The Leadership Animator will be employed for an 8-week term in the summer of 2024. Their work will include liaising with a regional office and local congregations, team meetings, leadership development, and event planning for local churches. The Animators will, at times, work remotely and will need capacity for online communication and learning. Supervision for the position(s) will be carried out by staff of the General Council Office. Leadership Animators must qualify for a Canada Summer Jobs Grant and be within the age range of 15-21 years.

There three main goals for the Leadership Program:

● Leadership development   
● Vocational discernment   
● Event planning for both Youth Forum at GC45 (to be held in 2025) and local 100th anniversary celebrations in conjunction with local communities of faith.

The Leadership Animators' time will begin on July 2nd and run until August 23rd, 2024. Animators will be required to attend Rendez-vous: Audacious Hope July 3rd - 6th in St. Catharine ON. Following Rendez-vous, Animators will attend a week of in-person orientation and training at Five Oaks Education & Retreat Centre, Paris ON, July 8th - 13th. Travel and registration will be covered by the program.

During the remaining 6-weeks of their contract, Animators will work remotely in a few key areas: planning General Council Youth Forum for summer 2025; spending time exploring their vocation through a regional-based project; helping to plan or animate any local or regional centennial events; and gaining hands-on leadership development tools (conflict resolution, communication styles, mental health support, and more.)

Vocational Learning: Animators will work with their regions to find an area of work to explore for one of their 8 weeks of work. This could be at a camp supporting camp activities; at a church supporting worship planning; at an outreach ministry supporting various needs – or another project important to both the animator and the region. The goal is for youth to explore a future vocation and learn how God works through us in a variety of ways.

Activities and Responsibilities

1. Learn and Prepare
   1. Animators will be responsible for submitting all employment paperwork and reading any necessary training materials at the beginning of their employment.
2. Build and Plan
   1. Animators will connect with other young people across the church who are engaging in leadership and event planning.
   2. Animators will work together to plan Youth Forum at GC45.
   3. Animators will gain skills in community engagement, team building, program and event planning.
   4. Animators will discern their vocational calling through hands-on practice and reflection activities.
3. Engage and Act
   1. Animators will develop relationships with local communities of faith and assist in planning and leading 100th anniversary celebrations of The United Church of Canada.
   2. Animators will attend online training and program planning throughout the summer, as well as planning and providing programs in local settings.
4. Learn and Develop
   1. Animators will learn about the polity, ministry, and history of The United Church of Canada in their local context as well as in the national context.
   2. Animators will work with their cohort to develop the program and schedule for Youth Forum at GC45.
   3. Animators will communicate their events and plans to others in the church, particularly their regions.
5. Debrief and Evaluate
   1. Animators will participate in a debrief of the program that will include:
      1. A full review of the summer – all activities, plans, and decisions made.
      2. Affirmation of work done, learnings made, and courage shown.
      3. Feedback on the continuation of the position and program for future.
   2. Motivators will be open to providing insight, expertise, and mentoring of future programs.

Beyond the summer:

Interested animators may have the opportunity to extend their involvement in the program, with the possibility of part-time planning from September 2024 to June 2025. Additionally, they may be considered for full-time employment during the summer of 2025 to implement the Youth Forum at General Council program.

How to apply:

Send your cover letter and resume to Human Resources at the General Council Office, [careers@united-church.ca](mailto:careers@united-church.ca) by May 24th, 2024 references job #24-21.