

**Dear Alberni Valley United Church and Courageous Community Center,**

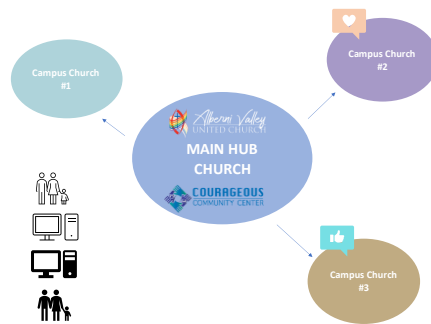
Thank you for the wonderful gift to journey with you in ministry. Thank you for the gift of the “Ministers Purse” and all the beautiful cards and notes. I have cards and letters from my last two Pastoral Charges, which are in my bentwood box. The box now holds your cards and messages. A couple of times a year, I pause and reread the words shared with me. I do this to remember every person who has blessed my life in the ministry contexts where I have served as the Minister to the ministers. You are the most unique, caring, and courageous Churches. Thank you for your commitment to being the church outside its four walls. As I prepare to leave, something beautiful has emerged, which I’d like to share with you as my parting words.

Dewayne Parfitt, Sarah Williams, Coreen Humphries and I, along with the AVUC Council and the CCC visioning team, have been working with a vision that Dewayne has hosted for many years. The idea of AVUC being a hub church with several satellite or campus churches. We have developed a one-year pilot project and strategic plan to put the vision into reality. We presented the project to an AVUC Information update on April 26. Following the presentation were responses of excitement, curiosity, and hope. There was a lot of information presented, and I have prepared to brief project overview for you as a follow-up and for those who could not attend the session. Dewayne offers to meet with you for further discussion if that would be helpful.

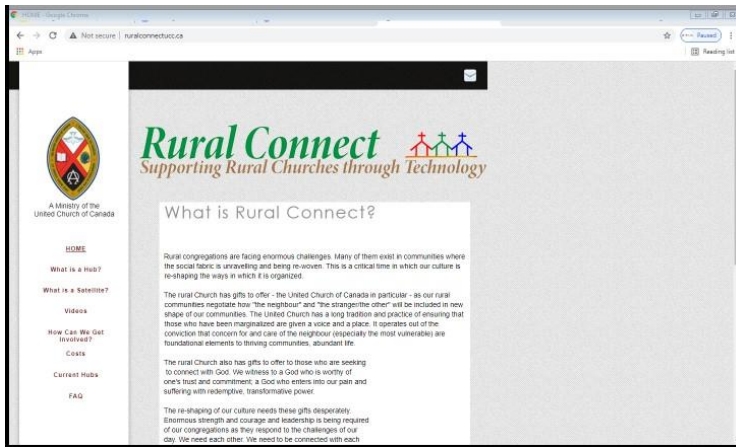
**Project name:** Collaborative Partnership Ministry Church Hub

**Start date of a Ministry Personnel appointment:** Tentative start date Sept. 1, 2021-August 31, 2022

**Brief description of Proposal:** Collaborative Partnership Ministry Church Hub (CPM) is a pilot experiment between Alberni Valley United Church and 2-3 Communities of Faith (also called satellites or campuses), Rural Connect, and Pacific Mountain Region to explore what’s possible when Communities of Faith(particularly small congregations) share resources including, but not limited to, Ministry Personnel and collaborative, multi-site Sunday Worship, based on the principles of equity and abundance. Alberni Valley United Church and Courageous Community Center are two unique expression of church. AVUC and CCC are in a partnership ministry sharing a Minister, an office manager, and many other gifts, skills and resources in a spirit of reciprocity. This means that you are in a unique position to reach out to other small congregations and help them, support them, and offer what you have learned through our six-year journey of livestreaming and our firm commitment to reconciliation. The CCC Virtual Neighbourhood has a variety of programs and opportunities for connection which we are ready to offer to other small congregations. The pilot will, all being well, receive funding from the ProVision Fund and the Leadership Church Plant Project. If those grants are not approved, we have a plan b.



