Proposal Three
Title: Designated Lay Ministries in Music
Origin: Rothwell United Church
Ottawa Presbytery Action: Transmit with concurrance

BACKGROUND
The United Church of Canada has been examining the inclusion of church musicians under the classifications of Designated Lay Ministry or Congregational Designated Ministry, depending upon circumstances of employment. Such inclusiveness would emphasize music as a ministry of worship, education, service and pastoral care, with its additional expectations and responsibilities for spiritual and professional development, similar, for example, to those required of Parish Nurses and people who were formerly called Staff Associates. The embracing of music as a ministry would foster deeper opportunities for musicians to grow in knowledge and practice, enlivening both themselves and the communities they serve.

PROPOSAL
Whereas *"Ministry Together": A Report on Ministry for the 21st Century* (2000)[1] envisioned music ministry as a Designated Lay Ministry; and

Whereas the 37th General Council 2000:
1. established the category of Designated Lay Ministry;
2. recognized Congregational Accountable Ministry; and
3. authorized a Remit to approve the new term of Designated Lay Ministry; and

Whereas the Remit was approved, and was enacted by the 38th General Council 2003; and

Whereas the 39th General Council 2006 approved that:

1. There be two streams of paid accountable lay ministry in the United Church:
(i) Designated Lay Ministers who are accountable to a Presbytery and recognized by the Conference; and
(ii) Congregational Designated Ministers who are accountable to a Pastoral Charge and recognized by the Presbytery.
2. Presbyteries shall approve all paid accountable ministry positions by either:
(i) declaring a vacancy that may be filled by a member of the Order of Ministry or a Designated Lay Minister; or
(ii) approving a Congregational Designated Ministry position to be filled by someone appropriately qualified according to guidelines approved by the Executive of the General Council.; and

Whereas such changes to policy may only be made by decision of the General Council;

Therefore be it resolved that Ottawa Presbytery, through the Montreal and Ottawa Conference, proposes:

That the 40th General Council 2009:

Recognize the ministry of music as a Designated Lay Ministry, and that strategies be developed to support church musicians and congregations in the implementation of such policy.

1 Section 7.2, Table 5.