

**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, April 3, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Rev. Paul Reed	Chair
Rev. Jean Wilson	Past-Chair
Marilyn Fortin	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Steve Spicer	Member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Steve Coles	Member
Rev. Ryan McNally	Member
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Brian James	Corresponding Member - Financial Administration
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
<b><u>REGRETS/ABSENT</u></b>	
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
Shannon Marsellus	Member

**Opening Devotions** – Jean shared poem “Coming to the woods edge”, Wendell Barry

**Recognize the Land** – Jean acknowledged the lands were members were participating from (i.e., Mississauga Anishinabek, Mohawk, etc.) and gave thanks for the stewardship of the land.

**Circle Time of Sharing** – All were invited to share.

**Appointment of Equity Monitor for this Meeting** – Marilyn Fortin

**Agenda**

**2020-04-03-050 MOTION** (T. Meyers/S. Spicer) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

**Minutes of March 12, 2020**

**2020-04-03-051 MOTION** (S. Spicer/J. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the Minutes of March 12, 2020 as circulated. **Carried**

**Minutes of March 25, 2020**

**2020-03-25\_047 MOTION** (P.Wilson/J.Wilson) that given the current health pandemic, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the postponing of the Regional Council General Meeting, scheduled for May 23-24, 2020. The new dates will be Friday, September 25 -Sunday, September 27 to be held at Pickering Village United Church. **Carried.**

**2020-03-25\_048 MOTION** (P.Wilson/J.Wilson) that given the current health pandemic, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the continuation of the current Assembly of Elders to provide leadership until the nominations process at the Regional Council General Meeting during the weekend of Friday, September 25 -Sunday, September 27 at Pickering Village United Church. **Carried.**

**2020-03-25\_049 MOTION** (P.Wilson/J.Wilson) that given the current health pandemic and postponing of the General Meeting, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders request that the Nominations Team name an Elder to fill the vacancy left with the sudden passing of Rev. D'Thea Webster until such time at the Regional Council General Meeting that the full slate of names will be presented. **Carried.**

**2020-04-03-052 MOTION** (M. Fortin/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the Minutes of March 25, 2020. **Carried**

**Correspondence**

- a) April 1, 2020 Rev. Jenny Stephens, Office of Vocation Coordinator re letter to Rev. Don Uhryniw (Peterborough) regarding Administrative Leave (*for information*)
- b) April 1, 2020 Audrey Dudman, Burnt River United Church re payment for lay leadership cancelled during the COVID 19 shut down (*for information*)
- c) April 1, 2020 Ron Ewart, Executive Director, Toronto United Church Council re financial support as a result of COVID-19 (*for information –V*)

**Business arising**

## Building Communications

- I. Communications** – Louise provided a brief oral report. She was thanked for her flexibility, and her thoroughness in circulating information on very short notice. Question: Is it possible to begin separating contact lists between Order of Ministry, Lay, Community of Faith representatives, LLWL, etc. Answer: Yes, through Dynamics 365 but it is taking time to gather the information. Affirm logo is on the website.
- II. Facilitation Team report** – Paul provided an update, indicating that he has learned that some Regional Councils are delaying meeting until 2021. The Candidates have been informed that the RCM will be moved to the fall, and all were very understanding. Some sought advice about whether or not they could be referred to as 'Reverend' and wear a collar. It was suggested that a letter be created for the Candidates, at the time of their appointments, indicating that the Regional Council recognizes their ministerial capacity, despite the Celebration of Ministry being delayed. The Candidates can use the term 'Pastor' and arrangement are being made with ADP regarding appropriate salary and benefits for the Candidates effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Motions will be made for Sacramental Privileges and marriage licenses slower to the July 1<sup>st</sup> date, when provisional calls and appointments are confirmed. It was suggested that registration for the September meeting begin in a month's time, all depending on what the Premier of Ontario reports today regarding COVID19

It was noted that the weekend in September when the RCM is set to take place at the same time as the Indigenous celebration weekend (where all are encouraged to wear orange shirts) .

It was asked that the church in Kingston who offered to host meeting in the Spring be responded to indicating that the meeting in the spring will be held at Pickering Village, but future meetings will be considered if the community of faith in Kingston is willing to host and meets the physical needs.

Vision Statement – Joel will look for individual response sheets and send to Patricia Teskey and Nancy Payne

- a) Vision Statement – Feedback sheets

*Review date: May 2020 (now September 2020)*

*2019-11-09\_232 MOTION (R. McNally/S. Spicer) In regards to the Vision Statement:*

*1. That ECORC operate with the Vision Statement as written, until such time as it is revised by the regional council.*

*2. That ECORC refer the Vision Statement as written, and all feedback received, to a task group to further develop the Vision Statement, Statement of Mission, Values and Mission Goals.*

*3. That the nominations team be asked to populate a Task Group of eight members to undertake the above work.*

*4. That the Task Group provide a report to the May 2020 meeting of ECORC for adoptions.  
Carried*

