

COMMUNITY OF FAITH MEETING QUORUM

Council of Action: 44th General Council

What is the issue?

Section B.5.5 of The Manual mandates the minimum number of Full Members of a Community of Faith who must be present for an Annual Meeting or other meetings of Community of Faith.

In Communities of Faith it is common practice to call meetings only when a Ministry Personnel or Supervisor can be present.

Ministry Personnel can be directly impacted by decisions and discussions that take place during Community of Faith meetings.

The Ministry Personnel, Pastoral Charge Supervisor, or Regional Council representation is required at meetings of the governing body but not at meetings of the Community of Faith. (The Manual, 2021 B.7.7.4.b)

Why is this issue important?

If the Community of Faith meeting is called to consider changes to the Terms of Call or Appointment or to End the Pastoral Relationship, the Ministry Personnel affected must be given the opportunity to be present and respond to the proposed change before a decision is made (The Manual, 2021, Section I.3.1.6.d).

One of the roles of Ministry Personnel at a meeting of the Community of Faith is to offer guidance on United Church policy and practice, ensuring that the meeting is conducted properly. Another role is, being aware of the wellbeing of the Pastoral Charge, to represent the wider church and to offer guidance.

How might the General Council respond?

Whereas there is no wording similar to section B.7.7.4b in section B.5.5, mandating that a “Ministry Personnel” be present at meetings of the Community of Faith:

It is proposed by the Northern Spirit Regional Council that an addition be made to section B.5.5 of The Manual to read as follows:

- A meeting of the Community of Faith may take place only if one of the following people is present:
- i. a member of the order of ministry who has been called or appointed to the pastoral charge; or
 - ii. a designated lay minister who has been recognized by the regional council and appointed to the pastoral charge; or
 - iii. the pastoral charge supervisor; or
 - iv. another person appointed by the regional council to attend the meeting.

Origin: Northern Spirit Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission. This proposal was recommended to the Northern Spirit Regional Council by the Pastoral Relations Commission at its meeting on June 11, 2020.

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Regional Council Action: Northern Spirit Regional Council agreed with the Proposal and will pass it on to the 44th General Council for action.