

## Conference Policy: License to Administer the Sacraments

Ministry Personnel: Diaconal Ministers, Lay Pastoral Ministers (in Training), Staff Associates

At a meeting of the British Columbia Conference Executive Minutes: November 9-11, 2000 the following was adopted:

THAT the BC Conference Executive approve that the Policy on Licensing of the Sacraments be:

1. THAT all Diaconal Ministers and Diaconal Supply, without the need for Presbytery or Conference approval, be granted the right to administer the Sacraments upon the completion of the approval of the appointment or call.
2. THAT Lay Pastoral Ministers in Training be granted the right to administer the Sacraments upon application of the Pastoral Charge and Presbytery to the Ministry and Personnel Council, who make a recommendation to the Conference; and upon completion of the General Council educational program, "The Theology and Practice of the Sacraments in the United Church of Canada" prior to the administration of the Sacraments.
3. THAT a Staff Associate is not eligible to be licensed to administer the Sacraments.

Lay People (not Ministry Personnel)

Joan McMurtry, Conference Minister: Ministry Personnel, noted that the following motion was passed by M&P Council and this motion as recommended to the Executive differs from the current policy of the General Council.

THAT the BC Conference Executive policy for licensing a Lay Person to administer the sacraments be subject to the following conditions:

1. First language: to administer the sacraments in the language of the people
2. Isolated region without relatively easy access to Ordered Ministers to provide for the Sacraments.
3. A Lay Person exercising "ministry" functions of Pastoral Care, worship, education, outreach in an institutional setting with:
  - an endorsement with a "mandate for ministry" as per Division of Ministry Personnel and Education policy
  - the institution is in an accountable relationship to the United Church of Canada (formal or informal)
  - membership in the Presbytery where the institution is located
  - a mandate for Sacramental Ministry within the bounds of the institution
  - and when an Ordered Minister is not easily available or accessible to administer the Sacraments

It is a requirement that the candidate must:

- the candidate must be a Member of the United Church of Canada in good standing
- the candidate must be an Elected member of the Session or its equivalent (or for Chaplain membership in Presbytery)
- the candidate must complete the General Council Educational Program prior to the administration of the Sacraments
- the license be subject to annual review and approval

For an application form for a license, please call the Conference Personnel Minister at (604) 431-0434 (304).

## References

**The Manual - 2001, 2.16.0, 2.16.1, 2.16.2**

By-Laws (relevant references)

### Pastoral Charge

- 153 The Duty of the Session
- 341 the Pastoral Charge Supervisor
- 342 Ordained/diaconal Supply
- 343 Lay Pastoral Ministers and LPMs in Training

### Presbytery

- 353 Presbytery Oversight of the Pastoral Relationship
- 370 Chairperson of Presbytery

### Conference

- 427 Ministry Personnel
- 430 President

### General Council

- 510 Moderator