

Remit 6 – One Order of Ministry

Background:

The 42nd General Council 2015 approved, subject to remit, the recognition of one Order of Ministry within the United Church known as the ordained ministry, and:

- (i) providing within the ordained ministry of the church, for those who so choose through an appropriate educational program, ordination to the diakonia;
- (ii) developing multiple paths of educational formation to the ordained ministry based on an overall equivalency of educational and spiritual formation;
- (iii) incorporating (grandparent) into the ordained ministry all diaconal ministers; and
- (iv) directing the General Secretary to establish a process to incorporate into the ordained ministry designated lay ministers currently serving in presbytery-recognized or presbytery-accountable ministries.

At present there is one order of ministry that is made up of ordained ministers, ordained to word, sacrament and pastoral care, and diaconal ministers, commissioned to education, service and pastoral care. There is also a category of ministry made up of those who are recognized as designated lay ministers following successful completion of a specific program of study.

The 42nd General Council 2015 authorized this Category 3 remit to presbyteries and pastoral charges to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Question:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that there should be one new order of ministry encompassing the present categories of recognized designated lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and ordained ministers, with ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service and pastoral care as the single rite of entry, and with provision for the continued identity of the diakonia within the ordained ministry?