

Ministries in French Report

In the last few months, the Ministries in French team has been working on developing resources, ministry training, nominations, establishing a new network and decision-making structure, as well as supporting existing and emerging ministries across Canada. Here is a quick summary of some of these pieces:

Resource development

A new musical accompaniment CD with a selection of hymns from Nos Voix Unies (the Francophone hymn book of the United Church) has been produced by our resident musician Lambert from Laurentian-Area Ministries and our Francophone community of faith in Ste-Adèle and is available on iTunes and other electronic sources. We are pulling together French prayers and other worship resources from Gathering over the last number of years and providing content on our website for congregations across Canada.

Aujourd'hui Credo Magazine

To keep up with the times, the French-language magazine of the United Church has moved to an online platform, intimately integrated into the French-language website of the church at egliseunie.ca/credo. Articles will be easier to share and content will be more timely without a formal publication deadline. This allows for greater relevance to the world around us as well.

La Table des Ministères en Français

A new decision-making and networking structure has been created to enable Francophone ministries to have some self-governing authority in certain areas of work while expanding the support network to a wider church where bilingual ministry may be possible. Covenants between the new Regions, the General Secretary and la Table are now being discussed to help implement the decision-making elements of this restructuring. Following up from the General Council decision on M&O-01, La Table has also been actively working to help recruit nominations for various committees, particularly for the Office of Vocation.

Support for Francophone delegates at General Council

The team worked to provide the largest-ever number of translated proposals and documentation for General Council. Ensuring bilingual worship, administrative and translation support throughout GC43, the team also produced high quality French-language communications for web and social media as well as traditional media relations work.

Emerging Ministries

New ministries have been developing over the last few years in Winnipeg, Toronto, Sherbrooke and Montreal. The Ministère Protestant Francophone de Toronto was recognized as a formal mission of the United Church in June and they are a strong inter-cultural community that is active and growing. L'Accueil in Winnipeg is an innovative Saturday evening worship and dinner event that happens monthly and benefits from a recorded sermon from ministry leadership in Quebec. Possibilities of expanding the L'Accueil model are being explored in places like Whitehorse, Moncton and Sudbury.

Training

The second-ever Lay Worship Leadership training program offered in French has just launched. This two-year on-line project will enable Francophone lay leadership development across Canada. Participants

can also just register for individual modules if they are not seeking full certification but are interested in learning about scripture, worship and leadership.

Support for Francophone and Bilingual Ministry Personnel

A monthly on-line lectionary working group in French begins in November to give ministry personnel the chance to engage with each other on upcoming scripture readings. This will also allow bilingual ministers the chance to practice their French language skills.