

South Arm United Church – Minister Search 2023



The community of South Arm United Church is seeking a 3/4 FTE - 2 year appointment open to all ministry streams including SME (Supervised Ministry Experience).

*For more information or to apply please see [ChurchHub.ca](https://www.churchhub.ca)
Thank you for your interest!*

South Arm United Church

11051 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V7A 1X3

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www.southarmunitedchurch.ca

Position Description

Position Title: Minister of South Arm United Church

Closing Date: TBD Start Date: ASAP

Position Profile

Full-time X Part-time
 If part-time, hours per week **30**

X Solo Team Ministry
 If team, describe full ministry complement

Position Summary

This is a 3/4 FTE - 2 year appointment open to all ministry streams including SME (Supervised Ministry Experience).

There will be a conversation with the successful applicant regarding how they and the congregation will manage, ensuring that the time is held to 30 hours per week.

This Pastoral Charge is looking for a Minister with the skills and ability to lead us to the future God is calling us to. We are a strong and still vibrant community searching for someone to assist us in discerning how to live out our Mission Statement.

The minister for South Arm United Church Pastoral Charge is a person called by God to fulfill God's mission for our congregation. The Minister has responsibility for the overall worship and Spiritual life for our Church. Our Mission Statement is:

As South Arm United Church we are called to:

- Worship God
- Be a community of faith
- Be disciples of Jesus
- Serve and live out God's love

Accountable to:

- This position is accountable to the governing body, through the Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Committee.
- This position is accountable to the Office of Vocation for oversight and discipline.
- This position has a relationship of accountability, support and collegiality with the Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

Autonomy in Decision-Making

- The Minister will be in discussion with various committees and is expected to make decisions regarding how our stated values ¹ are to be lived out in accordance with our mission statement. The Minister has approval for the necessary expenditures directly related to the day to day Ministry and will consult with the M & P Committee when seeking continuing education expenses.
- Both Worship and Christian Education Committees have budgets to cover expenses supporting new initiatives or to improve current programs.
- Our Music Minister is currently actively involved in the music selections with consultation with the Minister.

¹ (please see our values on page 6)

Principal Areas of Responsibility and Associated Duties

The minister has responsibility for the overall worship and spiritual life for our church. The major areas of responsibility will be Word and Sacrament, Pastoral Care, Christian Development, Outreach and Leadership.

- Worship preparation and delivery
- Administration and Committee Meetings
- Pastoral Care
- Miscellaneous (Weddings, Funerals etc.)
- The major areas of responsibility will be Word and Sacrament, Pastoral Care, and leadership. Estimated percentage of time spent:

45% Worship	35 % Pastoral Care	Leadership 10%	Visioning our Future 10%
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Administration

The minister will attend Council meetings and as available committee meetings. We recognize that at .75FTE they may not be able to attend all committee meetings regularly.

It would be helpful (but not a necessity) if the Minister is able to provide digital copies of materials for printing, email distribution or website update.

Community Outreach and Social Justice

Over the years there has been strong support for Outreach work at South Arm United Church. Please see Living Faith Story for current activities.² It is expected that the minister would be an ex-officio member of this Outreach committee and support, consult with, and promote the various Outreach activities.

Continuing Education

The Minister:

- Pursues personal, vocational, and professional goals for continuing education in consultation with the M & P Committee.
- Is entitled to three weeks paid Study Leave annually per United Church of Canada polity.
- Has a book allowance per United Church of Canada guidelines and complete autonomy in the use of the allowance.

Denomination and Communities

- Ministry personnel have responsibilities as members of The United Church of Canada to the denomination, the wider Church, their communities, and the world.
- Our congregation no longer reflects the changing demographic composition of Richmond; however, we are and have been working to change that and become a more inclusive community.
- South Arm United welcomes same sex marriage.

The Minister:

- Is involved in the life of the Regional Council and/or General Council.

² (Page 9)

- Is open to seeking opportunities with other Richmond United Church congregations for cooperation and mutual support.
- Is open to contact and cooperation with other Christian denominations and other faith communities.
- Encourages lay participation in charitable and supportive organizations within the Richmond community and beyond.

