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3 **MEASURES FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MINISTERS BETWEEN**  
4 **THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**  
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6 “In 2016, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada and The United Church  
7 of Canada determined that a full communion agreement would provide an opportunity to bear  
8 witness to the importance Christian unity in North America, and strengthen the ministry of both  
9 of our denominations. “

10 “The two denominations have understood a full communion partnership as a living and growing  
11 relationship. This partnership doesn’t simply mean that we accept one another. Rather, we  
12 embrace each other fully in the witness of Christians, the ministries of the Church, and the  
13 mission of God. In this covenantal relationship, we commit to being one Church, not in merger  
14 but in God’s gift of unity, that serves the world that God so loves. The two churches will learn  
15 how to live in this covenantal relationship through rich theological conversations, enhanced  
16 witness and mission, and diverse spiritual life and worship.”

17 “In full communion, the two churches would affirm one another’s ordered ministries as  
18 belonging to the one ministry of Jesus Christ. Such ministers in one church will be recognized as  
19 ministers in the other church. Each may serve, when invited, as minister to the other. Though  
20 ministerial credentials are immediately recognized, each minister will need to go through the  
21 standard processes established by each denomination to gain official “standing” within the  
22 denomination. “(Statements from the Full Communion Agreement)

23 The following processes have been established for the orderly exchange of ministry personnel provided  
24 for in the full communion agreement in keeping with these stated expectations.  
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26 In full recognition that our two communions hold differing views in matters pertaining to sacramental  
27 theology, and that this “full communion partnership is a living, growing relationship, ministers seeking a  
28 call in the partner communion will adhere to the sacramental theology and practices of the calling  
29 body.”  
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31 It is noted that calling/appointing bodies and ministers are responsible for adhering to the required  
32 immigration laws, pension and health care for employment in Canada and the United States.  
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34 To be eligible for service under this agreement ministers must have served as an ordained or diaconal  
35 minister (United Church of Canada) in the originating denomination *for at least three years*. Ministers  
36 contemplating serving within this partnership are advised that the process will take a significant period  
37 of time to meet immigration and church requirements.  
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40 **COMING TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

41 All ordained ministers in good standing who desire to seek a call in The United Church of Canada shall  
42 submit to the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada:

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- 44 • Through the Region where standing is held, their validated Search and Call ministerial profile  
45 *(this includes confirmation of good standing, an Oxford Document Criminal Background Check*  
46 *completed within the last six months, and notation of any disciplinary action).*
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- 48 • If the minister resided in Canada at any point over the previous seven years, a Level 2 police  
49 check valid within the past six months will also be required
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- 51 • Demonstration of familiarity with the history and polity of The United Church of Canada (done in  
52 consultation with the General Council Office)
- 53
- 54 • Confirmation of completion of two web-based study programs that all United Church of Canada  
55 ministers are required to complete: ***Boundary Issues for Church Leaders*** and ***Racial Justice***  
56 ***Awareness***. Each study process is available on-line four times a year, takes approximately 3-4  
57 hours to complete and may be found at [www.united-in-learning.com](http://www.united-in-learning.com)
- 58
- 59 • A personal statement of interest in serving in The United Church of Canada and how their  
60 journey of faith relates to ministry in The United Church of Canada

61 All submissions and requests for further information must be sent to:

62 The United Church of Canada, Ministry and Employment Office  
63 3250 Bloor Street West Suite 200,  
64 Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4  
65 or [ministry@united-church.ca](mailto:ministry@united-church.ca)

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67 Following receipt of the materials listed above, the applicant will be invited to an online interview with  
68 the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada. The primary focus of the interview will be  
69 the understanding of the context and ministry of The United Church of Canada and the applicant's  
70 interest in serving in the church.

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72 Upon completion of the above process General Council staff will make a determination as to whether  
73 the applicant is eligible to serve in The United Church of Canada. If it is determined that the applicant is  
74 not eligible to serve, the General Council Office will indicate if or when the applicant may reapply.

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76 If the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, hereafter referred to as CC(DOC),  
77 applicant is determined to be eligible by the General Council Office for mutual recognition in The United  
78 Church of Canada, the CC(DOC)minister will:

- 79 • Receive an invitation to establish a ministry profile on ChurchHub, the online registry of ministry  
80 personnel in The United Church of Canada. CC(DOC) ministry partners are responsible for  
81 applying and seeking an interview with a United Church of Canada community of faith that is  
82 registered on ChurchHub as seeking to call or appoint a minister.
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- 84 • While a call is without term limit, an appointment must be renewed annually by mutual  
85 agreement of the minister, community of faith, and Regional Council.

