



Volunteers Needed

Board of Vocation (15 members)

The Board of Vocation is the governing body of the Office of Vocation. It requires both lay members and ministry personnel from diverse backgrounds who have skills for this governance role and a commitment to vital ministry leadership.

Mandate

The Board of Vocation is the elected body that oversees the Office of Vocation, honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry (*The Manual 2024*). It is responsible for ensuring well-trained, accredited ministry personnel who are able to faithfully lead the church and its people as they serve the present age. The Board of Vocation has the following authority and responsibilities:

- Establishing
 - standards for training and accreditation of ministry personnel according to denominational policies
 - expectations and standards for continuing education, formation, and professional development
 - implementing standards for admitting ministers from other denominations and readmitting ministers
- Determining a person's fitness and readiness for accreditation to ministry
- Disciplining ministry personnel, including establishing formal hearings and conducting complaints processes
- Administering the Discontinued Service List (Disciplinary and Voluntary)
- Supporting and responding to requests for assistance from regional councils
- Maintaining a registry of accredited ministers, and lists of trained conflict resolution facilitators, recognized Interim Ministers, and those trained for the Ministry of Supervision

To fulfill these responsibilities and advise on its work, the Board of Vocation may appoint committees, task groups, or other bodies. The board may also appoint commissions to take on a specific responsibility or to make decisions on its behalf.

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 objectives of the strategic plan.

Membership

The Board of Vocation consists of 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. One of these members is appointed by the National Indigenous Council, the others by the General Council. To assist the board in fulfilling the Calls to the Church by the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle, at least two of the members will identify as Indigenous or be leaders in the Indigenous Church.

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

To ensure continuity, approximately half of the Board positions will be filled through the reappointment of currently serving members.

Member Skills and Experience

We are seeking church leaders who have a passion for the vocation of ministry and skills beneficial to the Board of Vocation's responsibilities.

Members will have knowledge and expertise in one or more of the following areas: ministry leadership within Indigenous, rural, urban, or francophone contexts; familiarity with standards of practice and ethical standards; as well as experience in governance.

Members of the Board of Vocation will be

- active in a community of faith or ministry
- 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

United Church Relationship: Full member

Equity Commitment

The United Church is committed to working toward the full participation of people with disabilities; youth and young adults; people who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, racialized, or francophone; people active in French ministries; people 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 peoples.

Individuals with these identities and lived experiences are encouraged to express interest.

Expectations and Term

The Board of Vocation meets at least five times a year, usually by videoconference. Multi-day in-person meetings may occur during the term. At present meetings are held on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon of the same week approximately 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Members of this committee agree to a [Behavioural Covenant](#) as a way of committing to mutual relationships, responsibilities, and accountabilities.

The term of this appointment is for three years (August 2025 - August 2028) 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.

[Learn more](#) about the Office of Vocation and its goal of faithful, well-equipped, effective ministry personnel.

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, March 27, 2025.