



Category 3 Remit

Study Guide for Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

Approved by the 42nd General Council 2015

Between February 2016 and 30 June 2017, each presbytery and pastoral charge governing body will formally be asked in a category 3 remit to approve the elimination of transfer and settlement.

This is the question to be voted on:

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that

- (a) the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee; and that
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Summary

“Transfer” is the process of moving members of the order of ministry from one Conference to another for the purpose of settlement, or call and settlement. The transfer of membership between Conferences is completed by the General Council Transfer Committee.

“Settlement” is the process of matching members of the order of ministry with United Church pastoral charges that request settlement. Settlement also means ratifying calls made by pastoral charges and presbyteries. The settlement of members of the order of ministry is done by the Conference Settlement Committee.

“Member of the order of ministry” is a diaconal or ordained minister of The United Church of Canada. Only members of the order of ministry are eligible for call and settlement. The more familiar term “ministry personnel” refers to members of the order of ministry, designated lay ministers, candidates serving under appointment, diaconal supply, and ordained supply. “Ministry personnel” is not used in this remit because designated lay ministers, candidates, diaconal supply, and ordained supply are not eligible for settlement.

Currently, the Conference Settlement Committee can place any member of the order of ministry who does not have a call in any pastoral charge that is vacant as of the 30th of June. However, this policy is rarely used.

Transfer and settlement is currently optional for candidates being ordained or commissioned.

Background

The 42nd General Council approved the elimination of the transfer and settlement process (see the [CRTG Final Document](http://www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report): www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report).

Since 2011, transfer and settlement have been optional for candidates for ordination and commissioning (an early version of this study guide gave incorrect date for when it changed from being a requirement). Since transfer and settlement became an option, fewer and

fewer candidates have chosen to be settled. In 2015 only one minister and no candidates chose transfer and settlement; all of the other candidates across the church chose to search for their own calls or appointments. Only two pastoral charges requested settlement in 2015.

Currently, a member of the order of ministry already serving in the church can request a new placement through transfer and settlement.

Proposed new processes

Current	Proposed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer and settlement happens once a year. • A community of faith requests a minister through transfer and settlement. • A candidate for ordination or commissioning, or a member of the order of ministry, requests to be placed (“settled”) through transfer and settlement. • The Transfer Committee of the General Council matches the requests from individuals with specific Conferences. • The Settlement Committee of Conference meets with all parties, reviews their requests, and matches each individual with a ministry according to their skills, gifts, and ministry needs. • The Settlement Committee also considers recommendations from presbyteries for each call issued and decides whether to approve the call. • The Transfer Committee transfers the individual from their current Conference to the one they are being settled in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community of faith seeking a minister conducts a needs assessment and a search process. • The vacancy is posted and made known. • Candidates and members of the order of ministry seeking a call may register their names on the church’s list of those available for call or use other tools offered by their Conference for seeking ministry positions; they send applications to specific ministries. • The ministry receives applications for the vacancy, and in cooperation with the Conference/region, interviews applicants and makes a decision to offer the call.

Implications of eliminating transfer and settlement

Communities of faith (pastoral charges, congregations, presbytery-accountable ministries, missions, outreach ministries, presbytery-recognized ministries, etc.) will have to find their own ministers through their needs assessment and search committees. All members of the order of ministry will seek their own calls, assisted by tools at the Conference/regional level.

Settlement and Transfer committees will no longer exist, meaning fewer volunteers will be needed, and calls made by communities of faith and presbyteries will no longer have to be approved by Settlement Committees.

Eliminating transfer and settlement may make it more difficult for communities of faith that have traditionally relied on this system for ordered ministers. However, since transfer and settlement became optional for candidates in 2009, very few candidates have been available

through the settlement process because very few are choosing to be settled, even with incentives. At the same time, fewer pastoral charges are requesting settlement.

What is a category 3 remit?

A category 3 remit is required for substantive, denomination-shaping changes to the Basis of Union (*The Manual*, s. F2). A category 3 remit also requires that a study process be available in the church before the remit is released.

The proposed change must be sent to all presbyteries and the governing body of every pastoral charge for a vote. If an absolute majority of the presbyteries and an absolute majority of the pastoral charges vote in favour of the proposed change—not just a majority of those that vote—then the next General Council must also vote in favour of the proposed change for it to take effect.

NB: If a presbytery or pastoral charge does not vote, that is considered a vote AGAINST the proposal.