Faith Formation and Christian Education

In coordination with the lay team of volunteers and the Church Life Coordinator (paid staff 7.75 hours per week) the minister is encouraged when possible to support faith formation and Christian education. Please see Living Faith Story for details.³

Leadership⁴

- The Ministers that have been most successful at South Arm United Church have been friendly, open and good listeners. They have made it a priority to know us as individuals as well as a community. Although this is a solo Ministry; leadership at SAUC is a team activity, the Minister needs to be open to working with various teams, committees and groups.
- Ministry personnel are expected to work collaboratively with other staff. M & P have charge of supervision of all ministry staff.
- The Minister is not afraid to take risks and build relationships. They introduce new ideas and encourage others to do the same. They offer support for lay persons to run with new ideas and encourage them to use their gifts. As such they are an innovator and a creative thinker.
- They will provide strong leadership and training for Pastoral Care.
- They are sensitive to the concerns of seniors and relate well to all ages including children and youth.
- Have strong communication skills, be adept at conflict resolution and willing to teach those skills.
- Pitch in where needed and encourage lay participation in planning and preparation of worship events such as Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.
- Be open to new technology.
- **HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR.**

Pastoral Care

- In a congregation with many seniors, the minister works with and supports the pastoral care and membership committees to maintain communication with all members, adherents, and others, especially those unable to attend worship and other community functions.
- Support for this committee may include training of community members in communication skills relevant to their functions.
- The minister provides spiritual support to persons of all ages facing physical and other crisis, end

³ (Page 9)

⁴ (Page 10)

of life or bereavement.

- Clinical pastoral education units desirable but not essential.

Self-Care

Ministry personnel are responsible for maintaining a healthy balance in their own lives. Accordingly, they:

- Maintain their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
- Nurture supportive personal and collegial relationships.
- Manage time for work, family, friends, personal development, and renewal.
- SAUC expects the Minister to have regular weekly days off.
- SAUC, in consultation with the M & P Committee, will provide personal leave as required.
- Annual vacation is given as per the United Church of Canada guidelines.
- In the past we had and are considering re-instating a small support team of members to provide emotional support and interactive discussion with the Minister once a month.
- **Again there will be a conversation with the successful applicant as to how best to ensure that the 30 hour work week will be adhered to.** We expect there may be a number of discussions as we work together to fine tune expectations.

Worship

- We appreciate reflections with a clear point that are scripted in friendly accessible terms.
- We enjoy participating in Worship Alternatives such as drama, music, stories and other “out of the box alternatives”.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Eligibility: Ordered, DLM or SME.
- An understanding of Liberal Theology (allowing room for questioning).
- Strong interpersonal communication, verbal and written skills (includes writing, editing, proofreading and public speaking) skills;
- Outstanding planning, time management, organizational and situational analysis skills, together with the flexibility to effectively deal with changing situations or priorities.
- Ability to take initiative and work proactively and collegially with colleagues, volunteers and others.
- Ability to work in an environment, where sensitivity, understanding and patience guide all relationships and appropriate confidentiality is maintained.
- Alignment with the vision and values of The United Church of Canada.
- Recognition of personal and professional boundaries.

Other Preferred Assets

- Computer skills in the use of various software applications – Office 365, Dynamics, SharePoint, PowerPoint, Word, One Drive, Teams, Zoom, and other social media and online platforms and a willingness to use new technologies.
- **Can comfortably walk on water!**

Living Faith Story

The Spirit of South Arm United Church

There's a spirit in the air
That folks at South Arm really care
Music, messages and prayer
Lots of fun and laughter there

We also have a serious side
With God and Jesus as our guide
Life and love in all we do
With open doors, we welcome you

Sheila Rodgers

INTRODUCING OUR STORY

Our story as a community of faith is a very long and colourful story that has deep historical roots in the community of Richmond. "We believe that we are called by God to live our faith as individuals and as a community of faith with joy."

Our vision is that South Arm United Church is a welcoming Christ-centred community that serves ALL with joy, justice, and courage.

As South Arm United Church we are called to:

- Worship God
- Be a community of faith
- Be disciples of Jesus
- Serve and live out God's love

We have developed 11 core values that are statements we believe direct all that we do as a community of faith. We work to reflect these values in the goals of each of the committees that carry out our mission and purpose.

