

## Remit on Amendment to Basis of Union on Ministry Personnel

As we enter the time of year when Communities of Faith / Congregations / Pastoral Charges are electing or appointing their delegates to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, one curiosity is about some of discussions and decisions that person/s might be involved at or in preparation for the Annual Meeting.

This year at the Annual Meeting in Steinbach, one item on the agenda will be a **Category 1 Remit**. A Remit is a vote to change some aspect of the Basis of Union (the foundational agreement of the United Church of Canada at the time of church union in 1925). Some Remits are voted on by regional councils AND communities of faith that are pastoral charges. Other Remits are only voted on by regional councils. Further details about Remits in general and the Basis of Union can be found in The Manual (2019) of the United Church of Canada.

The remit coming before the Annual Meeting is entitled Remit 1- Amendment to the Basis of Union Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel. The background of the remit and the wording change proposed is available through this **link**. **Generally speaking the change is to include persons of all gender identities**. It is important that attending the Annual Meeting be prepared and have done some of the study work ahead of time.

This is also an opportunity for Communities of Faith to engage in study on gender identity. There are a wide variety of resources on the General Council website if you search 'gender'. Here are a couple of those resources:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/gender-sexuality-and-orientation>

[https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/trans-kit\\_2019.pdf](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/trans-kit_2019.pdf)

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### National Webinar: A Trans Christian Faith Perspective March 31 7:00pm ET / 4:00pm PT

[Full information here](#). All welcome. **Note:** *If you are a delegate to your Regional Council's annual meeting/ gathering, please note that this webinar might be very helpful background to [Remit 1](#), which will be voted on at the meeting.* Join this 90-minute webinar where five trans and non-binary people will share a little of their personal stories, and how their Christian faith has made a difference along the way. Hear about how they understand their gender identity, and why the church has been an important part of their lives.

Consider how these stories might impact your congregation, leadership, or ministry. How they might encourage deeper reflection of your own place within the remarkable diversity that God has created.

**In the course of the 90-minute webinar you will:**

- Understand basic terms and definitions
- Deepen your faith and ministry by listening to trans and non-binary people of faith
- Hear why faith matters to trans and non-binary people and how they bear witness to their faith