

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS COMMITTEE

MANDATE: This Committee journeys alongside all Candidates within the 8 Presbyteries of London Conference who are preparing for Ordained or Diaconal Ministry within The United Church of Canada. The Conference E & S Committee receives current information and updates about each candidate from Presbytery E & S Convenors or Reps.

When the need arises, the Committee works together in discerning what additional courses, program or action a candidate may need to take that would benefit the candidate by helping bring into clearer focus his/her gifts and skills for ministry and a keener awareness (self-awareness) of how he/she relates to other people.

Sometimes this Committee is called upon to support a Presbytery E & S Committee that has identified a candidate who might be better suited to serving the church in ways other than ordained or diaconal ministry.

Mostly this Committee is inspired and encouraged by the candidates it meets along the way.

It is also the mandate of this Committee to present Candidates at the Annual Meeting with an accompanying recommendation that London Conference Ordain/Commission the candidate, all requirements of the Manual having been satisfied.

The Committee meets 3 times each Conference year.

September meeting: Share best practices and address questions, comments and concerns named at the meeting; update the status reports (the year of education, or internship site) of each candidate in the process. This is the meeting where candidates eligible for their final interview are identified in anticipation of the Celebration of Ministry service at the next Conference Annual Meeting.

January meeting: Dedicated to the “final interview” with a candidate and making motions recommending, or not, that a Candidate is ready to be Ordained/Commissioned at the Next Annual Meeting.

April meeting: Dedicated to meeting with candidates who are at about the midway point in the process, celebrating their learnings and epiphanies to date, being supportive and encouraging of challenges and stumbling blocks encountered, and flagging any concerns that may require additional time, attention and action.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: The Conference E&S Committee consists of a Convenor (Chairperson), Secretary, and the E&S Convenors/Representatives of the 8 Presbyteries, plus a London Conference Staff Resource person. Recently the Convenor of the Conference Internship Sites and Educational Supervision has joined the Committee as a corresponding member.

SKILLS AND GIFTS: It is helpful that folk who serve on this Committee have gifts of discernment, a knowledge of current educational requirements and “process,” an appreciation of each candidate’s unique faith journey, epiphanies, learnings, challenges and gifts for ministry. A willingness to work in collaboration with the Committee as a whole, and listening to the wisdom and insights of all is a

must. An ability to see and celebrate the gifts and strengths of Candidates while at the same time challenging and encouraging candidates to hone their growing edges even when this means requiring candidates to take additional training are necessary qualities for those who serve on the Committee.

EXPECTATIONS & TERM OF OFFICE: Conference E&S Committee members continue to serve on this committee for as long as they continue to serve as E & S Convenors of their Presbyteries. There is an abundance of dedication, commitment and collegiality among committee members and a shared, heartfelt desire for all Candidates to be well equipped and ready to advance to Ordination/Commissioning and begin the next phase of their faith journey.

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