

The Mission and Service Fund – What Can I Do?

This is the time for all of us to ask - what can I do to rise up the essential work done by the Mission and Service Fund to those around me. What can we as individuals and pastoral charges do to make sure that the work carried out by our hardworking, loyal and devoted partners continues? That our overseas personnel have the support they require to be effective in the countries to which they so willingly serve. That our chaplains will still be available to provide comfort, guidance, support and assistance where ever their chaplaincies are. I am reminded of the one of our offering hymns, "Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere and some there are who can not serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake."

What can we do to change the approximately \$30 million given each year to the Mission and Service Fund to \$30 million PLUS. Since 1988 gifts to the Mission and Service Fund have remained steady at \$30 million. Since 1988 prices for items such as housing, groceries, and gas have gone up substantially. Recently the thing that comes up in conversations more often than anything else is the cost of gas which affects so many things that we rely on.

What costs \$100 in 1988 now costs \$190.11 in 2011

The 30 million dollars of 1988 is now only worth \$15,779,925.84

The gifts to the Mission and Service Fund have remained at a constant \$30 million for way too many years and in the meantime cost of providing programs, resources, services and ministry have increased.

This means that it is harder and harder to support the important ministries in Montreal and Ottawa Conference, Canada and the world as the Mission and Service Fund is one of the primary tools for the funding of the church's work.

All these quotes remind us that we give to the Mission and Service Fund because that is what we are able to do:

"My piece of bread only belongs to me when I know that everyone else has a share, and that no one starves while I eat." – Leo Tolstoy

"Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." – Saint Augustine

"Give something however small to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." Author unknown

Our partners all have hopes and dreams of the additional much needed services that they would like to provide for their clients. Your extra givings to the Mission and Service Fund will help to see some of those dreams become a reality. On the back of this sheet are some ideas as to how you can promote the Mission and Service Fund.

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Promoting Mission and Service

Mission and Service is too essential to the life of our church to only be spoken about a couple of times a year. Keep it in the minds of your congregation on an ongoing basis.

Mission and Service funds everything we do in The United Church of Canada.

- ✿ If you do not already have a Mission and Service Enthusiast. Find one! A person who is passionate about helping others by bringing Mission and Service to life. Someone who can see a connection between God's generosity to us and our thankful response to God that we express through giving. Have that person contact me and I will get them started and support them along the way.
- ✿ Start receiving the Mission and Service newsletters that I produce 5 times a year. The information contained in the newsletters will help with your promotion of Mission and Service.
- ✿ Designate bulletin board space to Mission and Service. A bulletin board that is seen by everyone on a Sunday morning and during the week. M&S poster with the Mission and Service logo is available from UCRD. item #300 000 074 If possible have a table on which you can place copies of "Mandate" Mission and Service special edition 2011 and extra copies of Minute for Mission 2011 CH10612; M&S brochure – English CH 10293 and M&S Brochure – French CH10364; M&S postcard – "Shaping the World in God's Vision CH10592 for members to take home with them. They are free!
- ✿ Make sure your offering envelopes have a line for Mission and Service or use the Mission and Service offering envelopes you can order from UCRD. Item #300 000 069 They are free!
- ✿ Use the "Minute for Mission" booklet various ways: Read it during the worship service once a month or every Sunday: Print it and put it as an insert in the bulletin: Turn it into a children's story during the worship service: Use the M&S snippets in your newsletters, on the bulletin board or bulletins: If you use a screen for the worship service use the DVD that is also available from UCRD for free.
- ✿ Get the children involved. Use the two children's books available from UCR_ in your Sunday School programs. M&S Kids Book Vol I #300 001 037 \$2.00 and Hand in Hand (Kids Book Vol II) #CH10375 \$2.00. I also created a Mission and Service Activity Sharing Book for children that I would be glad to send you.
- ✿ Involve the young people. Teach them about all the work of the Mission and Service especially those partners that help young people. Encourage them to do **FUN**draising for Mission and Service. If you need some ideas please contact me.
- ✿ Purchase the M&S Logo Sticker sheets \$1.00 a sheet of 27 different sized stickers from UCRD #300 000 027. Make bookmarks out of them for people to use during the worship service or fridge magnets. The use of the stickers is only limited to your imagination.
- ✿ Mission and Service Sunday in Montreal and Ottawa Conference is the last Sunday in September. Worship service is sent out to M&S Enthusiasts and posted on the Montreal and Ottawa Conference Web site.
- ✿ "Let Us Count Our Blessings Sunday" takes place during Lent. Information is sent out to M&S Enthusiasts and posted on the Montreal and Ottawa Conference Web site.
- ✿ Include a prayer, dedication of the offering or benediction etc., during any worship service. I have included some in the M&S Summer Newsletter.

Prayer

God of Mission and Service: Jesus showed us Mission by crossing every border he faced. He crossed the line in ministry to women and children, to the diseased and dying, to prostitutes and down-and-outers, and to those on the Emmaus road. Jesus showed us Service by offering himself. He offered himself by washing the disciples' feet, by teaching and healing, by breaking bread and passing the cup, and by the cross.

Strengthen us to share this same Mission and Service through our faith and our fund. Amen

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