
East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, January 10, 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

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| Rev. Paul Reed | Chair (departed at 10:20 a.m.) |
| Rev. Jean Wilson | Past-Chair |
| Nancy Sutherland | Member |
| Marilyn Fortin | Member |
| Rev. Phil Wilson | Member |
| Brian James | Corresponding Member - Financial Administration |
| Steve Coles | Member |
| Ted Meyers | Member (departed at 9:45 a.m.) |
| Rev. Steve Spicer | 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. David Timpson | Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister |
| Rev. Rosemary Lambie | Member, Executive Minister |
| Joel Miller | Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary |
| | |
| <u>REGRETS/ABSENT</u> | |
| Shannon Marsellus | Member |
| Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley | Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice |

Jean Wilson chaired this meeting.

Meeting called to Order at 9:02 a.m.

Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Phil Wilsons led the devotional using resource “Pray As You Can” (website) Mathew 3:13-17; shared a reflection on righteousness (right relations, humility) vs. self-righteousness. Closed morning devotional with a prayer.

Circle Time of Sharing

Appointment of Equity Monitor for this Meeting – Steve Spicer

Agenda

2020-01-10-001 MOTION: (P. Wilson/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

Minutes of December 6, 2019

2020-01-10-002 MOTION: (S. Coles/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the Minutes of December 6, 2019 as circulated. **Carried**

Minutes of December 12, 2019 sub-executive email vote:

2019-12-12-254 MOTION (J. Wilson /R. McNally) that having received the properly completed form and confirmation from the Office of Vocations of the minister's good standing, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders sub-executive approves the appointment of Rev. Phil Hobbs, Retired supply Ordained Minister, to Picton United Church, Picton Ontario, Part Time 10 Hours per Week ministry from 01/01/2020 to 06/30/2020.

Minutes of December 12, 2019:

2020-01-10-003 MOTION: (R. McNally/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the Minutes of December 12, 2019, as per 2019-12-12-254. **Carried**

Minutes of December 31, 2019 email vote:

2019-12-31-255 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders give its consent to the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Lot 53 1/2 and Part of Lot 47, Registered Plan 23 (Geographic Township of Hamilton) Township of Hamilton, County of Northumberland designated as Parts 1 and 2 on Reference Plan 39R-13822 (the real property), and the municipal address of which is 9313 Burwash Road, Hamilton Township ON K0K 1C0, pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Rural Faith United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as seller, and Christine Emily McCracken and Michael Paul McCracken, as purchaser dated the 02nd day of January 2020, and subject to Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

Sale Price - \$516,000.00

Deposit - \$5000.00

Balance due at completion - \$511,000.00

No Mortgage Back Conditions:

Buyer obtaining financing within 7 banking days from acceptance (fulfilled)

Buyer being satisfied with the well, within 7 banking days from acceptance (waived)

Approval of agreement by buyer's lawyer, within 5 banking days from acceptance

Approval of agreement by seller's lawyer, no later than 8 pm On January 2, 2020

Approval of agreement by seller's church governing board (ECORC), no later than 8 pm On January 2, 2020

Warranties — no warranties issued, buyer acknowledges the property is in "as is" condition and that plumbing repair is required. The price reduction of \$4000 from the original offer is to allowed for the cost of repairs. The church will pay for plumbing work that has been completed up to December 22, 2019.

Completion Date (closing date) — January 8, 2020

To the following disposition of the proceeds arising from the transaction:

The net proceeds of manse sale funds shall be invested by the Board of Trustees and the income from the investment used to fund ministerial compensation. The use of any manse fund principle shall be in accordance with the Eastern Ontario Regional Council Manse Funds Policy and with the approval of the Mission Through Property and Finance Leadership Team and the Assembly of Elders.

The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council;

The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Rural Faith United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Rural Faith Pastoral Charge, in trust for Rural Faith United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada;

The said congregation and pastoral charge are subject to the oversight of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council.

