

Bay of Quinte Conference of The United Church of Canada



Candidacy Pathways Pilot Process

First Steps in Exploring Call to Ministry Vocations (From the Bay of Quinte Guiding Pathway Students)

Those who have prayerfully discerned a call to ministry will have talked with others about this feeling of call. To begin the journey on the Pathway, discerners will ask someone with whom they have discussed their sense of call to write a Mentor Letter. This letter will include the following information:



- how long and in what capacity the writer has known the person discerning a call;
- any observations concerning the person's call to faith, theology and/or call to ministry;
- a description of the person's involvement and leadership in church and/or community;
- any comments on the person's spiritual gifts and gifts for ministry; and
- any comments on any particular challenges facing the person.



The Mentor Letter is sent to the Ministry Vocation Committee (MVC) chair of the individual's home presbytery. The Chair of the MVC will forward the letter to the secretary of the Conference Candidacy Coordinating Committee (4C). The 4C secretary will contact all persons who have indicated an interest in attending a Discernment Event to provide information about the next event..

Discerners participate in a Discernment Event. This event kicks off the beginning of formal discernment where the Discerners/Candidates/Applicants, 4C and Conference Assessment Board (CAB) all work and discern together along the journey toward readiness for ministry in The United Church of Canada. The Discernment Event takes on differing forms to meet the needs of those requesting Discernment and the availability of staff, committee members, and facilities.

At the initial Discernment Event the Discerners receive information to aid in their discernment process. They also share with others their background, their stories, and their journeys that have brought them to this place. They have some preparation assignments they are required to submit prior to the event.