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**INAUGURAL MEETING**  
**Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019**

The East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Inaugural General Meeting's business sessions at Cambridge Street United Church in Lindsay, Ontario, on Friday and Saturday (May 31 – June 1), and also held its Celebration of Ministry Service at Cambridge Street United Church on Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for this meeting was "Covenant", which highlights the new relationship and agreement between The United Church of Canada and the Regional Council.

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**

**Ministry (111)**

Stephen Ambury, Mark Arnill, Sharon Ballantyne, Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson, Mary-Margaret Boone, Alan Boyd, Michelle Brotherton, Audrey Brown, Donovan Brown, John H. Brown, Nancy Clarke, Peter Dahlin, Steven Davis, Kevin Derry, Craig Donnelly, Jeff Doucette, Lawrence Doyle, Deborah Elliott, Judith Evenden, Kimberley Falls, Sandra Farrow, James Feairs, Mark Fearnall, Deb Foster, Bruce Fraser, William Rolf Fritz, Susan Genge, Caroline Giesbrecht, Margaret Goodwin, Anne Gowans-Blinn, Cathy Gradante, Donald Green, Katy Gregory, Joan Hacock, Elaine Hall, Richard Hamilton, Frank Hamper, Jacqueline Harper, Svinda Heinrichs, Leslie Hills, Phil Hobbs, Mary-Jane Hobden, Lynda Hodgins, Michelle Hofman, Thomas Holmes, Lyle Horn, Nan Hudson, Cordelia Karpenko, Elaine Kellogg, Bonnie Kelly, David King, Leslie King, Meggin King, Robert LePage, Nancy Lester, Kenneth Lewis, Michael Locke, Norman Long, Elizabeth Macdonald, Joanna MacQuarrie, Rick Magie, Robert Matheson, Don McLean, David McMaster, Ryan McNally, Anne Meredith, Jeannette Millar, Tim Milley, David Moore, Harold Morgan., Isaac Mundy, Richard Parker, Michael Putnam, Joe Ramsay, Paul Reed, Ceri Rees, Allan Reeve, Robert Root, Cathy Russell (Duggan), Dave Shepherd, Christine Sloan, Karen Smart, N. Lynn Smith, Steven Spicer, Calvin Stone, Wanda Stride, M. Robin Thomson, Brenda Timpson, Donaldson Uhryniw, Julie Van Haaften, Mary Anne VanHeuvelen, Dorinda Vollmer, Warren Vollmer, Kathleen Walton, Max Ward, Lynn Watson, D'thea Webster, Edward Wells, Christopher White, Audrey Whitney, Barbara Willard, Donald Willmer, Jean Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Phil Wilson, Jamie York, John H. Young, Daniel Yourkevich, Marilyn Zehr.

**Lay (110)**

Kevin Adams, Margaret Akey, Elizabeth Amirault, Ann Austin Cardwell, Shirley Baster, Karen Bates, Helen Bickle, Donna Bignell, Paul Binkley, Linda Bishop, Denise Boyd, Phill Boyko, Freda Burns, Robert Campbell, Douglas Carter, Elaine Casselman, Edward Caton, Barbara Chynoweth, Stephen Coles, Judi Corbett, Dawn Cox, Garry Cubitt, Victoria Cubitt, Margaret Curtis, Ian Deslauriers, Wendy Deslauriers, Bud Dunlop, Matthew Dunn, Sharon Eagleson, Derek Elion, Deborah Elliott, Phyllis Elvidge-Bell, Helmut Enns, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Katherine Fleming, Marilyn Fortin, Glenn Genge, Donald Gibson, Sharon Goulding, Sharon Green, Darlene Hallett, Carman Hamilton, Janice Hannon, Grant Hedges, Donna Henderson, Tina Hiddink, Susan Hogan, Tim Holland, Carolyn Holmes, David Holmes, Kerri Jebson, Debra Jeffrey, Carol Johnson, John Johnson, Emily Jones, Teresa Jordan, Paul Kneebone, Gale Lavender, Kim Lawrance, Robert Legge, Colin Leonard, Daniel MacDonald, Muriel, Joan Macklin, Derek Marsellus, Dianne McCracken, Cheryl McMurray, Ted Meyers, Lyn Miller, David Milton, Heather Morton, Cheryl Mound, Marie Northey, Shirley Penny, Rod Pentz, Elizabeth Pereman, Susan Pleasance, Roberta Plunkett, Amy Porter, Elaner Pound, John Purdon, James Richard Rainey, Eugene Refausse Norman Rice, Stephanie Richmond, Ian Robb, Linda Robb, Marilyn Rodger, Karen Rynard, Frances Sancroft Shirley Sedore, William Sheaves, Thomas Smart, Arthur Smith, Terrence Souch, Grace Stanley, Douglas Stevenson, J. Floyd Sutherland, Wendy Sweeney, Leigh Tamlin, Shirley Taylor, Patricia Teskey, Darlene Thompson, Samantha Varty, Linda Walt, Nancy Weigand, Richard Weigand, Ralph Werry, Ruth Wood, Sheila-Mae Young.

