

Triennium Planning 2011–13 — Background

A. Motion passed by the Sub-Executive of the General Council on December 10, 2009

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council direct the General Secretary, General Council, to prepare a planning document for consideration and decision by the Executive of the General Council at its meeting in May 2010 that will

- a. be premised on the belief that we live in God's abundance
- b. be guided by the themes named by the 40th General Council 2009 and also informed by the Call to Purpose (GC39), and the Priorities of GCE 39
- c. respect the financial projections provided by the Permanent Committee on Finance
- d. work within the existing polity of the church
- e. set out, with rationale as well as cost, program, and structural implications, three options reflecting three distinctly alternative approaches for a plan for 2011–2013:
 - Current configuration with reductions shared broadly and equitably
 - Radical reimagining of roles and relationships among the General Council Office and of the courts of the church to achieve reductions and lift up work in new ways
 - Reductions and “rainy day” spending (cut deeper than required and use savings as well as additional draws from reserves for innovative work)

B. Themes to Guide the Church (40th General Council)

The 40th General Council (2009) affirmed five themes to guide the church during the next three years:

- emerging church
- authentic relations with youth and young adults
- outreach, social justice, and care of creation
- faith formation
- becoming a whole people

These themes were among a list of “emerging patterns” identified by the Listening Team at the 40th General Council, and were initially expressed as follows: emerging church (radical transformation and hope in the struggle); authentic relationship with youth and young adults (including camps and campus ministries); outreach and social justice (honouring relationships, peace initiatives, refugees, and resisting empire); care of creation; faith formation (empowering congregations); and becoming a whole people (intercultural engagement, holy manners, language, anti-discrimination work, and affirming church).

C. Priorities of the 39th Executive of the General Council

(Excerpt from *Called to Be Church*, page 5)

In May 2007, the Executive of the General Council adopted a motion that affirmed the *Call to Purpose* for the purposes of determining the allocation of General Council resources, and affirmed that planning for the period of 2008 to 2010 would give priority to that which

1. deepens our experience of intentional and authentic communities; stretches us beyond the familiar expressions and concerns of our church; with particular concern for our commitment to youth and young adult ministry, becoming an intercultural church, and living with respect in creation
2. supports and develops congregational ministries

3. supports and empowers ministry personnel
4. addresses the church's brokenness in the relationships with Aboriginal peoples and moving toward healing and building right relations

In response to feedback received from members and courts of the church, the Executive subsequently adopted a motion that placed our historic commitment to social justice alongside these priorities.

D. Call to Purpose — A message from the church to the church (39th General Council)

www.united-church.ca/organization/governance