

# Deciding to Retire.

Deciding to retire for United Church Ministers, as with all changes in a faithful minister's life, is a process of discernment. Most Ministers have a pattern of personal spiritual discipline that has seen them through the various big decisions that come to all of our lives. Clearly, the decision to retire is one that uses all of those resources. One of the particular realities of the retirement decision is that one's own needs and wants and dreams usually come to weigh more heavily in the decision and the altruistic, faith driven concern over the needs and wants and dreams of the congregation begin to weigh less.

One of the real blessings in my work as a Conference Personnel Minister has been the opportunity to open communications with more than 200 retired ministers of Bay of Quinte Conference. This unique experience puts me in to a place of absolute certainty that abundant life is possible in retirement even on the United Church Pension.

The Rev David Timpson Conference Minister/ Pastoral Care is available to assist in this process.

Call: 613 967-1050

Email: [personnel@bayofquinteconference.ca](mailto:personnel@bayofquinteconference.ca)

One needs a current Pension statement which have come out more or less annually in recent years and contain all the information about expected retirement dates, possible early retirement dates and estimates of pension amounts. If you have not received statements they can be requested through the United Church benefits Center (1-866-859-5025) have your employee number handy when you call (it is on your green shield card starting with UCC XXXXX-XX0

United in Learning periodically run a Preretirement webinar (<http://www.united-in-learning.com/>) that includes a lot of good information on both the timelines and the choices involved with retirement.

Ministers must begin to receive their pensions at age 71, if one has not already retired, 90 days before that happens one needs to be in touch with the United Church benefits Center (1-866-859-5025) have your employee number handy when you call (it is on your Green Shield card starting with UCC XXXXX-XX)

## Once the decision is made.

The Conference has produced a form that should be filled out 6 months before the retirement date. It is available on the conference web site under the "I'd like to" ... Retire tab.

<http://bayofquinteconference.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/retirementform.pdf>

This goes first to the Presbytery and then is forwarded on to Conference. It aids in the pastoral relations process and enables planning for the retirement banquet at the conference annual meeting.

The request to retire is made to the national church and the pension department **90 days** before your retirement date. It is made through the United Church Benefits Center (1-866-859-5025) have your employee number handy when you call (it is on your Green Shield card starting with UCC XXXXX-XX)

The package that they will send to you will need to be returned to them a minimum of **60 days** before your first pension check will be issued. If this date is missed first payment may well happen in the second month (including the first month's payment as well)

## Telling the Congregation.

As a minister of The United Church of Canada the normal notice required for a change in pastoral relations is 90 days. Most of our ministers planning a retirement are able to give more notice enabling the pastoral relations process to begin and giving a congregation the opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry that has been shared. Many ministers include some trusted leaders from the congregation in the decision making process as they begin to think about retirement. It is wise to include the congregational announcement in the same time frame as the request to retire goes to Presbytery. One can if needed hold that form to the 90 day time frame.

## The Conference Annual Meeting

It is a long standing tradition of the Bay of Quinte Conference to celebrate retirements at a banquet in the midst of the Annual Meeting. The retirees are invited to the banquet (tickets for the retiree and one guest will be provided). The retirees are piped into the hall and given the opportunity to make a short speech after dinner and presentations are made. One can choose to celebrate retirement in the year that one retires or in the following year. A reflective submission to the Conference Report Volume 1 will also be requested