

WHY THE MISSION AND SERVICE FUND?



If you examine the generic envelopes in the pews in the worship space of the church, you will notice that there are two listed lines to which you can give. The first is for our congregation's local expenses. Things like facility maintenance, reaching out into the community, worship, membership, visiting, Christian formation, small groups, supplies, public forums & workshops and staff salaries including my own. The second line is for the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” -Mark 12:30-31

We are all part of the Mission and Service Fund family. The M&S Fund exists to allow each of us to reach collectively into the wider world to “love our neighbour.” When we give to the M&S Fund we live into a tangible example of God's love in the world. We change lives. Here is how.

1. **Global Mission and Service:** For example, the Amity Foundation which lifts up the gifts of developmentally challenged adults through its Bakery of Blessings programme, creating mouth-watering baked goods.

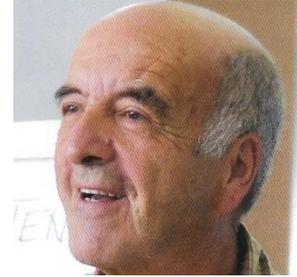


2. **Community and Justice Work:** For example, the Footprints 4 Autism offers sensory programming for children living with autism spectrum disorder, providing respite support for families.

3. **Theological Education:** For example, training for ministers like myself and Kerry by supporting the theological schools that taught us, formed us, encouraged us and challenged us.



4. **Faith Formation:** For example, former Moderator, the Right Rev. Stan McKay (who is indigenous), pictured while speaking at the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering.



5. **Support to Local Ministries:** For example, the Skylight Festival first hosted in Paris, Ontario and last year at Five Oaks nearby, where people from anywhere and everywhere gather for fun, faith and music in a free-wheeling style.

6. **Conference and Regional Leadership:** For example, Manitou Conference Youth Forum listened to the story of Shannen Koostachin, an indigenous young woman from Kenya, who advocated for safe and accessible schools in her country.



7. **Indigenous Ministries and Justice:** For example, two nearby United Church congregations – Cape Croker United Church and Wesley United Church on the Saugeen First Nation – receive funding to help pay the salary and benefits of their ministers.

In so many ways, as you can see from the map of the world below, the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund serves the world, changing lives. When you ponder how God is calling you to give, consider our global neighbours for whom our M&S Fund makes a difference through your generosity

