

Communities of Faith Commission: Intergenerational Ministry Committee Policy

This policy outlines the purpose, accountability, authority, membership and responsibilities of the Shining Waters Intergenerational Ministry Committee (SWIM) and the relationship with the Communities of Faith Commission.

Date Approved: May 26, 2026	Review date by the Commission: 2028
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Background

The Intergenerational Ministry Committee was established in response to the direction of the Regional Council at a special meeting on December 9, 2025. The purpose of the community is to help the regional council to engage with children, youth and young adults ('first Third').

Purpose

The Intergenerational Ministry Committee exists to strengthen, connect, and resource ministry with children, youth, and young adults (the "first third") and their families/caregivers across Shining Waters Regional Council, fostering communities of belonging, faith exploration, and intergenerational engagement.

Accountability

The Intergenerational Ministry Committee is accountable to the Communities of Faith Commission.

Authority

The committee will make recommendations to the Communities of Faith Commission with respect to intergenerational ministry with children, youth, young adults and their families/caregivers.

Membership

A committee of six individuals, open to lay people and ministry personnel with experience and skills that would be helpful. The committee will include at least two youth or young adult persons.

Terms of Office

Members of the Committee will be elected by the Regional Council with staggered terms. The term will be for three years with a renewal for one term. After a one-year hiatus, an individual may be elected again.

Quorum

Quorum will be 50% plus one.

Meetings

The committee will meet in person or by electronic or other means at least quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

Responsibilities

The United Church Manual (2026) identifies a core purpose of the regional council as encouraging and engaging in ministry with children, youth and young adults (Section C.2.4.c). In Shining Waters, this responsibility is assigned to the Communities of Faith Commission and delegated to the Intergenerational Ministry Committee

The Committee will support Communities of Faith and regional initiatives in creating accessible, inclusive, and relevant ministries. This includes fostering intergenerational faith formation, meeting people where they are – in church settings, homes, and the wider community – and nurturing lifelong faith, meaningful relationships, and leadership.

The Committee will use the Regional Visioning Strategy Plan for First Third Ministry, developed in May 2026, to guide its work and align with the National Church's Toward 2035 objectives for First Third Ministry and leadership through the following responsibilities:

1. **Connection & Collaboration:** Build and nurture networks and spaces that connect leaders, Communities of Faith, and partners, creating opportunities for relationship-building, shared learning, and mutual support across the region and with the wider United Church.
2. **Resource Development & Training:** Identify, develop, and share practical, accessible resources and training that equip leaders for ministry with children, youth, and young adults, including intergenerational and home-based faith formation.
3. **Communication & Engagement:** Strengthen communication strategies that increase awareness, participation, and engagement in programs and opportunities.
4. **Accessibility & Equity:** Promote inclusive, barrier-free participation by addressing financial, cultural, and systemic challenges and encouraging funding strategies for equitable access to resources, programs and leadership.
5. **Listening, Learning & Innovation:** Engage diverse voices, assess current ministries, and identify gaps and opportunities to inform ongoing discernment, innovation, and First Third ministry development.
6. **Program Support & Leadership Development:** Encourage and support gatherings, programs, and leadership pathways for First Third that foster belonging, mentorship, Age-specific and intergenerational faith experiences.
7. **Camping Ministry:** Support the vitality of camping ministries in the Region through faith formation Resourcing, accreditation processes, and stronger relationships between camps, Communities of Faith, and families.

Staff Support

The Minister for Justice and Faith Formation will provide support to the committee.