Minutes of December 31, 2019:

2020-01-10-004 MOTION: (T. Meyers/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the Minutes of December 31, 2019, as per 2019-12-31-255. **Carried**

Correspondence:

- a) December 19, 2019 Rev. Nancy Lester, Rural Faith United Church re changes in sale of manse (*action in Minutes of December 31, 2019*)
- b) December 20, 2019 Rev. Nancy Lester, Rural Faith United Church re changes in sale of manse (*action in Minutes of December 31, 2019*)
- c) December 23, 2019 Robin Maughan, Chair, Bailieboro-Springville Habitat Committee re plans (*for information*)
- d) December 30, 2019 Rev. Nancy Lester, Rural Faith United Church re changes in sale of manse (*action in Minutes of December 31, 2019*)
- e) December 31, 2019 Joyce Cosbey, Clerk of Session, Spring Brook United Church re acknowledging the letter (*for information 5a*)
- f) January 5, 2020 Rev. Patti Armstrong re desire to start new community of faith (*for action in 5b*)

Business arising:

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|-------------------------|
| Building Communications |
|-------------------------|

I. Communications – Louise

- a) Broadview – submission deadline extended to February 11, 2019; suggested to create a Broadview insert in the future. Broadview has asked that the Regional Council provide postal codes of each readers - (L9P) needs to be included. (K0G) is Regional Council 12 now. David Timpson has offered to help Louise with getting correct postal codes. It was noted that the cost for insert is roughly \$3000.
- b) Long-range planning for Regional Council gatherings – Get registration up soon, need to determine costs for AGM so that this information can be included in registration. Is it time to create a Facilitation Team (Freda)? There is a possibility to go to Sydenham United Church in the fall (but there is no parking). There is need for an updated comprehensive list that would provide information to potential venue options (so it is known what is required). Paul has agreed to work with Freda to update the list. Phil has agreed to participate on the facilitation team representing Equity, Jean (tech support) and Sharon (youth) have also agreed to also be members.

Rev. Terence Corkin, United Churches of Australia re ‘making church decisions’ workshops – Saturday, March 21st –

2020-01-10-005 MOTION: (S. Coles/P. Reed) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders supports the request of Rev. Terence Corkin to provide workshops and will encourage participation on March 21st. **Carried**

Discussion: The cost for the workshop is \$2000. Workshops to take place in Peterborough, Ontario.

II. Regional Council Meetings

- a) Pickering Village United Church (300 Church Street, Ajax), Friday May 22 to Sunday May 24 – Duration: Saturday and Sunday (ordination service in the afternoon).
- b) Planning team: local arrangements: space required, meals & refreshments, worship, content for agenda, recommended accommodations

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

III. Covenanting Support Team

- a) Team progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives (Jean and Steve) – Fenelon Falls supports the Regional Council's decision see *2019-12-06-246 MOTION*;

Allen Boyd working with Fenelon Falls –

2020-01-10-006 MOTION (S. Coles/ P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders agree to financially support the liaison work of Allen Boyd at Fenelon Falls, up to \$1000. **Carried**

LLWL Forum still working for Secretary for the Forum. Timeline should be good for licensing and relicensing process and allows time for recognition at fall Regional Council gathering.

Glenburnie United Church – Covenant Support Team continues to work toward mandate of *2019-11-01-226 MOTION*

Orono United Church – Covenant Support Team continues to work towards mandate of *2019-12-06-244 MOTION*

- b) Report from Supporting Staff member (David Timpson)
- c) Pastoral Relations

Ebenezer Maple Grove Pastoral Charge

2020-01-10-007 MOTION (S. Coles/S. Spicer) that upon Receipt of the properly produced form via the hub which includes the confirmation of the ministers good standing the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointment of Rev Carol Gillard, retired supply Ordained Minister, to Ebenezer Maple Grove Pastoral Charge, Courtice Ontario, full time ministry from 01/02/2020 to 06/30/2020. **Carried**

Bridge St. Church

2020-01-10-008 MOTION (S. Spicer/M. Fortin) That East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve Rev David King to chair Annual Meetings of Bridge St Church. **Carried**

2020-01-10-009 MOTION (S. Spicer/S. Coles) That East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the process of vacancies on the Governance Board be filled in accordance with the governance policies of Bridge St. Church. **Carried**

Discussion: Congregational Annual Reports to be reviewed by the Covenant Support Team

IV. Mission through Property and Finance

V. Governance

- a) Springbrook: awaiting response -
- b) A Place to be: Rev. Patti Armstrong (see Appendix A) – There is a need for more information.

