

Proposal: Two
Title: Prioritizing of Campus Ministry
Origin: Ottawa Presbytery Chaplaincy Committee
Cost Implications: Staffing, communication and meeting costs
for a national church review/consultation
Ottawa Presbytery Action: Transmit with concurrence

That the 40th General Council (2009) recognize campus chaplaincies and ministries as a key element in the implementation of the United Church’s commitment to Youth and Young Adult Ministry,
And that the General Secretary of the General Council facilitate a national review of campus ministries to determine their strengths, needs, and role in youth and young adult ministries.

Whereas the Executive of the General Council adopted a motion in May 2007 which affirmed the “Call to Purpose” and affirmed that planning for the period 2008-2010 give priority to that which:

Deepens our experience of intentional and authentic communities; stretches us beyond the familiar expressions and concerns of our church; with particular concern for our commitment to youth and young adult ministry, becoming an intercultural church; and living with respect in creation.

Whereas UCC-supported Campus Ministers across the country understand their call as offering a number of gifts to the United Church of Canada, including:

- Representing God’s mission through the United Church of Canada to campuses across the country and serving thousands of students.
- Leadership development
- Discernment, support and identification of inquirers and candidates for ministry
- Support of the United Church’s intention to foster and develop an intercultural church
- Supporting the United Church’s commitment to youth and young adult ministry

Whereas campus ministries are under-supported both in terms of financial support and infrastructure across the country

Whereas young adults are largely absent from United Church congregations, but present in Canadian post-secondary institutions

Whereas the UCC-supported Campus Ministers across the country have decades of experience in bringing the church to thousands of young adults on the campuses they serve.

Whereas Campus Ministers work in ecumenical, multifaith, multicultural, and interfaith partnerships which can help develop the United Church into an intercultural church

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Whereas Campus Ministers are in a privileged position to discern and nurture the gifts of the church's future leadership and to identify and support a new generation of paid-accountable ministry.

Therefore we recommend that the aforementioned proposal be approved.

Background

In May 2008, about 20 of the UCC-supported Campus Ministers and Chaplains from across the country gathered at the University of Toronto to share their experience, their hopes and challenges and to provide collegial pastoral support.

A common understanding has been emerging among these ministers over a number of years that campus ministries receive little recognition or support from most presbyteries, conferences, or General Councils. In addition, it is the experience of many Campus Ministers that a large percentage of the few United Church young adults who feel a vocational call to ministry developed and discerned that call in part through their engagement with a campus ministry.

The Campus Ministers agreed that campus ministries across the country are in a strategic position to help realize the current programmatic priorities as stated by the Executive of the General Council in May 2007. The Campus Ministers further agreed that it was important for the entire church to take ownership of campus ministry and its potential to minister to youth and young adults *and* to contribute to raising a new generation of United Church leadership.