



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

CAST & LEARN GRANTS

2023-25

The Diocesan *Cast the Net* strategic visioning process is asking clergy and lay leaders throughout the diocese of to imagine how we might “cast our nets to the other side”; how we can be innovative in finding new ways of being church. The Cast & Learn grant program is a new funding stream that is designed to encourage parishes to take up this opportunity.

Cast & Learn Grant program will provide \$300,000 of funding over the next 2 years to be allocated as one-time grants of between \$10,000 and \$40,000 to parishes wanting to innovate, learn, and grow in this time of transformation. It will fill two presenting needs for funding:

1. Projects that are larger than Reach Grants but don't meet the criteria for Stretch Grants.
2. Projects that are smaller and shorter duration than a ‘congregational growth’ or ‘new or innovative forms of ministry’ initiative.

The opportunity: A time of experimentation and learning

The church is in a profoundly transitional time. One of the realities in planning is that we aren't able to see very far into the future with any degree of confidence. Similarly, actions and outcomes have become less predictable and our traditional programs are no longer reliably leading to anticipated results. It is a very new environment for ministry development and the *Cast the Net* visioning processes are encouraging us to embrace this as a time for new visions, experimentation and learning.

Cast & Learn Grants fund programs that are clearly focused, can be implemented and tested within 1 year, and need funding for program and personnel. Examples of these ministries include starting a new alternative worship service; expanding a children or youth program; learning how to be church with people who worship online.

Eligibility for Cast & Learn Grants

1. The new ministry project must be designed to reach out to people not currently connecting with the church (unchurched, dechurched, drifted away).
2. The new ministry project must also be designed to increase the engagement of lay people in the parish through leadership and/or participation.
3. The parish must be able to identify what it wants to learn through the Cast & Learn initiative.