

Serving on the Executive of the Denominational Council

Overview

The Executive of the Denominational Council is the decision-making body for the United Church between meetings of the Denominational Council, living into covenantal relationship and mutually accountable with the Denominational Council, regional councils, and communities of faith. This will be the first triennium with this new model. As such, we are seeking church leaders who are well suited to chart these new paths and develop effective and faithful ways to fulfill the responsibilities of the Executive.

Composition

The Nominations Committee is seeking 15 members to serve alongside the Moderator, immediate Past Moderator, and General Secretary. In doing this, the Nominations Committee will

- a. request that a representative be chosen by the Aboriginal Ministries Council
- b. request that each Conference recommend three to five people for consideration
- c. take into account the need to reflect the diversity of an intercultural church, lay/ministry personnel, and geography, as well as ensuring that competencies in theology, governance, finance, and vision are present within the group of those recommended

Responsibilities

The Executive has the following authority and responsibility:

- dealing with all unfinished matters referred to it by the Denominational Council
- dealing with all routine and emergency work of the Denominational Council between meetings of the Denominational Council
- establishing standing and other committees
- exercising additional authority and subject to any limitations as set by the Denominational Council

Skills and Experience

Members of the Executive will be full members of the United Church who are able to lead the church during this time of change. All members of the Executive will be

- passionately committed to the future of The United Church of Canada
- able to commit the time required for this responsibility
- able to see the big picture and impact of decisions on the people of the United Church and its communities of faith
- predisposed to collaboration and teamwork
- able to listen to others, speak from their own experience, and respect group decision-making

- able to recognize who is not at the table and actively seek them out in understanding issues and the impact of decisions
- committed to becoming a fully intercultural church
- committed to right relations and the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and its relevance to decision-making in the church
- able to keep God at the centre of the decision-making process and willing to discern God's yearnings for the church
- comfortable with and able to participate in electronic meetings

It is hoped that within the new Executive the following areas of knowledge and expertise will be present: finance, pension, human resources, governance, global or ecumenical experience, different forms of ministry, francophone church experience, and theological leadership.

Reflecting an Intercultural Church

We are still on the path of living into our racial justice and intercultural commitments.

While the United Church dreams of a diverse church where people from many different cultural communities fully participate in the decision-making life of the church as a whole, we are not there yet. Instead, there are currently many cultural communities who have traditionally been marginalized and underrepresented in church decision-making processes. Some of these historically underrepresented and marginalized communities include people who are racialized, linguistic minorities, and people with disabilities (to name a few).

As we invite historically underrepresented and marginalized groups to become decision-makers in our church, we will live more fully into commitments that we have made over the past couple of decades. In 2000, the 37th General Council approved the anti-racism policy statement "That All May Be One," which called for the full participation of Indigenous and racialized people at every level of the church, and particularly in decision-making bodies. In 2006, the 39th General Council made the decision to become an intercultural church, a vision that called the church to be intentional and proactive in cultivating diverse leadership.

Expectation and Term

The Executive will be appointed at the 43rd General Council (July 2018) and take office on January 1, 2019. In the months following their election in 2018, the Executive-elect will spend considerable time preparing and planning how they will work together for the term. It is anticipated that the Executive will meet between two and four times in person each year, with other meetings held by videoconference call.

Many members of the Executive will additionally serve as chairperson or member of either a standing committee of the Executive or short-term groups. The exact committees and groups will be determined by the Executive.

Some members will be appointed to serve until the Denominational Council in 2021; others will be appointed until the Denominational Council in 2024.

Selection Process

Each Conference is asked to nominate three to five people who would bring the essential skills, commitment, and vision to serve on the new Executive. The Nominations Committee will consider all of the names brought forward; however, the Executive may not include someone from every Conference or Regional Council. In their selection process, Conferences and the General Council Nominations Committee will intentionally keep in mind the church's commitments to becoming an intercultural church; to the full participation of people with disabilities; and to our continuing journey to be a transformative, justice-seeking, and equitable church where there is full participation of all.

Serving on the Executive is a vital and meaningful way of strengthening the mission and ministry of this United Church of ours.