**Candidate (5)**

Daniel Reed, Megan Jones, Pamela Holmes, Rev. Bradley Ford and Sarah Magie

**Regional Council Staff (8)**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Joel Miller, Rev. David Timpson (*voting clergy*), Karen Valley, Sharon Hull, Gordon Wood, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley (*voting clergy*), Joe McGill

**Guests of the Regional Council (62)**

Judy Amsbury, Morgan Bell, Katja Brittain, Leah Clancy, Garry Culverson, Penny Culverson, Holly Desroches, Janet Enns, Yessenia Escobar Collins, Ronald Ewart, Cathy Fleming, Yvonne Gibson, Susan Graham Walker, Christine Henry, Monika Holzschuh, Brian James, Patti James, Alexander Jebson, Judy Jeffrey, Shannon Marsellus, Ann Matheson, Patricia Morton, Maureen O'Neill, Kaitlyn Ostrander, Elizabeth Pancer, James Patterson, Nancy Payne, Kerrie Perry, Brenda Lynn Rennie, Jan Rutherford, Charlene Shepherd, Debbie Sherwin, Gabrielle Simpson, Anne Smith, Margaret Anne Stevenson, Nancy Sutherland, Heidi Tawse, Tammy Timlin, Joanne Traczuk, Michelle Voss Roberts, Pauline White, Kathleen Whyte, Timothy Wisnicki, Emily Austin-Ward, Stephon Farrow, Isaac Finlay, Lauren Graham, Amanda Marsellus, Amy McClelland, Laura McClelland, Olivia McClelland, Evan McNally, Nadia Naseri, Susie Noorlander, Jonathon Reed, Audrey Steele, Rachel Vollmer, Sarah Vollmer.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

**Registration and 'Coffee Hour' Community time at the Arena (9:30)****Gathering Music (10:15)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: "Each Blade of Grass" (MV 37), "And on This Path" (MV 8), "O Let the Power" (MV 13), "Un Pueblo", "Your Love is Amazing" (MV 26), "10000 Reasons" (Words and Music by Brenton Brown, Brian Doerksen), "She Comes Sailing" (MV 380), "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" (MV 212), "Spirit God" (MV 150), "As Long as We Follow" (MV 140), "Come All You People" (MV 2).

**Meeting begins by Acknowledging First Nations territory (10:30)**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Regional Council Staff member and Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, introduced Lorenzo Wheaton (Counselor at Curve Lake First Nation) who provided some historical background of the land and offered up an opening prayer to the Creator.

**Welcome from Cambridge Street United Church (11:00)**

Rev. Craig Donnelly, Minister at Cambridge Street United Church welcomed delegates attending the Regional Council Inaugural Meeting.

**Call to Order**

Rev. Jean Wilson, Speaker of the Assembly of Elders of the Regional Council, called the meeting to order "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council Meeting of the United Church of Canada, I hereby declare this inaugural meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it."

