

**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, October 9, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Vision of the Assembly of Elders by which we evaluate progress based on:**

- Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place
- Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
- Building Communications

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Rev. Paul Reed	Speaker
Rev. Jean Wilson	Corresponding Member, past-Speaker
Rev. Lynn Watson	(incoming) Member
Rev. Don McLean	(incoming) Member
Rev. Ian Robb	(incoming) Member
Kathleen Whyte	(incoming) Member
Marilyn Fortin	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Steve Spicer	Corresponding Member, past member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Steve Coles	Member
Rev. Ryan McNally	Corresponding Member, past member
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Member, Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS/ABSENT**

Shannon Marsellus	Member
Sharon Hull	Corresponding Member - Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
Louise Slobodian	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant

**Acknowledge the Land and Opening Prayer**

Paul Reed opened the meeting with prayer, acknowledged that members were gathering on First Nations territory, and gave thanks for indigenous people's stewardship of this land. Paul also acknowledged that this is an affirming space and all were welcome.

**2020-10-09\_119 MOTION** (L. Watson/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders make Stevan Spicer, Jean Wilson and Ryan McNally corresponding members. **Carried**

**2020-10-09\_120 MOTION** (L. Watson/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the minutes of October 2, 2020 as received. **Carried**

David Timpson provided a report on finding staffing potentials; *Faith Care* is willing to send two people, to work alongside an administrator. Thus far, the search for an Interim Minister continues.

Discussions continued on items in summary proposal of last meeting:

*Summary provided by Rev. Paul Reed, Speaker*

Having received the Review of Chalmers United and having heard from the reviewer and five members of the Chalmers leadership team the Assembly of Elders reviewed the recommendations of the review.

In addition to the congregation division identified by the Review, the Assembly of Elders also heard members of Chalmers identified a minority view that supported disbanding as a congregation.

The Assembly of Elders concluded that the proposal of a two-year exercise of restructuring and revisioning was too large of an investment of resources without first assessing whether the congregation was committed to the process.

The Assembly of Elders is proposing instead

Having found the congregation of Chalmers United in Kingston to be in an unsatisfactory state:

- 1) That the governing body consisting of the Coordinating Council of Elders and Standing Committees be dismissed with thanks.
- 2) That the Regional Council appoint:
  - a) a minister for pastoral care, continuing education and worship for a period of one year and potentially extended for a second year.
  - b) a Commission of one to serve as an administrator with responsibilities of the governing body during a period of facilitation/mediation [Item 3]. Such Commissioner may be eligible for continued work dependent on the outcome of the facilitation/mediation.
- 3) That the congregation of Chalmers United contract with Faith Talk, or similar facilitation/mediation service.
  - a) That the mandate of the facilitation/mediation service be to determine whether there is a congregation at Chalmers United of sufficient number and financial viability that is committed, flexible, and willing to accept the outcome of a restructuring and revisioning of the congregation without limit.
  - b) That the facilitation/mediation leadership report its conclusion to the Assembly of Elders within 6 months of initiating the work.
- 4) That if the facilitation/mediation process **does not** identify the presence of a suitable congregation that a process of ending Chalmers United as a congregation that concludes by Dec 31, 2021 with the disbanding or amalgamation of the congregation and the distribution of assets.
- 5) That if the facilitation/mediation process **does** identify the presence of a suitable congregation that a Commission of one be appointed as a congregation administrator with an 18-month to 24 month mandate to develop and implement a mission strategy and governance structure respectful of the past but relevant to the current and future context.. The authority of the administrator to not be limited and may include worship, building relationship with other congregations etc. The Administrator to report at six-month intervals to the Covenant Support Team.
- 6) That upon the successful completion of the redevelopment and revisioning of the Chalmers United Church congregation and upon the recommendation of the administrator, the Covenant Support Team take necessary actions to obtain ongoing ministry.
- 7) If the administrator concludes that a redevelopment and revisioning is unsuccessful or if the congregation identified in Item 2 above proves unwilling or unable to embrace the change the Assembly of Elders shall

initiate the disbanding of the congregation and distribute the remaining assets of the congregation. [ 2019 Manual C.2.3 (g) ]

- 8) That Chalmers United be responsible for the remuneration of the appointed minister and administrators and for all costs associated with the remedial process.

**2020-10-09\_121 MOTION** (P. Wilson/N. Sutherland) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders resolve:

That the Regional Council appoint:

- a. A minister for pastoral care, continuing education and worship for a period of one year and potentially extended for a second year;
- b. That the congregation of Chalmers United contract with Faith Care;
- c. That the mandate of the facilitation/mediation service be to determine whether there is a congregation at Chalmers United of sufficient number and financial viability that is committed, flexible, and willing to accept the outcome of a restructuring and revisioning of the congregation without limit;
- d. That the facilitation/mediation leadership report its conclusion to the Assembly of Elders within 3 months of initiating the work;
- e. That Coordinating Council of Elders (CCE), with the assistance of the Pastoral Charge Supervisor, continue with the administration of Chalmers for three (3) months;
- f. That Chalmers United be responsible for the remuneration of the appointed minister and administrators and for all costs associated with the remedial process.

### **Carried**

Rev. David Timpson will continue to look for a Minister and an Administrator.

A progress report is expected for the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Assembly of Elders.

Appreciation was extended to Stevan Spicer, Ryan McNally and Jean Wilson, each past members of the Assembly of Elders, for their presence during these meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The Speaker declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

### **Closing Prayer**

Don McLean closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting Dates:** Friday, October 23 9 am - noon ZOOM  
Friday, November 27 9 am - noon ZOOM

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Rev. Paul Reed  
Speaker

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Rev. Rosemary Lambie,  
Executive Minister