# Vocation Sermon Starters

Vocation Sunday is a time to celebrate, reflect on, and pray for those who answer the call to ministry and the Christian vocation. Vocation refers to God’s call, mission, or purpose for someone, usually but not always lived out through ministry. This particular time of uncertainty (COVID-19) is a good time to reflect on what is important about your ministry leadership. When forced out of our normal routines, what are the things that remain important and immovable?

Please take the time to reflect on why you have responded to a call to worship leadership or to lifelong ministry. Consider why you answered the call, what the challenges were along the way, and what have been the joys and moments of hope. Sharing these stories encourages your communities of faith to consider their own life callings. Perhaps you have a minister in your midst! You definitely have Christian disciples who are seeking ways of finding purpose and meaning in their own lives. Telling your story will help them live theirs.

Vocation Sunday is also a great Sunday to introduce the [Candidacy Pathway](https://www.united-church.ca/leadership/entering-ministry/candidacy-pathway) to your community of faith! (There’s even an [introductory video](https://youtu.be/JLm8rqFGXUI) that you can share with your community.)

Blessings on you and your ministry!

## The Ascension of Our Lord

### Acts 2:42-47

* The people were devoted to not only to education, but also to fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. What has the role of not only education, but also community, sacrament, and prayer been in your faith development and ministry leadership?
* Have there been wonders and signs that have encouraged you in your ministry?
* How has leading worship impacted your own faith journey?

### Psalm 23

* How has your soul been restored when you have faced challenges? During this time of COVID-19, how are you restoring your soul?
* How has your cup overflowed in your ministry life?
* What does dwelling in the house of the Lord for your whole life mean? What does this mean now in this time when we cannot physically gather together in our church buildings?

### John 10:1-10

* Have you had an experience where you felt your name was being called? How did you know what you were being asked to do?
* What have you learned about living abundantly as a minister? Perhaps especially in this time of physical isolation and daily life upheaval?
* What faithful story or Biblical passage has guided you in your ministry leadership?

### Other Questions

* What is your call story? Why did you become a minister?
* What would you say to someone considering ministry? What does your response to their call say about your ministry?
* How can your community of faith support ministers and those considering ministry?

### Prayer

Generous and loving God,   
 bless all of the clergy who are leading worship this morning,  
 who are engaged in ministry all week long,  
 who are living out their calls in mission contexts,  
 administration or governance positions,  
 or leading in various other ways,

especially during this time of upheaval, fear, and

amazing creativity and grace.  
 Bless those who are considering the vocation of ministry.  
 Help them in their discernment,   
 in their training and education, and  
 in their process with The United Church of Canada.  
 Bless the Office of Vocation as they care for our ministers.  
 Bless the Candidacy Boards as they journey with and assess candidates.  
 Bless this church that we might become the leaders that are needed to continue being the body of Christ in the world today.  
 Amen.