



Volunteers Needed

Response Committee (8-10 members)

We are seeking lay people and ministry personnel who are familiar with dispute resolution and the various complaint processes of the church.

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 cannot also serve 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 committee positions will be filled through the reappointment of currently serving members.

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; effectiveness support committees; educational supervisors; interim ministers and transition teams; alternative dispute resolution and workplace investigations; 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.

Committee members 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; those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, 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 in person once a triennium. Scheduling is set according to the availability of members. Currently the committee meets on Thursday afternoons (ET). It sometimes deals with emergent matters between regularly scheduled meetings.

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. 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, March 27, 2025.