

# Living Skies Regional Council Justice Committee: mandate and terms

November 2021

**Summary:** The Justice Committee is a new body. At this time it has a flexible mandate that will evolve, and can be reviewed as the Regional Council continues to live into its mission and ministry. **Overall:** Promote justice and equity for all people in all aspects of the life and work of the Regional Council through education, action, policies, relationships, and learning opportunities. Renew and develop relevant Regional Council justice and equity policies. Develop relationships with relevant Networks, Clusters, ministries, and partnerships.

## Proposed committee structure

The committee would be the central table or nucleus of a wider series of tables or circles. These circles could include relevant Networks, Clusters, task groups, community ministries, interfaith partnerships, and more. The committee would create the central space for collaborating with these groups, while holding its own regular meetings and reporting to the Executive. It would be free to add its own membership, in addition to the six to eight people appointed by the Regional Council.

**Note:** the committee is not doing all the justice work of the Regional Council alone; it's enabling the space and planning, and supporting the relationships, for others to do it.

## Tasks/ responsibilities

### 1) Broad tasks

Offer a formal and public connecting point and consultation space for the membership, governance structures, and partnerships of the Regional Council to raise justice concerns and possible education and action. This could include identifying and recommending priorities for the Regional Council's justice work.

Take a lead role in keeping the people of the Regional Council aware of opportunities to live into justice and equity as an expression of our faith.

Promote justice and equity for all people and communities, including (among others) assisting the Regional Council in promoting, creating, or engaging advocacy and learning opportunities in keeping with beliefs, policies, and priorities of the Regional Council; assisting with connecting communities of faith to these opportunities.

Develop or update and recommend policies and practices on justice based on anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and restorative justice principles and the voices from Black, Indigenous, and people of colour, LGBTQTT2S+ peoples, poor people, disabled people, and more; and drawing on past Saskatchewan Conference and present national church justice, equity, and intercultural policies as relevant.

## **2) Tasks in the first three years (2022-2024)**

Policy reviews: guided by the framework above, identify relevant missing or out-dated Regional Council and former Conference or Presbytery policies related to social justice, and work with other groups and individuals to update these, following the principles outlined earlier in this document.

Develop or connect with networks and other relationships in the Regional Council who can assist the Regional Council in the biblical call to do justice and love kindness.

Structure recommendations: recommend to the Executive how best to structure justice work into the future, including any needed changes to the committee's membership and mandate.

### **Membership**

Six to eight people

*Skills, background and experience:*

Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion practices, including anti-oppression and intercultural, anti-racist commitments; and to doing one's own work on internal biases.

Experience working alongside and/ or within diverse groups.

Commitment to key denominational policies and priorities of the Regional Council and the national church, including but not limited to: Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination; The Caretakers' Calls to the Church; the Apology; the TRC Calls to Action; Becoming an Intercultural Church; the Regional Council's Affirming process; and relevant Regional and national topic-specific policies (eg, climate justice, anti-poverty, and more).

Diversity of different kinds within the committee membership will be a priority.

### **Accountability and support**

Reporting to the Executive; a representative of the committee will be a corresponding member of the Executive.

Staff support: lead support from the Regional Council Minister, Justice and Communications; with connection to the wider staff team as needed.

The Committee will have an annual budget, and access to the Regional Council Zoom account, website, newsletter, and social media.