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

### **III. Communities of Faith in Transition – nothing at this time**

### **IV. Covenanting Support Team**

- a) Team progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives – COVID-19 is creating various challenges for Ministry Personnel including offering to step back from receiving salary to help their congregations. This needs to be looked at by the Regional Council, as terms of calls and appointments need to be changed. This should be accessible through Church Hub. The Federal Government is subsidizing 75% of a Minister's salary (up to \$58,000) through grants. Community of Faith should consult David and Rosemary for direction when needing to access Federal programs. Mission through Property and Finance will also be involved. The Regional Council needs to look to see when and where Communities of Faith are wanting to lay off Ministry personnel
- b) Report from Supporting Staff member – Meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>
- c) Items from Liaison Forum (Pastoral Relations) –There are pastoral relations motions that will go before the Covenant Support Team on April 6. Update was provided regarding Emmanuel United Church. Bath United Church is still in search mode, but in the meantime will reappoint retired supply until suitable candidate is found. It was asked that reporting from the Covenant Support Team also identify when and where Communities of Faith are working with Liaisons, to help identify, which may be looking to fill vacancies, financial viability, etc.
- d) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders – Carol Kundy has taken up the task of Secretary.

### **V. Mission through Property and Finance –**

- a) Response to COVID-19

**2020-04-03-053 MOTION** (T. Meyers/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, until September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, approves the Property and Finance Team to grant use of (reserved) (trust) (manse) funds upon request, sufficient to cover shortfalls to meet monthly ADP payment. **Carried**

Discussion: What should the Regional Council be advising and communicated (i.e., suggest using lines of credit over and above dipping into reserves and/or manse funds)? A checklist will be created for Communities of Faith to demonstrate that they have exhausted all of the other resources (i.e., Federal programs - 75% of income supplement, loan with bank).

- b) Mission Grants from General Council – Potentially a 20% cut to the Mission & Ministry grant  
**2020-04-03-054 MOTION** (R. McNally/S. Spicer) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders takes into consideration the potential 20% reduction to Mission Support Grants when preparing its 2021 budget. **Carried**
- c) Deferring Assessment Payments – Treasurers need to review the information on the United Church YouTube channel regarding deferring assessment payments.

#### **VI. Governance: Accountability and Limitations of Teams** - to be looked at during each meeting

#### **VII. Communities of Faith**

- a. Spring Brook United Church – Despite Spring Brook putting off meeting until after COVID19, David, Jean and Steve Spicer will meet soon to continue to engage in conversation with Spring Brook United Church.

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
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#### **VIII. Formation Nurture and Justice**

- a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives – Marilyn Fortin reported, see **appendix A**  
**2020-04-03-055 MOTION** (M. Fortin/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders agree with the recommendation of the Formation Nurture and Justice to take on the responsibility of choosing its own representative to attend Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Council meetings. **Carried**
- b) Report from Supporting Staff Members - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages, see **appendix B**
- c) Truth and Reconciliation Report – Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, see **appendix C**
- d) Mission Priority Grants: application date moved to May 15

#### **IX. Additional Reports**

- a. Nominations - rescheduling timeline for processing nominations (in lieu of change of date of AGM)  
**2020-04-03-056 MOTION** (R. McNally/S. Spicer) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of affirm all of the existing Teams until the Annual General Meeting in September 2020. **Carried**

- b. Equity Report – Reminder to submit Affirm survey to Bruce Hutchinson.

## X. New Business

**Opening worship for next meeting** – Steven Spicer

**Closing Prayer** – Rosemary shared the National Prayer of Canada in the Wake of COVID-19 (see appendix D)

**Equity Monitor Report** – nothing to report; good job everyone!

**Next Meeting Dates**    Friday, May 8, 2020 9am -12pm ZOOM  
                                   Friday, June 12, 2020 9am -12pm ZOOM  
                                   Friday, September 11, 9am -12pm ZOOM  
                                   Friday, September 24 – Sunday, September 26; RC Pickering Village UC, Ajax

## Adjournment

The Speaker of the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders meeting be adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Rev. Jean Wilson  
Interim Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,  
Executive Minister

## Appendices

Appendix A	Formation Nurture and Justice Team Progress Report	Page 132
Appendix B	Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages	Page 133
Appendix C	Truth and Reconciliation Report – Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice	Pages 134
Appendix D	National Prayer of Canada in the Wake of COVID-19	Page 135

Appendix A

**Faith Formation Nurture and Justice Committee**  
**April 2, 2020**

This is the first opportunity we have had to get together since our last meeting in December.

Two items that we have referred to our next meeting that will take place in May are a request for funding for the ROI and an invitation to Sacred Ground – see print outs

Meggin was looking for information about “A place at the table”. Sharon is sending her a video clip from the General Council subcommittee and we will have more discussion at our May meeting.