The key points of these values are as follows:

Welcoming community of faith	Generations distinctive and interconnected
Bible Stories of our faith	Discerning Lay ministry and staff team
Disciples of Jesus	Mutual care and support
Variety of worship experiences	Reaching out to the world's needs
Supporting each other	Living out our Christian faith
Sense of fun and joy	

Six parts of our Story

There are six parts of our story.

We hope that the text below and the images in the PowerPoint slide show available at (https://youtu.be/poPNB7FaJ_w) will capture:

- Part 1 How our story began
- Part 2 Who we are
- Part 3 Where we are
- Part 4 What we value and all the actions of our committees
- Part 5 Our challenges
- Part 6 Our Story Message

Part 1. HOW OUR STORY BEGAN

We began as farmers and fisherman coming together to worship. Our first Church building opened for worship in 1906 – it is affectionately known as “The Pioneer Church” and was a Presbyterian Church. During much of our history (1903 – 1962) South Arm shared a Minister with Steveston United Church. In 1925 the congregation voted yes join the newly formed United Church of Canada.

In 1955 there was a housing boom and a great deal of the agricultural land to the North of the Church suddenly became suburban: we became a “Country Church in the city”.

With this housing boom came a huge growth in Church membership. It became necessary to build a much larger Church which is where we currently worship. Built entirely by volunteer labour, the new Church opened May 10th 1959. This Church includes a Sanctuary seating 300, a library, several meeting or multipurpose rooms, a large kitchen and an approximately 4000 square foot gymnasium with stage and storage rooms. It is a large building that is well utilized by many community groups including a long standing in-house pre-school.

In 1967 the “Pioneer Church” was moved from its location at the corner of Steveston Hwy and No. 3 Rd to its current position. With the move the old site was developed into our “Memorial Garden”.

In 1992 an addition was made to the big Church – “The Heritage Wing” which was mostly built by volunteers and serves as a multipurpose space available for many activities.

Our community garden plots located on both sides of the Pioneer Church show our awareness of the food security issues we are facing in our community and world. It also meets the interest of many people in our community who like to garden.

Part 2. WHO WE ARE

As a Church that is 120 years young, we value hospitality, friendship, Spiritual learning, caring for others and inspiring all to live out God’s will in our world. As a medium sized congregation, we recognize one another but may not know each other well.

Volunteerism has always been strong in our community of faith – from the building of Church structures, maintenance of the properties, social groups, out-reach projects and more, we continue that tradition.

We are a people who are willing to dig into challenges, to find common purpose and figure out what and how things need to get done always considering what God is calling us to do.

We appreciate one another’s ideas gifts and strengths. We support one another in times of grief or trouble.

One of our greatest strengths is the value we place on “Small Church style friendships”. We take a lot of pleasure in the company of friends, old and new. Connections to one another are essential to the health of our community of faith.

At the beginning of the pandemic when it was not safe to gather, we discovered that many members of the congregation searching for connection found companionship in gathering outdoors in the parking lot. The opportunity to gather was embraced by many and we continue to meet Wednesday mornings for coffee and conversation. It speaks to our deep desire to connect to one another and share things happening in our lives. With prayer and faith, God helps us find a way.

We like to laugh and find the joy in sharing our lives together.

Part 3. WHERE WE ARE

The city of Richmond is “An Island by Nature” in the province of British Columbia. We are unique in that we started as an urban Church within the Agriculture Land Reserve with 5 ½ acres.

Richmond has many Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Taoist, Sikh, Hindu, and other assorted Christian denomination faiths. A three-kilometre stretch of No. 5 Road is home to many religious institutions and schools, all of which blend English with different global languages. Often referred to as the “Highway to Heaven”, this stretch is an example of an oasis of multifaith harmony. South Arm United Church was a founding member of Richmond Faith Communities and continues to be a supportive member.

Richmond is home to four other United Churches. Richmond United Church, Steveston United Church, Brighthouse United Church and Gilmore Park United Church.

We are a Church poised in an interesting location with great potential. Richmond is a community with a beautiful setting with a very diverse population.

