

From the Office of Vocation

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice

Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Vocational Minister for Quebec and East Ontario



The Role of the Office of Vocation

To ensure that The United Church of Canada is served by faithful, well-equipped and effective ministry personnel.

Your Vocational Minister

...and so that you know me just a little bit better -

- I serve Ministry Personnel in East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka Regional Councils.
- Thanks to technology I am able to do that most days from my home office in Winnipeg.

About Caroline, your Vocational Minister

- Born in Montreal, grew up in BC, served in BC, Saskatchewan, Ontario & Quebec
- Served in Campus Ministry & Pastoral Ministry for 12 years
- Trained and certified as an Executive Coach
- Worked for 11 years in Vocational Rehabilitation before serving in ministry – so matters of Vocation have long been on my mind!

The Role of the Office of Vocation

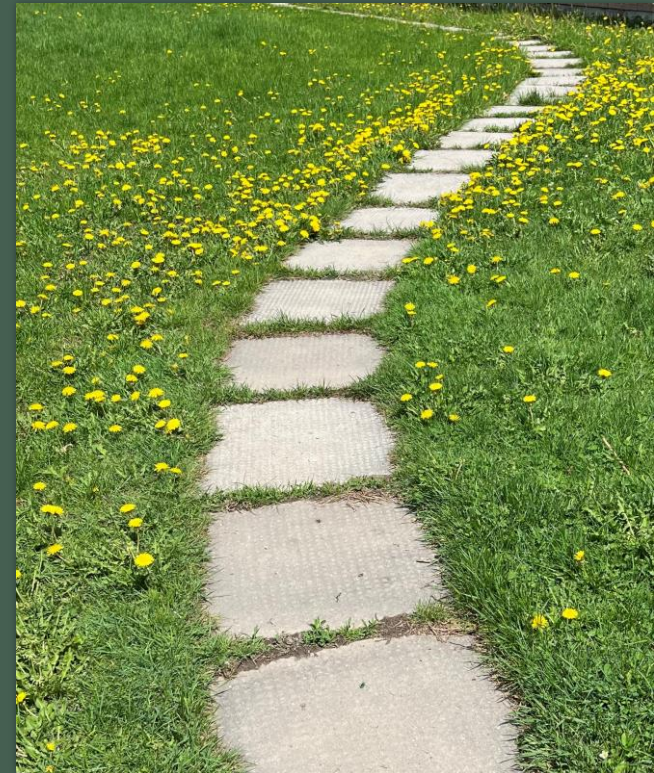
- The Office of Vocation is served by several committees including:
 - The Board of Vocation
 - The Candidacy Boards
 - The Credentialling Committee (Interim/Ed. Supervisor)
 - The Response Committee
 - The Remedial Committee

The Role of the Office of Vocation

The Office of Vocation focuses on ministry personnel at all stages.

This includes:

- Entering Ministry/Candidacy
- Specializing (Interim Ministry or Educational Supervision)
- Active
- Retired



The Role of the Vocational Minister

The Office of Vocation is served by Vocational Ministers who:

- serve the as the Staff Resource for the Candidacy Boards
- serve as a resource and support to ministry personnel involved in our complaints process, either as the complainant or respondent
- facilitate ministry personnel in completing mandatory requirements such as annual declarations, boundaries courses and racial justice training

Annual Declarations

- To be listed in the registry of accredited ministry personnel, a minister must be up to date with mandatory training in boundaries (every 5 years) and racial justice; and be up to date with Annual Declarations.
- Annual Declarations: each year, we ask all ministry personnel, *active and retired*, to take a few minutes to confirm that they have a current police record check and to confirm their status with respect to criminal charges.
- The deadline this year is June 30, 2025.
- To submit your declaration, please visit your Church Hub profile page under “My Ministry”.

The Role of the Vocational Minister

The Office of Vocation is served by Vocational Ministers who:

- serve as a conversation partner to clergy who are wrestling with an ethical issue
- explore together the Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel
- explore together the Creating Safe and Respectful Environments policy

The Role of the Vocational Minister

To offer pastoral support to ministry personnel who are experiencing challenges in their ministry that they feel might escalate into a formal complaint.

The Role of the Vocational Minister

Sometimes, as an outcome of the complaints process, a minister is required to participate in directed learning. The Vocational Minister:

- help create personalized learning plans to support them.
- stay connected with them as they work through the plan, offering guidance and encouragement where needed.
- find qualified and trusted volunteers who walk alongside the minister during this time, offering support and feedback.

The Role of the Vocational Minister

To offer pastoral support to ministry personnel who are discerning:

- Whether they are hearing a call to retirement – or to come out of retirement
- Whether it's time to transition to a different ministry, (for example, to bi-vocational ministry or to imagine a new kind of ministry) or to leave ministry all together (i.e. join the Discontinued Service List - Voluntary)

What else does a Vocational Minister do?

Celebrates!

Presenting ECORC Ordinands for 2025

Today, I am delighted to welcome Elizabeth Cunningham, a member of the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, who will introduce two new ordinands from this Regional Council.

Douglas Ferris

Doug writes: “I first discerned a call to ministry in my teens, but meandered here indirectly through other churches, countries, and careers. Today, I am confident that God has called us together as one in celebration, hope and love. I give thanks for the guidance, support, and accompaniment that I received on the pathway to ordination, including the oversight of the QEOC Candidacy Board, and the instruction, wisdom and pastoral care offered by the teachers and staff at Emmanuel College. Also, I am grateful for the leadership of the ECORC, and for the warm welcome from Eldad and Hampton congregations...”



Timothy Wisnicki

Timothy writes: “I am a lifelong worshipper in the United Church, now delighted to commit myself as an ordained minister to the mission of the UCC and the universal Church. My journey of faith began when I was baptized in a rural United Church by my grandfather, the Rev. Wendell Sedgwick. Since then, church life has always been the steady bass-line of my life, nurturing my love of music and my curiosity about God, life, and the world...”



Thank You!

Thank you for your attention.

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