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs**VI. Formation Nurture and Justice**

- a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives (Marilyn Fortin) – Team has not met since last report provided to Assembly of Elders.
- b) Report from Supporting Staff Members – Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages – will participate at Embracing the Spirit “story time” where a ministry will be shared (hosted by Edge). Perhaps this format is something the Regional Council might consider. There is ongoing Zoom meeting with YAYA; suggested that expression of interested forms be circulated for Rendezvous. Provided an insert for Broadview. So far no participants registered for Worshiplude; dates conflicts with Ontario Youth Parliament.
- c) Truth and Reconciliation Report – Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice (see Appendix B)
- d) Mission Priority Grants:
2020-01-10-010 MOTION (P. Wilson/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Doing Mission Together grant for Chalmers United Church, Kingston for ministry and vision facilitation costs of \$5,000.00. **Carried**
- e) Clusters and Network News – Can we share more information on what clusters are doing throughout the Regional Council? Sharon will invite Clusters and Networks to share information for posting on the website.
- f) Mission Awareness Trips to El Salvador and elsewhere? – Wanda has organized an information day.

VII. Additional Reports

- a) Nominations – Expression of interests forms have gone out in Communications. Warren Bulmer has resigned from the Team.
- b) Equity Report – There is an upcoming meeting planned.

Discussion: Notions of accessibility vs. adaptability.

VIII. New Business:

- a) Further conversation about what decisions the Teams should be able to make.
- b) Teams make presentations by Zoom once or twice a year to all interested members of the Regional Council.

Above items tabled definitely to the next meeting.

Opening worship for next meeting – Jean Wilson

Adjournment

2020-01-10-011 MOTION (S. Spicer) That the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. **Carried**

Closing Prayer – Phil Wilson

Equity Monitor Report – be aware of notes in Zoom; Equity Monitor can help Chair recognize hands going up; People on the phone need to be a little more aggressive if they want to be heard as they don't have the same options as those who are on the screen.

Next Meeting Dates: Friday February 7, 2020 9am – 12 ZOOM (Jean’s Birthday)
Friday March 6, 2020
Friday April 3, 2020
Friday May 8, 2020 9am-12 ZOOM
Friday May 22 – Sunday May 24 RC meeting Pickering Village UC, Ajax

Rev. Jean Wilson
Interim Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

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Appendix A

A Place To Be: A New Community Of Faith

“I wish I could show you when you are lonely or in darkness the astonishing light of your own being.” Hafiz

ASPIRATION

Create a place that fosters friendship between individuals of the LGBTQIA+ community who are struggling and animal companions

DESIGN

Gathering space-for welcoming and interaction between individuals and companion animals

Quiet space-for individuals and companion animals, for reflection/prayer/meditation

Creative space-for worship, arts, dance, groups

Outdoor space-for interaction with nature, gardening, play

REQUIREMENTS

Home-space for potentially 3 residents plus companion animals
3 bedrooms plus spaces indicated and yard

Companion animal needs-food, bedding, veterinary care, medicine, grooming care, structures for small animals, special need care, walking/collar apparatus, clothing needs, rescuing and re-homing

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Creating Spirit God lives inside all life and all life lives inside Creating Spirit God.

That acknowledging and caring for all the vulnerable is primary in healing our world

That friendship nurtured between human beings and companion animals can bring about healing, open-heartedness, understanding, trust and a widening/deepening of self and as a result, the world

That listening is key to uncovering the holy/sacred connection between all life

That acceptance is foundational in every relationship

That companion animals are essential in fostering the environment we aspire to create

WHO WE ARE

Individuals seeking to help alleviate suffering, isolation and loneliness by fostering an environment of acceptance, loving-kindness and inclusion

“Either we acknowledge that God is in all things, or we have lost the basis for seeing God in anything, including ourselves.” Richard Rohr

Appendix B

Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice

Dear Assembly of Elders, my report this month consists of notes from a sub-group of the Faith Formation, Nurture and Justice Team, and my report to be included in the Broadview insert (coming out mid-February). Thanks, Rodney

Notes from Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Working Group

Met by Zoom on Dec. 16, 19 from 2-3pm. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Sharon Hull, Helmut Enns, Elaine Kellogg. Regrets: Marilyn Fortin

Check-in and opening prayer.

1. Discussion around bringing a network together. 2 gatherings annually, one in Spring, one in fall. Potential to meet in between on-line, see who might be interested at first gathering? First gathering may be at Curve Lake Apr. 25th or May 2nd. A national staff person such as Lori Ransom can come and present on behalf of National Church program "Being Good Relations". Sharon will follow up with EDGE on sharing stories on-line through a youtube channel.
2. Rodney and Sharon plan to be involved at WAMPUM July 21-26. Some monies budgeted for recruiting? A year work plan submitted as a "Doing Mission Together" grant prior to April 15th. Sharon will check minutes and with Brian James if additional monies are available from former Presbyteries (possibly for first event).
3. Discussion around T2R2 (Travelling Toward Right Relations) youth experience. Decision was to focus on shorter term opportunities within our region at this point. Alderville in 2021?

