



In 2022, at General Council 44, the National Indigenous Council proposed that the church identify and remove any structural barriers that would prevent the development and sustaining of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. When any requested change in church structure will alter the Basis of Union of *The Manual*, as this will, a Category 3 Remit is required.

[This remit \(opens in a new tab\)](#) asks if the church will agree to remove these structural barriers so that the Indigenous Church can determine its place and structure within the United Church. The 44th General Council authorized this remit to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

Approval of this remit will enable the creation of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada. This would acknowledge Indigenous peoples' rights to their own spiritual identities and to self-determination, and would be consistent with the Caretakers of our Indigenous Circle's *Calls to the Church* and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

The remit requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. Information about the remit, as well as voting cards, were sent to every regional council and each pastoral charge on March 10, either through email or Canada Post. Voting will take place between March 15, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Abstentions are considered a vote against the remit.

The results will be reported to the Annual Meeting of the General Council of the United Church in October 2024.

Posted in

[Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice](#)

Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

Remit 3 from the United Church of Canada

All pastoral charges have been asked to register a “Yes” or “No” on the Remit concerning the formation of an Autonomous Indigenous Church. Augustine’s vote will occur at the AGM on May 7th.

The Remit Information Package below is the description of the matter to be considered so that an informed response can be submitted by Augustine United. Please review this, and there will be a brief discussion prior to the vote.

Thank you,
Augustine Council

The 44th General Council met virtually between February 2022 and August 2022.

At that meeting, the General Council approved an amendment to the Basis of Union in *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. It also authorized a Category 3 Remit to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The General Council's decision was in response to proposal **NIC-01: Restructuring of the Indigenous Church** from the National Indigenous Council, which named its vision of the two parts of the church (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) working side-by-side, and recommending the identification and removal of "all the structural barriers to developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada". The way to remove these "structural barriers" is named in a proposal from the General Secretary, **GS-10: Living into Reconciliation**, which asks the church to give pre-emptive remit approval for whatever the Indigenous Church determines in the future as the place it will have in the United Church, guided by the *Calls to the Church*—and without the need for further remit approvals.

This is a Category 3 Remit, and so requires a vote by every regional council and each pastoral charge's governing body. If a regional council or a pastoral charge does not register a vote, that is considered a vote against the proposal.

There is one question to be voted on, as follows.

Does the regional council/pastoral charge agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

Below are the remit and response forms. The response form must be signed and returned to the General Council Office to the address set out on the form.

Thank you for your participation in this important work of the church.

Michael Blair
General Secretary, General Council

** The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.*

*** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".*

Downloads

[GC44 Remit 1 Study Guide March 2023](#)

Size: 209.3 KB

[GC44 Remit 1 Response Form for Pastoral Charges](#)

Size: 80.54 KB

[GC44 Remit 1 Response Form for Regional Councils](#)

Size: 77.46 KB

[Calls to the Church](#)

Size: 244.62 KB

[United Church Statement on UNDRIP](#)

Size: 195.92 KB

[Affirming Other Spiritual Paths](#)

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