
Restructuring the Executive Proposal

The current Executive (comprising 19 voting members) be replaced by an executive body called a Council of Elders comprising 12 voting members (“elders”).

Four of these voting members would be ex officio; that is, guaranteed a seat on the Council of Elders by virtue of another position held: the Executive Minister, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Finance and Extension Board, and the Chair of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team.

The terms of the Chair of Finance and Extension and the Chair of Pastoral Relations on the Council of Elders would be determined by their terms in their respective office. The Treasurer would be elected by the Regional Council for one three-year term with possibility of re-election. The Executive Minister would be a member of the Council of Elders for their entire term of employment. Other staff of the Regional Council would be non-voting, corresponding members.

The remaining eight voting members would be members-at-large, elected to staggered three-year terms with the possibility of re-election once (a total of six consecutive years on the Council). They would then be obligated to stand down for three years before again being eligible for election to the Council. The Council would elect one of its members-at-large as Leading Elder for a for a two-year term, not eligible for re-election for four years. The four ex officio elders would not be eligible to serve as Leading Elder.

The responsibilities of the Leading Elder would be: to prepare the agendas for, and to chair meetings of, the Regional Council and the Council of Elders; to serve as primary spokesperson of the Regional Council; to attend meetings of the Planning Regional Gatherings Leadership Team; to participate in celebration of ministries and covenanting services, as well as other special services organized by the Regional Council; to provide an ecumenical presence at the services and events of partner organizations.

If an elder is elected Leading Elder in the first year of a three-year term, they would revert simply to being an elder in the third year. There would be one exception to the maximum term of six consecutive years: if an elder is elected Leading Elder in third year of a three-year term, they would automatically continue on the Council for a fourth year (to complete the two-year term as Leading Elder. They thus have the possibility of serving for seven consecutive years.

Each member-at-large would be appointed the liaison with one of the Regional Council leadership teams, viz., First Third Ministries, Granting and Enabling, Justice and Community Ministries, Nominations, Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Living into Right Relations, *Planning Regional Gatherings, and La Table des ministères en français. The member-at-large elected Leading Elder would automatically be appointed the liaison for the Planning Regional Gatherings Leadership Team.

The elder who is the liaison for a given leadership team cannot be a voting member of said

leadership team; however, this would not preclude voting membership on another leadership team. For example, John Smith is elected by the Regional Council to the Council of Elders. He is already a member of the First Third Ministries Leadership Team. He cannot serve at the liaison with First Third Ministries, so is appointed the liaison to Granting and Enabling, where he is not a voting member. He nevertheless continues in his position as a voting member of First Third Ministries.

The proposed changes would take effect in June 2026.