
East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Wednesday, August 28th 2019 – 9:30 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. Jean Wilson	Chair
Rev. Marilyn Fortin	Member
Rev. D'thea Webster	Member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Steve Coles	Member
Rev. Paul Reed	Member
Rev. Steve Spicer	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Ryan McNally	Member
Louise Slobodian	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant
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
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Corresponding Member, Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Shannon Marsellus	Member
Brian James	Corresponding Member - Financial Administration

Meeting called to Order 9:31 a.m.

Opening Devotions – D'thea Webster, story of panhandlers and their kindness and willingness to generously share the little they have received with others; could this be because of the fundamental difference between 'earning' and 'receiving'? Is there a sense of entitlement when we feel we 'earn', as opposed to a sense of charity when it is acknowledged that what we receive is from God? D'thea encouraged all to consider the gifts they have received from God and gave thanks to God for all of these gifts being shared around the table.

Circle Time of Sharing – all were invited to share

Appointment of Equity Monitor for this Meeting – D'Thea volunteered to be the equity monitor.

Agenda:

2019-08-28-170 MOTION (S. Coles/T. Meyers) Motion to accept agenda. **Carried**

Minutes of June 26, 2019:**2019-08-28-171 MOTION** (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) Motion to accept the Minutes of June 26, 2019. **Carried****Correspondence:**

- a) July 30, 2019 Bill Meeker, Stewards and Trustees, St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, Ontario re Technology Support Grant (*for action under 2 f*)
- b) August 6, 2019 Rev. Nan Hudson, Faith United Church, Kingston re 2020 Mission Support Application (*for action on MS grants after the September 15 deadline*)
- c) August 19, 2019 Charles Barrett, Interim Chair of the SJNORC re a Covenant between East Central Ontario Regional Council and the Social Justice Network of the Ontario Regional Councils (SJNOR) (*for action under 4f – See appendix A*)
- d) August 21, 2019 Patricia Teskey, Regional Council Representative, Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay, ON re concerns expressed about Indigenous Smudging inside the church causing breathing difficulties (*for information*)

Business arising:

Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place

I. Covenanting Support Team

- a) Team progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives, Jean Wilson, Steve Coles – Team has not met yet.
- b) Items from Liaison Forum (Pastoral Relations)
Prince Edward South (Prince Edward County)

- i **2019-08-28-172 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the ministers good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the re-appointment of retired supply Rev. Phil Hobbs to Prince Edward South Pastoral Charge, Prince Edward County, Ontario for part time (20 hours/week) ministry from July 1st 2019 to June 30th 2020. **Carried**

This appointment as a one of two appointments held by the Rev. Hobbs is conditional upon the creation of a Joint M&P committee with the Picton United Church Also served by the Rev. Hobbs.

Little Britten (West of Lindsay off Highway 7)

- ii **2019-08-28-173 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the designated lay minister's good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the re-appointment of Denise Boyd Designated Lay Minister to the Little Britain Pastoral charge, Ontario for part time (24 hours/week) ministry from Aug 1st 2019 to July 31st 2020. **Carried**

2019-08-28-158 MOTION TO AMEND (S. Spicer/ S. Coles) to amend to date of June 30th 2020. **Carried**

Bloomfield (Prince Edward County)

- iii **2019-08-28-174 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the ministers good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the re-appointment of retired supply Rev. Aruna Alexander to Bloomfield United Church, Prince Edward County, Ontario for part time (30 hours/week) ministry from Sept 1st 2019 to Oct 31st 2019. **Carried**
- iv **2019-08-28-175 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the ministers good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Call of Rev. Cathy (Russell) Duggan to Bloomfield United Church, Prince Edward County, Ontario for part time (30 hours/week) ministry from Nov. 1st 2019. **Carried**

Cataraqui United Church. (Kingston)

