# Learning about The United Church of Canada Theological Schools

## Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

### Recruiter or Admission contact person

Second Keeper of the Circle: [connect@sandysaulteaux.ca](mailto:connect@sandysaulteaux.ca)

### **Open houses or events people can attend in the coming year (virtually or in person)**

[Centre Happenings & Invitation to Donate](https://sandysaulteaux.ca/centre-happenings-invitation-to-donate/)

### What programs do you offer?

Ordination, commissioning, and designated lay ministry in The United Church of Canada. Christian ministry training for other denominations as well.

### Can people study by distance?

During COVID-19, Learning Circles have been moved to online delivery. When circumstances change we will once again hold in-person Learning Circles at the centre.

### What financial support does your school offer students?

Educational support is available for Indigenous ministry training students accepted by SSSC and approved by the Indigenous Office of Vocation.

### Can people take Centre for Christian Studies or Designated Lay Ministry externals with you?

Yes, as approved by CCS.

### What is your approach to equipping people preparing for ministry leadership?

Our Learning Circle model has been developed over the past 36 years where both resource people and students bring valuable experience and knowledge to the educational and training experience. This egalitarian spirit is experienced in the Learning Circles, where Indigenous and Christian ceremony are equally valued. Elder(s) are also in each circle as a comforting presence for everyone in circle. Students in the five-year program attend eight Learning Circles annually (last two weeks of January, two weeks in March/April depending on the timing of Easter, the first two weeks of June, and the last two weeks of October). A further credit for church involvement (regional, national, or Indigenous committees; National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering; General Council; etc.) completes the 45 credits required for graduation.

### Do you have an affiliation with an undergraduate school?

SSSC has a partnership with Vancouver School of Theology, for approved SSSC students who are also accepted by VST for the MDiv by Extension, for support to take VST Summer School classes.

### What makes your school unique?

Our history of honouring Indigenous language, culture, and methodology for Indigenous ministry training since 1984 is the foundation of the unique experience at SSSC and in the student’s Indigenous community.

### Anything else people should know?

Graduates approved for ordination, commissioningm or designated lay ministry can work in any setting, Indigenous or not, in The United Church of Canada. We work with other denominations as well, relying on those denominations to provide their denominational distinctives.