



Sunday, June 6, 2021

Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Please submit by: June 10th, 2021

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 might have something to share for education, or desire a conversation about a specific topic. You might want to have some education and conversation about a topic leading towards taking action. A “proposal” is the formal request for any of these.

The Manual (2021), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a way for creating a proposal. Proposals can be submitted before the Regional Council meeting, to be circulated in the Regional meeting resource, or a proposal can be submitted to the chairperson of the Business Committee before the scheduled close of submission of new business during our Regional Meeting. See the agenda for the specific close of business time. Any proposals received after the deadline will be forwarded directly to the PMRC Executive.

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:**
 - Education – the major intention is to educate the Regional Council about something important.
 - 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 as part of a decision proposal including financial implications.

- **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?
- **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.
- **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 will be 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	keithsimmonds@duncanunited.org
Phone Number	(236) 594-8200
Proposal Name	A Living Commitment to the KAIROS Palestine "Cry for Hope"

Source

Keith Simmonds for Palnet - a Pacific Mountain Region Network

Community of Faith	Duncan United Church
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Type of Proposal

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

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

Proposal

Proposed that: Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada affirm the recent declarations by various human rights groups that the actions of the Government of Israel conform to the definition of an apartheid state. (Kairos Palestine, B'tselem, Human Rights Watch and Independent Jewish Voices). In light of that determination be it further proposed that the United Church of Canada join the international campaign of Boycott, Divest and Sanction against the Government of Israel until such time as it respects international law and the equal rights of all people living in Israel and Palestine

We are asking that a decision be made first by the Region and then sent to the General Council with Concurrence and asking for action by the General 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

Background:

This proposal responds to the July 2020 KAIROS Palestine CRY FOR HOPE issued to the churches of the world. In order to stop the escalating violence affecting both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis, and to non-violently pursue peace and justice for all in the region, it is proposed that the United Church take seriously the calls to action of our partners.

Kairos Palestine is a coalition of Palestinian churches and Christian organizations. It issued the *Cry for Hope* document in July 2020 (summarized below) in response to the ongoing oppression of the Palestinian people. *Cry for Hope* calls on Christians and churches around the world to:

- a. Begin processes at all levels that recognize the urgent requirement for action
- b. Theological study – from the point of view of colonizer and colonized
- c. Affirm the right to resist and join in nonviolent resistance, using Boycott/Divest/Sanction as a framework for exerting pressure on Israel to comply with international law
- d. Demand governments employ political, diplomatic and economic

means to stop Israel's violations of human rights and international law

e. Oppose anti-Semitism, anti-Judaism, racism; work for justice

f.
Support interfaith and
Israel Palestine partnerships that build mutual respect

g. Encourage Come and See visits to Palestine, and stand with grassroots initiatives for a just peace.

In previous years the United Church of Canada has passed many resolutions and proposals about Palestine and Israel. It has condemned violence in the region, and continues to do so.

In May 2021 we witnessed the impact of direct armed violence and indirect systemic violence on the people of Palestine and Israel. We saw the interconnectedness of suffering experienced by both peoples. In the 70's and the 80's Canada led the way in naming the South African situation as apartheid and taking strong action to hold the government of South Africa accountable. Now is the time to hold the state of Israel accountable for its persistent violations of international law including the 4th Geneva Convention.

As our church and country struggles to acknowledge and redress our own colonial history and the current day to day reality of people here we acknowledge our complicity in the illegal colonization of Palestine through direct support of the Government of Israel..

The

Israeli Knesset, Supreme Court, military forces and settlers (*illegal Israeli colonizers*) are each involved in the continual dispossession of more and more Palestinians from their lands and homes,. Every part of the Israeli establishment named above also supports, enables, encourages and participates in the illegal arrest, detention and assassination of Palestinians exercising their UN rights to protest and oppose the illegal occupation of their lands.

This action upholds and honours the Region's commitment in its Mission Statement to

Effective Leadership and Faithful Public Witness:

And to

Ends Policy A – Valuing Human Diversity

The Pacific Mountain Regional Council will uplift and value the diversity of expression embodied in all of humanity.

- 1. The Region will live out its call of loving neighbour by actively working against racism.*
- 2. The Region will only support and enter into covenants and agreements with groups that do not devalue, undermine, limit, or negate a person's identity.*

And to

Ends Policy E – Regional Ministries

- 6. Justice-oriented ministries and networks will be supported and developed in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Region.*
 - a. There is an inclusive environment for safe participation.*

b. Particular attention will be given to needs related to race, culture, identity, orientation, health, ability, and age.

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

Cost: This step is not likely to incur a financial cost to the church as we probably do not carry many investments in Israel at the present time, given that Israel's number one industry is the production of armaments and devices (drones, facial recognition software, police armaments and training, etc) meant for population control. Many other products (Keter Plastics, Dead Sea Cosmetics, Settlement wines, etc) are already on our economic list as part of the Unsettling Goods Campaign. It does not preclude positive trading relationships with Palestinian organizations nor is it meant to stop observer activities such as the "Come and See Tours" carried out by members of the United Church. There may be some costs to the General Council involved with respect to up-dating the Unsettling Goods Campaign and creating other educational resources.

Confirmation

I am ready to submit this proposal

Pease submit by: June 10, 2021