

Covid-19 Information Update

Please share this with your governing body

Congregational Meetings:

On November 26 2020, the Sub-Executive of General Council approved the following, effective immediately. These remain in place until 30 June 2021, subject to earlier cancellation or further extension by decision of the Executive or Sub-Executive of the General Council:

GS 81 Extension of Temporary Amendment of Bylaws re: Pastoral Relations; Temporary Amendment re: Congregational Annual Meeting

The General Secretary recommends:

That the Sub-Executive of the General Council:

1. extend the temporary amendments to pastoral relations policies that were originally adopted in April, 2020; (*allowing governing bodies to make pastoral relations decisions if a congregational meeting is not possible*)
2. temporarily suspend the requirement in section B.5.1 of The Manual for congregations or pastoral charges to hold an annual meeting; and
3. temporarily amend the responsibility of the congregation or pastoral charge to make a decision on their annual draft budget by allowing the governing body of the congregation or pastoral charge to fulfil this responsibility where necessary, and where permitted by the regional council;

with each of the foregoing to be in effect until June 30, 2021, subject to earlier cancellation or further extension by decision of the Executive or Sub-Executive of the General Council.

Use of Restricted Funds

The Covenant Commission has extended approval for communities of faith to use investment funds previously restricted by presbytery or regional council in order to meet payroll or insurance expenses if needed due to the impact of Covid-19. This approval is in effect until June 30, 2021. If your congregation uses these funds, please complete the reporting form available on the website and send it to LAllin@united-church.ca

Pre-approval for the Canada Emergency Business Account Loan (CEBA)

The Covenant Commission has given approval to all communities of faith to apply for the federal government CEBA loan, if directed by to do so by their governing body. If your application is approved by the bank, please complete the reporting form available on the website and send it to LAllin@united-church.ca

Resources

More information related to doing ministry in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic can be found on the regional council website and The United Church of Canada website.