

From the Office of Vocation

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

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The Role of the OV

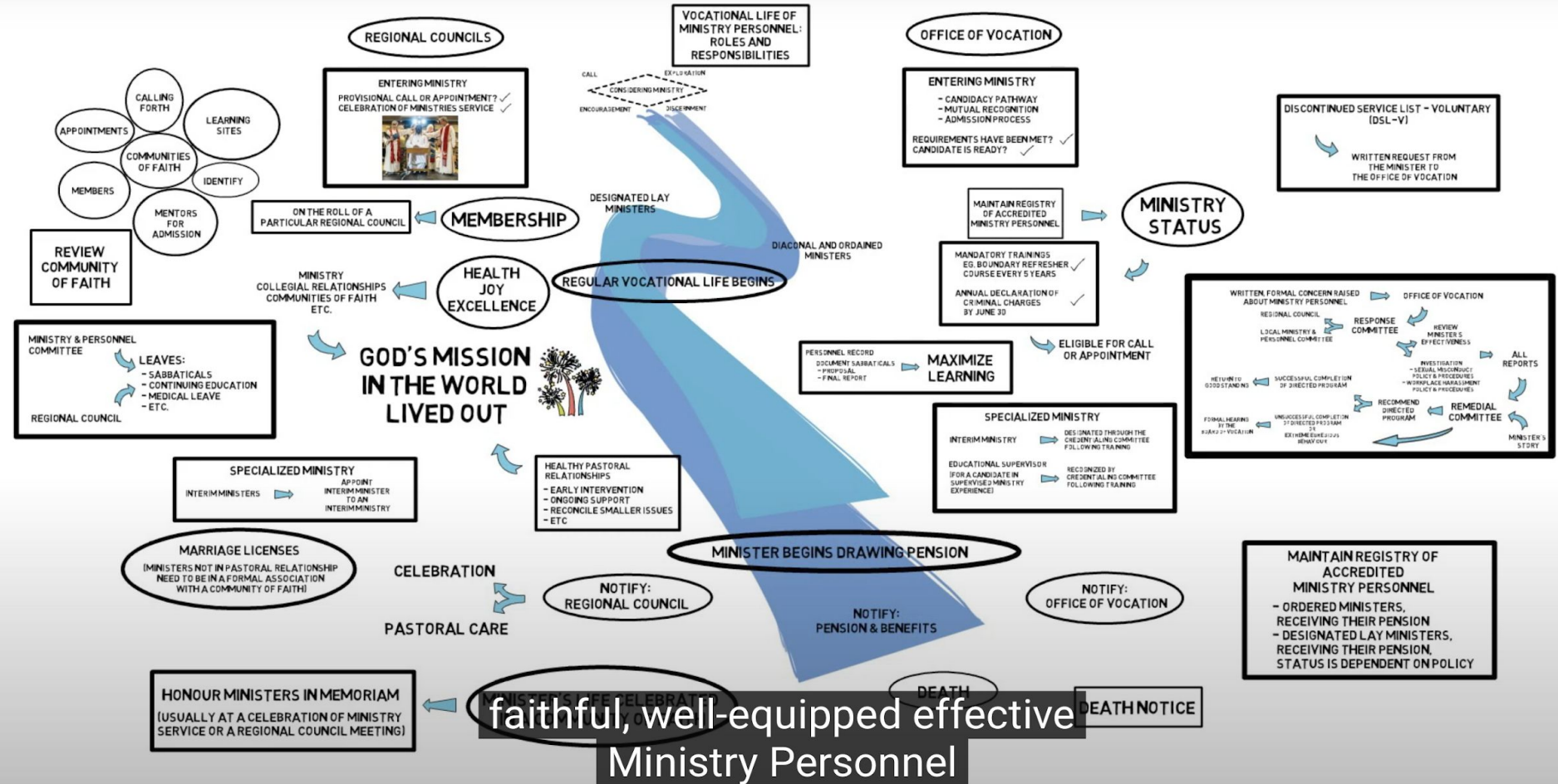
A QUICK OVERVIEW

- Since September, Rev. Lillian Roberts and I have served in a job share as Vocational Ministers in this and two other regions.
- I work with all aspects of the Candidacy Pathway
- Lillian works with ministry personnel on matters of accountability, such as annual declarations, and approving ministers for search.
- In July, I will be assuming both parts of the role.

The Role of the OV

- The Office of Vocation and the Regions together form a split episcopate
- This means that functions that were previously held together within the same role of office prior to the church's move to a three court system, are now done separately, but in consultation
- The **OV focuses primarily on ministry personnel at all stages** while **Pastoral Relations in each Region focuses primarily on Communities of Faith**

Who Does What?



The Role of the Candidacy Board

- The elected members of the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board live and serve in the area served by ECORC, EOORC, and Nakonha:ka RC.
- Our members are ordained, commissioned and lay leaders in the church.
- Some are actively serving and some are retired.
- Many report to me, that while challenging at times, the work they get to do with applicants and candidates is worth it. 😊
- We currently have several vacancies on our board and we are actively recruiting for new nominees. Please see me, or a board member, today or tomorrow if you would like to explore serving in this way.

Supervised Ministry Education (SME)

- One stage of the Candidacy Pathway for those in the ordained stream involves SME
- To be eligible for an SME appointment, an individual must have become a candidate by passing both a Promise and a Suitability interview with the Candidacy Board; and also pass an interview for Suitability for SME
- If found suitable for SME, a candidate uploads a profile onto Church Hub and the candidate may use Church Hub to seek an SME opportunity
- The candidate is responsible for finding an SME using Church Hub
- Once a match is made, both Pastoral Relations and the Candidacy Board must approve the appointment

Becoming a SME site

- For a Community of Faith to become a SME site, the governing body must first pass a motion in favour of doing so
- Then the CoF needs to share this result with the Region to gain its approval
- Then, the CoF may post a vacancy on Church Hub, indicating that it is a SME vacancy of at least 20 hours per week

Becoming a SME site

- The position description in Church Hub should reflect the intentions of the SME and be flexible enough to account for a candidate's learning goals
- The CoF must also form a Lay Support Team which will meet with and support the candidate over the term of the appointment
- The CoF also needs to understand that the candidate will spend some time each week meeting with either an educational Supervisor or with the Lay Support Team.

Becoming a SME site - Next Steps

- Watch the video Becoming a Supervised Ministry Education Learning Site on the United Church YouTube channel:
<https://youtu.be/d3XLv0sw1RE>
- Talk with your pastoral relations liaison or your Community Capacity Development Coordinator (for indigenous ministries).
- Contact your Pastoral Relations Minister (if you don't have a liaison yet) and the Office of Vocation minister for your region
- Review the SME commitments on p. 28 in the Pastoral Relations Handbook for Regional Council Liaisons

Annual Declarations

The OV also ensures that all ministry personnel in the UCC are in good standing.

- To be in good standing, ministry personnel must be up to date with mandatory training in boundaries and racial justice; and be up to date with police records checks.
- Each year, we ask ministry personnel to take a few minutes to confirm that they have a current police record check
- The **deadline this year is May 15**
- To submit your declaration, go to your Church Hub page
- If you do not have a Church Hub page, now is a great time to set one up!

What else does the OV do?

- We get to help **celebrate the ministries** of those who have come through the candidacy pathway!
- And today is no different.
- Today I am delighted to present two ordinands,
Kaitlyn Ostrander and **Kevin Fitzpatrick** for ordination in The United Church of Canada