

Minister for the Office of Vocation (Northern Spirit Region, Region 4, and Prairie to Pine Region)



Hi, I'm Karen Medland the Minister for the Office of Vocation in Regions 2,4,5. It's my great pleasure to serve the church in this new and exciting role. I am based in region 2 and travel to the other regions as often as needed.

There have been lots of questions over the last few months about what I and my colleagues across the country really do. So, I thought I'd give you a brief outline on the main components of the role and hopefully I'll be seeing lots of you at the regional meetings in May and June.

First though a little about myself, I was born and raised in Scotland, just outside of Glasgow. I have an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences, and a Masters of Divinity from Vancouver School of Theology. At the time of writing this I am completing my Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Chicago Theological Seminary.

I have been in paid accountable ministry with the United Church of Canada for over 16 years and all of that ministry was in British Columbia. During that time I've chaired presbytery, been a presbytery secretary, chaired the conference internship committee, and been president of BC Conference.

At conferences and meetings you will often see me with my knitting, as I need to keep my hands busy while my mind thinks, you can also usually find me near the coffee pot as well.

Now I've introduced myself I'll say some more about my role. The Minister of the Office of Vocation is a member of the general council staff who is deployed to work in the regions. I work in three key areas as part of the wider work of the Office of Vocation.

The first is, that I am staff support to the Candidacy Board for the three regions, helping them interpret and implement United Church policy as it relates to candidates for ministry. I help inquirers and candidates navigate the Candidacy Pathway which lays out the requirements to becoming ordained, commissioned or recognized in the church. It is exciting to work with the candidates and reminds me of when I was a candidate 20 years ago.

The second piece of my work, is helping those already in paid accountable ministry, or going into to it, ensure that they have all the correct mandated training and police records checks. Part of this includes hosting boundary training workshops in the three regions, once I have completed my training in Chicago this spring. I also will ensure that personnel files reflect the most up to date information on this training which will assist personnel and congregations in the search process.

The third large piece of my work, is working with the Board of Vocation with the smooth running of reviews and investigations. This work is of course the piece that often raises the most concern for people. My role is primarily to ensure that the congregation and the ministry personnel understand the process before, during, and after an investigation or review.

Well, that's me and my role in a nutshell, as they say. I hope to see you at your regional meeting, in the mean time if you have questions please email me at [kmedland@united-church.ca](mailto:kmedland@united-church.ca)

Blessings

Karen

Rev Karen Medland

Minister for the Office of Vocation for regions 2,4,5