



# Volunteers Needed

## **Candidacy Boards (12–15 members per board, various vacancies as noted)**

*Candidacy Boards provide an essential role in assisting people to discern their call into ministry.*

### **Mandate**

There are seven Candidacy Boards in the United Church, each relating to a number of regional councils or to the Indigenous church. The responsibilities of the Candidacy Boards include naming candidates, supporting and assessing candidates throughout their Candidacy Pathway, and determining readiness for accreditation for commissioning to the diaconal ministry of education, service, and pastoral care; ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care; or recognizing designated lay ministry. Candidacy Boards serve as commissions of the Board of Vocation.

All boards and committees of the General Council play a role in living into the [Call and Vision](#) of the United Church in fulfilling their responsibilities. Boards and committees work in partnership with the General Council Office as it implements the strategic objectives for 2022–2025.

### **Membership**

Each Candidacy Board is made up of 12–15 members who reflect the broad diversity of the United Church, with particular attention to its equity commitments and the presence of both lay people and ministry personnel from across the geography of the church.

Each Candidacy Board will include someone from each stream of ministry. Ministry personnel need to be on the registry of accredited ministry personnel. To honour the separation of responsibilities assigned to regional councils and those assigned to the Office of Vocation, Candidacy Board members will not be serving on a body of the regional council with decision-making responsibilities that relate to or affect pastoral relations or pastoral relationships. Members will reside in the geographical areas being served by the Candidacy Board.

Ideally, each board will include members who have fluency in different languages.

The following Candidacy Boards are seeking additional members:

#### Prairie Candidacy Board (3 vacancies)

*Northern Spirit Regional Council, Living Skies Regional Council, Prairie to Pine Regional Council*

#### North and Central Ontario Candidacy Board (4 vacancies – lay people)

*Canadian Shield Regional Council, Shining Waters Regional Council*

Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board (3 vacancies)

*East Central Ontario Regional Council, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, Conseil Régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. This Candidacy Board also serves all francophone candidates.*

Atlantic Candidacy Board (4 vacancies)

*Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, Regional Council 15, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council*

Indigenous Candidacy Board (up to 7 vacancies)

*(Members of this Candidacy Board are appointed by the National Indigenous Council to serve the candidacy needs of the Indigenous Church.)*

**Member Skills and Experience**

Candidacy Board members need to understand that the Candidacy Pathway is different for each applicant and candidate; this takes extra time and attention. Members need knowledge of the realities of the practice of ministry and of intercultural sensitivity. Proficiency in French or other languages in addition to English is an asset.

Members of Candidacy Boards need to have skills in listening, discernment, having difficult conversations, and providing clear and concrete feedback. Members must be able to compassionately say “no,” including the possibility of terminating someone’s candidacy. Members will be comfortable viewing and working with documents online.

Candidacy Board members will be members of the United Church active in a community of faith or ministry who are

- committed to the practice of ministry within The United Church of Canada
- predisposed to collaboration and teamwork
- able to listen and discern
- committed to right relations, the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their relevance to ministry personnel, the vision of becoming an intercultural church, and the journey to becoming an anti-racist denomination
- comfortable with and able to participate in electronic meetings
- able to commit the time required for this responsibility

**Equity Commitment**

The United Church is committed to working toward the full participation of people with disabilities; youth and young adults; those who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, racialized, or francophone; people active in French ministries; those who speak a primary language other than English or French; and people from marginalized communities not named here. This is a part of the United Church’s commitments to equity and self-determination, as well as eliminating barriers and working toward the full participation of all people.

It is a priority of the Board of Vocation to appoint people with these named identities and lived experiences to the work of all of its committees and boards.

### **Expectations and Term**

Candidacy Boards meet regularly by videoconference call and may meet in person as necessary. Some Candidacy Boards meet monthly; some meet every other month; some meet three to four times a year for a few days at a time. It is expected that members will make this commitment a priority and attend every meeting notwithstanding unavoidable emergencies or similar situations.

Candidacy Board members will be expected to read and be familiar with the following foundational documents for the United Church:

- United Church's [Statements of Faith](#)
- [Learning Outcomes for Ministry Leadership](#)
- [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Caretakers' Calls to the Church](#)
- [Ethical Standards and Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel](#)
- [Vision for Becoming an Intercultural Church](#)
- [Working Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Church](#)

Candidacy Board members will also be expected to attend the [Personal and Professional Boundaries for Church Leaders](#) workshop and the [Racial Justice Training](#) workshop (parts 1 and 2), if they have not already. There will be a national orientation to the work of the Candidacy Boards (projected to be in person in fall 2022) and online gatherings for learning together up to three times a year.

Candidacy Boards are appointed as commissions of the Board of Vocation. The term of these appointments is until the rise of the 45th General Council in July 2025, with the possibility of reappointment for a second three-year term. Appointments to the Indigenous Candidacy Board are until the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in 2023, with the possibility of reappointment.

### **About the Office of Vocation**

The Office of Vocation is the body in the United Church that maintains the registry of accredited ministry personnel through setting standards for accreditation and assessing those who wish to serve as ministry personnel. It supports the processes for the discernment and training of ministry personnel, the determination of their fitness/readiness for accreditation, the fulfillment of continuing education standards, and the formal processes for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.

To carry out its responsibilities, the Office consists of the Board of Vocation and several committees and commissions. [Learn more](#) about the Office of Vocation.

Visit our [Opportunities page](#) for information on this and other opportunities.

Use our [online nominations form](#) to nominate someone or express your own interest.

**Deadline: Thursday, October 20**