



Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee Robin Jacobson

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Community of Faith Trinity, Vernon

Age (optional):

Gender (optional)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional): white

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I love Jesus Christ and the privilege of being part of this church.
I've been ordained 34 years with a lot of experience in congregational leadership.
I've served about 15 years with BC Candidacy Pathway in its various forms.
I've seen the church at it best and (unfortunately) worst and yet still believe it's Christ's bride with a very seriously place and work to do in our very changing world.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

My sense is that our role is about discerning and providing overall guidance which we believe is of Chrst, bold, clear and yet spacious enough for individual communities to adopt and adapt to ther particular callings and contexts. It is not not dictate or micro-manage.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

I was asked to consider this. I chatted with Simon who shared some of what the Executive was dealing with, and my interest was piqued. Although not desperately keen to take on new things a year before my semi-retirement, I do feel that I may have some useful things to offer. I also know that I am always blessed in serving the wider church.



Thursday, May 29, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee

Sarah Kirwin

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Lay Person

Community of Faith

Knox United Terrace

Age (optional):

30-39

Gender (optional)

Female

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

A highly involved lay person who has a lifetime of UCC experience, Sarah is an educator who thrives in group environments and working with shared responsibilities towards common goals and outcomes. She is a strong communicator with excellent digital skills and a knowledge of polity and procedure both inside and outside the church.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

From the college world, Sarah is well familiar with policy governance (Carver) and the roles both of directors and lead staff. How those compliment one another. Where accountability and delegation coexist towards a cohesive understanding of governance that respects roles while being purpose driven and metric oriented.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

When asked Sarah is hoping to share her love of the northern rural church and how communities of faith like hers can thrive and find a valued expression and connection to PMRC and the UCC. Being part of the executive would also be a way to embody and continued expression of leadership as a commissioner to GC45.



Thursday, May 22, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee

Dave Moors

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Ordained Minister

Community of Faith

Shaughnessy Heights United

Age (optional):

50-59

Gender (optional)

Male

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I bring 28 years of experience in all councils/courts of the United Church of Canada. I served as Convenor of the Steering group for Pastoral Relations Policy Review and the Ministry Employment Policies and Services at the General Council and various Education and Student and Pastoral Relations committees at the Conference and Presbytery level. For 5 years I served as the Chair of the Board of AIDS Saskatoon (now Prairie Harm Reduction) and played a key leadership role in creation of a strategic Roadmap for an organization in crisis. I also have participated in Adaptive Leadership training and an annual gathering at the Whidbey Institute. I have extensive experience representing the United Church of Canada in Truth and Reconciliation activities. I was part of an ecumenical and inter-agency Regional Planning Team for the TRC Saskatoon National Event. I bring skills in effective listening and group discernment, an authentic and honest speaking and I am able to hold space for fierce or courageous conversations when needed.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

Policy governance creates policies that govern and support the work of staff and volunteer groups within an organization. The governing body sets the values and holds the deep purpose of the organization and the policies embody these values and purposes and while encouraging and entrusting the work to various people or teams without micro-management. In a policy governance model individuals and teams are trusted to do the work and come up with excellent plans of operation for any given project or ministry within their scheme of responsibility. I would hope this frees up the governing body to be a place of discernment instead of constant "house-keeping" or management of the specific work of its staff and teams. I see myself operating in this model by joining the Executive in encouraging trust, developing/tweaking policies and discerning core values and deep purpose that are meaningful and clear and inspire ministry excellence.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

Since moving to BC in 2020 I have not been involved in the work of the governance of the wider church except to be named as a Commission member to the Bethany-Newton Commission. I have supervised a VST student and a 2 year SME student (oddly enough the same person) Now that I am settled in my ministry to the people of Shaughnessy Heights United it is time to deepen my service to the Regional Council. I believe that after 28 years of United Church ministry I bring a breadth of experience across many regions of the church (NS, ON, AB, SK and now BC) and at many levels of church governance. I have felt a bit distant from the more recent work of the UCC and this Region and am hoping to "plug in" to the dreams and values of this place I now call home. I look forward to strengthening Regional relationships and feel that Executive is a place where my previous experience and my relative newness to BC might be an asset. I will say that after 28 years I have no set agenda or belief about how a Regional Council should operate and I look forward to starting the next 100 years of UCC history participating in the work of the PMRC Executive.



Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee Valerie Neilson

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Community of Faith Brechin United Church, Nanaimo

Age (optional):

Gender (optional)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional): white

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I will begin by saying I was approached to consider this opportunity. I have served within my Community of Faith in several ways including M&P, Presbytery rep, PMRC rep, council chair, worship team member, Transition team, several search and profile teams, redevelopment project co-chair. I served and chaired the Interim Ministry Committee at the Conference level for six years. My highest scores on the Spirit Given Gifts questionnaire are: organization, hospitality, faith, vision, and discernment. I am happy to be considered if these are skills/gifts that would be an asset on the Executive.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

I have read the description and principles of policy governance. I do not disagree with, or feel strongly against, any of those principles. I look forward to learning more about this model and if elected, would welcome some orientation as to what is expected as a new Regional Council Executive member.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

Our Community of Faith has received tremendous support from the Region and perhaps this is one way of 'giving back'. I respect the work of the wider church. I believe this is a time for reaching out to congregations and offering deep listening to their experiences.

I would not have considered this position had I not been invited to do so. However, after some questions, conversations and careful thought, I am prepared to let my name stand for consideration.



Monday, May 26, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee

Shakshi Paul

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Welcome Coordinator (Staff at Kamloops United Church)

Community of Faith

Kamloops United Church

Age (optional):

30-39

Gender (optional)

Female

Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional):

Indian (born in India)

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I bring with me a different worldview. I recently become part of the United Church family by joining Kamloops United Church about 3 years ago as a full-time Activity Coordinator for the church. I bring with me a diverse worldview from growing up in India, the USA, and (now living in) Canada. I grew up with Military parents, which resulted in a lot of travel, thus making adaptability my superpower. I was forced to engage with different opinions and connect with people from backgrounds of different cultures, languages, and experiences. Witnessing my parents' commitment to service has deepened my understanding of the importance of family and community.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

I want to be able to learn and contribute within the governance model. I also want to present my point of view on how I see the United Church in the next 100 years. I plan on working as a team player towards a common shared goal!

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

To learn about how resources are managed within the Region. To learn visioning for the future. And to be able to contribute my learnings from the past couple of years, since I have become part of the United Church.



Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee Robin Pengelly

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Community of Faith Castlegar-Kinnaird Pastoral Charge

Age (optional):

Gender (optional)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional): white

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I bring experience in rural ministry, youth ministry, and camping ministry. I have a passion for community building and generally find policy interesting as well as valuable in guiding our lives together. Through my ministry work, I have developed a keen interest in church property issues, as the church moves forward. I also have taken Masters level courses in Facility Management and Budget Finance as part of my MSc in Recreation Management degree, which I hold in addition to my MDiv. I prefer to work in collaboration with others and have been active in the Kootenay Cluster since the restructuring of the church in 2019, working to maintain the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Communities of Faith of the old Kootenay Presbytery and expanding to welcome other nearby Communities of Faith.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

My understanding of a policy governance model is that the Executive Board is responsible for developing policy that best reflects the will of the Court and meets all applicable General Council and Government requirements. The day-to-day living out of that policy then is entrusted to the Executive Minister and Region Staff. The Executive pays attention and offers support, to be sure that the actions within the Regional Council at all levels are meeting the agreed upon policies, as well as fulfilling all their Council Executive duties as laid out in the policies. The role I expect to play in this is as one member of a unified team of people that serves as the executive. I see it primarily as an interpretive and supportive role for existing policy, with new policy research, writing and visioning as need is indicated by the Court and as guidance is requested by the Executive Minister. The role involves listening and paying attention, thoughtful response, and prayerful action.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

When Graham Brownmiller first tapped me on the shoulder asking me to discern service on the executive, my initial reaction was that I was far too busy with the other roles I fill in the church. Once I stopped long enough to check in with the Holy Spirit, however, I realized that some of that work I have been doing has prepared me very well to serve the church in a wider capacity. Because I find policy interesting and appreciate its importance in our communal life, and because I have a passion for property stewardship, I believe I have been called to serve the church in this way at this particular time.



Thursday, May 29, 2025

Nominations for PM Regional Council Executive

1. Naming the Nominee

Name of Nominee Morgan Ryder

2. Nominee Details

Lay or Ministry Status

Community of Faith Retired

Age (optional):

Gender (optional)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional): Indigenous Métis

3. Naming Gifts & Experiences, and Discerners

What gifts and skills would you bring to your position on the Regional Council Executive? (about 500 words)

I am empathetic and compassionate, and possess a spirit of discernment.

The Regional Council Executive operates under a policy governance model. Please share what that means to you and how you see yourself operating in that model. (about 500 words)

While I am not policy focused, I believe that good policy does keep our church moving forward and keeps us within the lines 'in a good way.' We have to have boundaries to protect ourselves and policies that keep us focused forward and in a good direction is important.

Please tell us what motivates you to fulfill this position? (about 500 words)

I am not motivated to fill this position, but I trust in community discernment and I have been asked to consider this. We need to take those requests seriously (whether or not we say yes!) I think the work is important and I bring a perspective of indigenous and northern rural ministry that is somewhat unique.