

WHAT IS GOD UP TO IN THE BC SYNOD? CECF: SUPPORTING MISSIONAL EXPERIMENTS

What is God up to in our communities?

How can we learn what the Spirit is doing in our world?

What experiments can help us get to know and journey with our neighbours?

Stepping out and trying something new can be scary. Being brave, taking risks, and putting ourselves out there in our neighbourhoods can be daunting. Rooted in God's unconditional love, we are washed by the waters of grace that free us from striving for perfection and success. In Christ Jesus, we have the freedom to take risks and to discern God's presence that is alive and active in our world. So are you ready to explore and experiment? Have any ideas how to hear, see, learn, and join in what God is up to in your community?

We are inviting applications for grants to fund neighbourhood and community experiments and learning opportunities that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a) explore what God is doing in your neighbourhood
- b) seek to develop relationships with others in your community
- c) encourage participation in God's mission in the local community
- d) encourage action and reflection learning

Through these experiments, we will continue to learn from and with each other as we share our stories, experiences, and our learning with the rest of our synod and the wider church. Remember, experiments need not be large-scale or require the commitment of large dollar amounts. Normatively successful applications will be in the range of \$100 - \$1,000. Good experiments are simply those that are inspired by imagination and a curiosity about what God is up to in our midst.

Grants are funded through the CECF, the Church Extension and Capital Fund, and are given on a one-time basis and are not intended to subsidize ongoing funding needs of regular church programming. Grant recipients will be asked to give an accounting of how the grant money is spent, and to return any unused funds.

Grant recipients will also be invited to submit the "faith story" of their missional experiments, which will be shared with the synod and the communities. On the following page is a reflection summarizing some of the learnings from previous applicants about their missional living.

The Missions Committee now has 3 yearly intakes to accept applications in order to be there and support congregations seeking to experiment with missional living. The upcoming deadlines for completed submissions are: **February 15, 2021; June 15, 2021; and October 15, 2021**. Application forms are to be submitted through the synod office. As part of the granting process, applicants will be invited to meet with the Missions Committee in a scheduled ZOOM teleconference. Details of how that meeting will be sent to applicants.

If you have any other questions or would like to discuss your experiment prior to making an application, please feel free to contact our synod's Mission Consultant, Rev. Eric Krushel, at erickrushel@gmail.com or 604-220-5450 or Assistant to the Bishop for Missional Renewal, Rev. Kathy Martin at kmartinbcsynod@gmail.com.