

Information for Nominees for Moderator for General Council 44

Issued by the General Secretary under The Manual 2021, D.4.1.1

Nominating someone to be Moderator

A nominee for Moderator must be a member of The United Church of Canada but is not required to be a Commissioner of the General Council.

There are two ways to nominate someone:

1. Regional Councils and the National Indigenous Council: Nominations can be made by a motion at meetings of these councils. The minutes and motion must be submitted to the General Secretary as soon as possible after the meeting and no later than **May 30, 2022**.
2. General Council: Nominations can be made in writing to the General Secretary, moved by a Commissioner, and seconded by at least one other Commissioner up until the close of nominations, proposed to be near the start of the discussion session (**June 16, 2022**).

All nominees are asked to send the following to the General Secretary as soon as possible:

- a clear, digital (jpeg), head-and-shoulders photograph of yourself
- a brief biography, including your involvement in the United Church (about 500 words)
- a 500- to 1,000-word statement about your vision and priorities for the United Church and for how you would serve as Moderator

Being a nominee for Moderator

General Council 44 will be held virtually over a six-month period beginning February 2022. Nominees for Moderator should plan to be present throughout General Council. For nominees who are not Commissioners, it is proposed that they be given voice but not vote at the meeting.

Nominees traditionally do not “campaign” to be Moderator but rather allow their name to stand.

Ways for Commissioners and the church to get to know the nominees throughout General Council will likely include:

- being introduced at General Council following the close of nominations
- addressing the Council by pre-recorded five-minute video during the decision-making session
- opportunities through the United Church website and social media
- informal meet-and-greet times during or between the discussion and decision-making sessions

We will keep all nominees informed of these opportunities as they emerge.

Nominees may receive invitations from others in the church or media to share about themselves. Nominees determine for themselves how and if to participate in any invitations.

Being elected Moderator

The Moderator is elected by a majority ballot.

- Nominees are informed of ballot results before those results are announced in Council.
- The Moderator-elect may briefly address the Council immediately after the announcement is made.
- The Moderator-elect will spend time providing media interviews. The United Church will offer communication support at that time.

The new Moderator will preach at a service of installation on Sunday, August 7. This will mark the official close of the General Council. The role of Moderator begins immediately after installation.

The Moderator

The Moderator is responsible for giving spiritual leadership to all in The United Church of Canada, presiding at meetings of the General Council and its Executive, visiting throughout the United Church, and serving as the primary spokesperson and representative of the United Church.

The role of Moderator has evolved over time and requires a full-time commitment for the three-year term. Refer to *The Manual*, section D.4.1, for more detail

Advisory Committee

The Moderator has an advisory committee, whose mandate includes helping to address the multitude of requests for the attention or presence of the Moderator, as well as providing advice and support to the Moderator. This group will be appointed by the General Council Sub-Executive and will meet soon after the General Council. It is helpful for nominees to consider, even now, who they might request to serve on this committee, particularly in the role of chair.

Serving as chair of the Moderator's Advisory Committee is a significant time commitment, with responsibility for managing the well-being of the Moderator throughout their term. The chair works closely with General Council staff to prioritize and arrange the Moderator's schedule.

Remuneration and compensation

The Moderator is expected to serve on a full-time basis, so the successful nominee will need to resign from, or negotiate a leave of absence from, their place of employment, whether in the United Church or otherwise.

The Moderator's salary is based on a full-time position. Work-related travel and expenses are reimbursed by the General Council Office with the submission of expense forms and receipts.

Currently, the church owns a small two-bedroom condominium, within easy walking distance of the office, for the sole use of the Moderator. The condo is completely furnished and has a small kitchen, living and dining rooms, and ensuite laundry.

Office

There is a workspace for the Moderator in the General Council Office. Large and small meeting rooms nearby can accommodate meetings and visits with guests.

The Moderator is supported by an administrative assistant, who manages communications, schedules, and other logistics for the Moderator and the General Secretary.

A laptop computer and support for a mobile phone are provided. The Moderator is expected to use these to facilitate regular contact regardless of their location.

Family

The United Church of Canada acknowledges the sacrifices that a Moderator's family makes. Occasional expenses related to travel by members of the Moderator's immediate family may be accommodated as the Moderator's budget allows.

If you are discerning about nominating someone or standing for nomination yourself, feel free to call or e-mail the General Secretary (mblair@united-church.ca) with any questions about the process.

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