
East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Tuesday, January 31, 2019 – 1 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. Jean Wilson	Chair
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Steve Spicer	Member
Carol Johnson	Member
Steve Coles	Member
Shirley Baster	Member
Rev. Paul Reed	Member
Rev. Ryan McNally	Member
Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald	Member
Rev. Wanda Stride	Member
Brian James	Corresponding Member - Financial Administration
Sharon Hull	Corresponding Member - Minister Supporting Justice and Mission, Minister Supporting Faith Formation & Spiritual Nurture for all ages
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister Supporting Justice and Mission with Indigenous Focus
Gordon Wood	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Minister
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary

REGRETS/ABSENT

(none)

1. *Opening and Devotions* – Jean led the Assembly of Elders in prayer.
2. *Circle time of sharing* – Jeannie Oulton passed away on this day.
3. *Corresponding Members*

2019-01-31-1 MOTION (B. James/S. Baster) That staff Sharon Hull, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley and Gordon Wood be corresponding members of the Executive. **Carried**

4. *Approval of the Minutes - Meeting December 12, 2018*

2019-01-31-2 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the minutes of December 12, 2018 be accepted as received. **Carried**

5. *Approval of the Agenda*

2019-01-31-3 MOTION (C. Johnston/S. Baster) that the agenda be accepted as amended. **Carried**

To add under *New Business*

1. Staff contact information
2. Nominations of new member

6. *Nomination of a New Member*

2019-01-31-4 MOTION (P. Reed/B. James) That Steve Spicer become a full member of the Assembly of Elders until a new Assembly of Elders is nominated at the Inaugural Meeting being held May 31 – June 2 (2019). **Carried**

7. *Correspondence*

- a) December 3, 2018 Rev. Bill Smith re Rawdon-Springbrook (*for action*)

Rawdon

Four Trustees of Mount Pleasant United Church property (Jean Wilson, Janet Enns, Norman Long and Lloyd Williams) have been appointed to work with the Rawdon congregation (Larry Jeffs, Don Thoughts and Jack Oliver), who is leasing the property for ten years. Jean will forward a copy of the lease to David and Rosemary. It was noted that Mount Pleasant ceased to be a United Church congregation on December 31, 2018.

2019-01-31-5 MOTION (S. Cole/T. Meyers) That Jean Wilson, Janet Enns, Norman Long and Lloyd Williams be appointed as trustees for Mount Pleasant United Church (Municipality of Sterling-Rawdon Ontario) on behalf of East Central Ontario Regional Council. **Carried**

Springbrook

Congregation has not yet signed a lease, and is split on whether they want to continue as a United Church congregation. There had been a vote this past September, but the way it was carried out was not in conformity with United Church polity. David has agreed to follow-up with Bill Smith and the Springbrook congregation to recommend a new process to arrive at a decision.

- b) December 13, 2018 Norma Cronkwright re Mission Support request for Grand River Spiritual & Educational Resources Board (*for information? action?*)

Jean has been in contact with Pat Gilmour on the 29th of November 2018 conveying that the request has been denied because the Regional Council commission had not received the request in time for the 2019 budget. Jean conveyed that it was the wish to continue in the longstanding relationship that Bay of Quinte Conference has had with Grand River Spiritual & Educational Resources Bookstore, but are seeking access for more web-based resources that will benefit the larger area. There is a willingness to have conversations to see how this relationship might continue going forward.

- c) December 19, 2018 Cecil Noseworthy, Dalrymple United Church re sale of church (*for action*)

Dalrymple United Church had made a request to Presbytery to pursue the sale of their building, and said permission was given in principle. However, before approving any sale of a building Presbytery requested a detailed plan outlining how the proceeds from the sale of the church would be used. This has never been provided. Since then, the church has put a 'for sale' sign up which they do not have permission to do. There is a paper trail of written correspondence between Paul Read, Allan Boyd and Bonny Kelly who is serving at Dalrymple United Church as retired supply.

