

General Council 45 Nominees for Moderator Information Sheet

Issued by the General Secretary under The Manual 2024, D.4.1.1

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.

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.

The work of the *Task Group to Review the Roles of Moderator and General Secretary* is currently in progress and may make recommendations that could shift the way the Moderator serves the church.

Nominating someone to be Moderator

A nominee for Moderator must be a full member, lay or ordered, 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 a meeting of these councils (or their Executive). The minutes and motion must be submitted to the General Secretary as soon as possible after the meeting and no later than midnight on June 22, 2025.
2. **General Council:** Nominations can be made in writing to the General Secretary, by at least five Commissioners up until the close of nominations, scheduled for midnight on June 22, 2025.

All nominees are asked to send the following to the General Secretary by July 16, 2025:

- a clear, digital (JPG or PNG), high-resolution head-and-shoulders photograph of yourself
- a brief biography, including your involvement in the United Church (200-300 words)
- a pre-recorded five-minute video addressing the Council. (Assistance will be provided by the General Council Communications Department.)
- a 500- to 1,000-word statement about your understanding of the Call and Vision of the United Church and how you would engage it as Moderator.

The General Council Executive is establishing a vetting process for nominees. Any concerns raised by this process will be discussed first with the nominee and their nominator(s).

Being a nominee for Moderator

Names of the nominees will be announced at specific dates with the first nominees to be shared with the church January 31, 2025.

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

General Council 45 will begin with online sessions in June 2025, followed by in-person sessions in Calgary, August 7-11, 2025. The Calgary sessions are also available to Commissioners online. Nominees for Moderator should plan to be present throughout General Council. For nominees who are not Commissioners, it is proposed that they be given a voice but not a vote at the meeting.

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
- opportunities through the United Church website and social media
- informal meet-and-greet times in Calgary.

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 Monday, August 11, 2025, in Calgary. This will mark the official close of the in-person General Council. The role of Moderator begins immediately after installation.

Advisory Committee

The Moderator has an advisory committee whose mandate includes:

- providing advice and support to the Moderator
- addressing the multitude of requests for the attention or presence of the Moderator

The Advisory Committee is 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 Chery-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa (CSampa@united-church.ca) with any questions about the process.

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