Next meeting Tues. Jan. 28, 1:45-3pm. Shelley Knott Fife from Curve Lake will join us.

Broadview Newsletter:

Greetings! I am grateful to share some news around Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship. It has been good to meet with Helmut Enns, Rev. Elaine Kellogg, Sharon Hull, and Marilyn Fortin from the Faith Formation, Nurture and Justice Team to do some planning for the year. That group, along with Shelley Knott Fife from Curve Lake, would like to invite those who are passionate about Truth, Reconciliation, and "Being Good Relations" to consider joining us on Apr. 25th at Curve Lake for a day of listening, learning, and sharing best practices. Stay tuned for more information.

Many congregations are engaging in this work. Kairos Blanket Exercises have happened Jan. 25th in Greenbank and Feb. 2nd in Brighton. This is a workshop that explores the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Furthermore, Edith Rankin UC in Kingston is hosting a "Get to Know Your Neighbour" fundraising event/dinner on April 18th for "Shannen's Dream", named in loving memory of Shannen Koostachin. This is about making sure that First Nations children and youth have the same education opportunities as others but in ways that respect their language and culture. The event begins at 3 and includes a meal catered by Carol Anne Maracle. Look for the poster on the webpage, but tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by sending a cheque to Margaret Merkley a 613 384-8490.

If your congregation is looking for a learning opportunity over Lent, you might consider checking out www.moosehidecampaign.ca, a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Or visit www.fncaringsociety.com to find 7 Free Ways to Make a Difference (campaigns) through the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. Into the

spring, you may want to consider being part of a Sacred Water Walk around Pigeon Lake (in the Kawarthas), May 8-10th. I would be pleased to offer more information about this, and other opportunities. Contact me at 1 800 268-3781 x6164 or RSMerkley@united-church.ca.

Finally, if you know of any youth grades 8-10, invite them to consider a program at Five Oaks called Wampum, July 21-26. Wampum brings 10 Indigenous and 10 non-Indigenous youth together to forge new friendships across cultures, enjoy summer days together, and learn about Indigenous history and cultural values. Sharon Hull has been part of the leadership team for many years, and I hope to be joining the team this year.

Towards Truth, Justice, and Respectful Relationships, Rodney

Appendix C

Governance Document for the East Central Ontario East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada - May 2019

Doing Mission Together – Funding Application

Funding Projects and Activities furthering the Mission objectives of the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

Title: Facilitated Forums for Chalmers United and Sydenham Street United Churches

Summary: Two facilitated forums to engage both congregations jointly to discern the future vision and ministry of

The United Church of Canada in downtown Kingston

Applicant: Chalmers United Church, Kingston Ontario

Network Cluster Congregation Other

Contact : Lynne Clarke, Clerk of the Congregation email: sirwinstonis@cogeco.ca 613-549-0770

Date November 06, 2019 Amount Requested \$5,000.00

Provide with this request Supporting Documentation.
Please be guided by the following to ensure full consideration:

- Description of the program / activity / event
 - What is happening?
 - Who is involved; who is invited?
 - When is it occurring?
 - How will it be done?
- What will be the outcome?
 - Who will benefit?
 - What is the measurable change?
- What is the Total Budget and how will it be funded?
 - Provide an Income Expense Statement
 - What commitment is being made by participants?
 - How much is being requested?
- Any additional supporting material to be reviewed.

The East Central Ontario Regional Council will award “Doing Mission Together Grants” totaling \$50,000 to support Networks, Clusters and Communities of Faith further the mission objectives of the East Central Ontario Regional Council. In 2019 Grant Applications will be reviewed and

Governance Document for the East Central Ontario East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada - May 2019

grants awarded throughout January – February. Up to \$25,000 will be available and awarded during this period of time. An additional \$25,000 will be made available to support fall programming, the deadline for consideration of fall Funding is June 21, 2019.

“Doing Mission Together Grant applications to be received and awarded twice a year. \$25,000 to be awarded each go-around.

Application Deadlines

- June 21, 2019 for Fall 2019
- Nov 15, 2019 for January to June 2020
- April 15, 2020 for July to December 2020
- In subsequent years the application will be April for fall programming and November for winter and summer programming.
- Grant applications may be submitted earlier
- Grants are awarded for projects being initiated in the six month time frame – funding may be distributed over a 12-month period.

