



Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Please submit by: June 8th, 2022

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 (2022), 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	Leslie Ross
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Proposal Name	Recognizing Ecumenical Shared Ministry Specific Circumstances
Source	Parish Council of the North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry
Community of Faith	North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry
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

Revise the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Ends Policy to ensure the nature and needs of ecumenical shared ministries are included and supported as healthy communities of faith with effective leadership such that they will be a conduit for faithful public witness.

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

- *The Manual*

mentions “ecumenical shared ministries” once. That reference is in I.1.2.6 in which it states “A member of the order of ministry may be appointed to an ecumenical shared ministry following the same policies and procedures as for appointment to a community of faith of the United Church.” There is no other polity or guidance as to relationships that should exist among or between the United Church and the other judicatories of ecumenical shared ministries.

- *The Ecumenical*

Shared Ministries Handbook published by the Ecumenical Shared Ministries Task Force (which includes representation from the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the United Church of Canada) includes expectations or guidelines for the judicatories. They are not prescriptive. Most of the expectations fit into three areas: the establishment of an ecumenical shared ministry; clergy appointments; and support and oversight.

- Given the expectations of the *Ecumenical Shared Ministries Handbook*, it is noted that the Ends Policy of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council has no specific references to ecumenical shared ministries.

- There is no Ends Policy identifying the work of the PMRC with the judicatories of denominations with which ecumenical shared ministries in the PMRC relate. *The Manual* identifies in C.2.4.b that the regional council is responsible for encouraging and engaging in local, regional, national, and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical, and interfaith) for ministry, mission, and justice work. Some aspects of this purpose do appear in the Ends Policy. However, the necessary work that needs to be done with and for ecumenical shared ministries at the judicatory level does not appear. For example, there is a need for the Executive Minister and Regional Ministers to develop and maintain connections with their judicatory counterparts.

- One of the expectations given in the *Ecumenical Shared Ministry Handbook* is to provide orientation for newly appointed clergy including training in the polity of each denomination involved in the ecumenical shared ministry with the possibility of appointing a mentor. This would be an example where a specific Ends Policy could be written to add to the Leadership Ends Policy for ministry personnel under “engaged”. A similar Ends Policy may need to be written for Regional Ministers who have responsibilities for ecumenical shared ministries especially when one is going to be experiencing a change in pastoral relations.

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

Costs will depend on what Ends get added and the Means developed by the Executive Minister. Some may have no additional costs. Others may have some costs. For instance, there might be costs connected to ensuring ministry personnel from other denominations have a mentor as part of their orientation. However, that may not be an additional cost in that it should already be happening.

Governing Body Comment (if applicable)

This proposal was developed by the NTESM Parish Council. The motion to submit it is "M/S that the proposal 'Recognizing Ecumenical Shared Ministry Specific Circumstances' be submitted to Pacific

Mountain Regional Council as per the information they publish regarding proposals. Carried." This took place at the April 5, 2022 meeting of the Parish Council.

Confirmation

I am ready to submit this proposal

Pease submit by: June 8th, 2022