

Available Position Minister of Worship & Faith Formation for Metropolitan Pastoral Charge

Position Information

Position Summary

Position Description

Community of Faith: Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Position Title: Minister of Worship & Faith Formation

Position Profile: This is a full-time position as a member of the Ministry Team that also includes the Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach, and the Minister of Music.

Deadline for applications: We are accepting applications for this position until March 31, 2021 or until a suitable applicant is found.

Start date: September 1, 2021 or a date to be negotiated.

Position Summary

Metropolitan United Church ("MET"), a cathedral church in the downtown core, is an affirming, progressive and inclusive congregation of 622 members and adherents from the local area and afar. This minister works as part of the Ministry Team and with the Director of Administration to build upon the church's 200-year history of excellence in preaching, music, community outreach and congregational care. Each minister has defined roles and responsibilities, with this position having primary responsibility for preaching, worship, and faith formation at MET. This position works collaboratively with the other ministers, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers to build an ever-stronger faith community.

Leadership/Governance

MET has a strong, lay-led culture, and this minister works within that community model to empower members and adherents to serve God and achieve our vision for the third century.

There are four program Pillars and three major Foundations in the governance structure of the church.

The Pillars are:

1. Spiritual Learning for Life
2. Integrated Arts
3. Congregational Care
4. Outreach

The Foundations are:

1. Trustees
2. Stewardship
3. Property

The Foundations work closely with the Committees of each Pillar. The Minister of Worship & Faith Formation is aligned with the Spiritual Learning for Life (SLFL) Pillar. (The Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach is aligned with the Congregational Care and Outreach Pillars, and the Minister of Music is aligned with the Integrated Arts Pillar and is responsible for all music decisions.)

Accountability/Decision-making:

This minister is accountable to the Official Board and to the United Church of Canada (UCC), as a partner to the Covenant. The minister's performance will be reviewed regularly by the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee.

Decision-making at MET is mostly collaborative, apart from the duties managed by a single individual. As a result, the success of the Ministry Team is a function of the complementary skills, experience, and styles of the three ministers, and of the quality of relationships among the ministers and the broader church staff team.

Principal Areas of Responsibility and Associated Duties

Preaching and Worship (Approx. 50%):

This position drives the spiritual vision, cathedral worship, and excellence in preaching that unites and inspires the congregation to learn about their faith, to grow spiritually, to serve and advocate for the vulnerable, and to care for the earth. This includes the following duties:

- Preach at 75% of the worship services.
- Lead the planning of services in conjunction with the Minister of Music, Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach, and the Worship Committee.
- In collaboration with the Worship Committee, create the overarching theme and theological plan for worship services for the year.

Faith Formation and Christian Education (Approx. 20%):

By overseeing spiritual formation programming, this position encourages the congregation and the community to learn from the wisdom and ethics of our faith tradition, to grow as disciples of Jesus, and to continue to find MET a place of encounter with God's transforming presence. This includes the following duties:

- Guide and mentor the Animator for Children and Youth Ministries, the Sunday school and nursery to provide innovative Christian education programs for children and youth, including inter-generational programming and online programming.
- Lead confirmation classes for church youth.
- Work with the SLFL Pillar Committee to provide opportunities for adult faith formation and education, including online education opportunities.
- Support the development of the ministerial and church staff.

Other Responsibilities (Approx. 30%):

Working with the Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach, this position will provide:

- **Pastoral Care**
 - Responding to needs for crisis care, counselling, and visitation to community members' homes, nursing homes and hospitals, and
 - Participating in or officiating at funerals, baptisms, and weddings.
- **Outreach and Congregation Engagement**
 - Supporting the activities of the Committees of the other three Pillars (Outreach, Congregational Care and Integrated Arts) as necessary.

The success of this position also relies on effective administration, engagement with the broader UCC community, and professional development:

- **Administration/Governance**

With full-time administration support for the Ministry Team, this position is expected to:

- - Hold regular office hours.
 - Hold ex-officio membership on the Official Board and Committee that falls under the SLFL Pillar.
 - With the Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach, act as advisor to the Pre-Board Committee, the Chair of the Official Board, and the Director of Administration on matters pertaining to the life of the Congregation.
- **Denominational Involvement/Promotional Activities**
 - Attend and contribute to the Shining Waters Regional Council and other wider church and ecumenical activities (e.g., the Lester Randall Preaching Conference).
 - Contribute to the online presence of MET through its website and other social media.
 - Promote and represent MET in the community as opportunities arise with the view to grow membership.
- **Professional Development/Continuing Education/Self-care**
 - Conduct an annual self-assessment and determine professional development goals.
 - Pursue personal, vocational, and professional goals for continuing education in consultation with the M&P Committee.
 - Ensure ongoing self-care to maintain a healthy balance of physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Ordained Minister in the United Church of Canada or accepted equivalent
- Well regarded as an exceptional preacher and leader, with a talent for connecting faith to today's complex world
- Ability to inspire Christian faith with strong oral and written communication skills
- Experience in both traditional and innovative approaches to worship and faith formation
- Pastoral care experience
- Experience in mentoring of students (SME qualifications or openness to seeking same)
- Interpersonal and collaboration skills
- Planning and organizational skills
- Computer literacy and social media skills

Other Preferred Assets

- Advanced studies in Theology
- Experienced in cathedral worship
- Brings a balance of reverence for tradition with an openness to serving congregants with a wide range of faith expressions and guiding a mission of Church that looks outward to engage with the larger world