

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
230 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, ON M4V 1R5
www.temc.ca

Minister of Pastoral Care

Hours: Pastoral appointment; 35 hours/week, on average, including Sunday mornings.

Rationale

Pastoral care is an important ministry in Christ's church. It's one of our most delightful. To meet with people at the edges of life: the newly born, at the precipice of death, before a frightening surgery, after a success. These are the moments when we are especially open to God and perhaps even hungry for more of God.

We might think of this ministry through the lens of Jesus' pastoral care. His first miracles are mostly miracles of healing: casting out demons, healing diseases, curing leprosy, ending blindness, granting the lame the ability to walk again, the voiceless to speak. These are signs of Jesus' renewal of creation, of God's healing of it from within. The church founded the world's first hospitals and continues in this ministry to this day. The Minister of Pastoral Care will make sure that our healing practices remain ecclesial, personal, hand-in-hand rather than at a distance. Jesus touches almost everyone he heals with his own hands (when he doesn't it's noted as remarkable). This person will be Jesus Christ's hands for us at TEMC, inviting others to join in with their work.

This person will lead this ministry at our church. Not that she or he will do all the pastoral ministry personally – the whole church cares for each other, other members of the clergy team and staff will also engage in pastoral care, and we have longstanding programs like Stephen Ministry that assist in this. But this person will make sure everyone at the edges of life *is* cared for by *someone*, and those doing the caring have proper training for their work.

This new generation of ministry in the church will have to avoid being narrowly slotted or siloed. Every pastoral leader we have has to bring fresh energy to the church as a whole. We have to be people whom others want to follow in Jesus' way. So in addition to being sure that pastoral care is provided and received here and beyond, this person also needs to bring us fresh energy in new areas. Some are predictable: helping in worship as needed, taking on other pastoral duties as assigned. But some are unpredictable. The seed that Jesus, the sower, throws land in unexpected places and bear preposterous amounts of fruit. This person will throw seed, notice what comes up, and then tend to that harvest (in addition to the primary responsibility of pastoral care outlined in this document).

Provision

In fall of 2022, TEMC merged with the historic Dewi Saint United Church, a Welsh-Canadian congregation. That group has renamed itself Addoldy Cymraeg Toronto, a fellowship group regularly worshipping in Welsh. The former Dewi-Saint community's generous support provides one-half of this position's costs. Smaller churches like Dewi-Saint are accustomed to more frequent and personal pastoral care than larger congregations can usually offer. The challenge here is to minister with excellence to the entire community of our elderly, and injured, and lonely population with the excellence that small churches are right to expect.

General Description of Duties

Reporting through the Ministry and Personnel Committee, which represents the Council of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church to the Shining Waters Region of the United Church of Canada, the Minister has the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care at TEMC. He/she will embrace a collaborative model of ministry in his/her work with the other clergy, Director of Music, and other ministry and staff positions.

The overall goal of this position is to nurture a community of care, so that those in need of pastoral care in our community and just beyond are ministered to with excellence..

Specific responsibilities:

The Minister of Pastoral Care will use their skills to aid the congregation to reach the goals identified in the current Ministry and Mission Profile, and following our Long Range Plan (LRP) will focus on the Pastoral Care needs of congregation members and adherents of all ages.

Day to day activities will include: pastoral visits to hospitals and homes; funerals; individual and/or group counselling; recruiting and training lay pastoral visitors; overseeing the Stephen Ministry program; conducting worship services at care homes; attending congregational events; attending meetings, such as staff, council, and committee meetings; proposing and implementing new pastoral initiatives; if ordained, responsibilities may include weddings and baptisms.

The Minister of Pastoral Care will not be required to preach but will be involved in worship leadership and writing liturgy.

Education, Skills and Experience:

We will consider applicants who are ordained in the United Church of Canada, as well as candidates for ministry, and retired clergy.

The qualified candidate should have completed or be enrolled in theological training for ministry (M.Div) and should have experience in Pastoral Care in a congregational setting, especially with seniors. Experience and training in Gerontology and/or counselling would be assets.

The candidate should be willing to complete the Stephen Ministries' Bridge Leader Training Course if he/she has not already done so.

The candidate should demonstrate a concern for the needs of those who are ill, bereaved, or struggling with various challenges of life, as well as having an appropriate appreciation for the overall context of ministry in Midtown Toronto.

Other Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The suitable person for this position will:

- Possess a strong Trinitarian foundation to their ministry;
- Be a prayerful and compassionate person who delights in caring for others through prayerful engagement with God;
- Demonstrate flexibility and time management skills in order to meet the fluctuating needs of the congregation;
- Be a strong, contributing and collaborative team member.