**Welcome, Information and Introductions**

Rev. Jean Wilson introduced the representatives to this meeting from the General Council Office: Rev. Dr. John H. Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership, Susan Graham Walker, Philanthropy Unit, and Karen Valley, Minister for the Office of Vocation, Quebec and East Ontario. Jean acknowledged the following people for their contribution to the planning of this Inaugural Meeting: Chair of planning committee, Rev. Paul Reed; Chair of Nominations and Plenary Worship Coordinator Rev. Wanda Stride and students; Recording Secretary Joel Miller; Display Coordination, Carol Johnson, Registrar, Gordon Wood; the Book Room, Cambridge Street

United Church Local arrangements Team, and Equity Monitor Phil Wilson.

**Enabling Motions** (Report Book, pgs. 11-12)

**2019-05-31-124 MOTION** (P. Reed/B. James) that the enabling motions printed and circulated in the Report Book be adopted. **Carried**

**Corrections:** Item 3; Corresponding members should include “staff”; where it says *Admission* it should read “Readmission”, Item 11; Courtesy Leadership Team is headed by Steve Coles.

**Scrutineer/Stewards**

**2019-05-31-125 MOTION** (S. Coles/ M. Ward) that the following people serve as Scrutineers/Stewards:

Rev. Max Ward, Stephen Coles, Thomas Smart, Stephanie Richmond, Daniel. MacDonald, Darlene Hallett, Alan Boyd, William (Bill) Sheaves. **Carried**

**Agenda**

**2019-05-31-126 MOTION** (W. Vollmer/ D. King) that the agenda as circulated be adopted. **Carried**

**Covenanting with Communities of Faith, Covenanting as a new Regional Council (11:15)**

With the help of the worship team, the service began with a Call to Worship and an Opening Prayer, which incorporated the singing of hymn “Long Before the Night (This Ancient Love)” (VU 282). Rev. Rosemary Lambie (Executive Minister) and Rev. Jean Wilson (Speaker of the Assembly of Elders) led the Covenanting with Communities of Faith, and Covenanting as a new Regional Council in the form of a Call and Response. The covenanting service ended with a Closing Blessing offered by the Executive Minister and the singing of hymn “You Shall Go out with Joy” (VU 884).

**Opening Worship, Offering Water from Home Communities and Holy Communion (11:25)**

With the help of the worship team, the Opening Worship and Holy Communion Service began with the reading of Romans 5: 1-5; the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, and the singing of hymn “Will Your Anchor Hold?” (VU 675). This was followed by Scripture reading Genesis 9:8-15, Psalm 107 (VU 831) – accompanied by the singing of the refrain – and 1 Corinthians 12:12-3. Afterwards, all were invited to bring a Water Offering (collected from home Communities) and add it to a vessel at the front of the Sanctuary. This was followed by special guest Rev. Kimberly Heath preaching a sermon, and a time for silent reflection on the word. Holy Communion began with the Invitation to Christ’s Table, which was followed by the Prayer Great of Thanksgiving (Sursum Corda), the Preface, the signing of hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” (MV 203), the Institution Narrative, the Anamnesis, the singing of hymn “Memorial Acclamation” (MV 204), the Epiclesis, The Lord’s Prayer, the Doxology, and the singing of hymn “Great Amen” (MV 205). Communion was served by intinction, and during communion the following Communion refrains were sung: “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” (VU 478), “One Bread, One Body” (VU 467), “Eat this Bread” (VU 466). This was followed by the Prayer after Communion, the singing of hymn “Come touch our hearts” (MV 12) and the Commissioning.

**Grace before Lunch**

Rev. Wanda Stride led the Grace before Lunch.

**Announcements before Lunch**

Steve Coles gave the following announcements:

- How lunch would be served in two sitting to accommodate large number
- That there was a Clusters and Networks Fair that would be run immediately following lunch until 3:00 pm

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**LUNCH (12:30)****Gathering Music (15:15)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: “Your Love is Amazing” (MV 26), “The Shifting and the Changing” (Words: Wendy Maclean; Music: Chris Murphy), “Come Touch Our Hearts” (MV 12), “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (VU 559)”, “My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)” (MV 120).