Part 4 WHAT WE VALUE

Part 4 of our story is what we value as a community. This is to show how our core values are woven into everything we do in all our committees. In our Worship and music, in our pastoral care, in our Christian development in our outreach, in our leadership and in our sense of fun.

a) WORSHIP AND MUSIC

- **We value** . . . a variety of worship experiences and regular celebration of the sacraments of Communion and baptism.
- **We value** . . . meaningful involvement of children and youth in all aspects of congregational life.

WORSHIP

We gather on Sunday mornings throughout the year at 10:00 AM. The congregation is generally inspired by uplifting thought-provoking reflections using inclusive language. We are a group that loves

to learn and explore different perspectives. We endeavour to engage all people gathered for worship, so they are included and valued. We also want to be welcoming and to offer something that new people can relate to. The community faith is generally comfortable with a variety in our services. Lay leadership is strong in this community and contribute through prayers, scripture readings and more. For many in the congregation, inspiration comes from the opportunity to participate in the service in a communal way - such as producing sound effects participating is one of a group of shepherds or angels or townspeople etc. It's fun, active, and suitable for all ages to work together.

We tend to like reflections of 20 minutes or less. The content and delivery should fit the tone of the scripture and leave you knowing clearly what the message is. We should feel it fits our lives and moves our hearts, minds, and souls. We are relaxed as we worship together laughing when things don't go as planned. We respond to thought provoking inspirational messages from the pulpit. Services often include a learning together time. When present, children and youth then leave for the Church school using the Whole People of God curriculum.

Our community of faith has a vibrant worship life. Sunday morning worship is an expression of our gratitude to God and our joy in being together as people. If you were to visit us for worship, you would find 40 – 50 of us gathered. We are an ageing congregation who welcomes all. Children and youth, whenever present, bring joy and hope.

MUSIC

Music and the love of music is very strong in this congregation. Music sets the tone for our worship and makes our world a joyful place. The Sanctuary features a grand piano and an electric organ.

We are blessed with musical talent galore, and openness to all musical styles. The music selections chosen, conducted, and performed by our Music Minister are cherished by our congregation.

Over the years we have had many groups and individuals share their musical gifts. At the present we have a Gospel Choir and Chime Choir.

PASTORAL CARE

- **We value . . .** mutual care and support.
- **We value . . .** being welcoming and open to all who seek to be a part of a community of faith.

As a community with a large group of seniors, pastoral care is very important to us. Many members of the congregation actively provide support. The Minister is available to those needing individual spiritual support including crisis care.

Pastoral Care is provided to everyone in the SAUC faith family whenever we hear the call for prayers.

Activities include: Home visitation, Caring Tree phone calls, prayer shawl knitting, quilt making, celebratory and get well cards, Easter flower delivery, Christmas wishes and more. The committee is also responsible for providing the Sunday Worship Joys and concerns to the Minister each week.

Following the example of Jesus, we aim to be an inclusive, kind, caring and compassionate Church family to all.

We have always held Potlucks believing they are the ultimate communal meal. We also celebrate special events with cakes and treats.

Are you getting the message we love food and company?

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

- **We value . . .** the Bible and other stories of our faith that comfort and challenge us to be disciples of Jesus.
- **We value . . .** the distinctiveness of all the generations and their interconnectedness.
- **We value . . .** supporting each other on our individual faith journeys.

Our Christian development committee has been very active over the years with experiences for adult faith formation and explorations of the bible stories in Church school and our Vacation Bible school. Our Church school is now a connection with Gilmore Park interfaith activities and Messy Church. Over the last few years, we have teamed up with Gilmore Park United Church and supported their hosting of “Camp Spirit” with volunteers.

We often have Bible studies in the form of a book study. Recently we just finished a book study on Thriving Churches with rich discussions about the attributes necessary for creating a vibrant community. We also have a Book Study club in connection with Gilmore Park United Church members. Faith Confirmation classes are offered as needed. We have been blessed after following the companion model of learning, that lifelong friendships were formed between the generations.

We have been more active with Social Media as it has helped us to connect during the pandemic and provided an avenue for members who have moved away or couldn't attend to keep in touch. We are relatively new to this way of communicating but find value in sharing stories and information about issues within our world. South Arm United Church has a website, Facebook Page and YouTube channel.

