



Volunteers Needed

Vocational Standards Committee (6 members)

This committee assists in developing and revising standards to support ministry personnel to maintain effectiveness in their leadership including learning and training standards required for accreditation to various ministries. This committee is seeking lay people or ministry personnel who have expertise in adult education and learning outcomes.

Mandate

The Vocational Standards Committee (Standards Committee) implements the policies set by the General Council by recommending standards to the Board of Vocation in the areas defined by *The Manual*, section E.2.2:

- training and accreditation of ministry personnel
- admission of ministers from other denominations
- readmission of people to the order of ministry
- continuing education, formation, and professional development of ministry personnel
- oversight and discipline of ministry personnel

These standards are to contribute to the effectiveness of ministry personnel in their leadership in communities of faith and beyond, responding to God's call.

The Standards Committee may consult with appropriate bodies, such as the National Indigenous Council, la Table des ministères en français, and the Theological Schools Circle or other working groups on topics that connect to the standards for accreditation of ministry personnel.

The Standards Committee will ensure that mandatory trainings have appropriate learning outcomes.

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.

Recent and Upcoming Work

During the last triennium, the committee was focused on developing the continuing education standard for ministry personnel. The committee is currently working on guidelines to assist ministry personnel in navigating social media.

Looking ahead, the committee anticipates assessing the learning outcomes for new training in the area of anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia and advising on the development of resources to highlight learning in areas such as mental health and right-relations.

Membership

The committee is made up of six members, including at least one member from the Board of Vocation, who reflect the 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.

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

Gifts that would be an asset to this committee include a background in adult education, developing learning outcomes, understanding of the vocation of ministry, and familiarity with professional standards.

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: Active participant or 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 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 every other month by videoconference call and may meet in person as necessary.

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 and its goal of faithful, well-equipped, and 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.