

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

REGIONAL COUNCIL

This policy outlines the mission of the Region, the authority and compliance, membership, responsibilities and annual meetings.

Date Approved: November 30, 2018 Updated: June 10, 2021	Review date by the Executive: 2024
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MISSION

The mission of Shining Waters Regional Council is “Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith.”

To fulfil this mission, the Regional Council and the Regional Council Executive will encourage and engage in:

- 1) living in right relations with Indigenous peoples, and responding positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church;
- 2) becoming an anti-racist church (declaration of the Commissioners of the 43rd General Council, October 24, 2020);
- 3) welcoming people of all ages, abilities, races, sexual orientations and gender identities, and any other forms of marginalization into, and removing barriers to, the life, work and leadership of the Region and our communities of faith.

These objectives are in addition to those declared in The Manual (6.3.4) as the mission and ministry for every Regional Council:

Encouraging and engaging in:

- 4) joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- 5) local, regional, national and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical and interfaith) for ministry, mission and justice work;
- 6) ministry with children, youth and young adults;
- 7) honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry; and
- 8) living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

AUTHORITY / COMPLIANCE

The Regional Council and Regional Council Executive will follow all policies outlined or referred to in The Manual 2019 of The United Church of Canada, or as required by federal, provincial or municipal laws. (*The Manual 2019 C.2.14*)

All responsibility of the Regional Council is subject to

- a) policies set by the General Council on membership, governance, pastoral relations, candidacy, ministry personnel, property, and any other area within the authority of the General Council; and
- b) the authority of the General Council to assume control of the Regional Council in extraordinary circumstances where the Regional Council is unable to or refuses to meet its responsibilities or acts outside of denominational or Regional Council policies.

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MEMBERSHIP

The Regional Council consists of members of the order of ministry, other ministry personnel, lay members of the United Church, and leaders of associate member ministries. (*The Manual 2019 C.1.1 to C.1.3.*)

All ministry personnel, active and retired, are members of Regional Council.

Lay members are elected according to a familiar formula:

- i. One rep per community of faith with 100 or fewer resident members;
- ii. Two reps from every community of faith with 101-200 resident members;
- iii. Three reps from every community of faith with 201-300 resident members;
- iv. Four reps from every community of faith with more than 300 resident members

Members of the Regional Council will represent their community of faith at the regional meeting. The member will be expected to provide key communication updates between the Regional Council and their community of faith throughout the year. Regional Council members should be people who are passionate about building relationships beyond their congregation. In addition, the Regional Council member may consider serving within the regional council governance structure.

The president and secretary of the Shining Waters Region United Church Women (UCW) or their designates will be members of the Regional Council.

Former lay Moderators will be voting members of the Regional Council

Past lay Toronto Conference and Shining Waters Regional Council Presidents will be voting members of the Regional Council

Current General Council 43 lay commissioners, if they are not already representing their local congregation as a Regional Council representative, will be voting members of the Regional Council.

The Region has the authority to add members to the Regional Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manual 2019, Section 3, outlines the responsibilities of the Regional Council.

The Regional Council is responsible for appointing an executive to do the continuing work of the Regional Council between regular meetings. (*The Manual 2019 C.3.1.1*)

Some responsibilities are delegated and some are the responsibility of the Regional Council. (*The Manual 2019 C.2.1 to C.2.14*)

The Regional Council is responsible for:

- a) celebrating the approval of applicants for candidacy;
- b) ordaining and commissioning members of the order of ministry;
- c) recognizing designated lay ministers;
- d) celebrating admissions and readmissions. (*The Manual 2019 C.2.7*)

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Regional Council will meet in person for an annual meeting, health conditions permitting, in each year, 2022, 2023 and 2025, with an online meeting in 2024, supplemented each year by one or more online meeting or town hall. In 2025 the Executive will make a recommendation to the Regional Council regarding the frequency and format of future Regional Council meetings.

Other meetings of the Regional Council will be called whenever, and for whatever purpose, the Executive determines.

QUORUM

The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. (The Manual 2019 C.4.3)

For meetings of the Regional Council, quorum will be at least 20 members, including at least one ministry personnel and one lay member.

Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose.

The executive may make a recommendation to the Regional Council in 2020 regarding quorum.