

# Diaconal Supply/Ordained Supply Policy and Process: Exception for Ethnocultural or Linguistic Specific Congregation

## Background

A “diaconal supply” is a diaconal minister (or equivalent) of another denomination who is not in the process of admission to the order of ministry of the United Church. (*The Manual* I.1.2.4.a)

An “ordained supply” is an ordained minister of another denomination who is not in the process of admission to the order of ministry of the United Church. (*The Manual* I.1.2.4.a)

Ethnocultural or linguistic specific congregation: The regional council may appoint a diaconal supply or ordained supply to a community of faith that has been designated as an ethnocultural or linguistic specific community of faith by the appropriate General Council working unit. That minister does not have to be in the admission process. (*The Manual* I.1.2.4.c)

## Policy and Procedures

Before a minister seeks an appointment with an ethnocultural or linguistic specific community of faith, they must meet the following requirements:

- a) submit a current police records check.
- b) submit a letter of standing and a record of service within the denomination to verify that the minister is in good standing in their denomination and not facing disciplinary action.
- c) submit proof of completion of the mandatory workshops for all ministry personnel in The United Church of Canada:
  - a. Personal and Professional Boundaries for Church Leaders
  - b. Racial Justice Workshop
- d) sign an agreement that they are aware they will serve under the exception for ethnocultural or linguistic specific congregation and that they are not eligible to serve another United Church community of faith unless they enter the admission process. However, if they wish to serve another United Church community of faith under the exception for ethnocultural or linguistic specific congregations, the minister would need to submit Pastoral Charge Supervisor reports on their effectiveness in their appointment, for review by the Office of Vocation.

Upon successful completion of these requirements

1. the Office of Vocation will determine whether the minister meets the eligibility requirements for credential clearance

2. the minister will be interviewed by the Admission Board, a commission of the Office of Vocation

If approved by the Admission Board, the Office of Vocation will provide the minister with limited access to ChurchHub to complete the annual declaration and the record of appointment forms. The minister will not be able to search for another pastoral relationship within ChurchHub.

These ministers would not be on the registry of accredited ministry personnel. However, as ministry personnel serving under a diaconal supply or ordained supply appointment, they would be on the roll of the regional council.

In matters of discipline—for example a complaint of harassment—they would be accountable to the Office of Vocation. The Office of Vocation would oversee the complaint process, including placing the minister on administrative leave. The Office of Vocation would notify the minister’s denomination and provide the findings of the review or investigation.

The Church in Mission Unit of the General Council Office assesses whether or not to designate a community of faith as an ethnolinguistic or linguistic specific congregation.