

[PROPOSAL NAME]**Origin: [Regional Council Name]****1. What is the issue? (describe in broad terms)**

We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to:

- do something about...
- engage the topic of...
- respond to the challenge of...
- etc.

The catastrophic situation faced by many theological training institutions is raising grave concerns, and it dictates that we urgently conduct an objective evaluation of all our theological education and training. The French Ministries Table is especially concerned about the future of education in French, given the context of the referral adopted by a large majority at the 2009 General Council ensuring that Francophone candidates receive training in French.

Note: Proposals for the General Council are for issues of denominational responsibility that go beyond the bounds of a regional council.

2. Why is this issue important?

For example:

- What are the key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues?
- What is the history/background of this issue?
- What are the principles informing this issue?
- What would be the implications of taking no action on this issue?

Theological education is a cornerstone of The United Church of Canada. The survival of our Church and its place within the global ecumenical community depend on the good health of our theological training institutions.

3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

Over the course of several years, General Council has made the following commitments on equity. Describe in broad terms the ways in which this proposal engages with some of these principles:

- adopting [the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the framework for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples;
- adopting the [Calls to the Church](#) from the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle as the basis for a new relationship;
- welcoming [people of all sexual orientations and gender identities](#) into full membership and ministry in the church;
- committing to becoming [an intercultural church](#);
- committing to becoming an open, accessible, and barrier-free church, where there is [full participation of people with disabilities](#);

- working towards functional bilingualism and [ensuring that Francophone ministries are an integral part of the church's identity, mission, and vision](#);
- [opposing discrimination](#) of any kind on the basis of identity; and
- developing an anti-racism policy and committing to becoming an [anti-racist denomination](#).

Who has been consulted in the development of the proposal? Was the proposal developed “with” people, or “on behalf of” people? What might be the impact of this proposal on people and communities? Who is advantaged and who is disadvantaged by this approach?

In point of fact, theological education touches every aspect in the life of The United Church of Canada. It has enabled the Church to assume prophetic stances and will play a vital role in the success or failure of achieving an intercultural, anticolonial, inclusive and deeply engaged vision in the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

4. How might the General Council respond to the issue?

The (regional council) proposes that the General Council could:

Name a possible response that the General Council might consider:

- A. Study/discussion of the issue
- B. Action on the issue, which could include
 - General Council directing that a policy/strategy be developed based on specified principles and parameters
 - General Council adopting a policy position/strategy
 - General Council encouraging/suggesting action by congregations and other communities of faith on the issue

Note to 4.A: The General Council could be asked to have a conversation about a particular issue as an end in itself without making a policy decision or taking other action.

Note to 4.B: Suggestions for wording of a policy/strategy could be offered as possibilities for consideration in the decision-making process but not as expectations of a particular outcome.

Given the precarious situation in which the United Theological College finds itself, a reality shared by several other institutions of higher learning that provide theological education on behalf of The United Church of Canada, we propose that the 44th General Council urgently request reports on the general state of theological education within The United Church of Canada for the purpose of finding a sustainable solution and ensuring a quality education to our future ministers and theologians.

5. For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council:

Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal? Is this proposal in response to a previous proposal, motion or action? If so, please name the previous action(s) and proposal number(s).

To our knowledge, this proposal has no precedent. It concerns francophone and anglophone communities equally.

If you have questions regarding this proposal, please send them to info@generalcouncil44.ca.