**Executive Minister’s Annual Story (15:30)**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, presented a PowerPoint, outlining the life of an Executive Minister. A full reporting can be found in the Report Book (**appendix A**) under Staff Reports, beginning on page 42.

**Report of Commission and Assembly of Elders**

Jean Wilson, Speaker, explained that all of the founding Presbyteries had representation on the Commission (all of which who were eventually appointed by the General Council along with Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister): Four Winds Presbytery nominated Elisabeth MacDonald, Kente Presbytery nominated Rev. Ryan McNally, Hills and Shores Presbytery nominated Jean Wilson, Lakeridge Presbytery nominated Steve Coles, Kawartha Highlands Presbytery nominated Rev. Paul Reed, Shining Waters Presbytery nominated Svinda Heinrich (and afterwards Brian James); Living Waters Presbytery (formally part of Toronto Conference) nominated Ted Meyers, Carol Johnson and Shirley Baster. Rev. Wanda Stride was nominated as Past-President of Bay of Quinte Conference. Rev. Steve Spicer was invited to be the Recording Secretary of the Commission and stayed on as a member when in January 2019 Joel Miller joined as Recording Secretary. A summary of actions taken by the Commission can be found in the Report Book (**appendix A**) on pages 26-28 , and a summary of actions taken by the Assembly of Elders can be found in the Report Book (**appendix A**) on pages 28-41.

**Introduction to 3 Phase process incorporated at General Council 42**

Rev. Larry Doyle explained the business process used during the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council (2018). This is a three-phase process, of *Listening* (presentation of the proposal, questions, and answers to clarify issues and implications), *Discussion* (exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments, and pros and cons; suggestions for refining proposal, affirmations, naming principles/parameters), and *Decision* (final debate and refinement of proposal in plenary; working toward consensus, voting).

**Introduction of Governance Document**

Rev. Jean Wilson and Rev. Ryan McNally introduced the Governance Handbook (**appendix B**) and emphasized that the meeting had now entered into the *Listening Phase*. Members of the Assembly of Elders were invited to stand at the front and delegates were invited to ask their questions from the floor.

**Music Break (5 min)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: “Do We Dare” (Words and Music by Rev. Wanda Stride).

**Office of Vocations (17:00)**

Karen Valley, Office of Vocation Minister, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining her role as Office of Vocation Minister with the Regional Council, and highlighted the role of the Office of Vocation across the United Church of Canada. Her presentation included key themes: Referencing the Manuel, Section E, and outlining responsibilities (i.e. oversight and discipline of Ministry Personnel, supporting Regional Councils, maintaining lists of Conflict Resolution Facilitators, Interim Ministers and Ministry of Supervision, Board of Vocations, Candidacy Boards).

**Introduction of Candidates (17:30)**

Karen Valley and Rev. David Timpson introduced the names of candidates to be celebrated during the

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Celebration of Ministry Service, at Cambridge Street United Church, on June 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.:

1. Daniel Reed, Candidate for Ordination
2. Megan Jones, Candidate for Ordination
3. Pamela Holmes, Candidate for Ordination
4. Rev. Bradley Ford, Readmission
5. Sarah Magie, Candidate for Ordination

### **Announcements before Supper**

Rev. Paul Reed gave the following announcements:

- Various locations in the area to go and have supper.
- Various locations for parking

### **Closing Prayer and Grace before Supper (18:00)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” (VU 315).

### **Retirees Banquet (19:00)**

Rev. David Timpson was master of ceremonies at the retirees’ banquet honoring Rev. Bill Smith, Rev. Ken Lewis, Rev. Deborah Elliott, and Rev. Mary Margaret Boone. Throughout the supper, each of the retirees were invited to speak, and afterwards were presented with gifts.

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**

### **Prayers for the Water Ceremony (7:00)**

The Prayers for the Waters Ceremony was held at Queen Street Waterside with leadership from Dorothy Taylor at McDonnell Park West (17 Lindsay St. N) - near Celebrations (former Queen St. UC).

