



Friday, May 19, 2023

# Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

## Proposal 23-01

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

### Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

We recognize that individual members, Communities of Faith, Covenantal Ministries, Regional Committees/Councils/Groups, and Regional Council Members may want The Pacific Mountain Regional Council or Executive to take action on a specific issue or concern. You desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards a decision. A "proposal" is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2023), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals must be submitted by May 30th, 2023.

Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

All actions resulting from proposals are sent to the Regional Council Executive. That action will be part of subsequent accountability reports from the Executive to the Regional Council.

#### Who Can Make a Proposal?

- **Proposals by Member(s) of a Community of Faith (F.1.2.1).** Any Full-member of The United Church of Canada through their local Community of Faith Governing Body. The governing body has several options to choose from when evaluating a proposal. (See section F.1.2.1 and F.1.3.1)
- **Proposals by Others**  
(See section F.1.2.2)
  - A proposal may also be started by:
    - a member of the Regional Council; (F.1.3.3)
    - a committee or other church body of the Council; (F.1.3.4) or
    - the Regional Council. (F.1.3.2)

#### How do I/we craft a proposal?

We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.

- **Name the solution your proposing up front.** This way we can read the rest of the proposal with the solution in mind.
- **Name the type of proposal:**
  - Conversation – the major intention is for the Regional Council to discuss a question or concern.
  - Decision – the desire is that a decision will be made to take action. You must have a clear outcome or solution including financial implications and linkages to Regional priorities.
- **Why is this issue important?** Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy? Is there a need for a new ministry priority? Why is the region the most effective space to undertake the proposed ministry/action.
- **What might the cost be?** Estimate the potential cost. Everything we do has a cost. It might be time from staff and volunteers. It might be budgetary. Being mindful of the cost is an important part of every proposal. Proposals that do not include a cost or assume "within existing budget/resources" will automatically be sent back to the person/council or origin for additional discernment.
- **What's the Priority Level?**  
Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative. Current Regional priorities are:
  - Identity – Reconciling, Anti-Racism, Affirming
  - Healthy Communities of Faith
  - First Third Ministry
- **Why the Regional or General Council?** The United Church of Canada is governed with overlapping spheres of power and authority. Part of any proposal needs to acknowledge why the council of action identified is the most effective place for this proposal. Please give careful consideration

as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council, especially given the finite resources available to both Councils. You must provide this rational as part of your proposal. Any proposal that is missing this information will be sent back for further discernment.

- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

#### Things to keep in mind:

The Policy Committee of the Executive and the Business Committee ([PMRCBusiness@gmail.com](mailto:PMRCBusiness@gmail.com)) are available at the General Meeting to help ensure your proposal is clear and focused enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

In order to make the best use of the meeting's time, The Policy Committee may also group together Proposals that deal with the same issue or topic, have the same purpose, or desired outcome. The Committee may generate an Omnibus Proposal that address the matter raised.

Proposals from individual community of faith members or governance groups must follow the steps in F.3.1.1 and include a copy of the motion to transmit with the proposal.

**Name of person submitting this proposal**

Chris Mah Poy

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Proposal Name**

Supporting Leadership of Adolescents & Youth (SLAY)

**Source**

Pacific Mountain Region Youth Council

**Community of Faith**

Pacific Mountain Region Youth Council

**Type of Proposal**

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

**Intended court of action**

Pacific Mountain Region Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

#### Proposal

PMRC Youth Council, alongside the Chinook Winds Youth Council have discerned systemic barriers to Youth and Young Adult Participation in the full life of the church. PMRC Youth Council is inviting communities of faith and the region to consider the innovative, radically welcoming ways CoFs and the region can include a greater participation of youth in regional meetings.

