

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION: VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATE MINISTER (VAM)

This policy outlines the regulations regarding Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAMs) in Shining Waters Regional Council.

Date Approved: December 12, 2018	Review date by Pastoral Relations Commission: 2021
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### DEFINITION

A Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) is a recognized ordered minister in The United Church of Canada who is retired or between calls or appointment. A community of faith and the called or appointed minister must request approval by the Pastoral Relations Commission for the appointment of a VAM.

### MEMBERSHIP

Voluntary Associate Ministers are members of the Regional Council and not of the community of faith with which they are associated. Volunteer Associate status shall be seen as equivalent to any appointment in terms of membership and discipline.

### THE PROCESS

An ordered minister may enter into an agreement with a community of faith to serve as a Volunteer Associate Minister.

The VAM form will be found on the Shining Waters Regional Council website. It must be filled in completely, including the signatures of the Pastoral Charge Secretary of the Board/Session (or equivalent), the called or appointed Ministry Personnel, and the Voluntary Associate Minister.

The completed form will be sent to the Shining Waters Regional Council office and forwarded to the Pastoral Relations Commission for consideration and approval.

Once the request has been approved, Shining Waters Regional Council will retain a copy and provide one to the community of faith Secretary or Board/Session (or equivalent), the called or appointed Ministry Personnel, and the Voluntary Associate Minister.

If the request is not approved, Shining Waters Regional Council will contact all parties.

By signing the Voluntary Associate Minister form, the Voluntary Associate Minister and other parties are agreeing to the following:

1. Pastoral functions performed come under the oversight and discipline of the Office of Vocation.
2. The Voluntary Associate Minister named in the agreement may receive honoraria for weddings or funerals and for presiding and/or preaching in regular worship; however, there is no expectation of honoraria, stipend, or travel allowance from the community of faith to which they are accountable.
3. When there is a change in a pastoral relationship within a Community of Faith, the Voluntary Associate Minister must reapply for their status. The new called or appointed minister has the option to approve or not approve the re-appointment of a Voluntary Associate Minister at the pastoral charge level.
4. If a Voluntary Associate Minister enters into a call at another community of faith, their VAM status shall end. If a VAM enters into an appointment longer than six months, their VAM status will also end.