

## Serving on the Board of Vocation and its committees and commissions

### Overview

The Board of Vocation is responsible for ensuring well-trained, accredited ministry personnel able to lead the church and its people in God's mission in the world. Should the 43rd General Council decide to enact the remit, the Office of Vocation would begin its work on January 1, 2019, with training provided in November 2018. We are seeking church leaders with skills in ministry formation and determining readiness for ministry leadership; who have experience with standards of practice; and who are wise, compassionate, and fair in dealing with complaints and remedial work.

### Composition

The Board of Vocation consists of 13–15 members. The nominations process of General Council will provide the General Council or its Executive a slate of 12–14 people for election to the Board of Vocation, including recommending a chairperson. The Indigenous Church will elect one person to the Board of Vocation.

In providing the slate of nominees, the Nominations Committee will

- request that each Conference recommend five people for consideration; nominations may be made to the Board of Vocation or to the candidacy boards
- take into account the need to reflect the diversity of an intercultural church and the regions
- ensure a balance of ministers—ordained, diaconal, and designated lay—and lay people who have the competencies required for the variety of responsibilities

### Responsibilities (from *Record of Proceedings of the 42nd General Council*, p. 146)

The Board 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 (continuing education)
  - and implementing standards for admitting ministers from other denominations and readmitting ministers
- Determining a person's fitness and readiness for accreditation to ministry
- Disciplining of ministry personnel including formal hearings and 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
  - a list of trained conflict resolution facilitators
  - a list of recognized Interim Ministers, and those trained for the Ministry of Supervision

### Skills and Experience

Members of the Board and its committees and commissions (candidacy boards) will be members of the United Church open to contributing to a new Office of Vocation as it lives into its responsibilities. All members of the Board will be

- passionately committed to the practice of ministry within The United Church of Canada
- able to commit the time required for this responsibility
- predisposed to collaboration and teamwork
- committed to becoming a fully intercultural church
- committed to right relations and the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and its relevance to ministry personnel
- comfortable with and able to participate in electronic meetings
- able to listen and discern

It is hoped that within the Board the following areas of knowledge and expertise will be present: experience in the education and students system; experience with decisions from reviews at presbytery or Conference; familiarity with standards of practice and ethical standards; and ministry leadership in many contexts: Indigenous, rural, urban, and francophone.

### **Candidacy Boards**

Up to seven candidacy boards will serve different geographies. One of these candidacy boards will be named by the Indigenous Church to serve the Indigenous Church. The candidacy boards are commissions of the Board of Vocation and will have the responsibilities outlined in the Candidacy Pathway including, but not limited to, naming candidates, terminating candidacy, and determining readiness for accreditation for ordination; and commissioning to the diaconal ministry and recognizing designated lay ministers.

### **Expectations and Term**

Pending enactment of the related remit, the Board of Vocation will be appointed by the Executive of the General Council in fall 2018 to serve until the Denominational Council meeting of 2021. Members may be reappointed for a second three-year term by the Denominational Council or its Executive. Nominees who are not elected to the Board of Vocation may be appointed as a chairperson or member of one of the candidacy boards or one of the other committees of the Board of Vocation. The exact committees and groups will be determined by the Board of Vocation. The Indigenous Church will select its members to a candidacy board/council of learning with responsibility to prepare and accredit leadership for the Indigenous Church.

### **Selection Process**

Each Conference is asked to nominate five people who would bring the essential skills, commitment, and vision to serve on the new Board of Vocation. The Nominations Committee will consider all of the names brought forward; however, the Board may not include someone from every Conference or regional council. In their selection process, Conferences and the General Council Nominations Committee will intentionally keep in mind the church's commitments to becoming an intercultural church; to the full participation of people with disabilities; and to our continuing journey to be a transformative, justice-seeking, and equitable church where there is full participation of all.

*Serving on the Board of Vocation, its committees and commissions is a vital and meaningful way of strengthening the mission and ministry of this United Church of ours.*