



Friday, April 28, 2023

Chinook Winds Region - Proposal 2023

Submission Deadline: May 1, 2023

Name of person submitting this proposal Chris Mah Poy

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Proposal Name YC Proposal 1 - Supporting the Leadership of Adolescents and Youth (SLAY)

Source

Chinook Winds Regional Youth Council;
Tamika Vogstad
Rhondda Gower
Kamal Kennedy

Supported by Chris Mah Poy

Type of Proposal

For Decision (I want the council to make a decision or take an action)

Background

Manual Reference

Manual Section 2023 C.1.2.b

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)

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

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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)

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 Chinook Winds Regional Council Youth Council, along with the members of the Pacific Mountain 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.

We have greatly benefitted from the faithful stewardship of those who might remember the first, fifth, twentieth, and fiftieth anniversaries of the Church. Ensuring the participation of youth leadership in the governance of Regional Councils allows young leaders to learn from the wisdom, traditions, advocacy, leadership, and love of previous generations, and enriches our discernment by including unique and essential perspectives of young people on the Church today and on where we might be going.

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.

Proposal

Motion

That the Chinook Winds Regional Council of The United Church of Canada at its Annual General Meeting (Regional Gathering) **require that at least 5% of the voting representatives (online, or in person) be 25 years and younger** in order to **pass motions for decision.**

Funding Implications

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 match the life-cycle of Families, Youth and Young Adults. We need to the Chinook Winds 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 of southern-Alberta to take active leadership roles in the Church.

Confirmation

Proposal is complete and I am ready to submit it.