- v **2019-08-28-176 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the ministers good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointment of retired supply Rev. Moira Anne MacDermaid to Cataraqui United Church, Kingston, Ontario for part time (20 hours/week) ministry from Sept 1st 2019 to Dec. 31st 2019. **Carried**

Dumbarton-Fairport, (Supply appointment search is ongoing)

- vi **2019-08-28-177 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the ministers good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointment of Rev. Carol Gillard to the Dunbarton Fairport Pastoral Charge, Ontario for full time ministry from Sept 1st 2019 to Feb 28th 2020. **Carried**

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church, Kingston

- vii **2019-08-28-178 MOTION** (J. Wilson/S. Coles) That having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the Candidate for Ministry's good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointment of student supply Elizabeth Amirault to Edith Rankin Memorial United Church, Kingston, Ontario for part time (10 hours/week) student supply ministry from Sept 1st 2019 to June 30th 2020. *For this appointment, Supervision of Elizabeth's work for this position falls under the accountability of the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board and not Edith Rankin UC.* **Carried** (Ryan McNally abstains)
- c) Items from LLWL Forum – currently identifying individuals who want to be a part of this Forum, and will set meeting in the fall. First up in the work of this Forum will be to look at one going rate for pulpit supply, and the licensing and relicensing of LLWLs.

-
- d) Items from Retirees' Forum – currently identifying individuals who want to be a part of this Forum, and will set meeting in the fall. First up in the work of this Forum will be to planning of gatherings.

II. Mission through Property and Finance:

- a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives – Ted Meyers
b) Policy Regarding Proceeds from Sales of Manses (see appendix B)

2019-08-28-179 MOTION (T. Meyers/J. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the “Manse Funds Policy”, with adding to the background information, that the Regional Council will respect existing arrangements made with Presbyteries that are supported by motions, and that permission to use funds (through existing agreements) must be addressed to the Regional Council Assembly of Elders and not to Presbyteries or Conference. **Carried**

- c) Items from Communities of Faith

i Goodwood United Church Manse:

2019-08-28-180 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of the Goodwood United Church Manse property located at 5 Tindall Lane. Lot #. Concession 3 South part lot 16, Postal Code L0C 1A0, subject to the COF following the Manse Fund Policy guidelines. Asking price is \$619,000.

The proceeds from the sale of the Manse will be as follows:

- \$7,000 for repairs for the church, either already done, or proposed.
- \$12,000 owed to Epsom Utica Church
- \$7,000 for repairs to the Manse to prepare for the sale
- \$10,000 for the study and preparations to make the church accessible. **Carried**

ii Princess Street United Church:

2019-08-28-181 MOTION (T. Meyers/R. McNally) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of the Princess Street United Church, for the sale price of \$600,000.00, located at 484 Albert Street and the Manse at 620 Princess Street in Kingston, Ontario – Property includes: Lot 651 and 652, Plan A-12; Part lot 3, Plan B-14, as in FR11368 and CK60737; and Lot 650, Plan A-12 except Part 5, 13R-584, City of Kingston, County of Frontenac to Kingston Home Based Housing Inc., and further approve that the asset / 1st Mortgage vendor take back, be held by the Regional Council with funds to be distributed to Princess Street United Church Community of Faith on a semi-annual basis based on a Ministry Plan from the Community of Faith and forward to the Regional Council for their approval. **Defeated**

2019-08-28-182 MOTION (J. Wilson/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders refers the issue back to the Mission and Property Leadership Team for further the work. **Carried**

iii Fairview United Church

2019-08-28-183 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of the Fairview United Church, Fairview, Ontario (PTE 1/2 LT 18 Con. 4 Smith PT 145R1469 Selwyn, and the municipal address which is 724 Centre Line, Selwyn Twp. K9J 6X5) for \$395,000. This sale is conditional upon

receipt of a detailed list of the use of funds of the sale of the church, following approved current Regional Council guidelines, and the money will be held in trust by the Regional Council until such is received. **Carried**

Background - And given the new rules of the UCC Manual 2019:

UCC Manual 2019 Appendix 3.4.2 Decisions by E-mail (extracts pertaining to the R.Council)

At the discretion of the chair, decisions may be made between meetings by e-mail voting in circumstances the chair considers to be exceptional. E-mail voting may be conducted only if every member of the voting body has already provided the voting body with an e-mail address that ensures confidentiality. At the direction of the chair, the secretary circulates a proposed decision and initiates a vote by e-mail on it.

