



Response Committee

Key Points

The Response Committee determines the best process to follow for concerns raised about ministry personnel, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

Vacancies: One to two vacancies

Key skills: Familiarity with dispute resolution, and the complaint and ministry support and supervision processes of the church

Meeting expectations: Once or twice each month online (Thursday afternoons)

About this Appointed Member Opportunity

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.

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, or sexual misconduct prevention and response committees; alternative dispute resolution and workplace investigations; or as educational supervisors, interim ministers, or on transition teams. 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.

For this recruitment cycle, we are particularly looking for representation from Canadian Shield, Living Skies, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, and/or Pacific Mountain regional councils.

United Church Relationship: Full member

Expectations and Term

- **Online meetings:** At least once each month. Scheduling is set according to the availability of members. The committee currently meets on Thursday afternoons (ET).
- **In-person meetings:** None for the remainder of this term (2025–2028).
- **Expectations between meetings:** Review case material and relevant policies online prior to each meeting; emergent meetings may be called as necessary, though these are rare.
- **Additional appointment possibilities or expectations:** None
- **Appointment term:** December 2026 to August 2028 (46th General Council), with the possibility of reappointment for a second three-year term.

For all Office of Vocation Elected and Appointed Roles

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.

Elected and appointed members in the Office of Vocation 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

Ministry personnel need to be on the registry of accredited ministry personnel. To honour the separation of responsibilities assigned to regional councils and those assigned to the Office of Vocation, Candidacy Board members must not be serving on a body of a regional council with decision-making responsibilities that relate to or affect pastoral relations or pastoral relationships.

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.

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.

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

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: Wednesday, October 14, 2026