



## **Mission Statement and Terms of Reference**

**The Western Intercultural Ministries Network,  
The United Church of Canada**

**Approved at the annual meeting, 17 November 2020**

In 2012 the General Council of the United Church of Canada declared that it would become an Intercultural church and in 2020 declared it would strive to be an anti-racist church. By this we understand that we are affirming the very beginning of our faith which was born in a time which was richly coloured by people from many different countries and traditions and faiths. When we affirm and welcome a variety of traditions and faith expressions, our understanding of God and of each other is deepened.

1. To this end, in 2019 the Western Intercultural Ministry Network was born from the ashes of the Alberta and Northwest Conference and Edmonton Presbytery Intercultural committees. Our mission is to extend the vision of intercultural ministry to the five Western regions of the United Church of Canada.
2. We will endeavour to work closely with General Council in their Intercultural Ministry support for the whole of the United Church of Canada. At the same time, we hope to bring together those who are doing intercultural ministry work in their regions.
3. We hope to educate the mainstream United churches about the issues experienced by people who are marginalized because of race, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability and poverty. We will work toward holding an annual educational event featuring speakers who can teach us about becoming an intercultural church.
4. We hope to build a relationship with Indigenous peoples in order to learn about their histories, traditions and spiritualities.
5. We hope to continue support for ministry personnel who have come to Canada to work in the United Church and must navigate its culture and policies as they seek to become fully accepted in the United Church of Canada. We intend to petition the Office of Vocation and federal and provincial governmental agencies to improve their policies to fully support immigrant ministers in the United Church of Canada.
6. This mission statement is a work in progress and will need to be reviewed and approved at each general meeting.

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Mandate**

- To nurture and support the ministries of Ethnic Congregations, Migrant Congregations, and those of visible Minority Clergy and Laity in mainstream Congregations of the United Church of Canada's five western Regions: Living Skies, Prairie to Pine, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds and Pacific Mountain.
- To enable these ministries to participate fully in the life of The United Church of Canada
- To empower the constituents of the Intercultural Ministry Committee to participate in the General Council Mandate, "Towards becoming an Intercultural Church."
- To advocate for persons navigating the immigration process and provide supports to enable integration into life in Canada.

### **Membership**

- Chairperson, Secretary and either past chair or chair elect to act as Co-Chairperson
- At least one member from each of the member Regions and one member from each of the ethnic, affirming and migrant ministries. Intercultural ministry working groups within our five Regions will be welcome to appoint a member.
- The recruitment of network members will take into account the diversity of peoples in the United Church.
- There will be an attempt to rotate the leadership amongst the diversity of the groups represented in our network on a three yearly basis.
- Elders may be named in recognition of wise and faithful contribution from a longstanding former committee member. The Elder will have full corresponding privileges

### **Accountability**

- The Ethnic congregation representatives shall report about their church matters and will support and respond to the goals set by the Network
- The Network will maintain a connection with General Council and the Regional executives of the United Church of Canada

### **Meetings**

- A General meeting and Educational event will be held once a year, lasting 2-3 days
- Other meetings may be held electronically as called by the Chairperson or two members of the Network with at least two weeks notice.

### **Financial Support**

- We will petition each Region to assist their representatives with travel expenses.
- We will request funding from each Region to support the cost of the Annual General meeting and Educational event.

### **Review**

- These terms of reference shall be reviewed and accepted annually at a general meeting.