



Thursday, May 25, 2023

Proposals to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

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) 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

Lindsay Veenstra

Email

lveenstra@united-church.ca

Phone Number

(604) 802-7610

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.
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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.
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