

CALLED TO LEAD

A CAFÉ
MINISTRY?



A CHURCH
PLANT?



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A FAITH-BASED
FARM OR SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE?



AN INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITY?



LeaderShift

Shifting times, Courageous leadership

Embracing the Spirit (BC) is here to seed new communities where Christian faith is nurtured, and discipleship practiced within the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada.

We're offering mentoring and substantial multi-year grants for creative and innovative planters who are directly responding to the needs of their context. Interested in applying?

Contact Rob Crosby-Shearer, Conference Minister - Embracing the Spirit (BC)

Cell /Text: (778) 584-2151 Office: (604) 431-0434 ext. 326 BC Toll Free: 1-800-934-0434 x 326

rcrosbyshearer@bc.united-church.ca

www.leadershiftbcc.ca/embracingspiritbc

EMBRACING THE SPIRIT (BC) GRANT

Are you are experiencing a call to plant a new community where Christian faith is nurtured and discipleship is practiced?

Are you an innovative, prayerful leader who wants to re-imagine church in partnership with BC Conference of the United Church?

The Embracing the Spirit (BC) Grant is a way to seed your call through mentoring and funding.

Here's how to apply:

- 1** Pray! What might the Holy Spirit be calling you to lead at this time? Ask questions such as: Why this? Why me (or why us)? Why now? Why here? There are resources available upon request to help you with the discernment process. Talk with others around you to hear how they view the context.
- 2** After a period of prayerful listening and discernment, contact the Embracing the Spirit (EtS) Conference Minister and share your dream! Have an informal conversation by Phone, Skype, FaceTime or, when possible, in person.
- 3** Submit a 1-3 page 'Expression of Interest' as an individual or as a team to the EtS Conference Minister. This should include a basic description of the new community you are proposing, some potential core values of the community, the people you imagine will be involved, as well as an idea of the amount you will be asking for each year - and for how long.
- 4** If the EtS Conference Minister, in consultation with others, feels that the proposal is viable, you will be asked to submit a more in-depth proposal. You'll be given a list of what's needed in that proposal and the EtS Conference Minister will work with you to prepare the proposal for submission.
- 5** You will be asked to undergo an assessment and / or provide references. The process of assessment may vary depending on the scope and nature of project and also whether you are lay or ordained. If this is a team project, multiple members of a core team may need to be assessed and submit references.

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- 6** The EtS Conference Minister will take the finalized proposal and assessment/references to the EtS Grant Committee, who will make the final decision on the provision of grants. The Committee may say: 'Yes!' 'Sorry - no' 'Yes... but...' or 'Please give us more information!'
- 7** Should the EtS Grant Committee decide to fund the project, the EtS Conference Minister will work with you/your team to establish prayerful and practical support mechanisms and mentoring relationships, networks, and training. Planting a new community can often be a daunting task – and we want you to feel supported.
- 8** Before starting, the EtS Conference Minister will work with you to determine a way for funds to be released, for Faithful Footsteps and insurance regulations to be met, and for donations/offerings to be processed. This could be through a congregation, Presbytery, Conference or another entity altogether.
- 9** The EtS Conference Minister will work with you to establish 'waymarkers' for success as well as to establish reporting mechanisms. We know that things change along the way – so these waymarkers aren't set in stone, but offer a way to dialogue about how things are going.
- 10** When all is ready, a simple covenant will be made between the planter/planting team and BC Conference... and so the pilgrimage really begins...

Interested?

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