

Care of the Church's Marginalized

Origin: Shining Waters Regional Council

1. What is the issue?

We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to:

- Improve the Church's policies and procedures regarding those on the Discontinued Service List.
- There are sections of The Manual that throughout history have undergone significant changes. This includes sections of The Manual referring to the Discontinued Service List.(DSL)
- Individuals on the DSL are directly affected by the changes on The Manual, sometimes significantly.
- Currently, the United Church of Canada and its courts do not inform those on the DSL of those changes as they occur.
- Those on the DSL are marginalized and often do not receive this information formally or informally.

2. Why is this issue important?

The impact of current policies and procedures can be considerable.

- Changes to The Manual cause individuals on the DSL to violate the parameters of the DSL regulations unknowingly.
- Changes to The Manual have affected the lives and volunteer work of those on the DSL
- Changes to The Manual are applied inequitably to those on the DSL.
- Changes to The Manual have affected the readmission process of individuals from the DSL to the Roll of Ministry

3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

- Individuals on the DSL encompass all aspects of the church's diversity. Ensuring that justice is enacted to those on the DSL will include justice to those of a variety of races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identifications, classes, abilities and challenges.
- People currently on the DSL have been consulted about this proposal. It was developed with them but is submitted on behalf of them as there is no mechanism for them to speak as a collective or participate in the courts of the church.

4. How might the General Council respond to the issue?

The Shining Waters Regional Council proposes that:

The General Council Office will contact those individuals currently on the DSL to inform them of appropriate changes to The Manual since each individual's original placement on the DSL Following each meeting of the General Council the General Council Office will contact each person on the DSL to inform them of any changes (or absence of changes) to sections in The Manual pertaining to those on the DSL.