

Remits Authorized by the 39th General Council

Remit No. 1. Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

Background:

The Thirty-Eighth General Council (2003) adopted a policy whereby those persons serving as Lay Preachers would thenceforward be referred to as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders.

This would entail a change to sections 5.10.2(3) and 6.4.4 of the Basis of Union.

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to the Presbyteries to test the will of the Church as to whether the Basis of Union should be changed to reflect the policy adopted by the Thirty-Eighth General Council (2003).

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect the policy adopted by the Thirty-Eighth General Council (2003), as follows:

<i>existing</i>	<i>proposed</i>
5.10.2 It shall also be its [the Session's] duty: ... (3) to recommend to Presbytery suitable lay members to be licensed as Lay Preachers; ...	5.10.2 It shall also be its [the Session's] duty: ... (3) to recommend to Presbytery suitable lay members to be licensed as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders; ...
6.4 It shall be the duty of the Presbytery: ...	6.4 It shall be the duty of the Presbytery: ...
6.4.4 to license as a Lay Preacher a member of the laity who has been recommended by a Session and who has successfully completed the course of study in accordance with the procedures established by the General Council and after examination is approved by the Presbytery; ...	6.4.4 to license as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader a member of the laity who has been recommended by a Session and who has successfully completed the course of study in accordance with the procedures established by the General Council and after examination is approved by the Presbytery; ...

Remit No. 2. Retired Lay Pastoral Ministers and Staff Associates

Background:

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to test the will of the Church as to whether lay pastoral ministers and staff associates should remain members of Presbytery upon retirement.

This would entail a change to section 6.2 of the Basis of Union.

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) also adopted a policy whereby there would be two streams of paid accountable lay ministry in the United Church:

- (1) Designated Lay Ministers who are accountable to a Presbytery and may be recognized by a Conference; and
- (2) Congregational Designated Ministers who are accountable to a Pastoral Charge and may be recognized by a Presbytery;

replacing the former categories of congregational accountable minister, lay pastoral minister, lay pastoral minister-in-training, and staff associate.

The Executive of the General Council, meeting in November 2006, approved changes to the By-Laws in order to implement the policy adopted by the Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006). Although Presbyteries will eventually be required to designate each paid accountable ministry position according to the categories of Ministry Personnel that may fill the position, the approximate equivalent categories of Ministry Personnel are as follows:

<i>former designation</i>	<i>current designation</i>
congregational accountable minister	Congregational Designated Minister
lay pastoral minister	Designated Lay Minister who has been recognized by the Conference
lay pastoral minister-in-training	Designated Lay Minister
staff associate	Designated Lay Minister

If this Remit receives the approval of a majority of the Presbyteries and is enacted by the General Council, then Designated Lay Ministers who retire without having been recognized by the Conference pursuant to subsection 343(d) of the By-Laws will thereupon no longer be members of a Presbytery by virtue of their prior status as Designated Lay Ministers; Designated Lay Ministers who retire after having been recognized by the Conference pursuant to subsection 343(d) of the By-Laws will thereupon continue to be members of the Presbytery, and may have their membership transferred to another Presbytery.

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that Designated Lay Ministers who have been recognized by the Conference should remain members of the Presbytery upon retirement,

and that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this policy, as follows:

<i>existing</i>	<i>proposed</i>
6.0 The Presbytery shall consist of:	6.0 The Presbytery shall consist of:
...	...
6.2 lay members of the United Church:	6.2 lay members of the United Church:
...	...
	6.2.4 who at the time of their retirement were serving as Designated Lay Ministers who had been recognized by the Conference;
	...
	[subsequent sections to be renumbered]

Remit No. 3. Presbytery Membership for Lay Past Presidents

Background:

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to test the will of the Church as to whether lay Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of Conferences, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of a Presbytery within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder, should be accorded membership in Presbytery.

This would entail a change to section 6.2 of the Basis of Union.

If this Remit receives the approval of a majority of the Presbyteries and is enacted by the General Council, then lay Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of Conferences, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of a Presbytery within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder, will be members of that Presbytery, and may have their membership transferred to another Presbytery within that Conference.

