# Learning about The United Church of Canada Theological Schools

## The United Church Studies Program at Dio

### School

United Church Studies/Études de l'Église Unie  
Montreal Diocesan Theological College/Le Séminaire diocésain de Montréal  
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### Recruiter or Admissions contact person

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### Open houses or events people can attend in the coming year

Guests and visitors are encouraged to visit anytime during the week—just let us know when you would like to come. You can also join college staff, students, and friends for worship and lunch on Wednesdays during the semester at 11:40 a.m., or for our Community Evening on the third Tuesday of the month.

### What programs do you offer?

* Bachelor of Theology
* Master of Divinity
* One-year Diploma in Ministry (for students with a prior theological degree from an accredited institution) which meets credentials for ordination in the United Church
* Certificate in Bilingual Ministry for students who attain established levels in English and French. This certificate can be completed as part of the Master of Divinity or Diploma in Ministry program but is also available for general registration for those already working in ministry and spiritual care settings.
* *Exploration de la foi et du leadership, un programme à plusieurs modules d’intérêt général et possibilité de formation pour célébrants et célébrantes laïques*
* Open enrolment courses and continuing education, offered in French and in English. Recent course topics include: The Book of Acts, Christian discipleship in a time of climate crisis, and a pastoral care workshop / *Cours d’intérêt général, ouvert à un large public, et cours de formation continue, offerts en français et anglais. Voici quelques cours que nous avons offert récemment: Retraite sur la spiritualité: Comment vivre la foi, Le Nouveau Testament, et Comment parler de la foi avec les enfants.*

### Can people study by distance?

The Diploma in Ministry and the final year of the Master of Divinity program offer options for distance education. Students who do their field placement in their home community come to campus in Montreal only three times per semester. *Le programme Exploration de la foi et du leadership* *et les cours pour intérêt général en français sont offerts en ligne.*

### What financial support does your school offer students?

We offer generous bursaries and scholarships for qualified applicants, up to the full cost of tuition over three years. *Du soutien financier est également disponible pour le programme Exploration de la foi et du leadership.*

### Can people take Centre for Christian Studies or Designated Lay Ministry externals with you?

We welcome and strongly encourage CCS or DLM students to take our online courses.

### What is your approach to equipping people preparing for ministry leadership?

Most of our program is taught ecumenically. We offer a “2+1” M.Div. program, consisting of two-years of academic study, and a third In Ministry Year (IMY). Most courses during the first two years of study are taken at the McGill School of Religious Studies. The IMY is an intensive year of ministry formation that combines field placements with classes in ministry practice and leadership. This structure allows us to balance strong academic performance with an action-reflection model of learning.

Our vision for educating leaders in the United Church stresses innovation, resilience, and adaptability, and an openness to new forms of being church. We place a high value on mission and justice in ministry. We are especially attentive to the distinctive context of Quebec and support our students in advancing their competency in bilingual ministry.

Our approach includes teaching and learning intercultural skills, embracing what it means to be an Affirming Ministry, and working ecumenically whenever possible. Our students come from all over the globe, originating from places as diverse as Africa, the Caribbean, and China. They are anglophone, francophone, allophone. They support and participate in all aspects of the LBTQ2S+ community. Together we are learning to cultivate a community that is welcoming and respectful of one another across diverse contexts, cultures, theological perspectives, and life experiences.

### Do you have an affiliation with an undergraduate school?

We are affiliated with McGill University’s School of Religious Studies. Undergraduate students can apply for a Bachelor of Theology through Montreal Dio and take courses at McGill. The program combines courses from the McGill Faculty of Arts with courses in theology, Christian and Hebrew Scriptures, as well as interfaith and religious studies.

### What makes your school unique?

Our 2+1 program makes it possible for students with a prior degree in theology from an accredited institution to earn a Diploma in Ministry and qualify for a United Church of Canada Testamur. If you have already studied theology and are now thinking about ordination, consider doing the In Ministry Year with UCS at Montreal Dio, where you will:

* Learn practical skills in congregational leadership, education, preaching, and intercultural ministry (on site, or learning by distance and coming to Montreal three times each semester)
* Be supervised in a local field placement (in your home setting if desired)
* Receive formation for ministry in The United Church of Canada in the areas of worship, theology and history, and polity.

It is our distinctive mission to prepare students for lay and ordained ministry in the pluralistic, secular, and primarily francophone context of Quebec, while also drawing students from Ottawa, eastern Ontario, and beyond. This is the place for you if you want to study for ministry in The United Church of Canada in a diverse and dynamic context, if you speak French or want to learn to minister in French, if you care about intercultural ministry, if you love diversity, and if you value community.

### Anything else people should know?

Our primary goal is to advance our core mission: to educate leaders “for service and ministry in the church and world of tomorrow.” We believe that as our college goes through transformational change, we are also equipping our students to become agents of transformational change. As a newly ecumenical college, at Montreal Dio we are creating new directions for the future and welcoming new students to join us in this adventure.

The United Church Studies Program at Montreal Dio is part of the Montreal School of Theology, a consortium that is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Our In Ministry Year (IMY) is taught conjointly by Montreal Dio, and the Presbyterian College.