

Diaconal Ministry: Historical Outline

- 1894 Deaconess Order established in Methodist Church (lay order)
- 1908 Deaconess Order established in Presbyterian Church (lay order)
- 1926 Two orders became one within the United Church of Canada (100 members)
United Church Training School created (UCTS; St. Clair Ave & Avenue Rd)
- 1936 1950 Presbyteries came to recognize and regularize persons in Christian education
to 50 leadership positions (membership and vote was not given)
- 1954 United Church Training School moved to 77 Charles St. W
- 1958 Framework designed by which Deaconesses could relate to church structures
- 1960 Fellowship of Professional Church Workers (FPCW) and Deaconesses Association was
established
- 1962 Certified Employed Churchmen became the title for lay men serving in deaconess roles –
first men to enter UCTS
- 1963 Shift to allow married Deaconesses to continue in a professional role
to 65
- 1964 Full presbytery membership granted to Deaconesses and Certified Employed Churchmen at
General Council on Ministry
- 1966 General Council approved “in principal” the proposal for two categories of the Order of
Ministry
- 1968 Action on the Commission on Ministry Report: Commissioned Ministers became members
of the Order of Ministry
- 1970 The term “Commissioned Ministers” unofficially now used in most conferences
- 1970 Covenant College (formerly UCTS) and Anglican Women’s Training College joined to
to 71 form the Centre for Christian Studies
- 1977 Recognition of one Order of Ministry with equal salary and pension for those ordained,
commissioned, designated
- 1980 General Council affirmed the wording “commissioned to the diaconal ministry of education,
service, and pastoral care” and affirmed the calling to “a pastoral charge where priestly
functions were expected”
- 1982 General Council affirmed the name “Diaconal Ministers” – authority to administer the
sacraments may be granted upon request from Presbytery
- 1984 National Division of Ministry Personnel & Education established the Committee on Diaconal
Ministry (CDM)
- 1985 Book published “Called to Serve: A Story of Diaconal Ministry in the United Church of
Canada”
- 1988 General Council, in response to Remit, made changes in the Basis of Union Article XVII “Of
the Ministry” to include Diaconal Ministry
- 1988 Report published: “Educated Ministry – Diaconal Ministry”
- 1989 Western Field-Based Program for Diaconal and Lay Ministries operated out of St. Stephen’s
College
- 1991 Published “History of Diaconal Ministry in the United Church of Canada, 1925-91”
to 96
- 1993 CCS introduces community-based program
- 1998 CCS discontinues residential program and relocates to Winnipeg