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that lay Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of Conferences, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of a Presbytery within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder, should be accorded membership in Presbytery,

and that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this policy, as follows:

<i>existing</i>		<i>proposed</i>
6.0	The Presbytery shall consist of:	6.0 The Presbytery shall consist of:
...		...
6.2	lay members of the United Church:	6.2 lay members of the United Church:
...		...
		6.2.11 who are Past Presidents or Past Leading Elders of a Conference, whose congregational membership is within the jurisdiction of the Presbytery, and which Presbytery is within the Conference that they served as President or Leading Elder;
		...
		[existing section 6.2.11 to be renumbered]

Remit No. 4. Permanent Committee Chairpersons as Commissioners

Background:

Section 8.3 of the Basis of Union provides that the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division shall be a commissioner to the General Council.

With the restructuring of the General Council office, the General Council Divisions no longer exist.

The General Secretary of the General Council has ruled that the position of Chairperson of a Permanent Committee of the Executive of the General Council, of which Permanent Committees there are now four, is equivalent to that of Chairperson of a former General Council Division.

This would entail a change to section 8.3 of the Basis of Union.

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to the Presbyteries to test the will of the Church as to whether the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this ruling.

For purposes of consistency with section 8.2 of the Basis of Union, whereby certain individuals are commissioners by virtue of office, Chairpersons of a Permanent Committee of the Executive of the General Council are described in the proposed text as *ex officio* commissioners.

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect the ruling that the position of Chairperson of a Permanent Committee of the Executive of the General Council is equivalent to that of Chairperson of a former General Council Division, as follows:

<i>existing</i>	<i>proposed</i>
8.0 The General Council shall consist of:	8.0 The General Council shall consist of:
...	...
8.3 the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division, and three of the General Council Secretaries;	8.3 the Chairperson or alternate of each of the Permanent Committees of the Executive of the General Council, who shall be <i>ex officio</i> commissioners, and three of the General Council Secretaries;
...	...

Remit No. 5. General Secretaries as Commissioners

Background:

Section 8.3 of the Basis of Union provides that three of the General Council Secretaries shall be commissioners to the General Council.

With the restructuring of the General Council office, the positions of General Council Secretaries no longer exist, with the exception of the General Secretary of the General Council.

The General Secretary of the General Council has ruled that there is no staff position in the restructured General Council office equivalent to that of any of the former General Council Secretaries that would be appropriately designated to serve as an ex officio commissioner, with the exception of the General Secretary of the General Council who is already specified to be an ex officio commissioner in section 8.2 of the Basis of Union.

This would entail a change to section 8.3 of the Basis of Union.

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to the Presbyteries to test the will of the Church as to whether the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this ruling.

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect the ruling that there is no staff position in the restructured General Council office equivalent to that of any of the former General Council Secretaries that would be appropriately designated to serve as an ex officio commissioner, as follows:

	<i>existing</i>		<i>proposed</i>
8.0	The General Council shall consist of:	8.0	The General Council shall consist of:
...		...	
8.3	the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division, and three of the General Council Secretaries;	8.3	the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division;
...		...	

Remit No. 6. Ex Officio Commissioners to the General Council

Background:

Currently almost all Commissioners to the General Council are elected by the Conferences. The exceptions to election by the Conferences are: three ex officio Commissioners—the immediate Past Moderator, the “current” Moderator who will retire during the meeting of the General Council, and the General Secretary of the General Council; the Chairpersons of the Permanent Committees of the Executive of the General Council; and those Commissioners elected by United Church Overseas Personnel.

The Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) authorized this Remit to test the will of the Church as to whether three other groups of persons should also become ex officio Commissioners to the General Council:

- (1) the persons elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council (currently 26 persons, two elected by each Conference);
- (2) the President-Elect or Leading Elder-Elect of each Conference; and
- (3) ten members elected by the General Council to serve on the Executive of the General Council (other than those elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council, or the Chairpersons of each of the Permanent Committees of the Executive of the General Council).

This would entail a change to section 8.0 of the Basis of Union.

The rationale that accompanied the Proposal from the Executive of the General Council to the Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006), that prompted this action, was in part as follows:

...