#### Motion

That the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of The United Church of Canada at its Annual General Meeting (Regional Gathering) **require that at least 5% of the voting representatives be 25 years and younger** in order to **pass motions for decision. (Beginning at RG cycle 2024)**

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

**Background**

**Background**

**1 Timothy 4: 12 NIV**

*<sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

**Manual Reference**

**Manual Section 2023 C.1.2.b**

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*b) additional lay members as determined by the regional council if necessary to respect a balance of ministry personnel and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the regional council. (2021)*

**C.1.2 Lay Members**

*Communities of faith that are congregations or pastoral charges continue to elect representatives to the regional council in the same way they elected representatives to the presbytery prior to January 1, 2019. They may also change the way in which they elect representatives within denominational policies, with the agreement of the regional council, and by including it in the covenant between the community of faith and regional council.*

*The lay members of the regional council are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are;*

*a) elected by communities of faith on the following basis:*

*i) one representative from each community of faith with 100 or fewer members;*

*ii) two representatives from each community of faith with 101 to 200 members;*

*iii) three representatives from each community of faith with 201 to 300 members;*

*iv) four representatives from each community of faith with more than 300 members; and (2022)*

**Bylaws C. Regional Council**

**The Manual, 2023 76 The United Church of Canada**

***b) additional lay members as determined by the regional council if necessary to respect a balance of ministry personnel and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the regional council. (2021)***

***The regional council determines for itself the best way to respect this balance which may include adding lay members to ensure diversity or particular experience and competencies within the regional council. (2021)***

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council Youth Council, along with the members of the Chinook Winds Youth Council strongly believe that children, youth and young adults, can, are and should be provided every opportunity to participate in the full life of The United Church of Canada.

Children, youth, and young adults are often framed as the leaders of the future. Our belief is that we are the leaders of the present, and there are barriers to the full participation of young people in the Church at a time when the Church needs to lift up the voices of young people today, not tomorrow, to ensure that we can participate in the shaping of the Churches future.

The United Church of Canada is approaching its centenary anniversary. Drawing on the wisdom, traditions, advocacy, leadership and love of previous generations, some of whom might remember the first, fifth, twentieth, fiftieth anniversary of the Church they have faithfully stewarded is essential. Church at a Crossroads means we need to know where we have been.

Ensuring the participation of youth leadership in the governance of Congregations (Communities of Faith) and Regional Councils means we might have a better sense of where we are going.

We believe that one of the ways we can accomplish greater youth participation in the work of the church is by introducing minimum requirements for youth participation in regional decision making.

We believe that the motion also enshrines and prioritises the Manual provision that directs Regional Councils to; “A.7.3 Youth and Young Adult Participation Each council will make **provisions** to engage youth and young adults in its life and work.”

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

### Estimated Cost

### Funding Implications

We realize there may be unforeseen implications of the proposal, funding implications among them.

While we are not making a specific request for funds at this time, we believe the implications of the proposal are actually about structure.

The life-cycle of the Church does not often match the life-cycle of Families, Youth and Young Adults. We need to the Pacific Mountain Region and our Communities of Faith in the region to consider how they will ensure a minimum representation of young people, which will have implication for their ministries, and the region as a whole. **We hope that by providing a requirement for minimum participation, structural changes will flow from this proposal, and will provide incentives for Communities of Faith to consider how they will reach out, equip and lift-up young leaders in their communities and in the wider region to take active leadership roles in the Church.**

### Confirmation

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?**

First Third Ministry is a stated priority of the region. We don't believe this will have a "reducing" impact on regional priorities.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?**

This is a regional initiative brought by members of the regional youth council.



Thursday, May 25, 2023

## Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

### Proposal 23-02

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

#### Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

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**Name of person submitting this proposal**

Lindsay Veenstra

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Proposal Name**

Get Rid of Greenhouse Gases (GROGG)

**Source**

I am submitting this proposal on behalf of the PMRC Youth Council.

**Community of Faith**

PMRC Youth Council

**Type of Proposal**

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

**Intended court of action**

Pacific Mountain Region Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

**Proposal**

That the Pacific Mountain Regional Council perform an energy audit of emissions produced in the course of it's work (including Regional Gatherings, staff travel, events), including through buildings, transportation, and waste.

That the Pacific Mountain Regional Council strongly encourage Communities of Faith to provide an energy audit to be included with their 2024 self-assessment/annual report provided to the Region.

That the Chinook Winds Regional Council report on it's carbon emissions and on all audits reported from Communities of Faith at the 2024 Regional Gathering.

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

**Background**

*We are not alone, we live in God's world.*

The climate crisis is an ongoing concern for the spiritual and social lives of our communities & of the whole planet, with direct, negative consequences for the wellbeing of all living things. Our most vulnerable ecosystems and under-resourced communities bear the brunt of these effects today.

