

Therefore, be it resolved that the 28th General Council of The United Church of Canada support and affirm full and equal participation of Indian people in all areas and levels of the Canadian constitution discussions and negotiations.

Rev. W. Robinson
Chairperson

Rev. D. Watt
Recorder

Letters informing of our action are to be sent to the following:

The British Prime Minister and leaders of the other British national political parties, the Canadian Prime Minister and leaders of the other political parties, Canadian Premiers, Government leaders in Yukon, and North-West Territories, and the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada.

Sessional Committee on Diaconal/Commissioned Ministry

This report endeavours to bring into clearer focus a function of ministry which is rooted scripturally, historically and universally within the Christian church.

Across Canada, understanding of this ministry varies depending on regional traditions, customs and practices. This is reflected in attitude and feelings that need to be considered so that our Church might move toward a common position in the practice, acceptance and support of this form of ministry.

Diaconal and commissioned ministry includes persons known as deaconesses, certified churchmen and commissioned ministers. The 27th General Council meeting in 1977 was directed by action of the Sessional Committee on the Task Force on Ministry "to take action to clarify once and for all the terminology to be used for these persons"

As a result of a national consultation of such persons, the Executive of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education received six statements, adopted them and has now commended them to the 28th General Council with full support.

Your Sessional Committee has considered these six statements and has retained their intent with what editing, rephrasing and re-numbering as seemed best for greatest clarity of our church's current understanding and practice.

WHEREAS it has been affirmed (General Council 1968) there is one order of ministry, we recommend that:

- I. This 28th General Council agree that, consistent with current understanding and practice, there is one order of ministry, called to proclaim and enact the Word, and this order consists of persons:
 - (a) Ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacraments, and Pastoral Care, and
 - (b) Commissioned to the diaconal ministry of Education Service and Pastoral care.
- II. That all persons who were earlier "Commissioned as Missionaries" by General Council

28th General Council ROP 1980

authority, and who, at the time of that commissioning, had the educational qualifications of deaconesses, be offered inclusion as commissioned ministers in diaconal ministry. The appropriate divisions shall contact the missionaries concerned before the 29th General Council.

- III. That General Council declare that for the present, entrance into the Order of Ministry other than by ordination, shall be by an Act of Commissioning by a Conference to a diaconal ministry of Education Service and Pastoral Care; such commissioning to be understood as including fulfillment of the intent of the Basis of Union's provision for the designation of deaconesses (IV, 22(b)).
- IV. That a person commissioned to the diaconal ministry:
- (a) If appointed (on an annual basis) by a Presbytery, is to be termed "Commissioned United Church Supply", analogous to "Ordained United Church Supply" and "Lay Supply".
 - (b) If settled/placed/called/by or through a Conference is to be considered in ongoing pastoral relationship with a pastoral charge or special ministry.
- V. That acknowledgement be made that a major revision of the Manual will be required in relation to the naming of, and administrative provisions for, those in the Order of Ministry, but that this will be delayed until such time as the issues needing further clarification have been resolved, and that this clarification be done in time for action by the 29th General Council.
- VI. That in the interim, clauses presently in the Manual, referring to Commissioned Ministers, Deaconesses and Certified Churchmen, retain those same terms, pending further consultation. Where editing is done, and the intention is to be inclusive for those currently ordained, commissioned, or designated, the term to be used is "Member of the Order of Ministry" or "the Order of Ministry".

Jack Colclough
Recorder

Lydia McCullough
Chairperson

Sessional Committee Report of the Church in the Metro Core

"Seek the welfare of any city to which I carried you off and pray to the Lord for it; on its welfare will depend." (Jeremiah)

So concludes the Task Force Report on the Church in the Metro Core. With joy and expectation, the Sessional Committee enthusiastically endorses the Report and its Recommendations for a whole host of reasons, including the following:

- The Report is the result of the ongoing work of many local task forces in the Metro centres of Canada
- It recognizes the radical change that is taking place across Canada. Most Canadians live