



NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The United Church of Canada

Nominations Committee - Regional Council Roles

There is room for you ...

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the United Church. We rely on the wisdom and God-given talents that committed individuals bring to these positions. Some feel they are answering a spiritual call, and others are nominated by friends and colleagues who see that their abilities are just what the church needs. Nominations and self-nominations are equally valued, so please consider where you might be called, and talk to others about where they might find a place in the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

The Nominations Committee attempts to follow the diversity parameters established by the General Council of The United Church of Canada, and the Calls to the Church by the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle. Diversity, in terms of racial and ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical abilities, geographical location, vocation or economic status, makes us strong, by bringing a variety of important perspectives to the Regional Council's mission and ministry.

The following is a list of the roles on the Executive, Task Groups, Commissions and Committees that carry out the mission and ministry of the Regional Council. If you, or someone you know, is interested in playing a role as the Regional Council continues to develop its mission and ministry, please complete the online [Expression of Interest and Nominations Form](#).

Annual Meeting Convenor

The Convenor of the Annual Meeting presides at the next full meeting of the Regional Council, is a corresponding member of the Regional Council Executive, and is a member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The Convenor has a role in encouraging ecumenical and interfaith linkages within the Region and represents the Regional Council at local Community of Faith events and milestones.

Regional Council Executive

The Regional Council Executive acts on behalf the Regional Council between Annual meetings, except for those areas the Regional Council intentionally reserves only for itself. The Executive may also serve in the place of the full Regional Council for the purpose of holding an Annual Meeting.

The Chairperson presides at Executive meetings, is the public spokesperson for the Regional Council if needed, and attends occasional meetings requiring representation from the Regional Council.

The Chairperson-Elect becomes the Chairperson when the current Chairperson's term is completed.

The other members of the Executive include the following: Treasurer, Executive Minister, 6 members-at-large, and the Annual Meeting Convenor (corresponding). The usual term length for Executive members is two years, with an option for renewal.

Task Groups

From time to time, Task Groups are established by the Regional Council or its Executive, to carry out particular work deemed necessary for the life and work of the Regional Council.

Affirming Task Group

In May 2019, the Northern Spirit Regional Council decided to begin the process toward becoming an Affirming Regional Council. Guided by this Task Group, the Regional Council and its members is

discerning how our new structure can live into the spirit and practice of being Affirming. The Task Group is comprised of a Chairperson and five members.

Anti-Racism Task Group

The mandate of the Anti-Racism Task Group is to encourage and educate the Regional Council and Communities of Faith to seek ways to live out the church's commitment to becoming intercultural and anti-racist; to work with the General Council Anti-Racism Common Table; and to seek to network with other organizations working on anti-racism within the boundaries of the Regional Council and beyond, and encourage communities of faith to do the same.

Regional Council Commissions

Commissions have been established to act on behalf of the Regional Council within their specific mandates. The work of the Commissions is reported to the Regional Council through its Executive.

Pastoral Relations Commission

The Pastoral Relations Commission acts on behalf of the Regional Council with regard to promoting articulation of mission and ministry; approving ministry positions, calls, and appointments; receiving and approving requests to end pastoral relationships; appointing and supporting Pastoral Relations Liaisons to assist Communities of Faith with developing their profiles and conducting searches; and appointing and supporting Pastoral Charge Supervisors who work with Communities of Faith without Ministry Personnel. The Commission is comprised of up to 6 members, with a balance of Order of Ministry and Lay members, appointed for a 3-year term, with the opportunity to serve one additional term.

Pastoral Relations Committees

Three committees have been established to carry out specific functions in the area of Pastoral Relations. They report to the Regional Council Executive and/or the Pastoral Relations Commission, including any recommendations for action.

Communities of Faith Support Committee

This Committee coordinates the Regional Council's responsibility to support Communities of Faith in their life and work, including the following tasks: providing oversight of Covenants; connecting them with appropriate program facilitators as needed; supporting them in structural changes, i.e., amalgamations, realignments and/or disbanding, and making recommendations to the Regional Council Executive; supporting new ministries; ensuring compliance with all United Church and government requirements; and supporting networks and clusters related to the above. The Communities of Faith Support Committee is comprised of six members, appointed for a 1-year term, renewable.

Lay Leadership Support Committee

This Committee oversees and coordinates the Regional Council's responsibility to provide ongoing leadership training for lay people, including: maintaining a list of all Congregational Designated Ministers working in Communities of Faith throughout the Region; recommending action on licensing of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and providing ongoing support and oversight; training and assessment of Sacraments Elders, and recommending action on licensing and re-licensing; and supporting networks and clusters that are established related to the above work. The Lay Leadership Support Committee is comprised of five members, appointed for a 1-year term, which is renewable.

Ministry Personnel Support Committee

The Ministry Personnel Support Committee oversees and coordinates the Regional Council's responsibility to encourage and support Ministry Personnel towards health, joy and excellence in

ministry practice, including: caring for active and retired Ministry Personnel; providing ongoing training opportunities for Ministry Personnel; recommending action on licensing to administer the sacraments and other privileges for students and individuals who retired while serving as Designated Lay Ministers; and supporting networks and clusters related to the above work. The Ministry Personnel Support Committee is comprised of five members, appointed for a 1-year term, which is renewable.

Property Commission

In the Northern Spirit Regional Council, consideration and implementation of property decisions are dealt with through the Property Commission.

The Property Commission is comprised of a Chairperson, a Secretary, and 4 members, appointed for a 1-year term, which is renewable.

Regional Council Committees

The committees of the Regional Council fulfil the mandates as assigned, and report to the Regional Council Executive, including any recommendations for action.

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee, in collaboration with the Regional Council Executive; plans the upcoming Regional Council Annual Meeting. Its members attend the meeting, to fulfil up front or behind the scenes leadership roles, and meet afterwards to evaluate the meeting and prepare a brief report to share their learnings. The tasks include developing a proposed Agenda, planning for worship and theme/educational presentations, and providing support to youth or children's programming in consultation with the Youth Council. The Planning Committee is comprised of a Chairperson, the Annual Meeting Convenor, and at least five members, appointed to a 1-year term, renewable.

Mission Support Grants Committee

Mission Support Grants provide support for the mission of Communities of Faith within the Northern Spirit Regional Council. The Mission Support Grants Committee considers the applications that are submitted, and makes recommendations regarding approval to the Regional Council Executive. There are currently four members on the Task Group.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee seeks out and invites nominations for vacancies as they arise, and nominees are recommended for appointment by the Regional Council Executive. A yearly report for ratification is presented to the Regional Council Annual Meeting. The Nominations Committee is comprised of four members, appointed for a 1-year term, renewable.

Youth Council

The Youth Council, established by the Regional Council Executive, has been recruiting members and establishing its mandate. The Council is comprised of seven members, appointed to a 1-year term, renewable.

General Council Commissioners

The General Council is the decision-making body for the United Church as both a denomination and a legal corporation. General Council Commissioners are elected by the Regional Council, and become members of the General Council, serving for a term of approximately three years, starting at the beginning of the regular meeting of the General Council for which they were elected, and ending at the beginning of the next regular meeting. Members of the General Council must all be ministry personnel or lay members of The United Church of Canada.