

NEW 2 - ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Origin: Scott Kell

That the 42nd General Council (2015) develop two separate organized bodies of The United Church of Canada to replace the General Council:

A. The United Church of Canada: People of the Way

B. The United Church of Canada: Denominational Council

Background

Where the responsibilities, celebrations, teachings and events in the current structure of General Council impedes its ability to give adequate attention to all the work and life of the church. The current structure of the United Church General Council might be improved on and revised; influenced by examples of other structures such as the enthusiasm of The United Church of Christ Synod. See website www.ucc.org

Description of the bodies suggested above.

A. The Denominational Council/Assembly

A representative body, with representatives chosen in a similar way as they are chosen now.

Using the same format for proposals and potentially commissions as General Council, this body would decide upon issues of policy, doctrine, and polity. This body would base itself in prayerful discernment, and worship. Using that faithful base the body would make its decisions. Additional events and speakers that would have been at General Council would be a part of the next body.

B. People of The Way

This would be a large national gathering to celebrate the United Church of Canada and all our relations. The gathering would be filled with worship, music, workshops, presentations, and community-building. The purpose of the gathering would be to foster the faith of attendees, unite congregants from across Canada, praise God, provide resources to ministry personnel and laypeople, and be a declaration to the greater public of what our church believes.

A celebratory gathering like the People of The Way might provide an opportunity for an understanding on directions of the church, perhaps an option for questions to be answered and for suggestions to be made from congregants directly to church leaders. The attendees of the denominational council/assembly may also attend the People of The Way and the People of the Way would be open to a much larger group or perhaps not even have a limit of who might be allowed to attend as policy decisions are not made at that gathering, but additional voices could be heard.