Therefore, taking action to reduce our contributions to the climate crisis is a direct embodiment of the New Creed's commitment to 'live with respect in creation.' This proposal also fulfills Pacific Mountain Region's ENDS policies of 'Healthy Communities of Faith & Ministries' and 'Effective Leadership' by modelling and promoting accountability and activism with regards to our relationship with Creation and the stewardship of our spaces and resources.

The United Church of Canada is committed to reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2030. The United Church commissioned "Caring for Creation, Our Communities, and Our Congregations: The Case for a National Carbon Reduction Program for Faith Buildings" in 2016 which found that energy use in buildings was one of the largest contributors to the United Church's carbon emissions and made several recommendations to address this.

The report operated based on estimates of building area and energy usage due to the lack of historical data or baseline for United Church carbon emissions. One of their critical recommendations was to establish such a baseline. A baseline understanding of current carbon emissions is required to create realistic action plans, concrete goals, and to accurately measure the effectiveness of carbon reduction initiatives.

The Youth Council finds that Regional Councils and individual Communities of Faith have a responsibility in tracking and reporting their emissions as a measure of accountability and a means to uncover opportunities to reduce those emissions. Creating a Regional baseline of the emissions produced by buildings will provide the data needed to meet the 80% reduction target.

As the Regional Council has many remote staff and little building usage, tracking all the emissions produced in the course of Regional work, including transportation and waste, will provide a more accurate image of the Region's emissions.

The information gathered in these energy audits can also contribute to the wellness of the communities of faith that participate. Awareness of carbon emission sources often leads to financial savings through highlighting unnecessary/accidental energy use (which can be easily reduced) and by encouraging reduction programs, which can often be subsidized through grants and lead to less energy use or the use of greener and cheaper energy sources.

Communities of Faith are already required to submit annual reports to the Regional Council (as per section B.2.1.1 (b) of the Manual), providing a simple and streamlined mechanism for Communities to report on their energy consumption and emissions. Gathering this information at the Regional level will allow Regional staff to identify which communities might require energy efficiency support, making their resourcing more effective.

Youth Council believes that performing an energy audit of United Church buildings and Regional activities is the first step to creating an effective plan to combat our contributions to climate change. We are asking Communities of Faith to support us and join us to share in the call to care for creation and for each other.

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this

proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

### **Estimated Cost**

We estimate the primary costs of this proposal will be the time and effort of Regional staff.

There are many ways to track the data as required in this proposal. We leave it to the discretion of Regional staff whether they choose to track data and perform the audits themselves (for example, using the resources available through Faithful Footprints) or whether they choose to pay for an external organization to do so. The costs (whether human resources or financial) may be reduced through the use of partnerships (i.e. with Faithful Footprints) or the use of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, an electronic tool to track and even automate the collection of utility data (recommended by the Canadian Government, among others).

Some additional time and effort will be required to encourage communities to conduct their own energy audits or to remind them to submit the results of past audits, as well as to perhaps connect interested communities with grants and resources to relieve the financial costs of energy audits.

There will be no financial burden for individual Communities of Faith as a result of this proposal. Communities of Faith may decide for themselves whether they wish to undergo an energy audit of their facilities.

### **Confirmation**

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?**

This is a high priority proposal. The climate crisis is an urgent justice issue for all people. Additionally, General Council has committed to an 80% reduction of carbon emissions by 2030. Establishing a baseline of carbon emissions is the first step to taking action towards reduction. Therefore, this proposal is an urgent and necessary first step towards supporting the church's reduction goal.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?**

This proposal should be enacted by the Regional Council because so far the Regional Council has not done an energy audit, which is the first step in the process of reducing transmissions. The Region has a mandate to pursue this action through the General Council's emission reduction goal as well as a responsibility to be accountable and transparent with regards to their carbon footprint.



Friday, May 19, 2023

# Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

## Proposal 23-03

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

### Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

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#### Who Can Make a Proposal?

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- **Proposals by Others**  
(See section F.1.2.2)
  - A proposal may also be started by:
    - a member of the Regional Council; (F.1.3.3)
    - a committee or other church body of the Council; (F.1.3.4) or
    - the Regional Council. (F.1.3.2)

#### How do I/we craft a proposal?

We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.