### **Gathering Music (8:45)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” (MV 30), “And on this Path” (MV 8), “Spirit God” (MV 150), “O Let the Power” (MV 13), “My Soul Cries Out *Canticle of Turning*” (MV 120), “Do We Dare” (Words and Music by Rev. Wanda Stride).

### **Anishinaabe Traditional Ceremony of Smudging (9:00)**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Regional Council Staff member and Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, introduced Dorothy Taylor (Thunderbird Woman) and her son Norman, and they led a smudging ceremony, while providing a detailed explanation of the ceremony.

### **Gathering Worship and Communion**

Opening worship began with Centering Prayer and the singing of “Veni Sancte Spiritus” (VU 208). This was followed by the Prayer of Approach, Confession and Grace and the singing of hymn “Come In, Come In and Sit Down” (VU 395). This was followed by Scripture readings Exodus 19:1-6, Ephesians 4:1-8,11-16 and John 15:1-18. Each of the readings were followed by a small reflection, and the last reading was followed by the singing of “I’ve Got the Joy of Jesus Down in My Heart!” All were invited to recite the Statement of Faith - A New Creed which was followed Prayer of the People and the Liturgy of the Table: Invitation to Peace, the singing of hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” (VU 206) and hymn “Great Amen” (MV 208). Communion was served by intinction, and during communion the following Communion refrains were sung: “Let us talents and tongues employ” (VU 468) and “Eat this Bread” (VU 466). This was followed by the Prayer after Communion, the singing of hymn “O God Our Help in Ages Past” (VU 806) and the Commissioning.

**Water Teaching (10:30)**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Regional Council Staff member and Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, reintroduced Dorothy Taylor (Thunderbird Woman) who shared knowledge about *Gchi-Nbi: Sacred Water*, and the work to restore a relationship between human communities and water. At the end of the teaching Rodney presented Dorothy with a gift on behalf of the Regional Council, and also highlighted that “The Water Walker” by Joanne Robertson about Ojibwe grandmother (nokomis), who walks to raise awareness of our need to protect our water sources for future generations, is available through the United Church Bookstore.

**2019 Budget Conversation (11:00)**

Brian James, Treasurer by way of a PowerPoint Presentation, presented the Finance Report (pages 52-57 in the Report Book; **appendix A**) and responded to question from the floor. It was announced that travel cost would be reimbursed for this meeting and that anyone wanting to make a claim needed to fill in the travel form.

**2019-05-31-127 MOTION** (B. James/R. Wood) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council accept the financial report as presented. **Carried**

**Philanthropy / Mission and Service**

Susan Graham Walker, Manager Congregational Giving & Stewardship, by way of a PowerPoint Presentation, highlighted the work of the Mission and Service, Stewardship and Philanthropy throughout the United Church of Canada. For more information visit: [https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/mission\\_service-at-a-glance.pdf](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/mission_service-at-a-glance.pdf), and <http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/>.

**Nominations Report (11:30)**

Rev. Wanda Stride, Chair of the Nominations Leadership Team by way of a PowerPoint Presentation, presented the Nominations Report (pages 49-51 in the Report Book; **appendix A**) and responded to question from the floor.

**2019-05-31-128 MOTION** (A. Brown/D. Holmes) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council move on the agenda the question to adopt the Nominations Report, to a time after the question to adopt the Governance Handbook has been asked.

The Chair ruled the above motion out of order, on the basis that the work being presented in the Nominations Report has been approved by the Commission established by General Council.

**2019-05-31-129 MOTION** (W. Stride/D. Marsellus) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the Nominations Report as printed. **Carried**

**Covenanting with Assembly of Elder & Leadership Teams**

With the help of the worship team, the Covenanting Service began with the singing of hymn “Send Me, Lord” (VU 572), Scripture Reading Matthew 28:16-20; Statement of New Ministry Together; Covenanting with the members of the following teams: Assembly of Elders, Covenant support Team, Equity Team, Formation, Nurture And Justice Team, Mission Through Property Team, Nominations team, Affirming Forum, Liaison Forum, LLWL Forum, Retirees Forum and Prayer shawl ministry. This was followed by a hymn of celebration: “And On This Path” (MV 8).

