

Regional Strategic Fund

Terms of Reference

Date: Dec 2023

Purpose:

GROWTH

Projects that will renew existing ministries, create new ministries or broaden our invitation to those who have not yet discovered the United Church's unique ministry (in line with the strategic plan). This fund will not be used to support work that is not identified as a priority in the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Approach and Intent - Growth

1. **Ministry and Mission** Program proposals that demonstrate a strategic horizon of a minimum of 3- 5 years with the intention that the need and intent are for long duration.
2. **Capital projects for new development that** demonstrate long-term viability greater than 5 years and are mission appropriate.

Areas of Eligibility

General:

All requests must meet a criterion in that the proposal must be in line with an activity identified in the strategic plan.

The applicant should indicate how the proposal will further and/or renew the existing ministry, how this initiative relates to the strategic plan, and how the ministry will evaluate the progress and success of the initiative.

Support for COF - Regional Centers

Proposals that amalgamate congregations for worship, pastoral care and member support.

Capital grants may be awarded for physical modifications to allow for centers to accommodate office, meeting space and activity centers both indoor and outdoor projects or programs.

Support for COF - Community Projects and Partnerships

Proposals that bring mission -oriented community or social programs into existing or surplus church space so that existing congregations can enhance support systems for these programs or even participate in this activity. The grant will allow for capital improvements in order to encourage long-term rentals to mission strategic partners.

Capital grants may be awarded for physical modifications to allow for centers to accommodate office, meeting space and activity centers both indoors and outdoors.

New COF and Community Ministry

Proposals to support emerging COF and emerging community ministry.

Capital grants may be awarded for physical modifications to allow for centers to accommodate office, meeting space and activity centers both indoors and outdoors.

Rural Forum and Remote area support

Proposals that support rural networking.

Proposals to support remote and isolated members through online and visiting ministry.

Justice

Proposals that support initiatives brought forward by Justice advocates from COF or new programs in community-based ministries .

Proposals that support environmental justice projects.

Environment

Proposals that create a framework for development of cooperative crisis management plans for climate emergencies. Priority will be given to plans involving multiple COF as this should be consistent and repeatable across the Region.

First Third Ministries

Proposals to support Region wide youth programming .

Regional Leadership Education and Ministry Forum

Proposals that support education through a CrNRC Education Center in partnership with UTC or others that provide leadership education.

Proposals to provide education to allow ministry personnel to provide innovative and cutting-edge worship.

Fund Management

F&E Board holds the Regional Strategic Fund and is responsible for investing these funds consistent with the F&E Board policy.

Source of Funds: 10% of Proceeds from church property sales

Disbursement

A disbursement of up to 6% per year of the fund balance will be permitted.

Unused funding may roll over to the next calendar year and used for additional grants .

Grants will generally be limited to \$10,000.

Projects will be limited to 2 grants subject to submission and review of the evaluation report of the first grant.

Oversight

Granting and Enabling Leadership Team will review applications and make recommendations for grants that will be approved by the CrNRC Executive.