- **Name the solution your proposing up front.** This way we can read the rest of the proposal with the solution in mind.
- **Name the type of proposal:**
  - Conversation – the major intention is for the Regional Council to discuss a question or concern.
  - Decision – the desire is that a decision will be made to take action. You must have a clear outcome or solution including financial implications and linkages to Regional priorities.
- **Why is this issue important?** Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy? Is there a need for a new ministry priority? Why is the region the most effective space to undertake the proposed ministry/action.
- **What might the cost be?** Estimate the potential cost. Everything we do has a cost. It might be time from staff and volunteers. It might be budgetary. Being mindful of the cost is an important part of every proposal. Proposals that do not include a cost or assume "within existing budget/resources" will automatically be sent back to the person/council or origin for additional discernment.
- **What's the Priority Level?**  
Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative. Current Regional priorities are:
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- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

### Things to keep in mind:

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### Name of person submitting this proposal

Dee McEachern

### Email

[REDACTED]

### Phone Number

[REDACTED]

### Proposal Name

Creating a Regional staff position for Senior's Ministry

### Source

The Fourth Quarter/ Retired Ministry Personnel in PMR

### Community of Faith

Robson Valley Shared Ministry: Valemount

### Type of Proposal

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

### Intended court of action

Pacific Mountain Region Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

### Proposal

be it proposed that at this 2023 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Region: 1. In recognizing the fast-growing demographics in both Canadian society and in the congregations of this Region, we recommend the creation of a Regional Staff position for ministry for and with seniors, including retired ministers beyond pastoral care.

2. Recommend the establishment of a task group to create a job description and move into immediate implementation of this proposal.

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

### Background

Theological Rationale:

The biblical and historical witness of the Church, time and again, raises up God's movement with and through

seniors for the serving of God's mission in the world. From Abram and Sarai's courage to seek a new land, from Moses' and Mariam's strength of leadership over 40 years, to Anna and Simeon's ability to perceive the new thing God was doing in Jesus, it is clear that in turning 65 God is not finished with us!

Whereas:

- the population of Canada is becoming older as evidenced by the 2021 census, where the growth in the population is in the post 65 year cohort and is becoming almost 25% of the population,
- there is a growing movement to reinvent and re-imagine the place of seniors in our society,
- on the other hand a growing concern in secular society on ageism as people lose their jobs because they are "too old".
- there are over 250 retired United Church ministers in this Region, who fit into this post 65 cohort group,
- many retired ministers offer their experience in paid-accountable or volunteer positions.
- acknowledging that active ministry is to largely older persons, and ministers to this age group need support to gain the resources of wisdom, energy, and perspective these seniors can bring to ministry. eg. Men's sheds, study groups, movie nights not clergy led.
- there is, at present, no Regional staff position given solely to ministry with and for the senior population of our church...

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

**Estimated Cost**

\$50,000 - 100,000 depending on how much time will be allocated to the position.

**Confirmation**

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?** It is high. You only have to look at the people in the pews and in the over 65 age group in our society.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?** Regional, and we may be the spark for every Region.



Tuesday, May 23, 2023

# Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

## Proposal 23-04

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

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  - First Third Ministry
- **Why the Regional or General Council?** The United Church of Canada is governed with overlapping spheres of power and authority. Part of any proposal needs to acknowledge why the council of action identified is the most effective place for this proposal. Please give careful consideration

as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council, especially given the finite resources available to both Councils. You must provide this rational as part of your proposal. Any proposal that is missing this information will be sent back for further discernment.

- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

### Things to keep in mind:

The Policy Committee of the Executive and the Business Committee ([PMRCBusiness@gmail.com](mailto:PMRCBusiness@gmail.com)) are available at the General Meeting to help ensure your proposal is clear and focused enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

In order to make the best use of the meeting's time, The Policy Committee may also group together Proposals that deal with the same issue or topic, have the same purpose, or desired outcome. The Committee may generate an Omnibus Proposal that address the matter raised.

Proposals from individual community of faith members or governance groups must follow the steps in F.3.1.1 and include a copy of the motion to transmit with the proposal.