David Moore reminded us that “Fridays Climate Actions are on line and are connecting information from all over the world. Some of the side effects of the pandemic are – water is clearer in the canals in Venice and you can now see the fish which hasn't been seen for 100 years:

- blue skies have been seen over India
  - pollution has dropped by 40% over China and over Europe
  - in Canada 4 major cities are showing a drop in pollution
- There have been some benefits to the earth with us humans having to rest

David Moore spoke about working with Backdoor Mission in Oshawa and the confusion that they had been having about organizing into one place because it was too confusing to go for food at one place and then necessities at another so now it is all in one place. That is now organized. They are having great responses for food and mobilizing volunteers to locations and PPE for workers.

The pandemic is having a huge impact on outreach workers from the churches because the workers at street level are getting tired.

The opioid crisis is really bad because dealers are cutting the drugs and there is an increasing number of overdoses and suicides. This community of people are particularly vulnerable to the spread of the virus. The first homeless person was diagnosed positive with the virus in Oshawa.

Aruna had several items for the agenda that we will visit at the May meeting.

Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC) motion:

*Moved by Helmut Enns and seconded by Marilyn Fortin, that the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team recommend to the ECORC Assembly of Elders, that we have authority to name our own representatives, from our team, to the meeting of the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (SJNORC), on a per-event basis. CARRIED.*

This will allow for a variety of our team members to meet and connect with members of the SJNORC. This arrangement would be more convenient, in recognition of peoples' busy lives, and the likelihood that two "set" people may not always have room in their schedules to attend at any given time. We recognize the guidelines of "equity", and will be mindful of naming one lay person, and one ordered, for each gathering.

Faithfully submitted,  
Marilyn Fortin

## Appendix B

**Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages**

- Update my page on the website, update in newsletter to children, youth and young adult
- Zoom Meeting of open to all YAYA leaders- Hosted by Amy, Stephen Fetter- check in and sharing
- Children and youth participating in the GO Project virtual camp daily at 11am and 2pm
- Zoom meeting for our children, youth and young adult leaders- shared message from the moderator, check in and sharing
- Zoom meeting of National Clusters and Networks
- Affirming - follow up survey from Assembly of Elders presentation
- Registration for March 21 workshop- held a trial workshop with Terence, held a zoom drop in sign in session for those who are new to zoom, Saturday attended by 30 from our RC,6 from EOORC , \$2000 fee for Terance, only waiting for payment from 5 participants
- Rendezvous - registration was moved until the end of march, then moved again to May 5.
- Quin Mo Lac -AGM on Saturday by zoom- looking at different options for the summer- June 1
- VIBE- deciding at the end of April about the summer
- Cathedral of the Trees- email sent to all who had signed up for 2020, ministry team will meet at the beginning of May to evaluate
- Wanda- Expression of Interest Form travel to El Salvador for March 2021 - May 31, 2020 deadline
- See report from Marilyn - SJNORC - rep - from Streamline the process for Doing Mission Together Grants- put on ECORC website

Appendix C

**Minister for Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Report**  
**April 3, 2020**


With the rest of the world I have been zooming in and cancelling events, wondering when we'll be able to gather face to face again.

After Easter I will be meeting with my Team to discuss when to set a new date for the Being Good Relations Event. As a first time coming together of a new and hopefully ongoing network, we felt we would wait to bring the group together in person. I am planning to create a mailing list for the 35 folk who had registered for the event, and other folk, to share information directly (in addition to other communication means).

I have been asked to write a letter of support for a United Church Foundation grant- Watkins Fund and Ann Baker Trust Fund. Doris Thomas and a team (Friends of the North) from Cataraquai United Church have an ongoing relationship with the Moosonee community, and supply a thrift store in that community among other ministries. The grant is to develop a Misiway (Everyone in Cree) gathering place for Elders from the community. In collaboration with Moosonee Friendship Centre this will offer opportunities for Seniors/Elders in the community. I have been learning about this ministry, and hope to speak with contacts at the Friendship Centre next week.



## Appendix D



COMPOSED BY  
RABBI DR. REUVEN P. BULKA & ARCHBISHOP TERENCE PRENDERGAST

O God,

We gather together separated by life-saving distancing, but united more than ever in spirit;  
We know we are in a war against COVID - 19 together, and the more together we are, the better and stronger we will emerge:

We know the challenges are enormous, yet so are the opportunities;  
That whether we are in isolation with loved ones, or alone, we will have abundance of time;  
We commit to using that time to the max, to help those in greater need in whatever way we can;  
We know we all have the opportunity, and time, to be life savers and life enhancers;  
We give thanks for those who are on the front line taking care of those who are not well;  
We give thanks for the researchers who are working at breakneck speed to find cure and vaccine;  
We give thanks for our leaders, federal, provincial and local, for their dedication to all of us;  
We give thanks for the providers of our daily needs who go to work in spite of the risk;  
We give thanks for those who have ramped up their ability to produce life-saving supplies.  
We pray for the well-being of all our life savers; For those who are not well, that they recover fully;  
For those enduring difficulty, that they may overcome their challenges.  
We pray that a cure and vaccine will soon be available,  
And that we all – family, friends, all Canadians, the entire world may be healed in body and spirit.  
We ask you, O God, to bless our leaders, our front line care givers, our life savers and life enhancers.  
We ask you, O God, to bless Canada, to bless the world, to bless everyone.

Amen.