OUTREACH

- **We value . . .** reaching out to those in need in our community and in our world.
- **We value . . .** living out our Christian faith.

Outreach to the local and global community has and continues to receive strong support from the congregation.

We regularly support the Mission and Service Fund with a yearly contribution as well as responding to their specific appeals. Locally we continue supporting First United Mission both financially and with “gifts in kind”.

We have a long-standing practice of receiving a 2nd offering on Communion Sundays. Each month a different organization is chosen to receive this offering. The organizations we choose represent Global, Regional and Community support services.

We have supported The Heart of Richmond Aids Society for over 20 years and continue this help by catering monthly dinners as well as assisting financially with their Food Bank.

South Arm is a member of Safe Arms Richmond which is a coalition of 4 Churches in Richmond involved in Refugee Sponsorship. We are currently sponsoring 2 families from the Democratic Republic of Congo and are hopeful of their arrival sometime in 2023.

Historically we initiated programs with Richmond Food Bank (Birthday Party in a Bag) and Pathways Clubhouse (Cookies and Coffee) Unfortunately we have had to discontinue these due to Covid restrictions.

As individuals, when moved by the spirit we also reach out to support world concerns.

LEADERSHIP

- **We value . . .** lay ministry, our staff team and those seeking to discern their call to ministry. Our ministry personnel for 2023 include an Office Administrator, Church Life Coordinator, and Music Minister. We have a custodial contract as well as a hard-working Property Management Team, consisting of Senior volunteers.

Our council is made up of approximately 10 people who are the chairs of various committees. We meet once on a month presently on Zoom. We have operated for quite a few years now without a Council Chair but we have members who step up to chair our Council meetings.

In the past we have opened ourselves to those seeking to discern their call to ministry by providing student placements. We are currently open to providing a Supervised Ministry Education learning site.

SENSE OF FUN AND COMMUNITY – OUR TRADITION

- **We value . . .** nurturing a sense of fun and joy in our life together.

WE LIKE TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER! Our signature major event was the SAUC Country fair. We have generations of Richmondites, as well as people throughout the entire lower mainland who remember the 60 year tradition of Country fair (1959-2019) and all the fun and fellowship they felt. We are asked multiple times when the next one will be. We are blessed to have such a wonderful piece of property and the facilities to have provided this event to our community.

Other examples of coming together for fun, food, and fellowship are as follows:

- Every Shrove Tuesday we invite Gilmore Park United Church and Steveston United to join us for a pancake supper. We gather as families and friends to share a meal with meaning and to learn more about each other. The meal is usually served by youth and gives them the opportunity to experience the joy of serving others in God's community.
- Incredible volunteers generously give of their time and resources to support our Church through offering Advent and Spring Sale events.
- Strawberry Tea welcoming fun and joy and celebrating the harvest.

Part 5. OUR CHALLENGES

A very big challenge within our own congregation is to provide the essential care and support to the seniors in our Church family. More and more we are finding the aging/dwindling population is struggling to maintain our level of volunteerism. As is common with many Churches, we also hope to create more programming to appeal to youth and young families. Without these initiatives our dreams of a vibrant future would be severely impacted.

In the future, we would also like to represent more consistently the diverse population of our community.

While we wrestle with these challenges, we realize that in fact they are gifts that grant us the opportunity for growth and offer new ideas from God.

Part 6. OUR LIVING FAITH STORY MESSAGE

South Arm United Church's living faith story is about believing we make a difference in our community, we know we make a difference in the lives of each other, and we are committed to living out our mission to worship God, be a community of faith, be disciples of Jesus and serve and live out God's love in our world.

At this point in our story, we are looking for someone in ministry who is up to the challenge to help us into the future that God has planned for our community of faith. We have our feet firmly on the ground and realize that we may not be called to recreate the grandeur of the past but to be open to whatever future our God has dreamed for us. We are open to the mystery of God.

Closing Prayer

Dear God - Consciousness of the world

We give you thanks for the strength and the determination that you have given us for telling this story.

We hope that it will be a blessing to South Arm United Church and to your work in the world.

We are open to the mystery you have planned for our future.

We continue to ask for your guidance on this journey in the name of your son Jesus Christ who taught us how to be the light in this world

AMEN

Gordon Powell