

## COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION: REVIEW OF A COMMUNITY OF FAITH POLICY

Date Approved: February 16, 2022	Review date:
----------------------------------	--------------

The regional council has oversight of communities of faith. When there are concerns about a community of faith, the regional council has an obligation to take appropriate action under The Manual:

### **J.4 Regional Council Action—Communities of Faith**

The regional council is responsible for the oversight of communities of faith. It must take seriously any concerns that come to its attention about the state of a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council.

These concerns may be raised by

- a) the regional council itself, including any member or committee of the regional council;
- b) the ministry personnel called or appointed to the community of faith;
- c) the pastoral charge supervisor;
- d) the governing body of the community of faith; or
- e) a proposal signed by 10 full members of the community of faith that the community of faith's governing body has passed on to the regional council.

The regional council must decide on the appropriate action to take in response to the concerns.

One appropriate action to respond to concerns about a community of faith is to conduct a review.

When the Communities of Faith Commission determines that a review is necessary, the commission will be guided by the **Communities of Faith Reviews Handbook**. The regional staff lead or their designate will consult with United Church legal counsel and/or The Office of Vocation in selecting a reviewer. The commission will adopt a motion appointing the reviewer. Regional staff will ensure that there is a person to serve as a local arrangements' coordinator for the reviewer and that pastoral care is available as needed for participants in the review.

The commission will appoint three to five United Church members to serve as a review committee on behalf of the commission. The committee will receive and consider the reviewer's report and make a decision in response. Prior to making a decision, the committee will give the community of faith a specific invitation to attend and speak to the report.

The review committee is not bound by the recommendations of the reviewer. The review committee debates the recommendations and then decides to do one of the following:

- adopt the reviewer's recommendations in their entirety
- adopt the reviewer's recommendations in part
- receive the report and take no further action on the matter
- take some course of action other than that recommended by the reviewer.

The review committee communicates their decision to the Communities of Faith Commission. Once the decision has been adopted by the commission, the community of faith will be informed of the decision in writing.