

**2022 Report to National Gathering DUCC  
from the Administrative Committee of the  
Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry**  
*Susan Butler-Jones*

The Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry was established in memory of Diaconal Minister, Barb Elliott. It supports innovative and/or nontraditional ministries that find it difficult to secure regular funding. Funding should be seen as seed money to get new projects started, or for new aspects of existing programs, or to enable a one time special project, and not for support of ongoing work. A project is only eligible for one grant. An accountability report is required by the ministry following the implementation of the project.

Funding criteria and application form are available on the website:  
<https://www.ducc.ca/grant-opportunities/barbara-elliott-fund/>

Donations to the fund to remember, honour or celebrate someone or a particular event or ministry are always appreciated.

The members of the administrative committee of BETFIM are,  
Susan Butler-Jones  
Denise Davis-Taylor  
Ken DeLisle  
Marilyn Burnard

The committee meets by Zoom as needed. Applications are reviewed, and decisions re funding are made as soon as possible (usually early March) following the February application deadline. Decisions are made in accordance with the Funding Criteria. All applicants are contacted with the decision of the committee as soon as possible following our meetings.

2020 Fall Applications

Following the advice of the DUCC 2020 national gathering we offered another round of applications in the Fall of 2020 since there was still funding available for that year.

We received 2 applications and were pleased to offer funding to both.

1. **1Just City** for a new project “Pow Wow Club”. The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

*This program will build community strength by providing a meaningful opportunity for local Indigenous caregivers to bond with their children and each other through connection with their culture. Many in this community have never had the chance to connect with their own cultural roots – and we know that experiencing this connection brings healing and strength to our community. St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, a member organization of 1JustCity, is a community outreach ministry that aims to build a strong and meaningful community in the West End of Winnipeg. We work with some of the most vulnerable people in our city – individuals and families facing poverty, mental health issues and addiction, homelessness or unsuitable housing, social isolation and more. Our programming, the core of which is our daily drop-in lunch program, provides a safe and loving place where all are welcome; and they help people to build positive identities that are rooted in something other than poverty.*

## **2. Food Matters Manitoba:**

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

*We want to develop a curriculum, “Food Security 101”. Our plan is for a flexible modular design which can be utilized in a variety of digital and face to face methods.*

*We envision this curriculum being used in our Food Action Hub which is, primarily, a digital educational network of community serving organizations. We would like to have a primer on Food Security as a component of orientation when Members join the network.*

*We have plans to offer courses to community groups (like churches, community resource centres, newcomer agencies), companies and businesses, government agencies (like local health centres, corrections and justice) and political (City Counsellors, Political party caucuses) and community leaders who are looking to deepen their understanding about food insecurity.*

*We intend to design a “train the trainer” component to the curriculum so that we can widen the network of educators.*

2021

We were pleased to offer funding to the following projects:

### **1. SMILE (Supporting Manitobans towards Independent Living Equity) Project**

Submitting Group: The Family Advocacy Network of Manitoba (FAN) a grassroots, pioneering group of parents, siblings, and support network members of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

*Phase 1 of SMILE consists of research that seeks to shed light on those inequities to offer suggestions and solutions. Future phases of the SMILE project will use this exploratory phase to begin to create new opportunities in collaboration, both with the existing possibilities and “outside the box” of current reality of independent living.*

## **2. Assessing the Potential for an Indigenous Spiritual Community of Faith in the Core Area of Saskatoon**

Submitted by The Church in Society Committee of St. Thomas Wesley United Church.

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

*When the congregation disbands, members of the congregation will probably find new church homes but the people who live in the community who have been part of the many activities of the church will not have that option or will not choose that option. Many people in the community see St. Thomas Wesley as their church, a place to come when they need support. The concern is how will the needs of these people be met.*

*The project will discern, in co-operation with the Indigenous Circle of the United Church of Canada, the interest in developing an Indigenous led spiritual community.*

*Also, two Indigenous women who are part of the Restorative Justice Circle are actively involved in the Church in Society Committee. One of these women is now considered as an elder. They are willing to help guide the project.*

## **3. Daring to Dream: Abundant Life Project**

Westminster United Church, Waterloo, ON

The following is a brief excerpt from their application:

*Purpose:*

*To strengthen the faith community by facilitating a process that examines our faith as well as our practices through the lens of equity, diversity and*

*inclusion (EDI). This process will lead WUC to social action that is rooted in justice and commitment to right relationship.*

*Goals:*

- *Work alongside council to examine and update current policies and procedures to increase access, reduce barriers and mitigate harm.*
- *Create a Christian Development Plan to increase educational resources and training opportunities for the church community that assist in unlearning harmful biases, promote positive leadership, and empower members to do difficult and transformative equity work.*
- *Provide purposeful resources and opportunities for our under-served children and youth that nurture right relationship. Facilitate engagement of the congregation in the faith journeys of children and youth.*
- *Build relationships and engage in meaningful community partnerships to proactively and collectively respond to social justice concerns.*
- *Continue to align WUC's strategy for social action with the social action commitments of the United Church of Canada.*