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- Maintain all on-going requirements for good standing in The United Church of Canada and all on-going requirements for standing in the CC(DOC). Standing for a CC(DOC) minister will be held in the Region where the minister is currently serving while awaiting a call to a UCCanada congregation and will be subject to that Region's requirements to maintain standing. Once the minister receives a call to a United Church of Canada congregation, the minister's standing among the CC(DOC) will be transferred to the Region of Canada and subject to the standing requirements for the Region of Canada. If a CC(DOC) ministerial profile expires while in the search process, or any complaint of misconduct, disciplinary action or criminal charges emerge, the Regional Minister where the minister's standing is currently held will notify The United Church of Canada General Council Office. This action or charge may result in withdrawal of Ministry Partner status and eligibility to serve in the host denomination.

100 **COMING TO THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE US AND CANADA**

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102 All United Church of Canada ordained and diaconal ministers desiring to seek a call in the Christian  
103 Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada must do the following:

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105 • Contact the Regional Minister in The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada or in the  
106 Region where the clergyperson is currently residing.
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108 • Provide a letter of good standing completed by The United Church of Canada Office of Vocation  
109 Minister for the Regional Council of their membership
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111 • Provide a copy of current Ministry Personnel CV
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113 • Provide a copy of the current Police Records Check Level 2 dated within the last 6 months
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115 • If the minister resided in the United States at any point over the previous seven years an Oxford  
116 Document Criminal Background Check completed within the last 6 months will also be required.
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118 • Demonstrate familiarity with the history and polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in  
119 the US and Canada as determined by the authorizing Region's Commission/Committee on  
120 Ministry.
- 121  
122 • Provide a personal statement of interest in serving in the CC(DOC) and how their journey of faith  
123 relates to ministry in the CC(DOC).
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126 Upon submission of all required documents and the completion of a process of certification by a  
127 Region's Commission/Committee on Ministry, The United Church of Canada minister will be directed to  
128 complete a Search and Call Profile through the Office of Christian Vocations. Upon completion of the  
129 Ministerial Profile, Regional Ministers may submit the Ministerial Profile to local church Search  
130 Committees within their Regions for consideration. *The United Church of Canada minister may consider*  
131 *a geographic distribution of his/her ministerial profile that extends beyond the Canadian Region.*

- 132 • Upon receiving a call to a congregation, The United Church of Canada minister will be granted  
133 **CC(DOC) standing** for the duration of the call.
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135 • Maintain all on-going requirements for standing as determined by the Region's  
136 Commission/Committee on Ministry where the minister is serving and all on-going requirements  
137 for continued good standing in The United Church of Canada.
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139 If a United Church of Canada minister's good standing status changes while in the search process, or any  
140 complaint of misconduct, disciplinary action or criminal charge emerge, then The United Church of  
141 Canada Office of Vocation will notify the Regional Minister of the Region where standing is being sought  
142 in the CC(DOC). This action or charge may result in withdrawal of eligibility to serve the host  
143 denomination.

146 **SPECIALIZED MINISTRY SETTINGS**

147 Ministers desiring to serve in a specialized ministry setting through Mutual Recognition are requested to  
148 follow the same procedures established for service in a local congregation or pastoral charge. Once  
149 approved for partnership by the host denomination ministers may then seek employment directly  
150 through the specialized ministry setting. Ministers serving through Global Ministries will adhere to the  
151 protocols established by Global Ministries.

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153 **MEMBERSHIP**

154 United Church of Canada ministers will retain standing in their Regional Council as well as in the local  
155 CC(DOC) congregation where they serve. CC(DOC)ministers will retain membership in a CC(DOC)  
156 congregation within their current Region as well as in the appropriate United Church of Canada Regional  
157 Council. This process allows the minister to have standing in both denominations.

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159 **DISCIPLINARY PROCESS**

160 Ministry partners must maintain good standing in their originating denomination and continue to meet  
161 its ongoing requirements for good standing in the host denomination being served. In the event of any  
162 complaint of misconduct, disciplinary action or criminal charges the processes of the denomination in  
163 which the minister is currently serving will be followed. This may result in a withdrawal of eligibility to  
164 serve in the host denomination. The originating denomination will be advised when any review is  
165 initiated and any subsequent determinations made by the host denomination. The ongoing ecclesial  
166 standing will be determined by the originating denomination.

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