

Remit 1 -



Amendment to the Basis
of Union's Article 10.0
on Ministry Personnel

What are Remits

- When the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches in Canada united in 1925 to form the United Church of Canada. Their agreement was set out in a document called the Basis of Union. This Document was part of the federal and provincial legislation that created the United Church. It contains a statement of faith and an outline of the structure and basic policies of the United Church.
- The General Council may change the Basis of Union only if the change is approved through a remit. A “remit” is a vote by the regional councils or by regional councils and Communities of faith to change the Basis of Union.

Three Categories of Remits

- ***Category 1 Remits:***
 - Are for wording or editorial changes to the Basis of Union.
 - Category 1 remits are voted on by regional councils
- ***Category 2 Remits:***
 - Are for changes to the Basis of Union that are significant but not denominational-shaping.
 - Category 2 remits are voted on by regional councils.
- ***Category 3 Remits:***
 - Are for substantive changes to the Basis of Union that affect denominational identity.
 - Category 3 remits are voted on by regional councils and communities of faith.

The Question to the Council

- (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

Resources

A TOOLKIT ON GENDER IDENTITY AND TRANS EXPERIENCES FOR COMMUNITIES OF FAITH JUNE 2019

https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/trans-kit_2019.pdf

[United Church Gender Identity Policy](#)

Please see the Regional Council website for a list of study resources

Gender Identity

- Gender identity is a self-determined identity that reflects an individual's personal understanding of gender in regards to their own embodied experience. We express our gender identity externally through behaviours, clothing, hairstyle, voice, and other forms of presentation. We also assume the gender of others based on their gender expression (i.e., their behaviours, clothing, hairstyle, voice, and other forms of presentation).

UCC Policy and The Law

United Church policy and the law of Canada are good reasons for respecting the rights of trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit people. However, as people of faith our foundational reason for creating safe and welcoming places need to be rooted in our faith and in our commitment to justice and human dignity. Church policy and the law of the land—while important—should not be what motivates us.

What we Believe

- We believe that all human beings are made in the image of God, that Jesus calls us away from the center in order to be in solidarity with those on the margins, and that Jesus' ministry was to reconcile and heal. We are committed to social justice and human rights, working to ensure that all people—regardless of their gender identity—enjoy their full civil and human rights in society. We also strive to end all forms of discrimination and to support the victims of discrimination

The Law

- “Bill C-16: An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code”² officially became law on June 19, 2017. It added gender identity and expression to the hate crimes provisions of the Criminal Code and as a prohibited ground for discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act. This law makes it clear that it is never okay to discriminate against someone or target them for violence because of how they identify or express their gender.

The Law

- Adding gender identity and expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act means that trans people have the same human rights as everyone else. It means trans people in Canada—like all other Canadians—are entitled to a life of equality, dignity, and respect, and a life free from discrimination.

United Church Policy

- In 2009,

The United Church of Canada affirmed the participation and ministry of trans people and encouraged all congregations to welcome trans people into membership, ministry, and full participation.

The Policy

- In 2012,
- the church acknowledged the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation, affirmed that gender identity is not a barrier to membership and ministry, and requested that all existing policy statements that refer only to 'sexual orientation' be updated by adding 'and gender identities.'

Background:

The 43rd General Council 2019:

- (i) approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Basis of Union Current Language

The Basis of Union: Ministry Personnel

10.0

The Order of Ministry shall be open to both men and women

The Question:

Does the Regional Council
agree that:

(a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and

(b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.