

Call for Proposals: Music Leader(s) at the 43rd General Council 2018

Issue date: March 1, 2017

Deadline for proposals: March 31, 2017

Call to: Music Leader(s) for The United Church of Canada's 43rd General Council meeting, July 21–27, 2018, Oshawa, Ontario

Theme for GC43: Risking Faith, Daring Hope.

Overview

You are an unlikely person—a great musician who loves mornings! The United Church's General Council (the denominational decision-making body) meets for seven days in July 2018. The work of the council is grounded in its worship life, and music is a huge element of that worship.

In this position you will work with the Worship Planning Team to create inspiring worship that helps the Council discern the road ahead for the wider church.

Skills and Abilities

You might be an individual, a group or a band.

You can sing and play music in a variety of languages and musical styles, not just English and Western. Your versatility stretches from Bach to bebop, call-and-response to coloratura, the pentatonic scale to peacenik anthems.

You can sing lyrics in languages other than English and teach others to do the same. You have a passion for congregational singing and are more interested in helping others to sing than being in the spotlight. Your worship music helps people experience a sense of the Spirit, however you name that Spirit.

You adhere scrupulously to copyright laws. You are attentive to language, pushing to be inclusive and expansive, and recognizing the power of words to build community. You have excellent planning skills yet can change plans quickly if required.

You are familiar with our hymnals: *Voices United*, *More Voices*, and *Nos voix unie*. You are comfortable singing (and even speaking) in French. You embrace an ethos that seeks to be intercultural, LGBTQ+-affirming, understands that children and youth are not the future but the present, seeks to work toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, cares for creation, and appreciates a wide spiritual spectrum. You are comfortable being livestreamed, filmed, and recorded and are able to clearly communicate your technical needs to audiovisual technicians. You can read the room and know what type of music will speak to the group.

What Happens at General Council

Each day of the General Council will have an opening and a closing worship, which you will plan with the Worship Team. You may also be invited to offer music at other times in the meeting, maybe to allow time for thought, to raise the energy in the room, or even for crowd control. You may also be asked to work with other musicians.

General Council will include over 300 people from across the country. Usually they will be seated in table groups. The meeting is being hosted by two Conferences: All Native Circle and Bay of Quinte.

For the first time, this General Council will include a one-day Festival of Faith. This festival is still in the planning stages and will likely happen on the day before the official opening of the council. Your music leadership may also play a vital role in the festival which may start on July 20th.

Venue

The venue is the University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, Ontario. Plenary sessions will be held in the large gymnasiums on campus.

Technical support will be provided: (projection screens, sound technicians, etc.) Since the meeting will be live-streamed, you need to plan to be televised.

Application Process

Your application will be reviewed by the General Council Planning Team and the Worship Planning Team.

Please send us your CV, links to your music, and a two-page statement expressing your musical vision for this position, addressing such questions as

- how your music celebrates diversity and interculturalism
- how you would teach words, including in languages other than English, and new rhythms to a large group so they can sing with confidence
- your understanding of the role of music in worship
- your understanding of the role of music in meetings
- your compatibility with the ethos of The United Church of Canada

Please indicate what equipment you will be bringing and your technical needs, including

- types of musical instruments
- amplifiers and other sound equipment
- microphone, including preference for specific type (cordless, headset, etc.)
- any other specific needs

Also include your suggested budget for this gig. Your travel and accommodations will be covered.

Send your application to

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