

Title: Congregational Designated Ministry hours threshold

Originating Body: Valley Presbytery

Maritime Conference Action: Transmit with Concurrence

Financial Implications: N/A

Staffing Implications: N/A

Proposal:

That the 40th General Council (2009) direct:
That the category of Congregational Designated Minister be limited to specifically defined positions of 8 hours per week or less.

Background:

1. Manual sections 343 and 345 were declared to be fully in effect on February 1, 2009, together with a new “*Handbook for Designated Lay Ministry and Congregational Designated Ministry.*”
2. These new designations are based significantly on the report “*Ministry Together: A Report on Ministry for the 21st Century*” which was received by the 37th General Council. (Record of Proceedings (ROP), pg. 633).
3. Among the actions approved by the 37th General Council is the following, “*that any lay ministry position of 14 hours per week or more in the areas of education, outreach, pastoral care, or worship must conform to the requirements of designated lay ministry and be a Presbytery/District appointment.*” (Resolution 9.4(c), ROP pg. 94) The 38th General Council changed the number of hours to 8.
4. Section 345 of the Manual is silent on the matter of an hours-per-week limitation for Congregational Designated Ministers. So too is the new Handbook. Emphasis is placed on a complex rating system of Experience/Knowledge, Accountability, Decision-Making, Complexity of Focus, and Boundaries.
5. Remaining silent on the matter of hours-per-week threshold provides the opportunity for substantial pressure being brought to bear on Presbyteries and Ministry Personnel to have existing and future multiple staff ministry positions in Pastoral Charges categorized as Congregational Designated Ministry positions with less regard for the rating system and more regard for potential cost saving measures.