**Covenanting with Staff**

Covenanting with staff: Rev. Trisha Elliot, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, Philanthropy Unit Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, Joel Miller, Program Assistant to the Executive Minister, Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, Karen Valley, Minister for the Office of Vocation, Québec and East Ont., Gordon Wood, Minister Communications and Administration Assistant. This was followed by the presentation of prayer shawls and the singing of a hymn of celebration “Halle, Halle, Halle”.

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**Mission Priorities (12:00)**

Jean directed delegates to page 26 in the Governance Handbook (**appendix B**) and presented the 2019 Mission Priorities for the “Doing Mission Together Funding Application”.

2019 Priorities:

1. Truth and Reconciliation - Calls to Action
2. “A Place at the Table”
3. Rural Ministry
4. Children and Youth
5. Care of Creation

Jean highlighted that it is the designated priority of the Regional Council for priorities to be reaffirmed by the Annual Meeting each year. Feedback sheets were distributed (and then recollected), and delegates were given time to provide ideas for 2020 Priorities.

**Announcements (12:20)**

- How lunch would be served in two sittings to accommodate large number
- Small group discussion began at 1:45 – delegates asked to go directly to their table group

**Grace**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians invited all to sing hymn “God Bless to Us Our Bread” (MV 193)

**LUNCH (12:30)****Governance Structure part 2 Discuss – 15 discussion groups (13:45)**

The meeting had entered into phase 2 - *Discussion* (exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments, and pros and cons; suggestions for refining proposal, affirmations, naming principles/parameters). Response sheets were circulated to all of the tables groups and each group was asked to record their discussions, and indicate if they were in agreement, disagreement or undecided for each of the items in the Governance Handbook (Governance Structures, Leadership Teams and Policies). At the end of the discussion phase, response sheets were collected and a designated writing team collated the responses, to then present the results later in the evening. The comments from the table group discussions are appendix C.

**All-Purpose Break (15:15)****Gathering Music (15:25)**

Music leader Rev. Wanda Stride and musicians welcomed delegates to the opening session and encouraged all to accompany them in singing the following hymns: “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” (VU 559), “Your Love is Amazing” (MV 26), “My Soul Cries Out *Canticle of Turning*” (MV 120), “10,000 Reasons” (Words and Music by Brenton Brown, Brian Doerksen), “It’s A Song of Praise to the Maker” (MV 30).

**Orientation to the New Church Structure (15:35)**

Rev. Rosemary gave a PowerPoint presentation depicting the new boundaries of the Regional Councils within the United Church of Canada.

**Moderator’s Message**

A video was presented of the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, sending greeting to the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

**General Council Executive Report and Question Period**

Rev. Dr. John Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership gave a presentation highlighting key topics

such as: The membership of the General Council Executive, Guiding Principles and Vision, Indigenous Ministries and Justice, Faith Formation and Growing Edges, Outside Canada, Ministry & Employment, Mission & Service, Essential Agreement, and Assessment & Finance. Afterwards, delegates were invited to ask questions from the floor.

### **Report Book with all inclusions (16:00)**

Rosemary directed delegates' attention to the Report Book highlighting its contents. See **appendix A** for the Report Book.

**2019-05-31-130 MOTION** (P. Wilson/J. Evenden) that this Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the Reports as printed in the (2019) Report Book. **Carried**

### **Proposal regarding Future Meetings**

Paul Reed presented to the court a proposal regarding future meeting:

#### Preamble

The Manual (The Manual C.4.1):

“The regional council must meet at least annually.

“The annual meeting may be a meeting of the entire regional council or the executive of the regional council, as determined by the regional council.”

