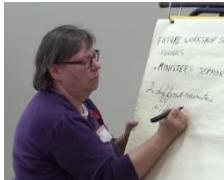


Process to become an LLWL

1. Become a member of The United Church of Canada.
2. Provide a letter from your home community of faith's governing body affirming your membership is in good standing in your home community of faith and your suitability in this role within the wider church.
3. Participate in a Licensed Lay Worship Leader educational program, which is currently offered online as 4 modules (liturgy, preaching, prayers, special events) through United in learning: <https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/llwl-online-training-program> taking approx. 2 years to complete. In addition, once licensed, you are expected to keep upgrading your skills through ongoing professional development.
4. Completion of Boundary and Racial Justice training, and a Police Record check.
5. Licensing, or subsequent renewal of licensing, is granted after an interview process conducted by the Human Resources Commission's Licensed Lay Worship Leader Resource Team, including a determination of your understanding of the ethos, theology and practice of The United Church of Canada.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders are encouraged to assist the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council in meeting the needs of communities of faith who need pulpit supply.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders will circulate within the regional council so that a number of communities of faith can benefit from your leadership gifts, along with respecting and abiding the guidelines of the regional council.

The LLWL is strictly meant as a temporary replacement of ordained ministry personnel and they are restricted to a maximum of 3 concurrent worship services at the same church, and are not licensed to do sacraments such as communion or perform weddings.

Current LLWL's comment:

- Being an LLWL allows for so much learning beyond my own community of faith.
- This is a way I can help the community.
- This is a way to expand my horizons and meet new people.
- What a touching experience.

Congregations say:

Worship leadership is a challenging role with an incredible upside; providing participants with gifts far beyond what you can envision.

If you want to learn more about being an LLWL, please email the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council office at hfrc@united-church.ca



Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) Program

Has your congregation invited you to lead worship?

Is leading worship something you enjoy?

Are you feeling called to share your gifts of worship leadership and preaching?

All God's children have received many gifts. Some lay people come forward to offer their faith, insight and skill as worship leaders in Communities of Faith.

The Licensed Lay Worship Leadership program is intended to honour and encourage members of the laity to share their gifts and express their faith while meeting the vital need of Communities of Faith to gather for worship.

To prepare an LLWL for their role the training will cover most, if not all, of the elements below:

Worship Leadership

Licensed lay worship leader parameters

Clarifying worship leadership roles and functions:

Worship service

Exploring United Church worship service structures / Looking at seasons of a liturgical year / Examining patterns and forms of worship in The United Church of Canada.

Underlying principles

Clarifying the focus of a worship service: liturgical season, needs of the congregation, other participants (e.g., musician, lay reader) / Respecting a congregation's traditions.

Worship leadership skills

Structuring and composing public prayers – trying out appropriate posture, movement and gesture / Practicing voice production: volume, pace, rhythm – incorporating silence / Sing inclusive language / Attending to the needs of children and youth.

Pastoral skills

Anticipating the pastoral dimensions of lay leadership in worship / Attending to the pastoral needs of the gathered faith community.

Worship leadership practicum

Finding written and online resources / Assessing quality of resources / Addressing issues of plagiarism and acknowledging sources / preparing and delivering liturgies.

Preaching

Looking at the underlying principles in preaching, such as why we preach.

Using and understanding the lectionary.

Understanding and responding to congregational and societal pastoral contexts.

Preparing to preach

Entering the texts / Using preaching resources appropriately / organizing a text.

Developing and practicing delivery skills.

Preaching practicum as opportunities for delivery and receiving feedback on content.

Biblical foundations

Hebrew Scriptures

Introducing approaches to biblical texts / Exploring historical and cultural contexts of ancient Israel / Surveying biblical texts.

Christian Scriptures

Exploring the economic, political, and religious context of Jesus of Nazareth / Surveying Paul's life and ministry in the economic, political, and religious contexts of the Pauline communities / Reviewing types of texts: parables, miracle stories, letters / Walking through later letters in the Christian scriptures / Examining and challenging anti-Semitism.

Theological foundations

Who is God?

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is church? Reflecting on different understandings of what it means to be the church in the world / Exploring what it means to be a worshipping community that celebrates God's presence / Surveying church history, including the history of lay leadership and ministry / Reviewing the formation and history of The United Church of Canada.

Examining other theological topics, such as atonement, grace, creation, mercy, salvation, sacrament, end times, discipleship and hope.

Developing a respectful understanding of other world religions

Pastoral and Contextual Foundations

United Church ministerial structures

Clarifying roles and responsibilities at the levels of community of faith, regional council and General Council / Describing roles and responsibilities of licensed lay worship leaders / Awareness of the boundaries of the role of a licensed lay worship leader / Awareness of policies and procedures on sexual misconduct as outlined by The United Church of Canada.