

## Meet the MNO Synod Grants Committee

The **MNO Synod Grants Committee** was created in 2021, as a consolidation of the Canadian Mission, ACTS of the MNO, Compassionate Justice, and Margie Kvern Memorial Scholarship committees. This new committee is working to streamline the application process and create a central place for funding information and opportunities. Responsibility for overseeing all funding opportunities in the Synod now rests with this committee, and they are working to support the church by using the resource we have more effectively.

The Grants Committee is not just a group who make decisions on applications but is a resource for the entire Synod. If there is a project or idea you want to develop, the Grants Committee will work with you to facilitate your ideas! If there is an idea you want to develop, or you have an interest in applying for any of the MNO Synod grants please reach out to committee chair Michael Kvern, or any of the committee members!

We hope that this new committee will be able to fund more projects in more places, strengthening our church and our mission.



**Candace Kostna** is a member at Abundant Life Lutheran in East St. Paul, MB. Candace has served in various Christian Education roles as a lay leader. While in a Family Ministry Coordinator term position, she began to broaden her understanding and knowledge of family faith formation. She is developing has been developing a website to share faith formation insights and resources. Candace looks forward serving on the Grants Committee to support and inspire our faith communities to implement new ideas in their ministries.



**Heikki Luoma:** Originally from Finland, Heikki is a life-long member of Hilldale Lutheran Church and its predecessor in Thunder Bay, ON. He has served a variety of roles on church council and is eager to contribute to the Grants Committee. In his own words, “This committee’s role is to match those looking to implement new ideas with the funds and resources to help them to achieve that work”.



**Jennifer Polet:** A member of St. Mark’s Lutheran in Winnipeg, Jennifer currently works at the church as an Administrative Assistant. She is the chair of the Youth Committee and looks forward to bringing some of her non-profit committee experience from Winnipeg Humane Society and Ronald McDonald House Charities to this MNO Synod Grant committee.



**Michael Kvern:** A member of St. Mark's Lutheran in Winnipeg and chair of the Grants Committee, Michael's involvement in the church started early with Sunday school and youth group. From there he became involved in St. Mark's Youth Committee and was elected to a term on Synod Council (2019 – 2021). Michael is excited to lead a new committee that will reorganize the way resources are dispersed in the Synod, better equipping MNO for ministry in a changing world. Currently, Michael is pursuing a master's degree in planning at the University of Guelph, where he researches how land-use planning and energy systems interact.



**Pastor Nancy Ringham:** A full communion partner of the MNO Grants Committee, Pr. Nancy is a retired Anglican priest who served at Hilldale Lutheran, Thunder Bay, for five years between 2014-2019. In retirement, Pr. Nancy continues to be passionate about being actively engaged in the Mission of God's church as a member of this committee, and living out the mission in various projects with youth from Anglican and Lutheran churches in Thunder Bay.

The Grants Committee is charged with evaluating and discharging grants on behalf of the MNO Synod Council.

The role of the committee is to receive, acknowledge and process all grant applications for the MNO Synod. Once funding has been approved for one of five specific grants, the committee works with the Synod office to give approval, make recommendations, communicate with recipients and disperse funds.

Funding criteria is specific to each grant. By focussing the application process for all five grants through one committee, it is our belief that we will gain deeper familiarity with the criteria and assess each application and direct it to the appropriate application, thereby streamlining the process for the applicants. It is part of our mandate to work alongside the recipients who received grant funding to ensure the impact statements are shared with the wider church, and our statistical reporting is complete to the Synod office. When necessary, revisions to the grant application process will be made according to feedback as the process gets rolling. Through communications in weekly e-newsletters and other advertising through the Synod office staff, we hope for an increased awareness about grant application possibilities. The impact of current applications will be an encouragement to all, to consider how the Spirit is working in them to awaken dreams and visions in their community and neighbourhoods!

**Find out more** about the MNO Synod Grants: [www.mnosynod.org/grants](http://www.mnosynod.org/grants)

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