**Name of person submitting this proposal**

Keith Simmonds

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Proposal Name**

Sabbatical relief fund

**Source**

Member of the Region

**Community of Faith**

Central Okanagan United Church

**Type of Proposal**

For Conversation (I want The Region to have a conversation)

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

**Intended court of action**

Pacific Mountain Regional Council & General Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

### Proposal

That the region establish a fund that can be drawn on by any faith community providing time for and support to a sabbatical period granted to qualifying personnel.

That the fund be open to applications from qualifying personnel as they seek enhanced opportunities during their sabbatical.

That a sabbatical be recognized to be any five year period of qualifying employment whether continuous in one faith community or not.

That the fund be created out of contributions from faith communities and qualifying personnel in equal amounts.

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

### Background

This proposal meets and embraces the Region's commitment to equipping leaders and serving the needs of faith communities by acting as a facilitator for sabbaticals. It supports and enhances existing policy.

The National Church has established funds for sabbatical coverage for qualifying faith communities and qualifying ministry personnel (intentional interim ministers). The bar is so high for the former that few faith communities qualify. The bar is so restrictive for the latter that some Intentional Interim Ministers do not qualify as some part of their service may be deemed ineligible. No other serving personnel are covered regardless of years of service without a sabbatical. These funds were established to encourage sabbaticals but are too limited in scope and application to meet that objective.

Many do not qualify for sabbatical because they have not served continuously in one faith community. Current Sabbatical Policy requires qualified personnel to serve multiples of 5 years in a faith community before taking a sabbatical whether or not an extension of service to get to a sabbatical meets the needs of the employee or the faith community. Employees responding to call at times appropriate to the needs of the Faith Community or themselves (usually meeting both needs) give up the renewal and invigoration offered by a Sabbatical. Personnel staying just long enough to qualify for a Sabbatical are sometimes invigorated right out of their position...Qualifying Employees will, sometimes, not take a sabbatical because of the pressure it puts on the faith community they serve (extra funding for coverage) or because they are not able to afford meaningful opportunities that might be present in a Sabbatical. Especially with the current rise in the cost of living where much of a person's income goes into housing and other related costs.

The proposal asks the Region to accept contributions from Faith Communities and Qualifying Personnel so that both faith communities and Qualifying Personnel can draw on a fund established through their contributions. It is expected that related admin costs would be covered by the fund.

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

**Estimated Cost**

Some upfront costs in establishing the fund. Self-funded following.

**Confirmation**

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?**

High. This proposal will, with minimal expenditure by the Region as a body, enable members of the Region to enhance and participate in sabbaticals for qualifying personnel. It will benefit leaders and faith communities alike and meets two of the Region's key priorities.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?**

The Region is responsible for serving and enabling the service of faith communities. Many are so burdened by day to day operations that funding a sabbatical is seen out of reach and to be dealt with when it comes up. The Region would be serving Faith Communities by acting to hold and share out funds in this way. Qualifying employees could participate voluntarily, or through the Office of Vocation (General Council).



Monday, May 29, 2023

## Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

# Proposal 23-05

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

### Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

We recognize that individual members, Communities of Faith, Covenantal Ministries, Regional Committees/Councils/Groups, and Regional Council Members may want The Pacific Mountain Regional Council or Executive to take action on a specific issue or concern. You desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards a decision. A "proposal" is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2023), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals must be submitted by May 30th, 2023.

Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

All actions resulting from proposals are sent to the Regional Council Executive. That action will be part of subsequent accountability reports from the Executive to the Regional Council.

#### Who Can Make a Proposal?

- **Proposals by Member(s) of a Community of Faith (F.1.2.1).** Any Full-member of The United Church of Canada through their local Community of Faith Governing Body. The governing body has several options to choose from when evaluating a proposal. (See section F.1.2.1 and F.1.3.1)
- **Proposals by Others**  
(See section F.1.2.2)
  - A proposal may also be started by:
    - a member of the Regional Council; (F.1.3.3)
    - a committee or other church body of the Council; (F.1.3.4) or
    - the Regional Council. (F.1.3.2)

#### How do I/we craft a proposal?

We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.

