

## **WOW01 CONCERNING FAITHFUL MINISTRY PERSONNEL**

**Origin: Huron Shores United Church, Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, Meeting of May 26, 2019**

### **1. What is the issue?**

Huron Shores United Church believes God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to respond to the closed settlement of 2018 between Reverend Gretta Vosper and Toronto Conference and its impact on The United Church of Canada. We are concerned that this action has cast a shadow, and raised questions for our wider church, especially relating to the faith of actively serving Ministry Personnel. Our Council heard the concerns of some members of our congregation and our community. These were referred to a working group to create this proposal, supported by our congregation, community and Council. This proposal includes our requested course of action by the United Church of Canada in a deliberate and transparent manner.

***Note: proposals for the General Council are for issues of denominational responsibility that go beyond the bounds of a Regional Council.***

### **2. Why is this issue important?**

- a. The settlement has raised the question that some ministry personnel have left their faith, but are not being open about it, leading to a lack of confidence in public proclamation and testimony.
- b. The wide publicity around the settlement has been framed as an unstated position of the United Church of Canada, which appears to permit “atheist clergy.”
- c. Partner churches within the World Council of Churches, and other ecumenical bodies need assurance that the United Church of Canada has faith in God, honours scripture, and properly administers the sacraments.

### **3. How might the General Council respond to the issue?**

General Council could clarify expectations regarding the faith of Ministry Personnel, and develop procedures to provide a mechanism to review the faith of Ministry Personnel.

### **4. For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council:**

**Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Meeting, May 26, 2019**

#### **MOTION**

**Moved by:** Kate Crawford, **Seconded by:** Lynn Hamilton

That Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council agrees with Huron Shores proposal.

**CARRIED** [16 Opposed]

If you have questions regarding this proposal please send them to [info@generalcouncil44.ca](mailto:info@generalcouncil44.ca).