

# Remit Implementation: General FAQs

Revised May 11, 2018

## Who is working on the implementation of the remits?

The whole church will eventually see changes if the remits are enacted. A lot of people are involved in the implementation work now, and as the process unfolds that number will increase as presbyteries, Conferences, and the soon-to-be regional councils get involved in winding down, getting started, and setting priorities. The General Council Office is also working on the changes it will need to make.

To help coordinate, plan, and support the change processes, a small group of senior staff leaders representing the Conferences (through three Executive Secretaries) and General Council Office (through three Executive Ministers) has been appointed. The Rev. David Allen, former Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference, is providing staff support. His role is to work primarily with the task group, to gather questions and information from across the church, to bring people together to work out solutions, and to make sure people have the information they need to make good decisions.

## What key dates are coming up?

- July 21–28, 2018 GC43 decides whether to enact remits ([generalcouncil43.ca](http://generalcouncil43.ca)).
- October 15, 2018 Pastoral charges will receive their 2019 assessment notices.
- January 1, 2019 Remits are enacted; new regional councils come into existence ([www.united-church.ca/news/final-report-regional-council-boundaries](http://www.united-church.ca/news/final-report-regional-council-boundaries)).

## What will be the impact on my congregation or ministry?

Congregations and ministries in the United Church will not see any immediate changes during the implementation period leading up to January 1, 2019. Starting in 2019, there will be a new relationship with the regional council. The broad strokes of that relationship can be found in the actions of the 2015 General Council meeting ([www.gc42.ca/remits](http://www.gc42.ca/remits)).

## When will the assessments for pastoral charges be known?

Pastoral charges will receive their 2019 assessment notices by or around October 15, 2018.

## What will presbyteries and Conferences be doing between now and January 1, 2019?

Current presbyteries and Conferences and their staff will continue to function even as plans are being made for the post-January 1, 2019, period. Plans will be made for celebrating the ministries of our current structures.

People in your community of faith may be dealing with a range of emotions. You may be interested in two worship liturgies that can help mark transitions: [Sankofa: Looking Back](#),

[Moving Forward](#) and [Simple Service of Goodbye](#) ([www.united-church.ca/tags/milestones-and-transitions](http://www.united-church.ca/tags/milestones-and-transitions)).

Presbyteries and Conferences will identify actions that will continue into 2019 and beyond. Wind-down actions will be required. There's an extensive Transition Checklist: Financial and a Guide to Archiving Presbytery Records on [www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation](http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation) (scroll down to the Downloads at the bottom of the webpage).

In the meantime, the current structures are encouraged to start thinking about what the future will be like as the church evolves into its new form. They might want to discuss questions like

- What clusters might emerge? How might communities of faith interact with each other, how often, around what topics? ([www.united-church.ca/news/clarity-clusters-and-networks](http://www.united-church.ca/news/clarity-clusters-and-networks))
- What resources will be needed? What finances can be transferred into the new regional councils? How will the current volunteers offer their gifts in the new regional councils?
- What information needs to be passed on to the new regional councils? What important issues might be carried on? What stresses or problems will need to be addressed?

### **Are any information sessions on the proposed changes planned?**

Check [united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars](http://united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars) for these online sessions, and sign up for the United in Learning e-newsletter to receive notices of upcoming sessions:

- **New Pastoral Relations System:** watch a recording of this April 30, 2018, YouTube Live session: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-sMlokKy5g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-sMlokKy5g). Another session on pastoral relations is planned for the end of September 2018.
- **Office of Vocation:** watch a recording of this May 14, 2018, YouTube Live session: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6nUMeG5z2o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6nUMeG5z2o).

The Office of Vocation Update on [www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation](http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation) (scroll down to Downloads at the bottom of the webpage) may also answer your questions.

### **How do I/we get ongoing information or provide input and feedback?**

Information about the remit implementation process will be available online at [www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation](http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation).

Questions/comments/suggestions/concerns can be sent to [remits@united-church.ca](mailto:remits@united-church.ca). To get regular updates, go to [www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation](http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation) and click the [Remit Implementation newsletter](#) link to register.