

What does a typical meeting look like:

Welcome

Opening worship, shared on a rotational basis.

Round table check-in

Conversation based on guiding questions from “Discerning the Call”

Confirm next meeting date

Closing prayer

What resources are available to the Ministry Vocation Committee and the Circle of Accompaniment?

If you require further guidance or understanding of your role and responsibilities, contact the Conference Staff Resource:

The Rev David Timpson personnel@bayofquinteconference.ca

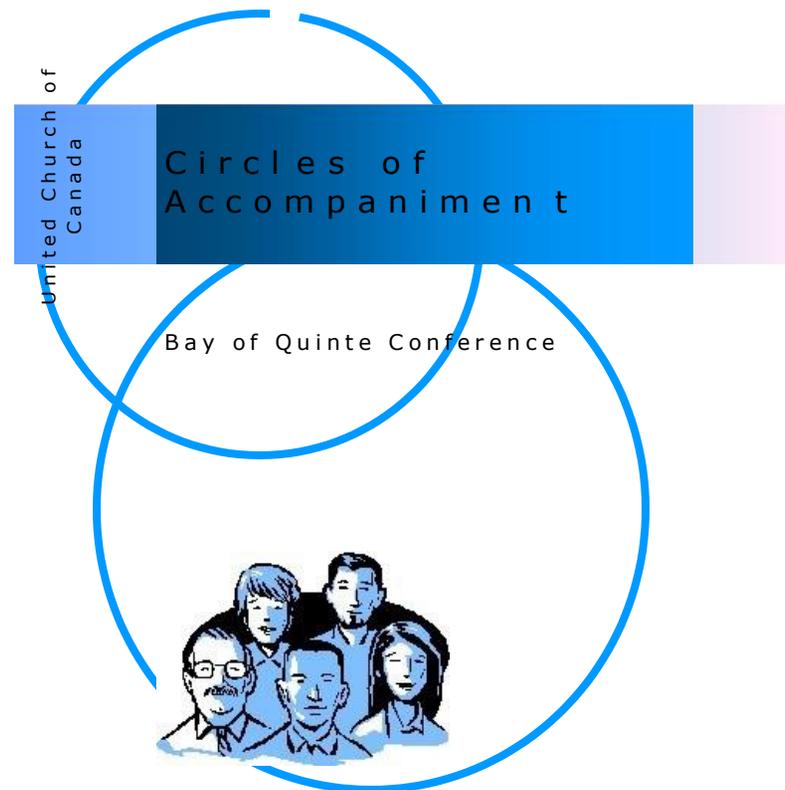
1-888-759-2444 or 613-967-0150

The United Church of Canada resource “Discerning the Call” is an excellent resource for types of questions and general format of meetings. It is available on The United Church of Canada website. It is important to remember to ignore any of the evaluative requests as named in this resource as that is not the role of the Circle of Accompaniment.

The Conference Candidacy Coordinating Committee:

Chair: Sheryl McLeod

Secretary: 4c@bayofquinteconference.ca



A Guide
for
Presbytery Ministry Vocation
Committees
and
Circles of Accompaniment

What is the role of the Circle of Accompaniment?

The role of the Circle of Accompaniment is one of learning, support, encouragement and celebration. The Circle is a place where Candidates and Applicants can talk freely about their struggles, hopes, dreams and what they find challenging and exciting as they continue to discern their call to ordered ministry. The Circle provides a non-judgmental supportive place for the Candidate/Applicant to share their journey. Conversations are to be confidential and are meant to foster a sense of freedom and safety for the Candidate/Applicant. A member of the Circle of Accompaniment goes to the Conference Assessment Board interviews with the Candidate/Applicant as a support person and silent observer, other than the first one or two interviews when the support person must be a member of the Ministry Vocations Committee. The Circle of Accompaniment has no evaluation or reporting role.

When is the Circle of Accompaniment formed?

Usually the Circle of Accompaniment is formed when a person has had a Vocational Assessment and has met and been affirmed by the Conference Assessment Board (CAB) and Conference Candidacy Coordinating Committee and deemed suitable to be a Candidate for ordered ministry. The Circle can be formed earlier if the Ministry Vocations Committee believes it would be helpful to the Applicant. The Circle of Accompaniment is constituted by the Ministry Vocations Committee.

Who is on the Circle of Accompaniment?

The Circle of Accompaniment must have at least one Presbytery member on it appointed by the Ministry Vocations Committee, as well as 1 or 2 people from the Candidate/Applicant's ministry setting, and 1 or 2 people chosen by the Candidate/Applicant. The majority of these members must be United Church of Canada members and willing to make a long-term commitment. The Circle of Accompaniment continues until the end of the Candidate's/Applicant's process. While it is hoped that there be continuity of the Circle membership, it is reasonable to expect that circumstances may prevent a member from staying in the Circle until the Candidate's/Applicant's process is completed.

How often does the Circle of Accompaniment meet with the Candidate or Applicant?

The Circle meets with the Candidate or Applicant on a regular basis throughout their training process to walk with them and assist them to gain greater clarity, confidence and effectiveness with respect to ordered ministry through focused discussions, worship, and prayer. The actual frequency of these meetings will sometimes be dictated by where the person is located for school or placement. However it is expected that the Circle of Accompaniment will meet at least twice a year face-to-face. Beyond this it is expected that the Circle members will stay connected via email, phone calls, letters, skype etc.

What is the Ministry Vocation Committee's ongoing responsibility?

The Ministry Vocations Committee has ongoing oversight of the Circles of Accompaniment. The MVC should know that the Circle is meeting regularly and has a full complement of members. It needs to facilitate the replacement of any members who need to withdraw from the Circle.

Perhaps the most joyful aspects for the Ministry Vocation Committee is being involved with times of Celebration. This means sharing important milestones of the Candidate's/Applicant's journey with the whole Presbytery, presenting the Candidate/Applicant in person to the Presbytery as appropriate, especially when the Candidate's/ Applicant's process is completed.

