

2021 PROPOSALS

- 1) Living Skies Regional Council Policy on Justice
- 2) Re-Instatement of Funding for Spiritual Care North Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy &
Throughout The Saskatchewan Health Authority South Sask. Hospital Chaplaincy

PROPOSAL NO. 1

Title: LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND POLICIES ON JUSTICE

1. What is the issue?

We believe God is calling us to:

- commit ourselves to becoming an intercultural community.
- move toward anti-racist community.
- practice the life and work of the Regional Council with sensitivity of justice.

2. Why is this important?

- The United Church of Canada has its vision of becoming an intercultural and inclusive community with strong sense of justice and equity for all people both within the church and in wider society.
- There has been increasing awareness of racial justice in the wake of the movements of Black Lives Matter & Indigenous Lives Matter and also a sharp spike in anti-Asian hate crimes these days.
- The United Church of Canada has made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination ("[Towards an Anti-Racist Denomination](#)", the 43rd General Council in June 2020), and hired a staff for the position of Anti-Racism and Equity Lead in the General Council Office to engage with anti-racist practices in all parts of the church.
- In our Region, St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon has recently adopted its own Policy on Justice that articulates its commitments, practices, and framework for understanding in the College's ongoing effort to engage in education and action toward justice in all of its own practices. Outreach and Collaboration' is part of the practices framed in the policy which makes it possible to collaborate with partners in our Region on the issue.
- It is important to set policies that provide direction and principles on the issue to all governing bodies (including Living Skies Regional Council Executive, Commission, and Committees), communities of faith, clusters, networks, and individuals in our Region.

3. How might the Regional Council respond to the issue?

Proposal:

- **Living Skies Regional Council establish a Justice Committee to promote justice and equity for all people in all aspects of life and work of the Region Council, with terms of reference to be created by the Executive.**
- **That the committee develop and adopt policies on justice based on anti-racist and anti-oppressive principles and the voices from Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Colour, LGBTQTT2S+ peoples, and people with poverty, disability, mental illness, and more; and drawing on past Saskatchewan Conference and present national church justice, equity, and intercultural policies as relevant.**

Submitted by: Rev. SunDo Hyun, May 2021

PROPOSAL NO 2

Title: RE-INSTATEMENT OF FUNDING FOR SPIRITUAL CARE THROUGHOUT THE SASKATCHEWAN HEALTH AUTHORITY

Originating Body: North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy & South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy

1. Statement

As the official boards & ministry personnel of the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (SSHC) and the North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (NSHC), we believe that God is calling us to support the spiritual well-being of patients and residents in Saskatchewan Health Authority facilities by petitioning the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority for the re-instatement of funding and support for Spiritual Care in the provincial health care budget.

2. Background

In March 2017, the Saskatchewan provincial budget eliminated health region funding for non-denominational Spiritual Care. This also led to the elimination of institutional patient lists used by denominational chaplains & spiritual care providers throughout the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Saskatchewan became and continues to be the only province in Canada that does not fund or administratively support Spiritual Care in health region facilities.

Evidence and experience show that Spiritual Care is an essential contributor to positive outcomes in healthcare, regardless of the patient's religious affiliation or lack there-of. Our opinion, supported by evidence from the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care (CASC) and members of the healthcare system itself, is that the removal of funding for Spiritual Care in 2017 was an error that must be corrected.

3. Theological & Ethical Rationale

As members of the United Church of Canada, we witness healing again and again in the scriptural narrative, and we are inspired by Isaiah 41:10:

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Further, we understand that an essential practice of Jesus Christ's ongoing healing ministry is to provide care for the spiritual and emotional health of all people, regardless of religious affiliation and background, particularly in times of crisis and stress.

Access to professional, qualified spiritual care is a right. Currently in Saskatchewan, Spiritual Care is limited to those patients and families who are not only connected to a formal faith community, but also to a formal faith community whose care providers are within visiting distance of the health care facility. In a just system, neither of these factors should affect a patient's access to Spiritual Care.

In support of this proposal, the boards of the SSHC and NSHC have compiled an information package including letters of support from multiple health care professionals. This package is available for delivery to decision-makers in the provincial government and health region.

1) How might the Regional Council or General Council respond to the issue?

- a) Issue a formal request to the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the provincial Minister of Health, and Premier of Saskatchewan for the re-instatement of adequate funding and support for Spiritual Care programs in the provincial healthcare budget.
- b) Encourage Communities of Faith and members/adherents throughout the Living Skies Region to contact their Members of Legislative Assembly with a request to re-instate adequate funding and support for Spiritual Care programs in the provincial healthcare budget.

Respectfully submitted May 14, 2021 by:

Daryl Woods, Chair of North Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy
Randy Graham, Chair of South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy.