

## KMUC Congregational Discussion on the Future of the Knox Church Regina Trust Fund (1951)

*This Consultation Paper was first presented to the congregation of Knox-Metropolitan United Church in spring 2022 for information and discussion. A meeting was planned for the fall of 2022 at which the congregation would vote on whether to proceed with the recommendations in the Paper. That meeting did not go ahead.*

*The Trustees believe that now is a good time to revisit the recommendations in this Paper. An informal meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 12:00 noon to discuss and give feedback on the recommendations.*

### Summary

The Knox-Metropolitan United Church Board of Trustees is looking to engage the congregation in a conversation about dissolving and disbursing the Knox Church Regina Trust Fund (valued at approximately \$343,000.00) to causes aligned with the original intent of the Trust and the mission and ministry of Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

Note – The Knox Church Regina Trust is distinct from the Trust Fund of Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

### The Knox Church Regina Trust

When Knox United and Metropolitan United amalgamated into Knox-Metropolitan United Church (KMUC), it was decided that the new congregation would be housed in the building owned by Metropolitan United Church on 2340 Victoria Ave. The building owned by Knox United Church at 12<sup>th</sup> and Lorne was sold for \$75,000.00. The building was eventually demolished. It is now the site of the SaskTel Building and bears a plaque remembering Knox Presbyterian/United Church.

The Knox Church Regina Trust was established in 1951 with the proceeds of the sale, and the Trustees of the newly formed KMUC became the Trustees of the new Trust. Terms for the Trust were established under a trust deed by the Congregation of Knox United Church and the General Council of the United Church of Canada to:

- Provide loans for the building of, maintenance of, or improvements to church buildings or Sunday School buildings in the city of Regina (at least 80% of the fund)
- Make gifts to worthy causes of and approved by the UCC or the Trustees consider to be in the interest of the United Church in southern Saskatchewan

It has been understood by convention that the funds in the Trust would not be used by the congregation of Knox-Metropolitan United Church.

## How the Fund Has Been Used over the Years

Since 1951, the Fund has aided congregations with over 100 projects including loans to Heritage United Church for the construction their building in the 1980s and to Sunset UC to expand and create their children's area in the early 2000s. Since 2001 projects have included:

- A grant to conduct building repairs for Carmichael Outreach
- Grants to the Regina Native Ministries, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, Lumsden Beach Camp and Mutchmor Lodge/United Church Housing Corporation
- A loan to Bethune United Church
- A loan to Lumsden Beach Camp to construct a nurses cabin

## What is the Current Status of the Fund?

- The Fund currently has a value of approximately \$343,000.
- There has been no use of the Fund since 2014.
- There is not significant work being done in the building of new church or Sunday School buildings, nor is that expected to change. Churches seeking to maintain and improve their buildings mostly look to other options such as grants and fundraising.
- The KMUC Trustees have been discussing this issue for at least the past 10 years.
- The Trustees have consulted with the Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) and General Council Offices, through LSRC Executive Minister Rev. Shannon McCarthy about how to proceed.
- Shannon has advised that if the congregation agrees with dissolving the Trust and disbursing the money in it, the United Church is very open to that.

## What is the Recommendation?

- Given that loans for church or Sunday School buildings no longer reflect the need within the United Church in Regina and South Saskatchewan, and given that there is significant need and potential within UCC Community Ministries, the Trustees of KMUC believe that we should dissolve the Trust and distribute the funds to such ministries whose goals are aligned with the mission and ministry of Knox-Metropolitan United Church.
- The terms of the Trust Deed state that after 25 years (from 1951) the congregation of KMUC can, by a vote of 2/3 members present at a meeting called for this purpose, request that the General Council of the United Church of Canada change the terms of the Knox Church Regina Trust.

## Possibilities

- It is the Trustees' intention to offer some possibilities for consideration. The congregation can consider options beyond the scope of what is offered here. Ultimately, this is a decision for the congregation of KMUC.
- There are many worthy causes and so the Trustees recommend limiting the number of recipients to provide a meaningful impact in the ongoing health and future possibilities of these organizations.
- Considering KMUC priorities around Youth and Children, Social Justice, and Reconciliation, the Trustees suggest that the following be considered as potential recipients:
  - Lumsden Beach Camp
  - Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry
  - National Indigenous Ministries & Justice Unit of the United Church of Canada

## How will these three groups benefit from this?

### Lumsden Beach Camp

Lumsden Beach Camp has been in an ongoing process of updating facilities and expanding camp options to ensure that as many kids as possible can experience the growth, fun, and community that comes with attending a United Church camp. In recent years, the camp has updated its washrooms to create gender inclusive facilities and built a new dining hall to ensure that campers have a gathering space that is safe, modern and large enough to accommodate everyone. LBC also expanded its camp offerings to include day camps. This has given families more options and opportunities for kids to experience camp.

A contribution from the Knox Church Trust would be put to multiple uses. The bulk of any funds would be allocated towards future capital projects, such as renovating cabins, installing solar panels on the dining hall, or building a new maintenance shed. This money would function as a cornerstone of any major future project and would be supplemented by fundraising efforts. The additional funds from the Knox Church Trust would go a long way towards ensuring camp is accessible to as many kids as possible by subsidizing registration fees for families otherwise unable to afford camp.

### Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

Over the course of the last 30 years, eight programs in Saskatchewan had a mandate to work on income security casework. Currently there are only two: RAPM in Regina and CLASSIC Law (Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City) in Saskatoon. Each year RAPM staff serves over 2,500 low-income clients from across the province. RAPM provides front line advocacy support to those facing benefit cut-offs, ensuring people are receiving the benefits they are eligible for. The Knox Church funds will allow this vital ministry to maintain this work as it continues to promote adequate income security benefits, a living wage, affordable housing and childcare, equity initiatives and fair taxation. The funds will also allow RAPM to develop a long-term plan to continue helping people navigate barriers.

### Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit of the United Church of Canada:

Indigenous Ministries and Justice works with the National Indigenous Council and Indigenous communities of faith across The United Church of Canada. In line with the norm, principles, and standards set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, Indigenous Ministries and Justice supports the whole United Church of Canada as it strives to animate the Calls to Action and Calls to the Church. This work is done by building on the capacity, already present, in areas of spiritual healing, leadership and youth development, stewardship, and justice and reconciliation.

When a church closes and the building is sold a percentage of the sale goes to support this unit as part of the United Church's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

The unit supports indigenous communities of faith like the Regina Native Outreach Ministry as well as indigenous ministry personnel. A few of the things they have done over the past few years include summer youth programming in many locations across the country, support to the Sandy Sauteaux Centre (a Christian-indigenous training centre), and hosting an indigenous spiritual gathering approximately every two years for indigenous leaders across the country.

### Feedback requested

The Trustees invite the congregation to attend the meeting on **Sunday, April 26 at 12:00 noon** to ask questions and provide feedback on:

- The recommendation to dissolve and disburse the fund.
- The recommendation that the funds be disbursed to a limited number of United Church Ministries that are aligned with the mission and ministry of KMUC to provide a meaningful impact to those organizations.
- The proposed recipients named in this Paper.
- Any potential recipients or considerations not named in this Paper.

In addition to your participation in the meeting on April 26, you can send your feedback and questions by email to [info@knoxmetregina.org](mailto:info@knoxmetregina.org) by **Friday, May 8, 2026**. The Trustees will review the feedback and provide a congregational update on what has been offered. A formal Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 24, 2026** to vote on these recommendations.