Criteria for selection will include:

- Designated priority of the Regional Council
 - Priorities to be reaffirmed by Annual Meeting each year
- Quantitative and qualitative valuation
 - number reached or helped
 - vulnerable sectors
 - number of participating Communities of Faith
- Other Funding sources
 - Positive consideration for partnerships and or participant commitments
- Maximum Grant request not to exceed \$5,000
- Granting Body may consider less than full amount of request
 - Application to indicate whether partial funding to be considered
 - If requests exceed \$25,000 granting body might consider applications for less than full funding. This might apply particularly to applications that less fully match above criteria. i.e.: is it all or nothing? If full funding is not available would partial funding be acceptable?
- Granting Body may consider granting in excess of \$5,000
 - In consultation with an applicant additional funds may be awarded for a particularly critical or worthy project.
 - If total requests are less than \$25,000 the balance may be distributed among approved applications

Doing Mission Together Grant – Supporting Documents
Future Ministry and Vision for The United Church of Canada in Downtown Kingston

Background:

The congregations of Chalmers United Church and Sydenham Street United Church have a history reaching back across many decades, of worshiping together and sharing activities, which has inspired in many, a sense of common mission and purpose. After a lengthy consultation process, in June 2017 both congregations passed the following motion: **Moved** that Chalmers United Church and Sydenham Street United Church implement a model of shared ministry/staffing for the two congregations, with the aim of having a full joint ministry/staffing team in place by June 30, 2018 at the latest. At the time, we imagined that this model of cooperating in Ministry would be transformational for each congregation.

Progress:

In passing the motion it was agreed that Chalmers and Sydenham Street would remain autonomous congregations interested in sharing staff for shared worship services, having a joint choir and some shared mission activity. Each congregation continues to have its own governing body and budget. The model we are developing is one of cooperation in ministry, not amalgamation at this point.

In the fall of 2017, a Joint Search Committee was created to search for an Intentional Interim Minister to help us live into this new model of ministry. The congregations started to worship together in January 2018 and established joint committees for worship, finance and ministry and personnel. Worship leadership was coordinated by a joint Worship Committee from January to September 2018.

Coinciding with the appointment of Rev. Barry King as Intentional Interim Minister, in September 2018, a Transition Team, with equal representation from both congregations, was established to support and work with Rev. King during his ministry with us.

The Transition Team completed its first stage of communication with the members of both congregations to determine what members think and feel about Shared Ministry.

Next Stage:

In the second stage, the Transition Team plans to engage both congregations jointly in a process that will help to discern what we imagine for the future ministry and vision of The United Church of Canada in downtown Kingston. As an initial step, In June 2019, the Transition Team hosted a very successful Community Hub Round Table discussion with members of the wider community that surrounds both churches. The purpose of the discussion was to determine what the community's needs are and how the churches might address those needs. The next process in the second stage involves engaging an expert facilitator to help both congregations to define our compatible core values and determine what our future mission together might be working in a cooperative form of ministry.

Funding Request:

The Congregational Forums will take place on Sunday January 12, 2020 and Sunday January 19, 2020; both forums will be professionally facilitated by Kimberly Bain of Bain Group Consulting, Kingston Ontario. All members and adherents of both congregations are invited, and sessions will last 3 hours each from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm replacing the worship service. Because neither Chalmers United nor Sydenham Street United has a hall large enough to accommodate the expected number of participants (120) working in table groups, we are renting a hall in a hotel.

Total Budget:

The cost of the rental of a hall to accommodate 120 people and provide refreshments for a break is \$2,573.15 per workshop. The fee for the facilitator is \$5,000.00 for both sessions. A quote for the hall rental and refreshments is attached. These costs will be shared equally between Chalmers and Sydenham Street

- Hall Rental and refreshments @\$2573.15 per session \$5,146.30
- Facilitation of two sessions @\$2500 each \$5,000
- Total cost \$10,146.30

Sydenham Street United Church has an *Edge* transformation ministry grant that EDGE has approved to cover their expenses. Chalmers United Church is requesting \$5,000.00 to cover its half of the expenses.

Outcomes:

Both congregations look upon the sharing of services and cooperation in ministry as a way to live out our vision for ministry in downtown Kingston while retaining our congregational identities. These workshops are designed to define our core values and determine what our mission could/should be in the community going forward.

The **measurable change** will be a renewed commitment and enthusiasm for working together.