- d) January 1, 2019 Lloyd Williams, Hills and Shores Presbytery re an abundance of documents on property sales, amalgamation processes etc. (*for information*)
 e) January 7, 2019 Bev Oag, General Council Office re changes to the Extension Council of Peterborough Presbytery (*for action*)
 f) January 14, 2019 Bev Oag, General Council Office re changes to the Lakeridge Presbytery Church Extension Council of The United Church of Canada (*for information*)

-
- g) January 15, 2019 Cynthia Gunn, Legal Counsel, United Church of Canada re copy of letter to Ms. Carol Leslie, Bridge Street United Church Foundation re the appointment of David King as Director *(for information)*
 - h) January 21, 2019 Rev. Sharon Ballantyne re not losing the Equity Policy, and the work on inclusive ministries *(for referral to Sharon Hull)*
 - i) January 21, 2019 Bruce Hutchinson re \$500 funding for “Re-Imagining Faith Communities Workshop” on June 1, 2019. *(for action – refer to Doing Mission Together Grants)*
 - j) January 28, 2019 Bishop Michael Oulton of the Anglican Diocese of Ontario in Kingston requesting prayers for his wife Jeannie *(for circulation)*
 - k) January 30, 2019 Arthur J. Smith copied on response to Bev Oag re Lakeridge Presbytery Church Extension Council of The United Church of Canada *(for information)*
 - l) January 30, 2019 Bruce McClennan, Chair of Trustees, Highland Hills United Church, re severing the property of Zion United Church from the cemetery *(for action)*

2019-01-31-6 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders establishes a “Mission through Property Team” and refers correspondence items c, d, e, f, k, and l for further information and recommended responses where appropriate. **Carried**

- m) January 29, 2019 Bruce Fraser, Secretary of Hills and Shores Presbytery re PR450 *(for action)*

2019-01-31-7 MOTION (P. Reed/S. Spicer) that having received the properly completed PR450 form, and confirmation from the Office of Vocation that the named ministry personnel has met all of the requirements and is in good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Call of Reverend Wanda Stride to Trinity-St. Andrew’s United Church, Brighton, Ontario for full-time ministry effective February 1, 2019. (Abstention, W. Stride) **Carried**

The Executive Minister will sign completed PR 450 form and forward to Angie Musonza at the United Church National office.

(Presbytery Minutes – Living Waters, Hills and Shores, Shinning Waters still needed)

It was explained that final Presbytery minutes need to come to this body for ratification:

XX) December 29, 2018, Final Minutes for XXX Presbytery *(for action)*

MOTION (/) “that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Executive receives the Minutes of the XXX Presbytery at its final meeting on XXX 2018 for information.

MOTION (/) “that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Executive ratifies the following decision(s) made by the XXX Presbytery at its final meeting on XXXX 2018:

8. *Business Arising from the Regular Meeting*

a) **Governance**

- i) Assembly of Elders – Presbyterian roots

2019-01-31-8 MOTION (P. Reed/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council use the term “Assembly of Elders” instead of “Executive”, and that the Assembly of Elders meets all of the requirements of the Executive as outlined in the Manual (2019), section C.3.1. **Carried**

2019-01-31-9 MOTION (P. Reed/S. Baster) that the presiding officer of the Assembly of Elders and East Central Ontario Regional Council shall be known as the “Speaker”, which replaces the term of “Chair”. **Carried**

Definition of Speaker: The Speaker presides at all meetings of the Assembly of Elders, participates in discussion and debates, and has no vote unless there has been a tie vote. It is the Speaker's duty to preserve order and decorum and to decide all questions of order, citing the applicable standing order or other authority. The Speaker's decision is not subject to appeal. Any question of privilege raised by a member is taken into consideration by the Speaker immediately or at a time he or she determines.

For a future meeting: Deciding whether the Speaker will be elected by the Regional Council during its General Meeting, or chosen by the elected members themselves.

- ii) **Property and Finance Policy** for the East Central Ontario Regional Council – Draft 1.0 (see Appendix A) – Ted Meyers

The first sections of the draft document were agreed to in principle. Changes brought about through the discussion of this document are noted in the Appendix A. Ted will provide a revised version of the Property and Finance Policy for the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

It was highlighted that sections “Community of Faith Records” and following would be discussed at our next meeting, and that it would not follow under the umbrella of the “Mission through Property Team”: instead perhaps under Pastoral Oversight committee during their triannual visits.

