

## **POLICY ON FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITHIN PRAIRIE TO PINE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

In accordance with section I.2.5.3 (The Manual 2022), which states that:

“Ministry Personnel who are not called or appointment to a community of faith, may carry out the functions of ministry in the United Church only if:

- a) They have a formal association with a community of faith, are acting on behalf of that community of faith, and have the approval of the community of faith’s governing body;”

*(Ministry Personnel includes Diaconal Ministers, Ordained Ministers, and may include Designated Lay Ministers.)*

Ministry Personal not called or appointed to a community of faith who are members of Prairie to Pine Regional Council, may establish a formal association with a community of faith by:

1. Making a request to a community of faith to be in Formal Association with them, and
2. Receiving approval from the governing body of that community of faith, through a motion indicating the governing body accepts the request and understands the accountability relationship associated with that request, and
3. Receiving a letter from the governing body of faith that acknowledges the formal association and related accountability.

Ministry Personnel may only be in formal association with one community of faith at a time.

Ministry personal with formal association with one community of faith may exercise the functions of ministry for any community of faith within Prairie to Pine Regional Council. They are not limited to only doing so for the community of faith with which they are in formal association.

Ministry Personnel in a formal association relationship within another regional council of the United Church of Canada will have authority to carry out the functions of ministry within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council

- i. after submitting to the Pastoral Relations Minister of Prairie to Pine Regional Council a letter confirming the Community of Faith with which they are currently in formal association and the Regional Council within which it is located; and
- ii. with the understanding that that the Ministry Personnel will account to their community of faith of formal association at least annually for any/all occasions that they exercised the functions of ministry, whether within or outside the Regional Council where the community of faith of formal association is located.

*(Formal Association may be named differently in different Regional Councils.)*

## Procedure

In order to comply with the above policy, ministry personnel within the bounds of Prairie to Pine Regional Council can request to be in a “formal association” with a community of faith by writing to the governing body of the community of faith outlining the functions of ministry for which they intend to make themselves available within any part of Prairie to Pine or another Regional Council. Functions of ministry include such things as worship leadership, pastoral care, funerals, weddings, celebrating the sacraments.

The governing body of the community of faith will be asked to indicate their support of the request through a motion. That motion indicating the support of the community of faith and the support of any incumbent ministry personnel would then be communicated in writing to the Pastoral Relations Minister of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, Judy Hare.

This formal association is required for Ministry Personnel to place their names on the Pulpit Supply List, maintain a License to officiate at weddings or for some categories of ministers to be licensed to celebrate the sacraments.

*Policy and procedures initially approved by Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive on September 18, 2019 and amended on December 06, 2022*