

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION: ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING AND ADMISSION POLICY

This policy outlines the requirements for the approval of a provisional call or appointment for ordination, commissioning, and admission as determined by Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC).

Date Approved: Sept. 24, 2024	Date reviewed:	Next review date by Pastoral Relations Commission: 2027
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The United Church of Canada admits people into the Order of Ministry. The Manual (H.4.8) states, “b) confirmation that a covenantal relationship is in place with a community of faith or offer of employment to a paid accountable/recognized ministry, as determined by the regional council” as a standard that must be met for ordination, commissioning or admission. This policy outlines the requirements for the approval of a provisional call or appointment for ordination or commissioning as determined by the SWRC.

Policy:

To satisfy the requirements for admission, commissioning, and ordination by the regional council, a provisional call or appointment must:

1. Be for a covenanted relationship (a minimum of 6 consecutive months) involving a community of faith and the regional council or an offer of employment to a paid accountable/recognized ministry, as determined by the regional council;
2. Be for a minimum of 14 hours/week; and
3. Not fill a gap resulting from a leave from which the incumbent is expected to return within 6 months.

Depending on the contextual realities of the both the community of faith and the regional council, requests for exemption for extraordinary circumstances may be submitted for consideration and justification will be required. It would be the Pastoral Relations Commission that grants the exemption.