

NEW 3 - PROPOSALS

Origin: Vanessa Spence

That the 42nd General Council (2015), direct the General Secretary, General Council to:

Develop and create resources to shape proposals used in the decision making bodies of The United Church of Canada.

Background

In the past number of years, The General Council has begun to use a proposal system so that:

- All voices and insights might not have had the opportunity to be dutifully and respectfully heard
- All consequences might not have been fully considered and explored
- Multiple proposals with similar ideas kept separated might complicate the decision making process
- Decisions on proposals might not have been made with a full understanding of its complexity
- That time for prayer within the decision making process might not have been made available due to a variety of factors such as time limitations
- New information or insight might not have the opportunity to be brought forward prior to or during the decision making process

If recommended by the 42nd General Council (2015) a Web based centre made widely available could serve as a place to discuss ideas to be considered for possible proposals. One idea would have one proposal, that all information might be available and presented clearly. This Web centre would host multiple ideas in process of becoming proposals and in relation with each individual idea include relevant research information and communications. This website could offer scheduling, web location and access instructions of resources such as related Web lessons, presentations and Internet based conversations etc. These would all be available during the idea forming process for reflection, research and revisioning.

The forming of the idea into a proposal could be done through organized respectful conversations and after revisions further conversations could continue until the proposal is finalized and agreed on to best represent the intent. Voices of support and concern could be noted for consideration.

In seeking to make more educated decisions we should respectfully hear the wisdom of others to better shape the idea. We must research the effect of the idea beyond the intended outcome to recognize the ramifications of our decisions and consequences of our actions and discuss possibilities to find clear direction that best serves the intent of the idea. This information should be collected and presented clearly.

Once a proposal finalization is approved it could then be forwarded to the proposal decision making body of the United Church of Canada allowing for focus on seeing how each proposal would help The United Church of Canada to serve God through prayerful discernment.