

DIACONAL MINISTRY: HISTORICAL OUTLINE

- 1894
1904 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 (100 members) and began United Church Training School (St. Clair Ave & Avenue Rd.)
1936-1950 Presbyteries came to recognize and regularize persons in C.E. 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 F.P.C.W.: Fellowship of Professional Church Workers & Deaconesses Association was established
1962 Certified Employed Churchmen became the title for lay men serving in deaconess roles - first men to enter UCTS
1964 General Council on Ministry. Full Presbytery membership granted to Deaconesses and Certified Employed Churchmen
1963-65 Shift to allow married Deaconesses to continue in a professional role
1966 General Council approved "in principle" 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" now used in most conferences
1970-71 Covenant College (formerly UCTS) and Anglican Womens' Training School joined to form the Centre for Christian Studies
1977 Recognized as 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 June 15 -17 Five Oaks: National Founding Meeting of Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
1984 Division of Ministry Personnel & Education established the Committee on Diaconal Ministry
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"
1989-96 Western Field-Based Program for Diaconal and Lay Ministries operated out of St. Stephen's College
1991 Published "History of Diaconal Ministry in UCC, 1925-91"

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