

**Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council**  
**Policy regarding Election of GC Commissioners**

POLICY NAME: Regional Council Policy regarding Election of General Council Commissioners	Date Approved: November 13, 2021
	Review date:
Purpose: This policy outlines the parameters for electing General Council Commissioners. <b>The UCC Manual 2019 Bylaws C.2.12</b>	

**Preamble**

This document outlines the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council's Policy regarding Election of General Council Commissioners and best practices for ensuring equity in leadership.

**UCC Manual 2019 Bylaws C.2.12 Participation in Denominational Life**

*The regional council is responsible for*

*a) electing members to serve on General Council based on the following:*

*i) Number: it elects five members plus an additional number allocated to it based on the proportion of communities of faith within the bounds of that regional council to the total number of communities of faith in the United Church;*

*ii) Lay/ministry personnel balance: a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be ministry personnel on the roll of the regional council and a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be lay members of communities of faith within the bounds of the regional council who are not ministry personnel;*

*iii) Diversity: attention is given to diversity of gender and age, racial and cultural identities, and sexual expressions, as provided in policies set by the General Council;*

*iv) Timing: the election takes place, where possible, at least one year before the next regular in-person meeting of the General Council;*

*v) Eligibility of ministry personnel: the ministry personnel who are elected must be members of the regional council that elected them both at the time of the election and at the time that the General Council holds its next regular in-person meeting;*

*vi) Eligibility of lay members: the lay members who are elected must be members of a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council both at the time of the election and at the time that the General Council holds its next regular in-person meeting;*

*vii) Method of election: the regional council is responsible for deciding how to elect its representatives to the General Council; and*

*viii) Alternates: it must also elect a number of alternate representatives;  
The General Council holds an in-person meeting every third year.*

*b) naming a leading Elder or presiding officer of the regional council to serve as a member of the General Council; The regional council has the flexibility to determine its own officers, except that there must be a leading Elder or presiding officer to fill this role.*

*c) receiving, dealing with, and forwarding proposals from members of the community of faith to the General Council; and*

*d) promoting and fostering direct dialogue between communities of faith and the General Council.*

**Election of General Council Commissioners Policy**

The Policy of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council regarding

1. It is vital that the persons elected by this Regional Council express the ministries of this Regional Council to the General Council and reflect this knowledge in their discernment of the ministries of the whole United Church and also be involved in communicating the outcomes of their General Council to this Regional Council and its communities of faith, including their own.
2. Accordingly, all nominees for election as Commissioners to General Council must:
  - a) Be an active and engaged confirmed member of a community of faith within the Regional Council
  - b) Covenant to regularly report to the Regional Council and its Executive on the work of the General Council
  - c) Covenant to witness to the work of the General Council in their community of faith and in the community at large.

3. This policy applies to elections to GC 44 and beyond.
4. To assure a balance of ordered/lay and diversity within nominees elected to the General Council by the Regional Council, and assuming 10 positions to be filled, the Nominations Leadership Team shall bring to the Regional Council nominations as follows: A slate of names nominated with all documents by the deadline:

- 1/3 Ordered
- 1/3 Lay

Priority will be given as

- 1 place reserved for the current elected President
- 1 place reserved for the Youth Pilgrim (aged 16-18 at the time of the GC)
- at least one (1) who identifies as under 30 years of age,
- at least one (1) who identifies as functionally bilingual (E/F),
- at least one (1) who identifies as Indigenous

All names shall be on the presented slate, but nominees greater than the allowed 10 will be listed as 'alternate Ordered or Lay' in the case that someone needs to be replaced to participate at the GC meeting.

5. The delegation so elected shall choose a Leading Elder who shall be responsible for reporting on the work of the General Council to the Regional Council.