**2019-05-31-131 MOTION** (P. Reed/M. J. Hobden) That the East Central Regional Council Ministry Personnel and lay leadership, gather as a worshipping community for study, community building and to discern the call of God to the church and that such gatherings be physical gatherings and web-based, and further described as:

A spring Regional Council gathering at which the gathered community will receive a current assessment of the health of the Regional Council; receive and consider proposals, worship and reflect on what the Spirit is doing in the faith communities, and determine and direct to the Assembly of Elders desired outcomes and priorities. At this gathering may occur a ‘Celebration of Ministry’ including ordination, and commissioning..

A fall Regional Council gathering at which the Assembly of Elders will provide to the gathered community a mission strategy in response to the directions of the Regional Council offered at the Spring Gathering and include for consideration and approval, new and revised practice and policy, staff and Regional Team work assignments, and an operational budget and forecast. At this gathering may occur a ‘Celebration of Ministry’ including ordination, and commissioning.

Throughout the year web-based gatherings and webinars will be provided by the Regional Council Teams and Staff as required for the purpose of further education and action. **Carried**

### **Governance Document part 3 decisions (16:15)**

Rosemary reintroduced the three-phase business process used during the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council (2018), and explained that now the meeting had entered into phase 3 - *Decision* (final debate and refinement of proposal in plenary; working toward consensus, voting). The Facilitation Team, who had collected all of the response sheets that were generated during Phase 2, presented the comments of the table group discussion (**appendix C**); and the following decisions were rendered:

### **Living Mission Statement**

**2019-05-31-132 MOTION** (W. Vollmer/M. Brotherton) that this Inaugural Meeting of East Central Ontario Regional Council refer the Living Mission Statement as outlined in the Governance Handbook, and all of the comments received from the discussions groups, to the Assembly of Elders, for implementation of an action plan



that is in keeping with the objectives of the Living Mission Statement, and return with a recommendations to the fall meeting. **Carried**

### **Governance Handbook**

**2019-05-31-133 MOTION** (L. Doyle/D. King) this Inaugural Meeting of East Central Ontario Regional Council approve provisionally the polices and governance structures offered in the Governance Handbook until the rise of the fall meeting, with the understanding that all feedback from the discussion groups will be considered in the revisions of the Governance Handbook. **Carried**

**2019-05-31-134 AMENDING MOTION:** (Svinda/M. Arnell) that the Community of Faith Supervisors Practice and Policy and the Pastoral Relations Liaison Officer Practice and Policy not be provisionally approved in the motion herein above. **Carried**

### **Affirming Presentation (17:30)**

Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald, Sharon Hull presented the Interim Action Plan and the following Motions:

**2019-05-31-135 MOTION** (E. Macdonald/R. Vollmer) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council commits to the interim plan for Affirming and direct that the inaugural meeting agenda incorporate the required actions. **Carried**

**2019-05-31-136 MOTION** (E. Macdonald/S. Farrow) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council agrees to join Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble for an annual fee of \$100. **Carried**

### **Youth Presentation (17:45)**

The Youth led the court to recite A New Creed (accompanied with the use of body-prayer) and the singing of hymn "Here I am Lord" (VU 509).

### **Enabling Motions to be effective rise of Celebration of Ministry (18:05)**

**2019-05-31-137 MOTION** (S. Ambury/D. Webster) that following the rise of the Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Assembly of Elders until the next General Meeting. **Carried**

**2019-05-31-138 MOTION** (B. Root/W. Vollmer) that the meeting be adjourned following the Celebration of Ministry on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, at approximately 12:30 p.m., and that the Speaker declares this 1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded following the Celebration of Ministry. **Carried**

