

The 2012 Conference Structure adopted by the Saskatchewan Conference Executive defined Networks as groups which have networking, educating, and action functions. Pursuant to the report:

- Networks of the Conference are United Church groups who connect, educate and encourage action by individuals and local ministries;
- Networks will be created by, and be accountable to the Saskatchewan Conference through its Executive; and;
- The Conference, through its Nominations committee will appoint two people per network to:
  - initiate and coordinate the work of the network;
  - keep track of the topics and activities that are the focus of the Network; and;
  - at least once a year, provide written reports to the Conference Executive, and if needed, address the Executive in person.

Under the leadership of the 2 people elected by the Conference, and with the assistance of the program staff person for Mission and Education, each network will determine its own membership and structure, and ways of fulfilling its mission, communicating and networking as are most effective for the mission of the network and its context. It is anticipated that each network will be unique and that these characteristics may change from time to time with changes in context and mission. As well, where the responsibility for a task, as specifically defined in this Structure Document, is related to the ministry of a network the Conference will elect the person who will be responsible for that task and become a member of that network.

It is acknowledged that the character of the ministry of Saskatchewan Conference is as a resource to the Presbyteries and Pastoral Charges with *resource* understood as a noun and not a verb. As such, the Conference is here to support the ministry functions of the church. Similarly, the role of program staff is to support the Networks in the development of the Networks, and their skills, relationships, and leadership activity. As such, it is anticipated that the program staff person will be involved much more as the Networks are developing but that the involvement of the program staff person with each Network will diminish and perhaps end as the Network functions independently.

Networks will receive funding from the Conference. The use of these funds will be determined by the Network but may include face-to-face gatherings, mailings, newsletters, guest speakers, educational events, or use of technology. Networks will also be encouraged to apply for grants from Conference Special Funds, General Council and other appropriate bodies applicable to the work of the Network.

It is intended that Networks will become a place where people with passion for similar forms of mission in our church will gather their interests and skills so that the work of the gospel may catch fire at the local ministries level of our church.

It is anticipated that the Networks will be organic. It is acknowledged that additional networks will arise with increase in the passion for additional areas of mission. As well, each Network

will only continue to exist for as long as there is passion within the network for its mission. As such, new networks will be established by decision of the Conference Executive of its own initiative or upon request by an interested party and networks will end by decision of the Conference Executive of its own initiative or upon request of the network.