- **Name the solution your proposing up front.** This way we can read the rest of the proposal with the solution in mind.
- **Name the type of proposal:**
  - Conversation – the major intention is for the Regional Council to discuss a question or concern.
  - Decision – the desire is that a decision will be made to take action. You must have a clear outcome or solution including financial implications and linkages to Regional priorities.
- **Why is this issue important?** Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy? Is there a need for a new ministry priority? Why is the region the most effective space to undertake the proposed ministry/action.
- **What might the cost be?** Estimate the potential cost. Everything we do has a cost. It might be time from staff and volunteers. It might be budgetary. Being mindful of the cost is an important part of every proposal. Proposals that do not include a cost or assume "within existing budget/resources" will automatically be sent back to the person/council or origin for additional discernment.
- **What's the Priority Level?**  
Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative. Current Regional priorities are:
  - Identity – Reconciling, Anti-Racism, Affirming
  - Healthy Communities of Faith
  - First Third Ministry
- **Why the Regional or General Council?** The United Church of Canada is governed with overlapping spheres of power and authority. Part of any proposal needs to acknowledge why the council of action identified is the most effective place for this proposal. Please give careful consideration

as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council, especially given the finite resources available to both Councils. You must provide this rational as part of your proposal. Any proposal that is missing this information will be sent back for further discernment.

- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

#### Things to keep in mind:

The Policy Committee of the Executive and the Business Committee ([PMRCBusiness@gmail.com](mailto:PMRCBusiness@gmail.com)) are available at the General Meeting to help ensure your proposal is clear and focused enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

In order to make the best use of the meeting's time, The Policy Committee may also group together Proposals that deal with the same issue or topic, have the same purpose, or desired outcome. The Committee may generate an Omnibus Proposal that address the matter raised.

Proposals from individual community of faith members or governance groups must follow the steps in F.3.1.1 and include a copy of the motion to transmit with the proposal.

#### Name of person submitting this proposal

Keith Simmonds

#### Email

[REDACTED]

#### Phone Number

[REDACTED]

#### Proposal Name

Unsettling Hewlett Packard

#### Source

Member of the Region

#### Community of Faith

Central Okanagan United Church

#### Type of Proposal

For Conversation (I want The Region to have a conversation)

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

#### Intended court of action

Pacific Mountain Regional Council & General Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

#### Proposal

The Proposal asks that Pacific Mountain Region and its member faith communities divest from or cease any activity/investment/purchase agreements that support Hewlett Packard. Further the proposal asks that Pacific Mountain Region request that the General Council of the United Church of Canada add Hewlett Packard specifically to the UnSettling Goods Campaign of the United Church of Canada.

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

#### Background

In 2013 The United Church of Canada formally adopted a campaign to encourage Canadians to withdraw from supporting companies that participate in and benefit from the illegal occupation of Palestine by the government of Israel. Our 42nd General Council (2015) called on the United Church to develop and implement an ethical divestment strategy from companies that derive substantial financial benefit or that contribute significantly to furthering the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/unsettling-goods-choose-peace-palestine-and-israel/what-are-united-church-and-others-doing-just-peace/global-church-actions-palestine-and-israel>

As evidenced by our sisters and brothers in the United Methodist Church in their Kairos response group, [https://www.kairosresponse.org/hp\\_boycott.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/hp_boycott.html) Hewlett Packard is providing technology to the government of Israel that is used in the routine subjugation and brutalization of Palestinians. Hewlett Packard is fully aware of the use of its technology, of the effects of its technology and has refused to withdraw from that use. Purchasing products from Hewlett Packard, investing in Hewlett Packard and staying silent on Hewlett Packard enables and supports the physical, emotional and spiritual oppression of Palestinians. It is time, in line with existing United Church of Canada policy, to insist that Hewlett Packard withdraw from any provision of technology that subjugates Palestinians. To let them know that what they earn from Palestinian oppression will be lost as people around the world refuse to purchase their products.

This action was taken by the Presbyterian Church USA in 2015 and the United Church of Christ USA in 2016.

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

### **Estimated Cost**

Minimal. Information to Faith Communities through normal channels, announcements to media, letters to Hewlett Packard and divestment from Hewlett Packard where investments exist.

### **Confirmation**

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?**

High. This is a key priority for Faithful Public Witness in the context of a colonizing church, living in the reality of a colonized country.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?**

Supports existing UCCan policy (UnSettling Goods 2013 and divestment from Occupation Profiteers 2015) with a specific Regional and National application



Monday, May 29, 2023

# Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

## Proposal 23-06

Please submit by: May 30th, 2023

### Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

We recognize that individual members, Communities of Faith, Covenantal Ministries, Regional Committees/Councils/Groups, and Regional Council Members may want The Pacific Mountain Regional Council or Executive to take action on a specific issue or concern. You desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards a decision. A "proposal" is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2023), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals must be submitted by May 30th, 2023.

Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

All actions resulting from proposals are sent to the Regional Council Executive. That action will be part of subsequent accountability reports from the Executive to the Regional Council.

#### Who Can Make a Proposal?

- **Proposals by Member(s) of a Community of Faith (F.1.2.1).** Any Full-member of The United Church of Canada through their local Community of Faith Governing Body. The governing body has several options to choose from when evaluating a proposal. (See section F.1.2.1 and F.1.3.1)
- **Proposals by Others**  
(See section F.1.2.2)
  - A proposal may also be started by:
    - a member of the Regional Council; (F.1.3.3)
    - a committee or other church body of the Council; (F.1.3.4) or
    - the Regional Council. (F.1.3.2)

#### How do I/we craft a proposal?

We are asking you to submit your proposal in a very focused way.

- **Name the solution your proposing up front.** This way we can read the rest of the proposal with the solution in mind.
- **Name the type of proposal:**
  - Conversation – the major intention is for the Regional Council to discuss a question or concern.
  - Decision – the desire is that a decision will be made to take action. You must have a clear outcome or solution including financial implications and linkages to Regional priorities.
- **Why is this issue important?** Provide the background needed to consider the proposal in two (2) pages or less. What's the issue or challenge or gap being identified? Why is that the case? What ENDS Policy supports the proposal? Is there a need for a revised or new ENDS Policy? Is there a need for a new ministry priority? Why is the region the most effective space to undertake the proposed ministry/action.
- **What might the cost be?** Estimate the potential cost. Everything we do has a cost. It might be time from staff and volunteers. It might be budgetary. Being mindful of the cost is an important part of every proposal. Proposals that do not include a cost or assume "within existing budget/resources" will automatically be sent back to the person/council or origin for additional discernment.
- **What's the Priority Level?**  
Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative. Current Regional priorities are:
  - Identity – Reconciling, Anti-Racism, Affirming
  - Healthy Communities of Faith
  - First Third Ministry
- **Why the Regional or General Council?** The United Church of Canada is governed with overlapping spheres of power and authority. Part of any proposal needs to acknowledge why the council of action identified is the most effective place for this proposal. Please give careful consideration

as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council, especially given the finite resources available to both Councils. You must provide this rational as part of your proposal. Any proposal that is missing this information will be sent back for further discernment.

- **Is there a required format for a proposal?** Yes, to help people engage the topic as easy as possible all proposals must use the found below.

#### Things to keep in mind:

The Policy Committee of the Executive and the Business Committee ([PMRCBusiness@gmail.com](mailto:PMRCBusiness@gmail.com)) are available at the General Meeting to help ensure your proposal is clear and focused enough to achieve the good conversations the meeting wants to have.

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Proposals from individual community of faith members or governance groups must follow the steps in F.3.1.1 and include a copy of the motion to transmit with the proposal.

**Name of person submitting this proposal**

Barry K Morris

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Proposal Name**

Advocacy/action for a Guaranteed Livable Income

**Source**

Group of UCC ministers/laity advocating for a Guaranteed Livable Income locally, regionally, and nationally c/o Barry K Morris, Judith Hardcastle, and Jennifer Goddard-Shepherd

**Community of Faith**

C/o Longhouse Council of Native Ministry/St. Andrews UCC (N. Van), First United Church (Van.)

**Type of Proposal**

For Decision (I want The Region to make a decision or take an action)

**Intended court of action**

Pacific Mountain Region Council

**Proposal:** What's the solution to the issue/challenge/gap identified?

**Proposal**

**Proposal\***For generations, our UCC has advocated a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) that is non-discriminatory and accessible, particularly for reconciliation with indigenous peoples (see TRC proposals and MMWC report), and all with income insecurities, including paid sick leave and green economy transitions. And, with the cost of living skyrocketing, a GLI is timely needed. We request the Pacific Mountain Regional Council to initiate, encourage & assist its communities of faith to engage writing campaigns requesting their municipal councils to pass resolutions calling on the federal government to implement a GLI. Each community of faith within Pacific Mountain Region will be provided with guidelines for identifying and approaching their municipal council along with letter/e-mail templates to submit to their municipal council

**Background:** What information do you think people need to have in order to understand the issue and how your proposal addresses it. Is there support or a gap in existing ENDS Policies? Please limit information to 1000 words.

