

Remit No. 1 Election of Lay Representatives to Presbytery

Background:

By Remit authorized by the Thirty-Fourth General Council (1992), section 6.2.5 of the Basis of Union was changed to provide for the appointment of Lay Presbyters as representatives of Congregations rather than of Pastoral Charges.

Section 6.2.5 of the Basis of Union provides that lay members of the United Church are appointed as presbyters by Pastoral Charges and Missions on the following basis for each Pastoral Charge or Mission:

- (1) one representative from each Congregation with 100 or fewer resident members;
- (2) two representatives from each Congregation with between 101 and 200 resident members;
- (3) three representatives from each Congregation with between 201 and 300 resident members;
- (4) four representatives from each Congregation with 301 or more resident members.

(“Mission” is defined in section 001 of the By-Laws as “one (1) or more groups of people that are a part of the United Church and that meet for public worship, but not fully constituted as a Pastoral Charge or a Congregation by the Presbytery.”)

Section 5.12.2 of the Basis of Union provides that it shall be the duty of the Official Board to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Pastoral Charge to the Presbytery.

These sections give rise to some confusion as to which body appoints or elects Lay Presbyters: the Pastoral Charge or Mission, the Congregation or Mission, or the Official Board or Church Board or Church Council.

These sections are also inconsistent as to whether Lay Presbyters are “appointed” or “elected” by the appropriate body.

The Fortieth General Council (2009) authorized this Remit to test the will of the Church as to whether it is the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Congregation to the Presbytery.

This would entail the deletion of section 5.12.2 of the Basis of Union, a change to section 6.2.5, and the addition of a new section.

In accordance with paragraph 505(a)vi. of the By-Laws, the Fortieth General Council (2009) further determined, by more than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast, that these changes are to come into effect on the date as of which the changes incorporated into the 2010 edition of *The Manual* will come into effect, provided that the Executive of the General Council declares that two-thirds (2/3) of the Presbyteries have given their approval, and pending the final action of the Forty-First General Council (2012).

The Question:

Does the Presbytery agree that it is the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Congregation to the Presbytery;

and that the Basis of Union should be amended to reflect this policy, as follows:

<u>existing</u>	may be agreed upon by the General Council, shall meet quarterly, and more frequently if <u>changes shown</u>	representatives in full church membership of such other departments of church work as may be agreed upon by the General Council, shall meet quarterly, and more frequently if <u>proposed</u>
5.8.4 The Session shall have oversight of the spiritual interests of the Pastoral Charge. The management of its temporal and financial affairs shall be entrusted to a Committee of Stewards. The Official Board, consisting of the Session and Committee of Stewards, with representatives in full church membership of such other departments of church work as	5.8.4 <u>It shall be the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Congregation to the Presbytery.</u>	5.8.4 It shall be the duty of the Congregation to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Congregation to the Presbytery.
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Stewards. The Official Board, consisting of the Session and Committee of Stewards, with representatives in full church membership of such other departments of church work as may be agreed upon by the General Council, shall meet quarterly, and more frequently if existing (continued)

they deem it advisable, for the consideration of matters of joint interest.

5.9 The members of the Session, other than the member(s) of the Order of Ministry settled in the Pastoral Charge, shall be chosen by those in full church membership, and shall hold office under regulations to be passed by the General Council.

5.12 It shall be the duty of the Official Board:

5.12.1 to secure contributions for missionary and other general objects of the Church;

5.12.2 to elect representatives, in full church membership, of the Pastoral Charge to the Presbytery;

5.12.3 to submit to the Pastoral Charge or local church for its consideration reports on life and work, including a full statement of receipts and expenditures, of changes shown (continued)

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6.2.5 appointed by Pastoral Charges and Missions of the United Church, whether or not the Pastoral Charge or Mission is served by a member of the Order of Ministry. Such representatives are to be appointed on the following basis for each Pastoral Charge or Mission:

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5.12.2. to submit to the Pastoral Charge or local church for its consideration reports on life and work, including a full statement of receipts and expenditures, of

(1) one representative from each Congregation changes shown (continued)

(1) one representative from each Congregation or proposed (continued)

existing (continued)

indebtedness, and of estimates for the ensuing year;

indebtedness, and of estimates for the ensuing year;

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[subsequent sections to be re-numbered]

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6.2 lay members of the United Church:

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<p>6.2 lay members of the United Church: ...</p>	<p>(4) four representatives from each Congregation with 301 or more resident members;</p>	<p>201 and 300 resident members; (4) four representatives from each Congregation or <u>Mission</u> with 301 or more resident members;</p>
<p>6.2.5 elected by Congregations and Missions of the United Church, whether or not the Congregation or Mission is served by a member of the Order of Ministry. Such representatives are to be elected on the following basis for each Congregation or Mission:</p>	<p><u>changes shown</u> (continued)</p>	<p><u>proposed</u> (continued)</p>
<p>(1) one representative from each Congregation or <u>existing</u> (continued)</p>	<p>(2) <u>Mission</u> with 100 or fewer resident members; (2) two representatives from each Congregation or <u>Mission</u> with between 101 and 200 resident members;</p>	<p>(2) Mission with 100 or fewer resident members; (2) two representatives from each Congregation or Mission with between 101 and 200 resident members;</p>
<p>(3) three representatives from each Congregation with between 201 and 300 resident members;</p>	<p>(3) three representatives from each Congregation or <u>Mission</u> with between</p>	<p>(3) three representatives from each Congregation</p>

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