Rural Connect is a key partner with a mission to support multi-site worship.  
More info: [www.ruralconnectucc.ca](http://www.ruralconnectucc.ca)



- Rural Connect has been established to support rural congregations through the use of technology.
- Using the model of a hub church partnering with satellite churches, a cluster of congregations are joined together for a fully interactive, live worship service with participation from all of the partner churches.
- All the technology is controlled by the hub/host church, and the satellite/partner churches receive a box with all the equipment fully configured and ready to go– they don't even need internet.

**Mission:**

- To support and partner with congregations without sufficient resources to call a full-time Ministry Personnel by developing a Church Hub.
- To support the UCC reshape the church in its commitments toward anti-racism, inclusion, equity and decolonizing practices by establishing an equity-centered capacity building learning lab.
- To support Hybrid worship in a post-pandemic world.
- To pilot a model of partnership ministry that will benefit the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada



**Project Beneficiaries:**

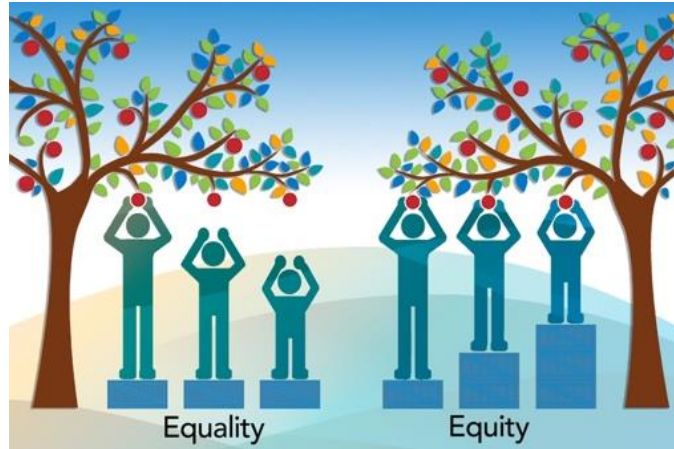
- Communities of Faith, smaller congregations, who may have limited resources, who may be need of leadership, for example, Ucluelet, Bamfield, Ahousaht, Taloquiaht.
- Communities of Faith committing to innovative ways to be the church. Together we have and are enough and, similar to the biblical story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, together we experience abundance ( not a scarcity).
- AVUC & CCC in their commitment to reconciliation.
- Communities of Faith experiencing connection instead of isolation and cost sharing instead of financial depletion.
- Pacific Mountain Region will benefit from the Pilot's learnings.

**Project Objectives:**

**Reach beyond our four walls and to reach out beyond silos.** We firmly believe now, more than ever it is important to ‘reach beyond our four walls’ to those who are unable to or unwilling to join us physically. There are thousands of people with a connection to church who are looking for ways to reconnect.

**Communities of faith intentionally partnering and sharing connections and resources.** Our feeling is that with many congregations financially struggling along with declining members and adherents we must do our best to continue building our congregation through these initiatives and to reach out to and partner with other congregations in sharing our connections and resources.

**To develop an equity-centered way of being.** Equity has the possibility to deconstruct the system of colonial power.



**Equity and equality are not the same thing.** Equality means giving everyone the same thing, whereas equity means giving people what they need to **be** their best **selves**. For example, in the picture above, three people of different heights are trying to reach the fruit on the tree.

If we treat these people equally, we will give everyone the same box to stand on, so only the tallest person could reach the fruit. If we treat them equitably, we will give them as many boxes as they need to reach the fruit.

EQUITY, then, is about each of us getting what we need to survive and thrive—access to opportunity, networks, resources, and supports. Think of it as each of us reaching our full potential. Equity what Jesus meant when he said in John 10:10. “I have come so that you will have life, the fullness of life.” And the words of St. Irenaeus, the great second-century theologian, “the glory of God is every human being fully alive!” Equity, mutuality, and inclusion are Jesus’ love in action.

