



# Volunteers Needed

## **Response Committee (2 members)**

*This committee would like to add two new members from Eastern or Atlantic Canada who are familiar with dispute resolution and the various complaint processes of the church.*

### **Mandate**

The Response Committee determines the best process to follow with respect to concerns raised about ministry personnel. It ensures that there are trained and supported reviewers, investigators, consultants, conflict resolution facilitators, and people with other expertise as required. The reports arising from any investigations or reviews ordered by the Response Committee are received by the Remedial Committee for review and decision.

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**

The Response Committee consists of eight members who reflect the broad diversity of The United Church of Canada, with particular attention to its equity commitments and the presence of both lay people and ministry personnel from across the geography of the church.

To honour the separation of responsibilities assigned to regional councils and those assigned to the Office of Vocation, members of Office of Vocation committees and boards 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.

### **Member Skills and Experience**

We are seeking people who are able to process information, discern a way forward, and take legal advice where appropriate. Members should be familiar with dispute resolution and the various complaint processes of the church.

Helpful experience includes having served on a presbytery pastoral relations committee or on a Conference sexual misconduct prevention and response committee. An understanding of accessibility assessment is helpful.

At this time, the committee is in particular need of members from Eastern Ontario, Quebec, or Atlantic Canada. Men or people who identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming would assist in broadening the gender diversity of this committee. Retired ministry personnel also bring a needed and valued perspective to these processes.

Committee 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**

The committee meets at least monthly by videoconference call and may meet in person as necessary. The committee sometimes deals with emergent matters between regularly scheduled meetings. The term of this appointment is until the rise of the 45th General Council in July 2025, with the possibility of reappointment for a second three-year term.

### **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**