

Office of Vocation

Dear friends. It is my pleasure to update you on the work of the Office of Vocation in your region.

Candidacy Board

Currently there are 37 candidates in the three Atlantic regions with seven of those being from First Dawn Eastern Edge (FDEE). There are a further 26 applicants who have indicated they have an interest in applying for candidacy. Of the candidates from your region, one will be ordained at the 2020 AGM, 3 are DLM candidates and 4 are in the ordained stream.

There are three members of the candidacy board from FDEE; Ettie Gordon-Murray, Simba Mazhara and Brenda Andrews.

Some trends I have noticed since we began Candidacy Pathway in 2019 are:

1. Only 2 of the total number of candidates are coming right out of university - all the rest are second career
2. There are almost no full-time Supervised Learning sites and very few urban ones
3. No on-site supervision exists
4. Ordained stream continues to be the most popular, with most of the DLM candidates coming from FDEE
5. There is overwhelmingly positive response to the process from candidates and applicants

Last winter, the Office of Vocation in partnership with Queens Theological College at MUN provided an online Ministry of Supervision course with leadership provided by myself and my colleague Brenda Fawkes. There were 35 participants, with several from FDEE, and most became qualified supervisors. We plan to again offer this course online in winter or spring of 2021.

Highlights from the work of the OV

- There were two remedial cases in the Atlantic Regions both of which ended with the respondent going on the discontinued service list voluntary
- Across the country there were 21 remedial cases, nine of which involved retired ministry personnel. The themes arising in the remedial work are growth in emotional intelligence, especially self awareness, relationship management and the need to manage conflict more effectively
- A new workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence prevention policy was adopted by GCE
- Recertification training for Intentional Interim Ministers is being offered via Zoom in cooperation with FDEE Regional Minister Heather Sandford and myself
- The OV is working diligently to ensure that all ministerial personnel have their required mandatory training and complete their annual declaration of criminal records
- A new Boundaries refresher for retired ministry personnel was designed and will be offered this fall

It has been my pleasure to serve as the OV Minister in your region. I look forward to meeting more of ministry personnel in the region.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson

ARichardson@united-church.ca 1-800-268-3781 ext 6104