



Volunteers Needed

Response Committee (2 vacancies)

This committee seeks people from the prairie provinces, Southwestern Ontario, Eastern Ontario or Quebec who are familiar with dispute resolution and the various complaint processes of the church. This call will remain open, subject to any other updates, until the vacancies are filled.

Mandate

The Response Committee determines the best process to follow for 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 work of this committee is described in Appendix A of [Office of Vocation: Structure and Responsibilities](#)

Membership

The Response Committee consists of up to 10 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 pastoral relations or sexual misconduct prevention and response committees. An understanding of accessibility assessment is helpful. People who are fluent in French or other languages in addition to English would be an asset to this committee.

At this time, the committee is in particular need of members from the prairie provinces, Southwestern Ontario, Eastern Ontario, or Quebec. People who identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming and men 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

Expectations and Term

The committee meets at least monthly by video-conference call and in person as necessary. Scheduling is set according to the availability of members. At present the committee meets on Thursday afternoons (ET). 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 (July 2025), with the possibility of reappointment for a second three-year term.

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.

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: This call will remain open until the vacancies are filled.