

Further Information:

If you are interested in the Diaconal Ministry in the United Church

... talk with your minister

... you may wish to arrange for additional contact with a diaconal minister

... call your Presbytery Education and Students Convener.

... write—

Committee on Diaconal Ministry
The Division of Ministry,
Personnel and Education
The United Church of Canada
85 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M8

History of Diaconal Ministry

In the New Testament Acts 16 there is a reference to Phoebe, a deaconess, who fulfilled a service function in the Church.

In the 19th Century, a revival of the Deaconess order occurred in Germany and spread to the British Isles. Another revival occurred in 1880 in the Methodist Church, 1908 in the Presbyterian Church, becoming one order in 1926.

Finally in 1964 Deaconesses were given full status in the courts of the Church.

Then in 1968, Deaconesses and Certified Churchmen began to be described as Commissioned Ministers.

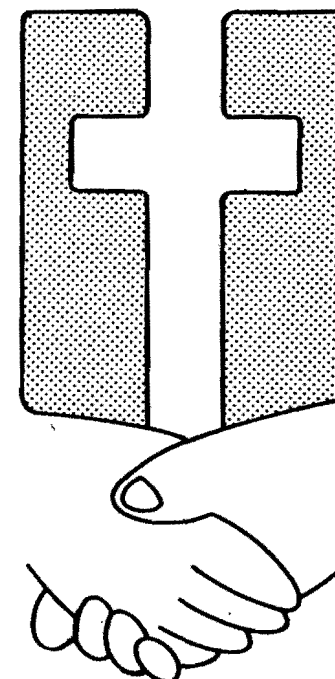
In August, 1982 at General Council this group was officially designated "Diaconal Ministers".

Transfer and Settlement

Diaconal Ministers are now subject to Transfer and Settlement as of 29th General Council, August, 1982. This means that candidates are placed by the Church. (This does not apply to persons over the age of 50.)

***WHAT ARE
DIACONAL
MINISTERS?***

**IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF
CANADA**



**DANS L'ÉGLISE UNIE
DU CANADA**

Diaconal Ministers

. . . are commissioned to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral care;

. . . are part of the one order of ministry in the United Church of Canada—sharing fully in this order with those who are ordained to Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care;

. . . were formerly named Deaconess, Certified Churchman, or Commissioned Minister.

Diaconal Ministers

. . . are involved in a wide variety of ministries in congregations and in the community, usually as part of a team—

- in overseas service
- in camps or Christian training centres
- in program leadership at regional or national levels
- in new church development.

. . . function in—

- Christian Education
- Social Ministries
- Chaplaincy

where responsibilities usually include administration and pastoral care.

Where to Prepare:

The majority of candidates go to

The Centre for Christian Studies
77 Charles Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K5

Educational requirements for The Centre for Christian Studies—

- a university degree
- business/professional training
- mature student status.

Professional preparation:

The program can be completed in two years as a full-time student, or on a part-time basis.

The three aspects of the program listed below are integrated throughout and all include theological reflection.

Academic Studies include courses in biblical studies, theological and ethical studies, worship, church history and Christian education.

The **Core program** is experiential education which focuses on learning and the development of leadership. It involves the setting of individual and group learning goals and the implementation of these goals through a variety of themes such as Christian development for all ages, social issues, communication and pastoral counselling.

Field Education is supervised experience in church and community related settings enabling the development of leadership skills and growth in understanding of ministry.

Others enroll in the **Master of Religious Education Degree Course** at

Emmanuel College
75 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1K7

Educational requirements for the M.R.E. program at Emmanuel College—

- a degree from a recognized college or university
- minimum: C standing.

Professional preparation:

1st year—24 hours of course time includes Biblical, theological and educational courses and four hours of Field Education.

2nd year—24 hours of course time which includes advanced seminars and courses in education, Christian worship, church history;
three free electives which may include courses taken at O.I.S.E. (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) in Toronto; and
four hours of field work.