

Centre for Christian Studies

A policy to Govern Admission of Ordained Persons (UCC) in Candidacy for Diaconal Ministry (UCC)

Policy Scope and Outline

The following process will be used in considering an application from an Ordained Minister in the United Church, desiring testamur for Diaconal Ministry in the United Church:

1. The inquirer/candidate has an initial conversation with the Principal, who will provide information on CCS's program. (See point 4 below)
2. The inquirer/candidate will make an application as a Special Student, completing the diploma application form.
3. The applicant will be interviewed and a decision for suitability for admission will be made by the interview team.
4. If the student is admitted, they will meet with the Principal and a program staff person to determine the educational program required for testamur, using the Guidelines for Completing the Program, and the appropriate sections from *The United Church Manual*. The educational program will need to be contextual and specific to the competencies and background of the applicant and to the areas identified above that have not been fulfilled. The applicant will provide documentation as evidence of Guideline areas which have been achieved. It is possible that aspects of competencies may need to be covered again in the educational program, to ensure there is sufficient time in the program to enable diaconal formation.

It is possible that this step may happen prior to the application, since the specifics of the education program may be a factor in the inquirer's ability to undertake the program.

Normally, the Leadership Development Module would be a requirement since it is a prerequisite for the rest of CCS's program.

5. CCS will report to the student's Presbytery Education and Students Committee (or equivalent), as with any student who is a Candidate.

United Church Guidelines

The following is an excerpt from the Education and Students Convenors Handbook, The United

Church of Canada, 1999.

In determining educational requirements for Ordained Ministers seeking commissioning, the General Council Division of Ministry Personnel and Education has found that normally at least two years of part time (3/4 time) study is required to meet the educational requirements. The program will normally include:

- Christian education, including educational theories and leadership development
- Social ministry including social analysis and context
- Diaconal history and diaconal vocational identity
- Personal and pastoral identity
- Field Education in a congregational and social ministry setting.