The email must contain a) the proposed decision and sufficient background to inform the other members of the voting body; and b) a specified time for replying to the e-mail, allowing for at least 48 hours from the time that the e-mail is circulated. The e-mail must be circulated to all members of the voting body, with all members' e-mail addresses visible. Members may ask questions of clarification and offer comments by e-mail, ensuring they are visible to all members. Members must vote by e-mail, ensuring their vote is visible to all members. Members must vote in the affirmative or negative without any conditions. A member may object to making this decision by e-mail, and if any two members so object, a meeting must be held in one of the other ways set out in the bylaws. Members may vote before the deadline, and may change their votes up until that time. If the number of votes cast is less than the minimum number of members required to be present for a meeting, the decision is not approved.

Following the deadline, the secretary must inform all members of the voting body of the voting results by e-mail. The secretary must include the proposed decision and the outcome of the vote in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the voting body.

2019-08-28-184 AMENDED MOTION: (T. Meyers/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of the Fairview United Church, Fairview, Ontario, being part Lot18 Concession 4, part 1 RP 45R1469 Geographic Township of Smith now in the Township of Selwyn, ON municipally known as 724 Centre Line, Selwyn, ON K9J 6X5. Property Identifier Number 15-16-020-003-39400 for \$395,000.

The East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders grants approval that the Trustees invest the proceeds, net of the selling costs, in secure investments. The income generated by Investments to be used for operations of the community of faith. The principal may be used only on the approval of the Assembly of Elders of the East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada.

Furthermore that the following points be part of the agreement that is signed for the sale:

1. The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council;
2. The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Fairview United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada;
3. The said community of faith and pastoral charge are subject to the oversight of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council.

Carried

- d) Mission Support Grants (process and deadlines for 2020 grants) – deadline is September 15th
- e) Additional work of the team
- i. **MOTION** (T. Meyers/D. Webster) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the suggestion of adding a budget line for travel expenses to pastoral care in emergent circumstances in the 2020 budget.

2019-06-26-136 MOTION (R. McNally/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders postpone definitely the above motion to the September 2019 meeting. **Carried**

2019-08-28-185 MOTION (T. Meyers/D. Webster) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the suggestion of adding a budget line for travel expenses to pastoral care in emergent circumstances in the 2020 budget. **Carried**

- ii. Technology Support Grant: St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, Ontario
2019-08-28-186 MOTION (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Technology Support Grant request from St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, Ontario for \$900.00 and will forward this request to the national office. **Carried**
- iii. Criteria for Student Bursary (to do as per **2019-06-26-152 MOTION**)

III. Governance:

- a) Feedback from RC meeting re: Governance Document (*Appendix A from June 26th 2019 Minutes*)
2019-08-28-187 MOTION (J. Wilson/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders refer feedback from discussion groups back to Leadership Teams to revise their mandates. **Carried**

CONSENSUS - Jean and colleagues will revise the Living Mission statement using the feedback from the discussion groups and present back to the Assembly of Elders.

Discussion ensued about who would form the writing-team for the remaining items in the Governance Handbook, no decision was made.

Facilitation Team (along with local arrangements) – Paul, Jean, Marilyn, David have agreed to head up the facilitation team.

It was noted that the following people expressed interest in the survey for being part of the planning the next meeting: Ian Deslauriers, ideslauriers@sympatico.ca, Deborah Elliott, ddelliottgibson@gmail.com, Nancy Sutherland f.n.sutherland@sympatico.ca

- b) Recommendations for Governance Handbook using feedback received during the IGM: Steve and Ryan – Steve will recompile the entirety of the feedback so that it relates to each of the Leadership Team, Structures and Policies within the Governance Handbook and circulate to the Assembly of Elders.

