

Proposal 16

Title: Proposal to study the rite of admission and membership into the United Church of Canada.

Originating Body: Chignecto Presbytery

That Chignecto Presbytery propose to the 40th General Council through Maritime Conference that the General Council's Theology and Faith Committee engage the whole church in a study of the meaning of Baptism and Confirmation in relationship to full membership in the United Church of Canada with a particular view to what we have learned through the Emerging Spirit project.

Financial Implications: This would be part of the budget support for the work of the Theology and Faith Committee over the next triennium

Background:

The United Church of Canada has been a denomination that has focused on inclusion and hospitality since our inception. Yet, our current practice is to baptize individuals into membership in the catholic church and later confirm those same individuals into "full" membership in the United Church of Canada. This raises a number of questions.

1. Is our denomination somehow limiting God's grace in having this two-step process in terms of membership?
2. In light of the United Churches focus on inclusion and the work of the Emerging Spirit program, how do we understand membership?
3. How is it decided what the appropriate age is for Confirmation and full membership privileges?

It is moved by Bob Johnson, seconded by Peter Smith that the 84th Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference concur with Proposal #16 entitled "Proposal to study the rite of admission and membership into the United Church of Canada" and transmit to the 40th General Council.

MOTION DEFEATED

Bob Johnson / Catherine Gaw moved that this proposal not be transmitted.

MOTION CARRIED