



Ministries Supported by Disbanding Communities of Faith

The decision to disband a congregation or pastoral charge is usually made after much prayerful consideration and discussion. Two of the questions frequently asked is, “How can the assets that were entrusted to this community of faith continue to serve the ministry of The United Church both locally and beyond? And how can we support the ministries that are of particular importance to us?”

The answer is found in the regional council property policy for disbanding congregations. It outlines how the assets of the congregation or pastoral charge will be shared to support the ongoing ministries of The United Church of Canada both within the local region and beyond.

Once all outstanding expenses, including the United Church national assessments, have been paid, the net assets of the community of faith are distributed on a percentage basis to ministries that are of vital importance to the ongoing mission we share as The United Church of Canada.

United Church Ministries (ARW 33%, HF 33%, WOW 30%)

As part of the work of disbanding, a community of faith makes a recommendation to the regional council regarding the distribution of net assets to United Church ministries chosen by the congregation. (To comply with Revenue Canada regulations these ministries must be a registered charity.) Examples include: other communities of faith and congregations, United Church camps, United Church retreat centres, United Church outreach programs, Mission and Service, Indigenous Ministries. [The United Church Foundation](#) can also assist with setting up endowment and other funds to support the ministry choices of the congregation. In the rare situation when the task of disbanding is delegated to the regional council, this portion of the assets is directed to the regional council.

Indigenous Ministries (ARW 15%, HF 12%, WOW 15%)

Funds directed to Indigenous Ministries are used to help strengthen the development of the new, self-determining Indigenous church. This includes support for the Healing Fund, youth programs, scholarships for youth and young adults, theological training, continuing education for ministry personnel, real property, the Justice and Reconciliation fund, and other innovative projects. This will be expanded in the future by the National Indigenous Council.

Mission and Service (current year) (ARW 12.5%, HF 10%, WOW 12.5%)

Every day, every month, right now, from serving a hot meal at a local soup kitchen, to visiting a lonely neighbour, to financially supporting those in need in our local communities and around the world, the people of the United Church are committed to turning compassion into action. Funds directed to Mission & Service immediately start working, in partnership with people and organisations, towards long-term solutions over quick fixes because we want:

- to transform and save lives
- to inspire meaning and purpose
- to build a better world

Learn more here: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/stories-our-faith>

Mission and Service Endowment Fund (ARW 12.5%, HF 15%, WOW 12.5%)

Gifts to the Mission & Service Endowment Fund provide a steady, predictable stream of grants to the Mission & Service of our denomination for years to come. Each spring, thanks to generous individuals, congregations, and Regional Councils, the Mission & Service Endowment Fund makes a grant that is used to: help **transform and save lives** ([like this](#)) through our Global Partner work in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, South America, and the Caribbean; support reconciliation efforts with our indigenous siblings; **inspire meaning and purpose** through the work of our theological schools and education and retreat centres both within Canada and abroad; and help **build a better world** through work on social justice issues here in Canada and with our partners around the world.

Regional Council (ARW 25%, HF 25%, WOW 25%)

Funds received by the regional council will help provide ongoing support and resources to communities of faith within the region. Each regional council will set its own priorities and policies for the use of this income, with gratitude to the faithful work and stewardship of the disbanding community of faith.

Archives (ARW 2%, HF 5%, WOW 5%)

The Archives provides proper storage and cataloguing of United Church records and documents, which are then made available for those seeking baptismal or marriage certificates, and access to microfilm, library records, and other documents for other research purposes. The Archives also develops archival collections available on-line and is working to preserve the history of the United Church of Canada and the records of each community of faith. Disbanding congregations can trust that the history and records of their ministry will be preserved as part of the archives collection, and continue to be available for research purposes. More information can be found on their [website](#).