

PROPOSAL NO. 1

Title: **REMIT 1 – AMENDMENT TO THE BASIS OF UNION**
Autonomous National Indigenous Organization
Originating Body: General Council

Remit 1: Study Guide for Category 3 Remit
Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

As authorized by the 44th General Council, in 2022

Between March 15, 2023 and March 31, 2024, every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body will be asked to approve an amendment to the Basis of Union of *The Manual* establishing an autonomous Indigenous Church structure. An amendment to the Basis of Union requires a category 3 remit.

There is one question to be voted on, as follows.

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

- a. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
- b. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
- c. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

* The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.

** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of this document, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".

PROPOSAL NO. 2

Title: LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Originating Body: Living Skies Regional Council

1. What is the Issue?

The Bible tells us:

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?” ³⁷ Jesus answered: “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ “That is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments the whole Law is based—and the Prophets as well.”
Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2166). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

John 13: 34

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you.
Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2323). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

1 Corinthians 13: 13

There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.
Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2439). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

1 John 3:18

My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth.
Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2545). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

We believe that our faith in God is calling us to have Living Skies Regional Council become an Affirming Ministry.

2. Why is this issue important?

One of the predecessors of Living Skies Regional Council, Saskatchewan Conference, was an Affirming Ministry. Riverbend Presbytery was also Affirming. Our new structure is a combination of these.

We believe the Spirit calls us to be ever more inclusive in our work and witness.

We believe that being Affirming requires us to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit in our support for all people.

In order to share this proclamation, we need to become an Affirming Region.

3. How might Living Skills Regional Council respond to this issue?

At the Living Skies Regional Council AGM in May 2023 the LSRC Affirming Task Group will present the following motions for our Living Skies Regional Council becoming an Affirming Region.

1) The Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Task Group moves that the Living Skies Regional Council applies to become an Affirming Region; endorses the Regional Affirming Statement; directs the Executive Council of Living Skies Regional Council and the Executive Minister to complete the process of accreditation with Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE); and plans a Public, intentional and explicit (PIE) celebration for the 2024 General Meeting of LSRC.

4. The body initiating these Proposals.

The LSRC Affirming Task Group was mandated by the 2019 Regional AGM held in Swift Current to present at a Regional AGM, proposals for our Living Skies Regional Council's Affirming Vision Statement and becoming an Affirming Region by joining Affirm United / S'Affirmer Ensemble (AUSE).

Our Regional Affirming Task Group was appointed in 2021.

Appendix: Living Skies Regional Council Affirming Statement:

LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL

AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Living Skies Regional Council recognizes the diversity of God's creation and encourages the full and equitable participation of all people in our ministries.

We value the complete spectrum of human diversity which includes (but is not limited to) sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds, mental and physical ability, spiritual beliefs, and all definitions of family.

We make a public, intentional, and explicit commitment to sharing our faith, gifts, and resources to live out God's call to love, compassion, and justice.

As an Affirming Ministry, we will support ongoing, engaging, educational processes for Communities of Faith and other ministries to understand what it means to become affirming, as well as offering encouragement and inspiration to existing Affirming Ministries.

We honour those who walked this path before us and celebrate the opportunity to journey further.