

Northern Spirit Regional Council
Policy on Length of Pastoral Relations Appointments

Preamble

Before the procedure for approving policies of the Northern Spirit Regional Council was finalized, the following policies were approved by the Pastoral Relations Commission. These have governed the decisions of the Commission since their approval at its January 22-23, 2019, meeting.

General Policy Statements

From The Manual (2021) of The United Church of Canada:

I.1.7.2 Regional Council Approval

The regional council is responsible for deciding whether

- a) to approve a call [or appointment] offered by a community of faith; or
- b) to appoint a designated lay minister to the community of faith.

I.1.7.3. Term and Renewal of Appointments

For the appointment of a ministry personnel to a community of faith, the regional council

- a) must specify the term of the appointment; and
- b) may also renew the appointment on the request of the community of faith.

I.2.1.10 Reimbursement of Moving Expenses

a. **Relationship established by call:** If the regional council approves a request from a member of the order of ministry to end a pastoral relationship established by call within the first three years,

- i) the member is responsible for reimbursing the community of faith for a portion of the moving costs paid at the start of the pastoral relationship.

This portion is based on the actual length of the pastoral relationship and the United Church's expectation that a pastoral relationship established by call will last at least three years; and

- ii) the regional council must ensure that the member of the order of ministry fulfills this responsibility. The regional council may waive this requirement in exceptional cases.

b. **Relationship established by appointment:** If the regional council approves a request from a ministry personnel to end a pastoral relationship established by appointment before the end of its term, the regional council may require the ministry personnel to repay a portion of the moving expenses paid at the start of the pastoral relationship.

Placing a reasonable limit on the length of Appointments offers the Regional Council an opportunity to review the terms of renewed Appointments, and to look regularly at the financial situation of the Community of Faith.

Specific Policy Statements

Manual references are cited in brackets ().

Appointment of Designated Lay Ministers

The Board of Vocation has responsibility for determining an individual's readiness for recognition as a designated lay minister. (H.4.7)

The policy of the Northern Spirit Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission is that the appointment of a Designated Lay Minister will be approved for a maximum of three years (renewable).

Ministers from other Denominations Applying for Admission to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada

The policy of the Northern Spirit Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission is that Ordained or Diaconal Supply Ministers in the process of admission to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada will be appointed for up to a maximum three-year term.

Other Appointments: Candidate Supply, Retired Supply and United Supply

The Candidacy Board authorizes candidates for ministry as ready for ministry leadership, including candidate supply appointments. (E.3.3.3c)

A retired member of the order of ministry is not eligible to accept a call unless the Office of Vocation returns them to active standing. (I.1.2.4).

The Regional Council is responsible for appointing ministry personnel to a community of faith. (I.1.8)

The policy of the Northern Spirit Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission is that all other appointments be approved for a maximum of one year.

Intentional Interim Ministers:

The United Church of Canada Interim Ministry Policy sets the policy for length of Intentional Interim Ministry Appointments.

Intentional Interim Ministry Policies and Procedures for Designation (2019):

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/interim-ministry_policies-procedures-designation.pdf

Intentional Interim Ministry: Resource for Regional Councils (2019):

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/interim_ministry_regional-council.pdf

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