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

### **Celebration of Ministry (10:00)**

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Cambridge Street United Church, situated in Lindsay, Ontario, at 10:30 a.m. The Prelude was "Love Divine, All Love Excelling (setting by Joel Raney) and the Worship Band played hymns "Morning has Broken (VU 409) and "I Can Feel You Near Me God" (MV 48). This was followed by the Introit "Bonse Aba" (arr. Victor Johnson; Traditional Zambian Folk Song; Translation: All who sing with (the) spirit have a right to be called the children of God). The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary to the processional hymn "Let Us Build a House" (MV 1). The service opened with words of welcome by host Minister, Rev. Craig Donnelly; Rev. Jean Wilson led the Call to Worship, the Welcoming to the Land and the lighting of the Christ Candle, and Rev. Rosemary Lambie led the Prayer of Approach. This was followed by the signing of the anthem "God is Changing the World (J. Beckett & M. Hayes). The Scripture reading was Ephesians 4:1-16. The sermon, "To Equip the Saints for the Work of Ministry", was preached by Rev. John H. Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership. This was followed by the singing of hymn "I Called You By Your Name" (MV 161). The offering, designated for the Mission & Service Fund, was collected

while the choir, sang the offertory “He Put a New Song in My Heart” (Michael Barrett)”. After the offering was received the offering hymn was sung: “What Can I do” (MV 191). The offering prayer was given by Susan Graham Walker, Manager Congregational Giving & Stewardship, Representative of the General Council, of the United Church of Canada. The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. Jean Wilson, in prayer for members of the Order of Ministry who had died throughout the most recent church calendar year – (Charles) Earl Taft, Rev. David Gerald Lander, Rev. Doreen Van Camp, Rev. Dr. Frank Wallace Lockhart, Rev. John Alan (Jack) Morrison, Rev. Jean Lee (Vautour) Oulton, Rev. Millard Kent Schumaker (bios included in **appendix A**, Report Book pg. 22-25). The memoriam was followed by the singing of hymn “For All the Saints” (VU 705). A celebration of the ministries of those retiring was led by Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, for members of the Order of Minister who were retiring – Rev. Bill Smith, Rev. Ken Lewis, Rev. Deborah Elliott, Rev. Mary Margaret Boone. (**appendix A**, Report Book pg. 17-19) The retirees who were in attendance were asked to stand and received applause of appreciation. The Celebration concluded in Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” (VU 288).

A Celebration of New Ministries, through the Service of Ordination, was led by Rev. Jean Wilson and Rev. Rosemary Lambie, and began with the reciting of “Our Affirmation of Faith”. The candidates were presented by Karen Smart, Minister for the Office of Vocation. The taking of the vows and laying on of hands of each of the Ordinands was followed by the presentation of a certificate, a bible, a chalice and a paten. Family and friends of the Ordinands presented each of them with a stole. The Youth and Young Adults presented each of the newly ordained with a gift. The congregation responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958). The taking of the vows of the readmitted were followed by the presentation of a certificate. The Youth and Young Adults presented the readmitted candidate with a gift. The congregation responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958).

Daniel Reed	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Megan Jones	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Pamela Holmes	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Rev. Bradley Ford	Readmitted to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Sarah Magie	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada

The celebration concluded with the singing of hymn “She Comes Sailing on the Wind” (VU 958). The service of Communion (Prepared by the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, 43<sup>rd</sup> Moderator of the United Church of Canada) was led by Rev. Jean Wilson and con-celebrated Rev. Rosemary Lambie, and began with an Invitation to the Table, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Prayer “Our Father”, and the Sharing of the Elements. This was followed by the singing of hymn “Bread for the Journey” (MV 202), “Take, O Take Me as I am” (MV 85), and the anthem “Thrive” (words and music by Casting Crowns). Communion was served in the pews by the new members of the Order of Ministry and a family member. The communion service concluded with the Post Communion Prayer and the singing of hymn, “We Give Our Thanks” (MV 187). This was followed by the closing benediction, which was followed by the singing of Recessional Hymn “Let All Things Now Living” (VU 242). The new members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada and the officiants were led out of the Sanctuary during the singing of the recessional hymn. Receptions were held in various rooms throughout Cambridge Street United Church.

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Rev. Jean Wilson  
Speaker

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Rev. Rosemary Lambie  
Executive Minister

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Joel Miller  
Recording Secretary

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix A	Report Book
Appendix B	Governance Handbook
Appendix C	Table group discussions comments