And whereas the membership of the Executive of the General Council includes twenty-six (26) persons, two (2) elected by each Conference;

And whereas under the present policy for electing Commissioners, these twenty-six (26) members of the Executive of the General Council are not Commissioners unless they are elected as Commissioners by their Conferences;

And whereas it is desirable to ensure that these twenty-six (26) members of the Executive of the General Council also serve as Commissioners because they play an essential role in interpreting the proposals submitted to the General Council and implementing the decisions of the General Council through the Executive of the General Council;

And whereas under the present policy for electing Commissioners, the President-Elect of each Conference is not a Commissioner unless elected as such by their Conference;

And whereas it is desirable to ensure that each Conference President serve as a Commissioner because they play an essential role in the Conference in interpreting the decisions of the General Council;

And whereas membership of the Executive of the General Council also includes the following ten (10) additional members:

- (1) four (4) members at large, two (2) of whom are youth and young adult representatives;
- (2) two (2) persons from the francophone constituency;
- (3) two (2) persons from the ethnic ministries constituency;
- (4) a representative to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches; and
- (5) the Chairperson of the General Council Business Committee.

And whereas it is desirable to ensure that these ten (10) additional members serve as Commissioners because the experience of and knowledge gained through participating in the General Council would be an asset to their governance role as voting members of the Executive of the General Council.

Note: If Remit No. 4 authorized by the Thirty-Ninth General Council (2006) receives the approval of a majority of the Presbyteries and is enacted by the General Council, the reference in the Basis of Union proposed Section 8.2.3 to “the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division” will be changed to “the Chairperson of each of the Permanent Committees of the Executive of the General Council.”

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that the following persons should be made ex officio Commissioners to the General Council:

- (1) the persons elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council (currently 26 persons, two elected by each Conference);
- (2) the President-Elect or Leading Elder-Elect of each Conference; and
- (3) ten members elected by the General Council to serve on the Executive of the General Council (other than those elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council, or the Chairperson of each General Council Division);

and that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this policy, as follows:

existing

- 8.0 The General Council shall consist of:
- 8.1 an equal number, elected by the Conference, from each of two groups:
 - 8.1.1 members of the Order of Ministry and Designated Lay Ministers, with the proportion of each being determined by their numbers; and
 - 8.1.2 lay members other than Designated Lay Ministers;
- 8.2 the immediate Past Moderator, the retiring Moderator, and the General Secretary of the General Council, who shall be ex officio commissioners; and
- 8.3 the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division, and three of the General Council Secretaries.

proposed

- 8.0 The General Council shall consist of:
- 8.1 an equal number, elected by the Conference, from each of two groups:
 - 8.1.1 members of the Order of Ministry and Designated Lay Ministers, with the proportion of each being determined by their numbers;
 - 8.1.2 lay members other than Designated Lay Ministers;
- 8.2.1 the immediate Past Moderator, the retiring Moderator, and the General Secretary of the General Council, who shall be ex officio commissioners;
- 8.2.2 the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division, and three of the General Council Secretaries;
- 8.2.3 ten members elected by the General Council to serve on the Executive of the General Council (other than those elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council, or the Chairperson or alternate of each General Council Division), who shall be ex officio members;
- 8.3.1 the President-Elect or the Leading Elder-Elect of each Conference, who shall be ex officio Commissioners; and

- 8.3.2 the persons elected by the Conferences to serve on the Executive of the General Council, who shall be ex officio Commissioners.
- 8.4 Overseas Personnel who are appointed by the United Church shall not be eligible for election as commissioners to the General Council by a Conference, but Overseas Personnel who are members of the United Church shall be entitled to representation at each General Council on the basis of one commissioner for every eighteen such Overseas Personnel, but in any case at least three commissioners, chosen as follows:
 - 8.4.1 Normally one-half of such commissioners shall be members of the Order of Ministry and one-half shall be members of the laity, and at least one commissioner shall be from each of the major geographic areas of work; and
 - 8.4.2 Such commissioners shall be elected by ballot from the Overseas Personnel who will be on home assignment in Canada at the time of the meeting of the General Council.
- 8.4 Overseas Personnel who are appointed by the United Church shall not be eligible for election as commissioners to the General Council by a Conference, but Overseas Personnel who are members of the United Church shall be entitled to representation at each General Council on the basis of one commissioner for every eighteen such Overseas Personnel, but in any case at least three commissioners, chosen as follows:
 - 8.4.1 Normally one-half of such commissioners shall be members of the Order of Ministry and one-half shall be members of the laity, and at least one commissioner shall be from each of the major geographic areas of work; and
 - 8.4.2 Such commissioners shall be elected by ballot from the Overseas Personnel who will be on home assignment in Canada at the time of the meeting of the General Council.