Equity invites the Church Hub project to ask this quintessential question: **“What does each campus need?”**



**Project Goals:**

1. To establish a Collaborative Partnership Ministry with 2-3 other Communities of Faith wherein AVUC as the Primary Hub

2. To develop decolonizing practices through forming partnerships founded in the principles of equity, collaboration and participatory leadership.
3. To reach out to smaller communities, for example, Ucluelet, Bamfield, Ahousaht, Taloquiaht and other CoF's in our time zone.( e.g. Kootenays)
4. To expand the Courageous Community Center(CCC)Virtual Neighbourhood
5. To continue the journey towards reconciliation with First Nations People and LGBTQ2A+



**Outcomes:**

1. Sunday Morning Worship leadership continuity
2. Communities in partnership rather than silos
3. Shared Youth and Social Justice Ministries.
4. This proposal will also expand the reach of the CCC virtual community offerings (put in place during 2020 through our church plant, the CCC and social enterprise 'Craft Night in Port'). Currently the CCC offers a multitude of online classes such as: gentle yoga, chair yoga, reiki, watercolour, paint nights, mindful self-compassion, meditation etc. These offerings will be made available to our campus churches who otherwise may not have had access to these resources
5. Each campus may have an offering to share in the Virtual Neighbourhood. This will expand the pool of future contributors and participants in the online community we are building. For example, one of our campus churches could have a potential teacher/leader that is able to contribute and lead an online class for CCC from their distance location that otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to do so because of a lack of infrastructure, people etc.
6. Virtual classes tailored to what is wanted, bringing hope and opportunity to those who may have lacked adequate structure and resources. Allows for expansion and growth, building community
7. Built upon equity; Each campus church will have access to resources and people otherwise unavailable or inaccessible to them on their own. Each campus will learn and be equipped to speak impactfully to the need for an Equity-centered values.
8. An equity-centered capacity building learning lab will be providing important learning which is needed at this time in our society
9. Pacific Mountain Region will have a model of partnership ministry which may benefit Communities of Faith across the region.





## Provision Fund Application Budget

### Detailed Ministry Budget:

Technological support for CPM

Hub equipment, training, & set up	30,000.00
Misc. Equipment	5000.00

### Ministry Personnel

Staffing: 10 hours (digital, social media, technology support)  
(See attached Digital and Social Media Specialist position description) 10,000.00

### Campus/satellite support

Satellite Connection cost subsidy for each Campuses during the first year	5000.00
Travel Expenses to support Campuses	3000.00

Equity Centered Capacity Building (through a decolonizing lens) Education and Mentorship  
at the Church Hub and Campuses (for example contract with Chris Corrigan, Kelly Foxcroft  
Poirier, Ta7aliya MichelleNahane)

20,000.00

Total Budget: \$73 000

## Financial sustainability.



Initially it is expected this grant will assist AVUC & CCC in funding the CPM Church Hub concept and up to 3 satellite congregations. Once in operation, and after a period of experimentation, we expect these satellite congregations will contribute financially to AVUC & CCC to cover some of the costs of Ministry and other personnel, cellular service and other costs borne by AVUC & CCC. These contributions would need to be negotiated with the satellite congregations based on their needs and affordability.

## Faith Connection – Scriptural references supporting project



There are many instances shown throughout scripture that point out that we are to go out and spread the word to as many others as possible, using the means available to us.

Establishing a Collaborative Partnership Ministry will create opportunities to reach out and share this message while empowering other congregations with our support.

*Mark 16: 15* says: When Jesus appeared to his disciples, he said to them, “Go throughout the whole world and proclaim the gospel to all mankind.”

*2 Corinthians 5: 18 – 20a* proclaims, “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.”

*Philemon 1:6* tells us, “And I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.”

Well folks, thank you for reading through the project overview. It is a lot of information to take in and we’d appreciate your thoughts, reactions, clarifying questions, hopes and fears. Please send those reactions to [avunitedchurch@shaw.ca](mailto:avunitedchurch@shaw.ca)

I look forward to hearing about how the project dream unfolds.

Thank you again to all who have contributed to writing the Provision Fund Grant Application, Dewayne, Sarah, & Coreen.

With much love and prayer,

God of all love, breathe on us your spirit of compassion. Open us to receive you, communicating through us. Open us to find you in the face of each person. Open our hearts and minds to experience your presence. Guide and direct us with your wisdom.

Help us discern how to live into creating an equitable and just world, embracing all creation.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Minnie

Reverend Minnie Hornidge