

Congregational Support Commission

The Congregational Support Commission (CSC) carries primary responsibility for the relationship between communities of faith and the region and their partnership on matters requiring a decision by both the community of faith and the regional council, other than the pastoral relationship. The responsibilities of the Commission include:

- The articulation of ministry (Community of Faith Profile);
- The use of financial and property resources;
- Guidance and support for local governance;
- The overall health and well-being of communities of faith, such as changes in the life cycle, dealing with real property etc.

If you have questions about any aspects of the life and work of your church, the toolkits on the Horseshoe Falls website are a great place to start!

<https://hfrucc.ca/toolkits>

Resources and Policy

Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM)

Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM) (Toolkit #6) was added this quarter. The toolkit gives congregations information on developing, finding, and troubleshooting local parish ESMs. For any communities thinking about entering an ESM with another denomination, this is a good place to start.

Evaluating Access to Restricted Funds

A new policy was published in September 2025. The policy and guide to its application can be found in Toolkit #5. This resource should be useful to Communities of Faith wishing to use their restricted funds. It provides guidance as to how the CSC evaluates applications for the use of restricted funds and the data required in any application to access those funds. Regional council approval by the CSC is required for a Community of Faith to use this type of funds.

A reminder:

Effective June 26, 2024 funds from the sale of a manse are no longer restricted. This includes past, present and future sales. These funds may be used for any purpose decided by the congregation. However, if the amount being withdrawn in a year equals \$250,000 or 50% of net revenue used for assessment purposes (whatever is lower) this is a major asset transaction requiring regional council approval by the CSC.

In addition, regional council approval by the CSC is required if your Community of faith is entering into a lease of your property, applying for a loan from an extension council or any other party, as well as any “major renovation” (repair, work, addition, upgrade or capital improvement or like project) to your real property that is estimated or expected to cost the lower of 50% of net revenue used for assessment purposes for the prior calendar year or \$250,000.00 or more. Detailed information can be found in Toolbox #5 using the Toolbox link above.

Conflict of Interest (Re-posting of UCC Policy)

The United Church of Canada has a nationwide policy regarding the management of conflicts of interest within committees and governing bodies in all courts of the church. This policy can be found as Toolkit #26. This is a valuable resource speaking to the need to identify perceived as well as real conflicts of interest.

COMING SOON:

Tax (CRA) and Financial Tasks Related to Amalgamation

A new resource Toolkit is in development to assist those communities in dealing with the sundry tax and financial details of amalgamation (i.e., notifying the CRA, the bank, processing payroll in the new entity). For any questions at this time, please contact the CS Minister, Beverly Tyhurst, directly (btyhurst@united-church.ca)

Communities of Faith

Pastoral Charge Supervision

Thank you (!) A big thank you to those individuals who have taken on the role of Pastoral Charges Supervisors over the past year. Your time and dedication to this important role is appreciated and valued. We are always looking for those who would like to serve in this capacity! *If you are interested in becoming a Pastoral Charge Supervisor and are a member of the order of ministry or a lay representative to the region, please fill out and submit the interest form found in Toolkit #10.*

Collaborative Ministry Agreements

- Central UC, Welland and Southminster UC, Niagara Falls UC
- Richwood UC (ARW) and St. Paul's, Paris UC
- St Andrews UC, Harmony UC, and Fairview UC (Brantford)
- Southcoast Collaboration Bethel UC, Central UC, Morgan's Point and Fork's Road Pastoral Charge (south Niagara)
- Stoney Creek and Pioneer Memorial

- St. John's United Church (Oakville) and St. Paul's United Church (Oakville)
- St. Paul's United Church (Oakville) & the Hub Community Network

Congratulations to these communities on their new and continued work, building and sharing ministry together !

Sales of Property

- The former Oakland United Church property (following the amalgamation)

Disbanded Communities of Faith

With gratitude for their faithful ministry, set the date of disbandment for Vineland United Church as May 31, 2025.

The Commission meets monthly on the second Tuesday. All documentation that is needing approval must be sent to the Congregational Support Minister for the commission's review no later than the first of the month.

Many thanks to Lynne Allin for her faithful dedication and expertise in her role as Congregational Support Minister. Lynne is on Sabbatical from September to November 2024 and we are grateful to Ann Harbridge and John Neff who are supporting the work of the commission during this time.

In May we said goodbye to Lynne Allin. After years of faithful service to the Tri-Regions and the Commission as the Congregational Support Minister, Lynne retired in June, 2025. We wish you a happy retirement Lynne!

In August we welcomed our new Congregational Support Minister, Beverly Tyhurst. Beverly brings invaluable experience from the United Church National Office. Welcome Beverly!

In June we said Jane Wylie and our chairperson Adrienne Robertson finished their terms and Doug Caldwell transferred to Human Resources. The current members of the CSC include: Ross Gowan, Steve Lowden, Karen Tobey, Barb McGill, Kate Young, and co-chairs Jane Capstick and Shawn Bausch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Capstick

Shawn Bausch

Rev. Jane Capstick, Co-Chair
Shawn Bausch, Co-Chair