

## **Proposal**

**Title:** Diaconal Minister to be named as member at large to Conference Education and Students committee.

**Source:** Coordinating Committee of Diakonia of The United Church of Canada, based currently in Maritime Conference

**Conference Action:**

### **Theological Reference -**

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4: 11 – 13. RSV

### **Background –**

- The United Church of Canada recognizes that diaconal ministers are included in ordered ministry, as noted in the Article of Faith XVII, Of The Ministry.
- Section 462 a- 3 of the United Church Manual notes that ... “every effort should be made to include a Diaconal Minister on the interview team.”.
- Students of diaconal ministry in the Maritime Conference candidacy process report spending a large portion of their interview explaining diaconal ministry in the Education and Students (E and S) interviews. Having to explain diaconal ministry takes away valuable time from the interview process.
- The hope for the E and S interview is to examine the student's preparation for ministry, not to inform or educate the interviewing committee.
- Diaconal representation on this committee will provide a source of information for the E and S Committee as it prepares to focus on the student's preparation for ministry. In addition, the diaconal representative will be available to participate in interviews (as noted by UCC Manual, Section 462 a -3).
- Currently, the Education and Students Committee of Maritime Conference consists of Chairs of Presbytery E and S committees. There are no diaconal ministers on the present committee.

### **PROPOSAL**

a. - The Co-ordinating Committee of Diakonia of the United Church of Canada proposes that Maritime Conference UCC Nominations Committee name a Diaconal Minister as a “member at large” to the E and S Committee.

b. that Maritime Conference request General Council amend the UCC Manual procedures and MEPS documents affecting candidacy processes to include diaconal ministry representation on Education and Students Committees.

**Financial Implications –** The costs of accommodation and travel for one person to attend Education and Students interview meetings .