-
- c) Mission Priorities (feedback from IGM) – Rosemary will bring feedback to facilitation team.

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
--

IV. Formation Nurture and Justice

- a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives – have not met yet.
- b) Report from Supporting Staff Members,
Sharon Hull attended Indigenous Day event in Pickering, ON, Social Justice Network of Ontario event in Toronto, ON, the Skylight Festival at Five Oaks, the Camp Quin-Mo Lac year-end banquet. Considerations are underway for a Youth Executive and a Young Adult Executive. Vacation Bible School's event went really well and produced positive feedback. Upcoming event are: Cambridge Street Youth Retreat at the beginning of October, Niagara Youth Festival at the end of October, Fall-Gathering (hope for youth representation at this meeting), and the UCW retreat next week at Quin-Mo Lac.

Rodney Smith-Merkley The National Indigenous Spiritual gathering was held at YMCA Geneva Park, Orillia, ON, where consensus was reached on creating an indigenous Regional Council. Executive Minister Maggie Dieter will be stepping down from Indigenous Ministries. There was a very successful event with teachings on water at Curve Lake with Dorothy Taylor on the powwow grounds. It was suggested that Mohawk Chief Don Maracle be approached to acknowledge the land at the upcoming Reginal Gathering in Belleville, ON. Upcoming Events: Faith United and the Kingston Church Council meeting to discuss a partnership that they have had with an indigenous group about land transfer; Curve Lake Powwow, September 21st and 22nd. Rodney has been designated as the United Church representative to the Heiltsuk Nation Big House opening on thanksgiving weekend on October (for ceremonies, specifically the potlatch ceremony) in Bella Bella, BC.

- c) Mission Priority Grants:
- I. **2019-08-28-188 MOTION** (D. Webster/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the subcommittee for the Doing Mission Together grant to Greenwood United Church, Peterborough (Bedford House) for \$4494.00. **Carried**
 - II. MOTION (/) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the subcommittee for the Doing Mission Together grant to not fund the application from Thomasburg United Church, Thomasburg (Homeward Bound) but to refer them to grants for transformation or congregational mission.
 - III. MOTION (/) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the subcommittee for the Doing Mission Together grant to not fund the application from Trinity United Church, Roslin (Homeward Bound) but to refer them to grants for transformation or congregational mission.

2019-08-28-189 MOTION (J. Wilson/ D. Webster) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders postpone definitely the two motions directly above until there is a budget conversation. **Carried**

d) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNOR) Covenant (see appendix A) – to be placed on the agenda of the regional gathering in the fall.

2019-08-28-190 MOTION (S. Coles/J. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders support the covenant with Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNOR) and refer it and the search for representatives to the Regional Council gathering in the fall. **Carried**

Building Communications

V. Fall Meeting Planning

- (1) Local Arrangements
- (2) Facilitation Team
- (3) Preparations

A one day fall Regional Council gathering at which the Assembly of Elders will provide:

- a mission strategy in response to the directions of the Regional Council
- revised practice and policy Governance Handbook,
- Clarify or create Regional Team mandates,
- An operational budget and forecast.

VI. Equity Monitor Report – D'Thea Webster. Two issues that happened often during today's meeting: People speaking without being recognised by the Chair, and people speaking without identifying themselves prior to speaking. It was offered that movers and seconders clearly be identified (this is particularly necessary for those attending the meeting who are sight-challenged).