- iii) **Covenant Support** (see Appendix B) the draft document was agreed to in principle with additional suggested edits to outline when the support team is “free to do things” and when to “recommend to the Assembly of Elders”.

2019-01-31-10 MOTION (P. Reed/S. Coles) that the Assembly of Elders approves in principle the document entitled Covenant Support, and additional edits are to be referred back to the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders for final approval. **Carried**

- iv) **Formation Nurture Justice** (see Appendix C) To be referred to next meeting.

Discussion: There needs to be a method for members of the Assembly of Elders to remain in contact

- b) **Criteria for Mission Priority Grants** (see appendix D)

2019-01-31-11 MOTION (S. Coles/E. Macdonald) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the form “East Central Ontario Regional Council, Doing Mission Together Funding Application” for the granting period of 2019. **Carried**

This application form is to be distributed throughout the Regional Council, after slight modification on form for requesting name and contact information for who and where cheque is to be sent.

- c) **Pastoral Relations**

2019-01-31-12 MOTION (T. Meyers /P. Reed) That discussions regarding this issue be done in camera. **Carried**

2019-01-31-13 MOTION (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders proceeds with a Congregation Review [The Manual (2019) J.4] of Fenelon Falls United Church. (Abstention, B. Reed). **Carried**

2019-01-31-14 MOTION (B. James/S. Coles) That Rev. Pegi Ridout be engaged to perform the congregational review, as soon as possible, of Fenelon Falls United Church in accordance with section J.4, The Manual (2019). **Carried**

- d) **Inaugural Meeting-** updates on planning (see Appendix E for discussion notes and proposed Inaugural Meeting agenda)

Questions:

1. Should the Regional Council pay travel for those not associated with Communities of Faith (i.e., retired ministers, candidates, students, people providing leadership)?
2. Should we pay for all snacks and lunches?

A detailed budget will come to the next meeting outlining the implications for each of the scenarios listed above. It was suggested to consult past financial records of Bay of Quinte Conference. Funding for youth (in budget, thought grants?).

3. Should we have a policy that provides accommodation for those who are in leadership roles (Bay of Quinte did have a policy in place)?

It was suggested that a theme speaker would not be needed. Wanda Stride will lead worship and music. Welcoming to the land: Suggestion to contact an indigenous elder to lead this time of gathering. A communication will be going out immediately as an insert in the Observer Magazine.

2019-01-31-15 MOTION (P. Reed/S. Coles) That those who are giving leadership roles that take them out of full and free participation be compensated with accommodation. **Carried**

- e) **Open House** It was decided to forgo an Open House because of time constraints. Three of the six former Presbyteries have initiated meetings as clusters, and it is recommended that the other three Presbyteries be encouraged to meet as well. Sharon Hull can address this.

9. *New Business*

a) **Sub-Executive**

2019-01-31-16 MOTION (S. Coles/B. James) that should the need arise for an urgent decision between meetings, and up until the new Assembly of Elders is elected at the Inaugural Meeting in June 2019, the Speaker, the Treasurer and Paul Reed be empowered to act as a sub-Executive along with the Executive Minister to address the situation. **Carried**

b) **Review policies**

- i) **Authorization to Perform Marriages and Volunteer Associate Minister Policy** (see Appendix F)

2019-01-31-17 MOTION (W. Stride/S. Baster) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves and accepts the adoption of the Authorization to Perform Marriages Policy and the Voluntary Associate Minister Policy. **Carried**

Opening worship for next meeting: Wanda Stride

Closing Prayer: David Timpson

Next meeting dates:

- Feb 25th 10 - 3:00 In person St Mark's, Belleville
- Mar 27th 10 - 12:30 Zoom
- Apr 24th 10 - 3:00 In person TBD
- May 22nd 10 - 12:30 Zoom
- June 24th 10 - 3:00 In person TBD
- Aug 28th 10 - 12:30 Zoom
- Sept 25th 10-3:00 In person TBD

10. Adjournment

2019-01-31-18 MOTION: (P. Reed) that the meeting be adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Jean Wilson
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister