

Ministry Personnel: Are you planning to retire before September 01, 2020?

If you are:

1. Ministry Personnel and planning to begin collecting pension before September 01, 2020, or
2. Someone who has been collecting pension but continued working so chose not to be honoured as a retired pensioner by the wider church and is now ceasing to work and would like to be recognized as retired as of June 2020, or
3. Order of Ministry who were not contributing to the pension in the UCC who would now like to be recognized by the UCC as retired,

The Regional Council Office would like to know no later than April 15, 2020. Please email Cherry Abad (cabad@united-church.ca). As many of you are aware it is the practice of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council as part of the Annual Meeting to honour retirees at a banquet and invite them to address those gathered.

In order to begin collecting pension, ministry personnel currently in a pastoral relationship must:

- * submit a written request for a change in pastoral relations for the purpose of retirement to the Community of Faith, the Office of Vocation (officeofvocation@united-church.ca) and the Regional Council (Pastoral Relations Commission in Prairie to Pine Region c/o jhare@united-church.ca).
- * complete the following form and submit it as per instructions on the form https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_pr443_application_to_receive_pension_benefit_payments.pdf
- * call the United Church Pension and Benefits Center (1- 855-647-8222) or email: pension@united-church.ca to request a retirement package at least 90 days prior to your proposed date of “retirement”. Figures in packages vary depending on date chosen so you must have the exact date when requesting your package.

In June 2018, some changes were made in both language used and practises around retirement:
<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/retirement-pastoral-relations.pdf>

It is **no longer mandatory for Ministry Personnel who must begin collecting pension because of government requirement at age 71, to end their pastoral relationship**. Some may choose to continue working. When Ministry Personnel **choose to begin collecting pension**, then there are requirements related to ending and/or changing pastoral relationships. They are now required to **wait thirteen weeks after beginning to collect pension to re-engage in any employment within the United Church**. If they are re-engaging, there must be a change in status and function (i.e. significant change in position substance or percentage time if in same location or shift to a different pastoral relationship).

If you have questions about these matters, please contact the Pastoral Relations Minister, Judy Hare (204-421-8151).