

## **Proposal – extension of terms of office**

### **Source: Executive of Toronto Conference**

#### **1. What is the issue?**

We believe that God is calling The United Church of Canada to consider ways in which its structures as well as its people can be faithful participants in God's mission in the world. As part of The United Church of Canada, Toronto Conference can look at its own structures to see how God's mission can be furthered within the Conference.

#### **2. Why is this issue important?**

At present, a remit is being discussed and voted upon that would see the Conference and presbytery level of the church eliminated in favour of a regional council model. While this remit is under discussion, there is a potential impact on the functioning of the Conference. Toronto Conference's nominations schedule calls for the Conference to elect a President-Elect who would become President in May, 2018. The Executive's Nominations Committee had publicized the position, but there were no nominations or expressions of interest in serving in this position at this time.

If the remit on the three-council model is approved, Conferences and presbyteries would cease to exist as of December 31, 2018, meaning that the new President would be in office for approximately seven months.

The Executive's Nominations Committee proposed that the terms of office for the current President and Past-President be extended by one year to allow the church to know the remit results. Both current President and Past-President have agreed to serve if asked. Other Conferences are taking similar actions.

#### **3. How might Toronto Conference respond to the issue?**

The Conference's Executive is proposing that the annual meeting take the following actions:

**1. if the three-council remit passes: extend the term of the current Conference President and Past-President to the 2018 annual meeting of Toronto Conference; and authorize the President, Past-President, Executive Secretary and Executive to adopt measures to lighten the load of these office holders in the coming year.**

**2. if the three-council remit fails: approve the following process for electing a new President:**

- **The Nominations Committee will solicit nominations for the position of President-Elect;**

- **All potential nominees identified by December 31, 2017 will be requested to attend the February and April meetings of the Conference Executive to learn more about its functioning;**
- **the 2018 annual meeting of Conference will elect a President-Elect who will be installed as President at the same meeting;**
- **Nominations from the floor will be permitted.**

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