New Business:

Opening worship for next meeting: Sharon Hull

Closing Prayer: David Timpson

Next Meeting Dates:

- Friday, October 4_9:30-3:30, Eastminster UC, Belleville
- Friday, November 1_9:00 – 12:00, ZOOM
- Saturday, November 9_RC gathering, Eastminster UC, Belleville

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Paul Reed
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

Appendix A	Covenant of the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada	Pages 170-172
Appendix B	Draft Policy Regarding Manse Funds	Pages 173-174

Appendix A

COVENANT
of the
SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK of ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCILS
of The United Church of Canada

(formerly the Coordinating Committee of Ontario Conferences – CCOC
& the Social Justice Network of Ontario Conferences - SJNOC)

I. COVENANT MEMBERS

Those represented within the Covenant:

- Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada located within Ontario

Corresponding members:

- staff from the Church in Mission Unit of the General Council Office

II. PURPOSE

Regional Councils of The United Church of Canada, whose boundaries lie within the Province of Ontario, hereby covenant together to form the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNOR):

- to collaborate and provide a collective presence of The United Church of Canada concerning socio-economic issues and concerns which impact Ontarians.

III. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Member courts will fulfill this covenant by:

- Appointing 2 representatives and 1 regional staff person
- Making a financial contribution based upon an annual assessment

APPENDIX A

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONS NETWORK OPERATIONS

A. THE SJNOR WILL:

Examine the social justice issues that exist in the Province of Ontario with reference to their implications for the United Church of Canada, its people and the wider community;

Prayerfully discern what actions to take towards deeper understanding, redress of injustices and just alternatives;

Seek to work with government or non-governmental organizations to develop action plans and make recommendations for just, healthy, environmentally nurturing solutions.

B. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Convenorship for the SJNOR will be vested in co-chairs who will serve two-year terms. Co-chairs should have their respective terms staggered to ensure continuity. Any co chair can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The SJNOR will meet a minimum of twice yearly. Meetings may be conducted by means of video conference.

Agendas will usually include time for sharing of member court social justice activity and reports from coalitions and task group representatives related to the SJNOR.

Policy decisions rest within the member courts of the church. Representatives to the SJNOR will be communication links with those courts.

Strategizing and decision-making within the SJNOR

(i.e. formulation and implementation of church policies and SJNOR's actions) will be by consensus with an understanding that consensus will not necessarily mean complete agreement but insufficient disagreement to block the decision.

Tasks (such as recording, duplication, distribution, agenda preparation, meeting arrangements, research, analyses, resource development and collection, supervision support) will be undertaken by SJNOR members on a shared basis.

Decision-making between meetings will be undertaken by consulting all member courts' representatives for feedback. Any action will take into account this consultation.

Any member court is free to act unilaterally but should take into account the potential effects upon other member courts. Unilateral action will not imply action on behalf of others.

An orientation to the SJNOR's history, covenant, operating procedures and current activities will be provided for new representatives.

Collection, disbursement, recording and reporting services for operating funds will be provided by the General Council's Mission Through Finance Unit.

C. COLLECTIVE ACTION

The SJNOR will take joint social justice action: This could be accomplished in any of the following ways:

- a) the member courts may endorse and support one regional council in taking a particular initiative;
- b) the member courts may agree on more than one regional council on a joint study or action of vital interest; or
- c) the members may agree to work and speak together, through the SJNOR.

The SJNOR may consider the initiative of one member court but decide not to endorse or support the effort leaving that member court free to take its own action.

The SJNOR will provide leadership representatives on behalf of The United Church of Canada in Ontario for occasions related to SJNOR's social justice agenda.

The SJNOR will designate representation to ecumenical social justice coalitions and task groups functioning within the province of Ontario, such as the Inter-Faith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) or KAIROS. Arrangements for support such as orientation, expenses, supervision, accountability and communication mechanisms with the SJNOR, etc. will be undertaken.

D. COMMUNICATION

The SJNOR will facilitate the sharing of The United Church of Canada's social justice policy.

The SJNOR will provide an annual report to each member court. These reports are to contain actions taken, future agenda items and financial operations.

E. MEMBER COURT CONTRIBUTIONS

Each member court will appoint two representatives to the SJNOR. Each member court will clarify the terms of that appointment. In addition, it is hoped that there would be a staff person from the member court.