## **Background**

A basic income is an unconditional cash transfer from governments to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity -- regardless of work status. A federally-funded, income-targeted basic income could help alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty, manage services and support people to invest in their local economy and community. Evidence illustrates that a federally-funded basic income is feasible in Canada and hence could bring significant benefits at the municipal level. Citizens and municipalities can find common ground in urging that an adequate income program be provided by federal and provincial levels of government.

Justice, equity, compassion, and weighted care for neighbour are at the heart of the gospels and Christian theology. Too long we have offered the charity model of "helping the poor" without equal passion and energy for addressing the root causes of poverty: Unfair/unequal distribution of wealth, discriminatory labour laws, insufficient wages (often without sick leave) and stigmatizing and isolating those who are vulnerable and impoverished. We add further harm when we provide a woefully inadequate "social safety net" to meet basic need, complicated with barriers it penalizes those who seek to become participants in the economy. By inviting his disciples to act from the perspective that "whatever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do to me," Jesus summoned Christian discipleship that models compassionate justice and equitable inclusion for all people (cf. Micah 6:8)..

Across the country, United Church members and communities of faith have already successfully appealed to municipal councils in Victoria, B.C., Sooke, B.C., Halifax, N.S., Moncton, N.B., St. John, N.B., Fredericton, N.B., and St. John's NL. However, a wider and more coordinated effort is needed to raise these issues in other municipalities. Within Pacific Mountain Region, a precedent has already been established in the municipalities of Victoria and Sooke. Exemplarily, communities of faith in other municipalities around the region can also have an impact.

Recent statistics show that the poverty level in B.C. is high. B.C.'s Office of the Human Rights Commissioner states that 1 in 10 residents live in poverty and those receiving basic assistance are still left with an annualized income that is far from adequate to meet basic needs. With the high cost of housing, a sharp increase in the cost of living and an aging population with more people living on a fixed income, this percentage is anticipated to increase in the coming years. As a church, we cannot fix this problem alone. By working together to advocate municipal councils to call for a meaningfully adequate federal response we can make a difference in our neighbourhoods and districts.

**Estimated Cost:** If this is a proposal for decision, what is your best estimate implementing this proposal might cost financial or in time and effort?

## **Estimated Cost**

The primary cost of this proposal would be in the necessary time and effort required to develop guidelines that can be distributed to each community of

faith around the region. With staff support from PMR's Minister for Justice, a volunteer team of those members of the United Church of Canada's national Guaranteed Livable Income network who are located in Pacific Mountain Region will organized this effort. Further voluntary time and effort will be needed by members of each communities of faith to identify and communicate with the municipal council in their area, using the guidelines and letter template provided. The time commitment is not large. Since most of the correspondence would be electronic, the financial costs should be minimal.

**Confirmation**

I am ready to submit this proposal

**Pease submit by: May 30th, 2023**

**Priority Level:** Recognizing that any new ministry initiatives will impact current ministry priorities as established by the Region, please identify areas which you think could be reduced in order to establish this initiative.

**What's the priority level?**

Deemed urgent; hence assign this proposal a high priority, since it potentially affects the lives of millions of people who are currently living in poverty. According to the B.C. Human Rights Commissioner, 20% of children in B.C. are growing up in poverty, and 25% of queer, transgender and Two-Spirit youth are forced out of their homes. As an Affirming Regional Council with an increasing number of Affirming Communities of Faith, and with a strong commitment to First Third Ministry, this initiative does not supplant these other regional priorities but is an important expression of our commitment to them.

**Regional or General Council:** Please give careful consideration as to why the proposal should be enacted by the Regional or General Council

**Why the Region or General Council?**

This proposal is directed to the Pacific Mountain Regional Council because, as cited above, the problem of poverty in B.C. is notable and likely to increase. This initiative should be enacted by the Pacific Mountain Regional Council because people in every municipality of every Community of Faith is affected. We can have a better impact if we make a concerted effort to support this initiative together across the Region.