

REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

This policy outlines the authority, membership and responsibilities of the Communities of Faith Commission and the relationship with the Pastoral Relations Commission.

Date Approved: November 30, 2018	Review date by Executive: 2021
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PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION

The Communities of Faith Commission will set policy and give direction within their mandate.

The Communities of Faith Commission will care for communities of faith and provide resources for collegiality and support amongst communities of faith.

The Communities of Faith Commission will nurture new ministries.

The Communities of Faith Commission will empower and resource ministry in the Region. This includes supporting communities of faith in areas such as clusters, networks, visioning, amalgamation, disbanding, and property matters. The work may be carried out in a variety of ways, including by staff or liaisons appointed for a limited time period.

AUTHORITY

The Communities of Faith Commission is established in accordance with the direction provided in November 18-20, 2017 General Council Executive New Covenant Policy.

The Communities of Faith Commission will be elected by the Regional Council or the Executive to make decisions on behalf of the region or its Executive. (*The Manual 2019 C.3.3.1*)

The decisions of the Commission are non-debatable. The commission's decision is as effective as a decision of the governing body or executive that appointed it. (*The Manual 2019 C.3.3.2*)

The Commission will report its decisions to the Regional Council Executive and the Regional Council. (*The Manual 2019 C.3.3.3*)

MEMBERSHIP

A chair and six to ten members to allow for some regional representation with a balance of ministry personnel and laity to work with the Staff Lead: Regional and Congregation Support.

The Commission should include people who are creative, practical, and committed to supporting communities of faith and special ministries.

STAFF SUPPORT

The Staff Lead: Regional and Congregation Support will provide support to the Commission.

TERMS OF OFFICE

The term will be three years with a renewal for one term. After a one year hiatus, an individual may be elected again.

MEETINGS

The Commission will meet by electronic or other means at least monthly and perhaps once or twice face-to-face annually.

QUORUM

Quorum will be 50% plus one of the members with at least one ordered minister and one lay member

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

The collaboration will be done by staff.

RESPONSIBILITIES DELEGATED BY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE

Responsibilities are outlined in both *The Manual 2019* and in the New Covenant document from the General Council Executive, dated November 2018.

To accomplish this work, the Communities of Faith Commission will train facilitators and nurture teams based on the three functions and clusters, as directed in New Covenant document.

1. Providing support for the development of “Living Faith Stories”. and ensuring vitality of communities of faith.
2. Ensuring compliance by the communities of faith in legal and property matters.
3. Resourcing collaboration and conversations around co-operative ministry, amalgamations, mission, joint youth ministry, senior housing, food banks etc.

MANUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Covenanting: (*The Manual 2019 C.2.1*)

The Communities of Faith Commission is responsible for,

- a) living in a covenantal relationship with each community of faith, with mutual responsibilities for the life and mission of the community of faith, and fulfilling its responsibilities under the covenant;
- b) approving changes to the covenantal relationship with the community of faith from time to time, including structural changes, amalgamations, realignments, and disbanding of communities of faith;
- c) new ministries.

Services for Communities of Faith: (*The Manual 2019 C.2.2*)

The Communities of Faith Commission, working with staff, is responsible for,

- a) providing support, advice and services to communities of faith in human resource matters;
- b) providing support, advice, and services to communities of faith in dealing with congregational property;
- c) managing regional archives;
- d) providing ongoing leadership training for ministry personnel and lay people; and
- e) nurturing funding partnerships with United Church educational and leadership training centres and camps.

Service, Support, and Oversight of Communities of Faith: (*The Manual 2019 C.2.3*)

The Communities of Faith Commission is responsible for,

- a) reviewing the self-assessments of communities of faith in light of the covenant between the community of faith and the Regional Council. (*The Manual 2019 G.1.2.2 & G.1.2.3*)

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- b) supporting emerging new ministries;
- c) supporting communities of faith in their life and work;
- d) promoting articulation of mission and ministry;
- e) ensuring compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church and reviewing any relevant records;
- f) hearing appeals which originate from communities of faith and their governing bodies;
- g) promoting and fostering ministry with all ages, especially children, youth and young adults.
- h) assuming control of a community of faith in extraordinary circumstances where the community of faith is unable to or refuses to meet its responsibilities or acts outside of denomination policies;

An Intentional Interim Ministry Committee will be established that will report to the Community of Faith Commission.