



Gathering Advisory Board

Key Points

The Gathering Advisory Board supports the creation of both the Gathering Worship website and the printed periodical, through high-level direction-setting and direct feedback on all aspects of the publications.

Vacancies: 2–3 vacancies

Key skills: Experience in creating and leading worship services or worship elements. A passion for inspiring other worship leaders. Openness to considering a variety of worship perspectives, theologies, and styles.

Meeting expectations: Two online meetings each year, currently held weekdays around noon Eastern Time, with one in-person meeting during the three-year term.

About this Appointed Member Opportunity

About *Gathering*

Gathering is both a print periodical and a worship planning website: GatheringWorship.ca. The print periodical is published four times a year. It is a gathering of gifts from the church for the church, gifts that come out of lived experience.

Gathering is the pulse of United Church of Canada worship practice and theology. It is grassroots: a variety of voices, a connection with colleagues, a reflection of the changes and evolution in worship, and an opportunity for sharing wisdom and teaching about worship practice.

The Advisory Board

The *Gathering* Advisory Board (GAB) works in support of the Editor and the Music Editor of *Gathering*. The *Gathering* Advisory Board:

- sets direction and policy as needed for *Gathering* (i.e. theology, copyright, language, ethos), naming worship trends and needs, and identifying areas for exploration
- provides feedback to the Editor, Music Editor, General Council support staff, and production on all aspects of *Gathering* (both print and website)
- offers input on format, style, and new ideas for inclusion in *Gathering*
- works within The United Church of Canada style guide, and helps to adapt it as needed
- provides support to the Editor and Music Editor as needed, through recommending contributors and writing for *Gathering*
- promotes the use of *Gathering*

- is committed to the [Call and Vision](#) of The United Church of Canada: Bold Discipleship, Deep Spirituality, and Daring Justice, and especially to invigorating leadership and enlivening vibrant and inspiring worship

The *Gathering* Advisory Board is accountable to the General Council Office through the Communications Unit and the Church in Mission Unit.

Membership

The *Gathering* Advisory Board consists of seven members, including the chair of the board, who serve alongside the following corresponding members: the Editor, Music Editor, and General Council support staff (i.e. Worship, Music, and Spirituality desk). Members are appointed by the General Secretary.

Member Skills and Experience

The following skills would be assets for volunteers on the Advisory Board:

- experience in creating and leading worship from a variety of perspectives (ordered, lay, musical, etc.)
- understanding of United Church ethos and liturgical practice, both in its “norms” and its ever-broadening diversities of theologies, cultural contexts, and liturgical styles
- passion for invigorating and inspiring worship leaders across Canada and in other parts of the world
- openness to discussing and considering a variety of worship perspectives
- ability to help expand our content contributions to *Gathering*, especially with materials from other languages, cultural perspectives, and diversity in liturgical practice

At this time, the *Gathering* Advisory Board is especially open to interest from licensed lay worship leaders, church musicians, and lay people who serve in other worship leadership roles, as well as people with worship leadership or worship creation experience in different languages or cultural traditions.

Members need to be comfortable with and able to participate in electronic meetings. Meetings are conducted in English.

United Church Relationship: Active participant or full member

Expectations and Term

- **Online meetings:** Twice each year, 2 to 2.5 hours in length, currently held weekdays around noon to accommodate cross-country time zones.
- **In-person meetings:** Once during each three-year term, usually in the Toronto area. Travel expenses are covered within policy specifications.
- **Expectations between meetings:** 2 to 4 hours of reading and preparation before meetings. Members are invited to prepare and offer worship or devotional times in meetings on a rotating basis. Members are encouraged to contribute to submitting content for the publication and website, either through their own work or by recruiting content contributors.

- **Additional appointment possibilities or expectations:** None
- **Appointment term:** Three years (June 2026 to June 2029) with the possibility of reappointment for a second three-year term.

For all Elected and Appointed Member Roles

The following expectations apply to all elected and appointed member roles for denominational committees and task groups.

Elected and appointed members will be:

- active in a community of faith or ministry
- committed to the calling of the United Church and willing to discern God's yearnings for this work
- 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, 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

Elected and appointed members agree to a [Behavioural Covenant](#) as a way of committing to mutual relationships, responsibilities, and accountabilities.

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.

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.

To the extent possible, each committee or task group will 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.

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: Tuesday, March 17, 2026