## 2022

We were pleased to offer funding to the following projects:

### **1. Open Sky Day Camp**

The following is an excerpt from their application:

*Open Sky Co-operative Ltd. is a unique, charitable organization based in Sackville, NB, that utilizes activities of sustainable farming, community and food-related activities to offer young adults social, independent living and employment skills. These adults may experience barriers due to social disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder or mental health challenges, and can achieve huge improvements in quality of life through focused supports.*

*This project would serve multiple purposes:*

- *Give children a time of connecting with gardening, taking care of animals, working and playing in community together, and self-discovery in a space that can adapt to their unique ways of learning.*
- *Young adults in Open Sky's social and vocational core programs would have opportunity to offer leadership... in their own unique ways – and build confidence, and possibly even experience a measure of healing from their childhood pains of being bullied for being “different”. Among our program participants are artists, musicians, cooks, gardeners, and genuinely kind souls who can inspire younger people.*
- *Children and their families would see young adults overcoming barriers and learning self-advocacy.*

- *Parents and caregivers can learn about Open Sky's resources and programs, and meet one another- opening doors to connect with a network of people who understand their challenges.*
- *Open Sky staff will have the opportunity to listen and learn from families and their children about emerging needs in the community around social disabilities, and this will help guide and shape future programming.*

## **2. Stories from the Graveyard- Athens (Ontario) UC**

The following is an excerpt from their application:

*The Athens Village Cemetery is one of seven cemeteries in the Athens area. It is by far the largest and most prominent one in the village. Although it is located behind the Athens United Church, the property is owned and operated by the village. Established in 1831, the cemetery consists of 728 graves. It is now closed with no more plots available. This cemetery is an important part of the town's history as well as being a significant part of Canadian history.*

*Goals:*

- *to physically repair the grave stones and restore the dignity of the cemetery. This will require care and specialized training.*
- *workshops that engage the community in a broader discussion and exploration of the relationship between life and death. Together we see this as an intergenerational, community building project. We hope to create long lasting relationships through workshops, storytelling sessions, and community gatherings.*

## **3. Edson Outreach Mission Group, Edson (Alberta) UC**

The following is an excerpt from their application:

*We believe this outreach mission supports the building of community resources and reflects a spirit and commitment to diakonia. We strive to serve, to care for and to walk with people no matter where they are at on life's journey.*

*Objective: To gain a better understanding of how other organizations run their mission projects and to explore how we might adopt a few ideas. We are new to outreach missions and want to ensure we are setting up for continued success in the future.*

*Goals: To create a plan to move forward successfully after gaining wisdom from other outreach missions. Listen, learn and grow.*

#### 4. Palestinian Canadian Youth at “Responding to a Cry for Hope” United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) 2022

Duncan (BC) UC

The following is an excerpt from their application:

*This is one-time special project. The intent is to bring together a group of Palestinian Canadian youth to be ‘advocates for creative transformation’. Too often we of the dominant culture advocate for social justice for the benefit of others without the “others” being present in the discussion. Youth are more representative of present Palestine where 70% of the population is under 30 and the median age is 20.8 years.*

*It is appropriate to be intentional about including Palestinian Canadian Youth. We need to hear their voices. Many Canadian Palestinians - adults and youth - do not know Canadian Christians and Jews also shared their concern for their homeland. They need to know they are supported by Canadians across the country.*

*The gathering will include adult Palestinian voices – some based in Canada, others in Palestine, yet it will benefit all to have youth present. Our intent is to be inclusive, to create an environment where sharing of experiences and opinions feels safe.*

#### Reports Received:

- **CCS** - The following is a brief excerpt from the CCS report to BETFIM.

*In February of 2020, the Centre for Christian Studies applied for a Barb Elliott Grant to support a planned initiative, intended to focus on recruiting and marketing...*

*...The grant from the Barb Elliott fund enabled the Centre for Christian Studies to risk reaching out to our community and to potential students through social media in the midst of the global pandemic. The \$5,000 received covered the start up costs of establishing our Instagram account and six months of invoicing from the Strategic Charm media management firm.*

*We are very thankful for the support from the Barb Elliott Trust Fund, which enabled us to adapt and continue to pursue our goal of inviting all to respond to the call of diaconal ministry.*

- **Food Matters Manitoba** - The following is a brief excerpt from the Food Matters Manitoba report to BETFIM.

*Thanks to the Barb Elliott Trust Fund and your generous contribution, Food Matters Manitoba has developed “Food Security Matters” - a 45 minute workshop that offers insight into the diverse food security experiences, systemic causes and impacts found all across Manitoba. Further, the workshop highlights Food Matters Manitoba’s organizational role in identifying ongoing gaps in food literacy and public engagement in food security programs.*

*This workshop is designed for partner organizations and funders to learn about food security and to understand the work Food Matters Manitoba is committed to within our province. Participants gain an understanding of the components and causes of food insecurity in Manitoba. They also learn about the Five A’s as a framework for a food secure society. The workshop concludes by encouraging participants to reflect on community lead solutions to food insecurity. Participant organizations consider their role in creating sustainable change in the food system.*