

MISSION THROUGH FINANCE

SUPPORT TO CONGREGATIONS

Applications may be submitted for consideration at any time during the year, and must be approved by your church Board/Council, your Presbytery and Hamilton Conference before being forwarded for consideration by the Financial Support Group of the General Council Support to Local Ministries. Decisions will be made at the end of each month and communicated through the Conference Office. Contact Judith Johnson or Elenore LeGrand at the Conference Office (905) 659-3343 Ext. 224; E-mail: jjohnson@hamconf.org or elegrand@hamconf.org for more information about all of these grants and loans, including criteria and application forms, and for contact information for your Presbytery Mission Strategy and Support contact person.

CHURCH MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT GRANT **NEW**

A dollar-for-dollar matching grant of up to \$5,000 per pastoral charge within any six-year period is available to pastoral charges with very limited income and resources (\$150,000 total revenue or less.) This grant assists Pastoral Charges to keep churches in functional and safe condition. No grant is given for less than \$1,000. Applications with total costs in excess of \$10,000 may wish to apply for a Capital Assistance loan. The grant may be shared by more than one church in a pastoral charge. **The grant must be approved before work commences.** Payments are provided based on receipt of original invoices or copies for the work completed. *Information about this grant and an application form can be downloaded from the Hamilton Conference website: <http://www.hamconf.org> .*

MANSE ENERGY AUDIT AND CONSERVATION GRANTS

These grants are to **assist small membership pastoral charges whose financial base is modest and who have very limited access to other forms of funding in modifying their manses in order to make them more energy efficient.** These Energy Audit and Conservation Grants are separate from and in addition to Manse Modernization Grants. **Ministry personnel must be settled full-time, and the manse must be occupied by the minister.**

- ❖ A one-time matching grant of up to \$5,000 will be made available for energy and conservation work. This includes replacement of doors, windows, insulation and high efficiency furnaces.
- ❖ The grant will pay for the cost of the energy audit up to a maximum of \$250 provided the work recommended in the audit is done. No match is required for the cost of the audit, although it is a part of the maximum \$5,000 grant.
- ❖ The work related to the application must be recommended in an energy audit or by a home energy consultant.

Applications should include a brief proposal of the improvements and a list of estimated costs, as well as a copy of the Energy Audit.

*Information is available on the General Council website: http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca4_1.pdf
A downloadable application form can be found at http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca4_1a.pdf*

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE LOANS

This fund provides financial assistance of a capital nature to **assist small membership pastoral charges whose financial base is modest, and who have limited or no access to Presbytery Extension/Mission Council or other Church funds and who have very limited ability to borrow commercially.** The Capital Assistance Fund is used to **assist congregations in the purchase, construction or renovations of church buildings, sanctuaries, halls or manses.**

This assistance would normally be in the form of a loan extending up to 40% of the total project cost, and not to exceed \$140,000. The loan is normally for a three-year term and is currently made at 3% interest. The first year of the loan is interest free with the full amount of the blended payments being applied against the principal balance of the loan.

Information is available on the General Council website: <http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca2.pdf> and the application form is downloadable: <http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca2a.pdf>.

TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

Technology Grants are available to **assist small membership pastoral charges whose financial base is modest and who have very limited access to other forms of funding with which to purchase technology.** A grant of up to \$1,500 may be provided to the pastoral charge on a dollar for dollar basis. If the technology has already been purchased, the application must be approved by the Presbytery within three months of the purchase of the equipment.

Eligible technology includes computers, software, music keyboards and sound systems. (Copiers are eligible, but with a lower priority.)

Along with the completed application form Pastoral Charges must include their latest financial statement and specific commitment regarding the Pastoral Charge's share of the cost of the new equipment, along with other specific pieces of information, and must clearly indicate how capital purchase of new technology will enhance the mission and ministry of the Pastoral Charge. For instance, how will a new computer, fax machine or other technology strengthen the pastoral care, worship, evangelism, Christian education or community outreach of the Pastoral Charge?

Requests for technology grants are ranked as follows:

- Preference to pastoral charges where no previous Technology Grant has been awarded.
- Pastoral charge category re: isolation and multi-point
- Pastoral charge income
- Urgency recommended by Conference and/or Presbytery
- Breadth and clarity of strategic plan
- Purchase of photocopiers qualifies, although given a lower priority.

Examples of Technological Applications:

High: assisting special education and training needs
Networking with mission partners
Enhancing worship (music keyboard, projection system)

Medium: Improving record-keeping or labour-saving by computer

Low: Upgrading computer, printer and software
Adding a fax machine
Copiers

Information is available on the General Council website: <http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca5.pdf>
A downloadable application form can be downloaded: <http://www.united-church.ca/mtf/pdf/ca5a.pdf>