Each member court will make an annual financial contribution to the SJNOC.

Through their representative(s), member courts will share information, analyses and strategies related to their social justice issues, concerns and activities.

Member courts will assume primary responsibility for SJNOR tasks within their resource capacity on a rotating basis.

APPENDIX B

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCILS

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER COURT REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives will contribute their unique gifts to the work of the SJNOR as a proactive participant.

Representatives will act as an essential communication link between their member court and the other member courts by means of:

- a) attendance at SJNOR meetings
- b) regular reports at SJNOR meetings
- c) reports to the SJNOR between meetings of relevant concerns and actions
- d) regular SJNOR reports to their member court including an SJNOR annual report.

Representatives will relay their member court's social justice concerns to the SJNOR's agenda.

Outgoing representatives will brief their successors of the SJNOR's covenant, communication needs with the member court, and the member court's responsibilities.

Appendix B

DRAFT POLICY REGARDING MANSE FUNDS
East Central Ontario Regional Council

POLICY NAME: Policy regarding Manse Funds	<i>Date Approved: August 28, 2019</i>
	<i>Review date:</i>
Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify expectations of Communities of Faith regarding Funds created from the sale of Manses. The Manual C.2.6.	

Preamble

This document outlines the East Central Ontario Regional Council's policy and best practices regarding creation of funds from proceeds of the sale of manses.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

All property of communities of faith are held in trust for the United Church of Canada by the trustees. This includes land, buildings, funds and investments and any other kind of property. The Trustees must comply with the United Church of Canada's requirements for Boards of Trustees in matters related to communities of faith property. A manse is such a property, but the Regional Council is responsible for making decisions on requests from communities of faith relating to the purchase or sale of a manse and for the use of proceeds arising from the sale of a manse property.

The Regional Council will be respect existing arrangements supported by motion. Permission to use funds must be addressed to the Regional Council Assembly of Elders.

USE OF MANSE FUNDS

1. Manse Capital Funds and Use of Income. The capital of manse funds shall be invested by the Board of Trustees and the income from investment may be used by communities of faith to fund ministerial compensation. The ECORC Mission Through Property & Finance Team will be able to approve a onetime use of income from manse funds to a maximum of \$25,000 provided all other criteria within this policy are met. Requests over \$25,000 will go to the Regional Council for discussion and consideration. If a community of faith returns with a second request for use of income, this will come to the Regional Council for consideration.
2. Other Permitted Uses of Excess Manse Capital Funds & Regional Council Mandated \$150,000 Manse Reserve Fund The Regional Council will allow greater flexibility with respect to usage of manse capital, subject to the approval of the ECORC Mission Through Property & Finance Team, some or all of the manse capital funds held by the Trustees that are in excess of the mandated \$150,000 manse reserve fund, may be used for the following purposes:
 - a. To fund the purchase of ministerial housing,
 - b. For a mortgage for ministerial housing,
 - c. Bridge financing to facilitate the sale of church property, if needed during an amalgamation,
 - d. Capital renovation projects within the community of faith's property, and
 - e. Other major capital projects that may be needed by a community of faith.

Caution: If any capital funds are expended for the purposes as noted in Items a) to e) above, the income from that capital will no longer be available to offset ministerial compensation and the income must then be derived from other sources.

3. Minimum Manse Fund Reserve, \$150,000 The minimum value of the unencumbered manse fund reserve to be held by the Board of Trustees shall not be less than \$150,000 or the net proceeds from the sale of the manse. Where manse fund capital values are currently less than \$150,000, this change in policy will have no effect.

4. Uses of the Mandated \$150,000 Manse Fund Reserve The manse reserve fund shall be retained by the Board of Trustees for potential use, with prior Regional Council approval, for ministerial compensation where a community of faith is not able to fulfill its financial obligations to a minister or for other uses related to the closing/ disbandment of a community of faith, as approved by the Regional Council.