

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATE MINISTER

1. Each year, Presbyteries shall establish a list of those eligible to perform marriages for the Executive Secretary of Hamilton Conference, who shall then inform the Provincial authorities of additions and removals.
2. "Voluntary Associate Minister" shall include Ministry Personnel in an appointment other than to a Pastoral Charge, Ministry Personnel retained on the roll without settlement or appointment and retired Ministry Personnel other than those serving as United Supply (Manual 365 a) i, ii, iv).
3. Hamilton Conference establish a category known as "Voluntary Associate Minister" under the following conditions:
 - i. Ministry Personnel as defined in Section 2, shall present a request for Voluntary Associate status to the Session or equivalent.
 - ii. Congregations acting through the Session, or equivalent, shall consider the application for Voluntary Associate status for Ministry Personnel defined under Section 2 and if approval is given, shall apply to Presbytery to appoint the applicant Voluntary Associate Minister. An ongoing relationship between the Volunteer Associate and the Congregational Ministry and Personnel Committee is expected to be the norm.
 - iii. Presbytery shall examine each application with a view to being satisfied that the following conditions are fulfilled, namely:
 - a) That Christian marriages be performed by United Church Ministry Personnel who are visibly related to a congregation or Presbytery-recognized ministry;
 - b) That their pastoral function comes under the oversight and discipline of Presbytery;
 - c) That all marriages be registered in record books that remain the property of an ongoing congregation or Presbytery recognized ministry.
 - iv. Being satisfied that these conditions are being met, Presbytery may make the Voluntary Associate appointment and notify the Executive Secretary of Conference to include this person so appointed on the list of those eligible for certification to perform marriages.
 - v. Presbytery shall make these appointments annually to ensure that ministry personnel who have moved from the congregational area, or who have ceased to be willing or able to fulfill the pastoral responsibility be removed from the list.

- vi. Voluntary Associate Ministers are members of the Presbytery and not of the congregation with which they are associated. Volunteer Associate Status shall be seen as equivalent to an appointment in terms of membership and discipline (Manual 11 a), b)).

1996 Record of Proceedings, page E7

1999 Record of Proceedings, page E65

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