

Clusters and Networks: Some Definitions

(from www.united-church.ca/news/clarity-clusters-and-networks, November 2017)

At the [fall 2017 meeting](#) of the Executive of the General Council, members discussed clusters and networks, which are mentioned but not clearly defined in [Remit 1: Three Council Model](#).

The GC42 motion provides the following definitions:

- **Clusters:** local clusters of communities of faith that would provide community and support for communities of faith and their leaders, and focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning
- **Networks:** linking people working on specific issues (e.g., supportive housing, intercultural ministry, youth ministry) or for project work (e.g., event planning) that function through the whole church, depending on the issue

The Executive agreed that

- those involved in clusters and networks will define their own meaning and responsibilities
- church councils will not define clusters and networks
- the church is encouraged to experiment with how clusters and networks can assist in living out the faith of The United Church of Canada
- clusters and networks are encouraged to seek support from local resources
- local bodies that wish to support clusters and networks are encouraged to do so
- church councils may support clusters and networks to their level of ability and within their areas of responsibility
- clusters and networks are encouraged to share their experiences with others in the church and the wider world through media available to the church
- following a period of experimentation, the church will learn intentionally from the experiences of clusters and networks

The background material for the motion notes that Remit 1 briefly describes clusters and networks as “ways in which The United Church of Canada can live out its faith. There is minimal definition and there is no mention of funding.”

For More Information

Information about the changes underway in the church can be found on the [Remit Implementation](#) webpage. To receive notices of the work being done, please subscribe to our [Remit Implementation newsletter](#). Questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns can be sent to remits@united-church.ca.