# Learning about The United Church of Canada Theological Schools

# Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre

## Recruiter or Admissions contact person

Keeper of the Learning Circle Susan McPherson Derendy, [Susan@sandysaulteaux.ca](mailto:Susan@sandysaulteaux.ca) or 204-268-3913

## Open houses or events people can attend in the coming year

Seasonal Fall Equinox Sweat Ceremony, noon to supper feast time, September 29, 2019

Winter Solstice Seasonal Sweat Ceremony, December 21,\* 2019

Spring Equinox Seasonal Sweat Ceremony, March 21,\* 2020

Summer Solstice Seasonal Sweat Ceremony, June 21,\* 2020

\*Nearest weekend—please see our website for exact details: <http://sandysaulteaux.ca>.

## What programs do you offer?

Indigenous ministry training for The United Church of Canada: ordination, commissioning, and designated lay ministry. We have an ecumenical vision and have had students from other denominations; we work cooperatively with them to fulfill their ministry training requirements.

## Can people study by distance?

Our program requires attendance at our Learning Circles at SSSC near Beausejour, MB.

## What financial support does your school offer students?

We have limited funding for approved Indigenous United Church of Canada ministry candidates. We also have bursaries for students. Other denominations have contributed to the needs of their Indigenous students as well.

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

No agreements for this currently exist.

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

Our Learning Circles arise from our history of Indigenous innovation in education, where students are teachers and teachers are students accompanied by Indigenous Elders and our staff. Students also work in on-the-job educational ministry placements, where they reflect on their training with a supportive Vision Keeper.

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

The United Church’s St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon, SK, requires M.Div. students to take one of our Learning Circles. We also have a memorandum of understanding with Vancouver School of Theology, where currently some SSSC students are completing their M.Div. by extension.

## What makes your school unique?

We have a long and solid history of Indigenous ministry education and innovation, with other schools and programs adopting and adapting our Learning Circle model for their educational needs. We have worked closely with Indigenous communities of faith, presbyteries, Conferences, and other organizations to graduate 67 students for ordained, commissioned, and lay ministry.

## Anything else people should know?

Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre is the 2011 amalgamation of Francis Sandy Theological Centre, formerly located at Five Oaks Retreat Centre (founded in 1987) near Paris, ON, and the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre (founded in 1984) still at this same location just a couple of kilometres east of Beausejour, MB. We are located on 37 acres along the Broken Head River. Our campus/retreat centre is a peaceful setting cared for by Indigenous ceremony.