

SACRAMENTS ELDER

A lay member of The United Church of Canada may be appointed as a Sacraments Elder in a pastoral charge where there is no regularly settled, appointed or called minister. (Section 347, The Manual 2007)

1. What sort of person should be a Sacraments Elder? A Sacraments Elder is:

- a member of The United Church of Canada
- a member of the Session, Board or Council of the pastoral charge
- a person who is recognized in that pastoral charge as a person of faith, wisdom and theological depth.

2. Who chooses a Sacraments Elder?

The church Board, Council or Session will choose a person in consultation with the presbytery.

3. What training does a Sacraments Elder require?

A Sacraments Elder will complete the Sacraments Course of Saskatchewan Conference.

- this course is available from the Conference Office.
- this course requires reading of books and articles, writing of papers and reflective conversation with an educational supervisor.

4. How is the supervisor chosen?

The presbytery will name an educational supervisor to work with the prospective Sacraments Elder.

5. Who decides if the Sacraments Elder has passed the course?

When the prospective Sacraments Elder and her/his supervisor believe that the work has been completed, the supervisor will report that to the presbytery. The presbytery will then recommend to the Conference Executive that the person be licensed as a Sacraments Elder.

6. Where can the Sacraments Elder offer the Sacraments?

The sacraments can be offered by the elder in the church and other places of worship (for example, communion in homes or hospitals) associated with the pastoral charge.

(over)

7. How long can the person be a Sacraments Elder?

A Sacraments Elder is licensed for one year, providing no minister is called, settled or appointed to the pastoral charge in that period. If at the end of that year there is still no regularly settled, called or appointed minister, the presbytery may apply to the conference to have the license extended for a further year.

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