

Constitution Amendments Relating to The United Church of Canada

Vote on all new paragraphs of new Article VIII of the Constitution as highlighted below:

ARTICLE VIII. RECOGNITION AND RECONCILIATION OF THE ORDAINED MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

[New ¶] The United Church of Christ and The United Church of Canada recognize the ordained ministries of the other church to be efficacious ministries of grace within that church and these ministries to be valid and full ministries of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

[New ¶] The ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and The United Church of Canada are reconciled. An ordained minister with ordained ministerial standing in one church may function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an ordained minister to the other.

[New ¶] The designations “Ordained Ministerial Partner” and “Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing” manifest the corporate and individual nature of the recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and The United Church of Canada.

[New ¶] Each member of The United Church of Canada who holds ordained ministerial standing in The United Church of Canada is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the United Church of Christ.

[New ¶] Each member of the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of The United Church of Canada.

[New ¶] Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is authorization granted to an ordained minister with ordained ministerial standing in The United Church of Canada who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This authorization assumes knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

Bylaws Amendments Relating to The United Church of Canada

Amendments to existing provisions (vote on highlighted changes only, other changes will be voted upon separately):

107 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the Local Church, confers Ordained Ministerial Standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and ~~status-recognition~~ as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and The United Church of Canada.

114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a ~~Local c~~Church not affiliated with the United Church of Christ, ~~or~~ the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or The United Church of Canada, or serving a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada without Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing retains Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ so long as his or her Association approves.

Insert in Article I following current Paragraph 129 (paragraph numbering to be added)(vote on all new paragraphs as highlighted below):

Ordained Ministers from The United Church of Canada

[New ¶] An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada may hold Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of Christ.

[New ¶] Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ to an Association, an Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United Church of Canada may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

[New ¶] An Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United Church of Canada who accepts a call in the United Church of Christ joins a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, and applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church membership is held.

[New ¶] An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall also maintain ordained ministerial standing within their current presbytery of The United Church of Canada.

[New ¶] In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the Association where the ordained minister from The United Church of Canada is called to serve and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is extended, then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations pursuant to the process for transferring standing.

[New ¶] Ordained ministers from The United Church of Canada holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

[New ¶] Primary oversight of an ordained minister from The United Church of Canada holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of a fitness review, The United Church of Canada Ministry Personnel Office shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.

United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in The United Church of Canada

[New ¶] An Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada

- (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which Local Church membership is held.
- (b) shall hold Local Church membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ and in a presbytery of The United Church of Canada.
- (c) shall relate to The United Church of Canada for the Ordained Minister's primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

[New ¶] Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

[New ¶] Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada is with The United Church of Canada. In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of The United Church of Canada or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.

[New ¶] When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of Christ or The United Church of Canada, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.

Amendments to existing provisions (vote on highlighted changes only; other changes will be voted upon separately)

[heading between ¶ 129 and ¶ 130] Ordained Ministers from Denominations Other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada

133 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada who wishes to retain ordained ministerial standing in that denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, or serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ, or has become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part of which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical ministry one constituent of which is the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association for dual ordained ministerial standing which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that responsibility, and during that period may have all the rights and privileges of such membership.

Ecumenical Delegates

195 In each biennium the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative from each of its U.S. and Canada full communion partners as an associate delegate to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. In addition, the United Church of Christ Board may invite a representative from up to three ~~(3)~~ other partner churches in the United States. These representatives shall be accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates. ~~Board and lodging for the ecumenical delegates shall be borne by General Synod or through other appropriate financial means.~~