



The Explorer Project 2019 FAQ

An initiative to encourage young adult United Church members to consider ministry as a vocation

What is the Explorer Project?

The Explorer Project is an opportunity for United Church young adults (age 19 – 25) to work beside a United Church minister in a pastoral charge in another part of Canada. Participants from Toronto Conference will travel to either B.C., Alberta/Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, or Newfoundland and Labrador. The Project is designed to involve people who have not yet discerned a call to ministry or begun the candidacy process or theological education but are interested in exploring ministry as a vocation.

What is the purpose of the Explorer Project?

The Explorer Project provides participants with an opportunity to see the vocation of ministry up close. But it's not just about observation. Explorers work with the minister and become involved with her/his congregation in areas such as worship, music, teaching, planning, social justice, outreach, and other areas. The minister acts as a mentor to the Explorer, offering them feedback and teaching.

How does the Explorer Project work?

Successful applicants are matched with host congregations for the months of May, June and July, depending on your interests and skills and the type of host congregation. Explorers are given many opportunities to use their skills and passions for the church. They become involved in the life and work of their host congregation. A host committee at each site works to integrate the Explorer into their congregation and meets regularly with the Explorer to ensure the experience is satisfying and fulfilling.

Do I get paid for the work that I do?

Explorers are paid an honorarium of \$5,000 (for the complete 3 months). In addition, accommodation and meals or a food subsidy are provided. Travel from your home to and from the host site is also provided.

Where do I live?

Explorers either live with a host family or are provided with an apartment/suite. Local travel is arranged by your host site.

Am I expected to become a minister after I complete the program?

No. You might choose to go down the path of becoming a United Church minister. You might decide to exercise new forms of leadership as a lay person in the United Church. There is no obligation to take further steps into ministry. Whether the experience leads to a sense of vocation to the orders of ministry or not, we trust it will deepen the sense of joy in discipleship for all who are involved.