable to all Trustees and Congregations of the United Church of Canada provides that all property held by them is “For the use and benefit of the...congregation, as a part of The United Church of Canada, as well for the site of a church, chapel, meeting house, school, manse, parsonage or minister’s dwelling or other place for religious, charitable, educational, congregational, or social purposes, glebe or burial ground, as the said congregation may direct, as for the support and maintenance of public worship, and the propagation of Christian knowledge, according to the doctrine, discipline, by-laws, rules and regulations of The United Church of Canada.”;

Whereas it is recognized that the ongoing outreach ministry of United Church communities of faith may well include helping other charities minister to the needs of their communities and beyond, in a manner consistent with the beliefs of the United Church of Canada, particularly when members of that community of faith also volunteer and support those charities;

Whereas it is important to respect the wishes of the donors and benefactors to the United Church who desired that their contributions be used strictly in furtherance of our varied ministries; and

Whereas it is helpful to establish a Regional Council Policy to guide local communities of faith in determining when consent of the Regional Council should be sought for donations to outside charities.

1. Generally Regional Council consent is required for any significant donation or donations to charities other than those operated by entities of the United Church of Canada or its official partner organizations.
2. Significant donation or donations include donations of more than \$5000 in any calendar year to any single charity or donations aggregating more than \$15,000 in any calendar year to a number of charities.
3. Any request for Regional Council consent should specify the connection or relationship of the charity to the ministry of that community of faith and the involvement of any members of the community of faith.
4. Communities of faith that are intending to disband or merge within the next 12 months must obtain Regional Council consent for any donation of whatever size.
5. Consent for donations to charities having no significant connection or relationship with the community of faith or the broader United Church of Canada will not generally be given.
6. Regional Council respectfully advises local Trustees that donations to charities described in section 5 should not be made by the community of faith even if the amounts are under the threshold of section 2.

7. This Policy does not apply to earmarked donations or fundraising specifically for outside charities or otherwise restricted funds, as in these cases the wishes of the donors must be fully respected.
8. This Policy shall also apply to donations by Incorporated Ministries under the oversight of this Regional Council.
9. This Policy applies from March 31, 2023 and does not affect donation plans and ministry plans previously approved by Presbytery or Regional Council.