



SHINING WATERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



Creating a Proposal to be consider by the Regional Council or General Council:

Proposals can be created to be considered by the Regional Council or the Regional Council Executive. A “proposal” is a formal request for the council to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important to them and ask for the church to take action on it.

The 2026 Manual, Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The outline below also provides a template for creating a proposal. Proposals can be submitted before the Regional Council Meeting, to be circulated in the regional meeting Resource Book or, a proposal can be submitted before the scheduled close of submission of new business, during our Regional Council Meeting. See the Shining Waters Regional Council meeting agenda for the specific close of business time.

Proposal [template] (also see 2026 Manual, Section F, Initiating Action and Change)

PROPOSAL NAME

Origin: [Community of Faith and Regional Council Name]

1. What is the issue? Why is it important?

Briefly describe (approximately four sentences) the issue and its significance.

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

- do something about...
- engage the topic of...
- respond to the challenge of...
- etc.

Note: *Proposals for the General Council are for issues of denominational responsibility that go beyond the bounds of a Regional Council.*

Proposals for the Regional Council are for issues of Regional Council responsibility that are within the bounds of the Regional Council.

Proposals can also be created for consideration, to be forwarded to the General Council by the Regional Council (see Section F of the 2026 Manual, Section F, Initiating Action and Change)

2. What is happening now?

Provide a description of the current practice or policy in question, identifying/citing the source of this information.

3. What is the recommendation?

Describe how the Regional Council/General Council might respond to the issue.

4. Background information:

Provide details the Regional Council/General Council needs to make an informed decision on the proposal.

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

Describe in broad terms how this proposal engages with the United Church's established principles and positions on equity.

Over the course of several years, General Council has made the following commitments on equity. Describe in broad terms the ways in which this proposal engages with some of these principles:

- adopting [the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the framework for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples;
- adopting the [Calls to the Church](#) from the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle as the basis for a new relationship;
- welcoming [people of all sexual orientations and gender identities](#) into full membership and ministry in the church;
- committing to becoming [an intercultural church](#);
- committing to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, where there is [full participation of people with disabilities](#);
- working towards functional bilingualism and ensuring that Francophone ministries are an integral part of the church's identity, mission, and vision;
- [opposing discrimination](#) of any kind on the basis of identity; and
- developing an anti-racism policy and committing to becoming an [anti-racist denomination](#).

Who has been consulted in the development of the proposal? Was the proposal developed "with" people, or "on behalf of" people? What might be the impact of this proposal on people and communities? Who is advantaged and who is disadvantaged by this approach?