

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**Friday, September 25-26, 2020****DECISIONS****Consent Motions (1-8)**

2020-09-25_MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council vote on motions (1-8) listed below through consensus.

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

2020-09-25_001 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the enabling motions printed and circulated in the Report Book be adopted.

Corresponding Members

2020-09-25_002 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the following people be recognized as corresponding members for this meeting: Bruce Hutchinson, Judy Ambury, Nancy Payne.

Scrutineer

2020-09-25_003 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Jean Wilson, Rev. Phil Wilson, Rev. Ryan McNally and Rev. Karen Smart.

Parliamentarians

2020-09-25_004 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the following people serve as Parliamentarians: Rev. Don Wilmer, Tom Smart and Rev. Steve Spicer.

Business Leadership Team

2020-09-25_005 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the following people serve on the Business Leadership Team: Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Rev. Paul Reed, Rev. Jean Wilson, Steve Coles, Sharon Hull.

Agenda

2020-09-25_006 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) That the agenda as circulated be adopted.

Minutes from General Meeting on November 9, 2019 (see **appendix A**)

2020-09-25_007 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) That the minutes of the East Central Ontario Regional Council general Meeting on November 9, 2019 be accepted as circulated.

Report Book (2020) (see **appendix B**)

2020-09-25_008 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the reports as circulated in the (2020) Report Book.

Affirming

2020-09-25_009 MOTION (E. Macdonald/S. Ballantyne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council enable and facilitate the work of “Becoming an Affirming Regional Council”, assigned to the Affirming Forum, and until the East Central Ontario Regional Council becomes a permanent Affirming Regional Council recommend that,

- I. The Affirming Forum be accountable directly to the Regional Council and to the Assembly of Elders between full Regional Council meetings; and,
- II. And that a member of the Assembly of Elders be assigned to relate to the Affirming Forum.

Carried

Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel (see **appendix C**)

2020-09-25_010 MOTION (R. Lambie/R. McNally) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council is in favor of Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel. **Carried**

Vision Statement Presentation (see **appendix D**)

2020-09-25_011 MOTION (P. Teskey/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles as presented. **Carried**

Priority setting 2021 – extending priorities from 2020 (see **appendix E**)

2020-09-25_012 MOTION (S. Coles/J. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council extend the 2020 Mission Priorities to be in force for 2021:

- Truth and Reconciliation - Calls to Action
- A place at the table - affirming, racial justice
- Rural Ministry
- Children and Youth
- Care of Creation

Carried

Travel Policy (see **appendix F**)

2020-09-25_013 MOTION (B. James/J. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the Travel policy as presented. **Carried**

Nominations Report (see **2020 Report Book, p. 67-69**)

2020-09-25_014 MOTION (W. Stride/ B. Smith)

The Nominations Team move the appointments of the following people:

Lynn Watson, (*member of the order of ministry, from St Paul’s Bancroft*)
to the **Assembly of Elders**, for a term ending 2023.

Don McLean, (*member of the order of ministry, from Norwood*),
to the **Assembly of Elders**, for a term ending 2023.

Kathleen Whyte, (*lay member of Greenwood United*) to the **Assembly of Elders**,
for a term ending 2023.

Ian Robb, (*retired ministry personnel in Brighton*) to the **Assembly of Elders**,
for a term ending 2023.

Sophie Goodfellow, (*youth representative from Faith United in Courtice*) to the
Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for a term ending 2021.

Adele Boy (*lay representative from Sandford Zephyr*), to the
Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for a term ending 2023.

Kevin Fitzpatrick (*lay ministry personnel from Janetville Mt Horeb*), to the
Equity Team for a term ending 2023.

Grace Ferris, (*youth representative from Greenbank Seagrave*) to the
Equity team for a term ending 2021.

Maggie Allin, (*lay representative from Mark Street, Peterborough*) to the **Affirm Forum** for a term ending 2023.

Doug Ferris, (*lay representative from Greenbank Seagrave*) to the **Affirm Forum** for a term ending 2023.

Kimberly Collins (*lay representative from Dunbarton-Fairport*) to the **Affirm Forum** for a term ending 2023.

Carried

Financial Report, Budget 2021

2020-09-25_015 MOTION (B. James/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the financial statements as revised. **Carried**

Revision: \$495,813.00 to revised total on page 78 of the report book.

2020-09-25_016 MOTION (B. James/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the 2021 budget as presented. **Carried**

Closing Motions

2020-09-25_017 MOTION (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that following the rise of this general 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**

2020-09-25_018 MOTION (R. Lambie/J. Wilson) that the meeting be adjourned at 5:15 p.m., and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded.

Appendices:

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Appendix A

Draft Minutes – General Meeting, November 9, 2019

*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix B

Report Book September 25, 2020

*distributed on Regional Council website

Appendix C

Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel

Background:

The 43rd General Council 2019:

- (i) approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Question:

Does the Regional Council agree that:

- (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

Appendix D

Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles***Prepared for the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada******By Nancy Payne & Patricia Teskey******Revised draft submitted September 15, 2020*****Introduction**

The Vision Statement describes East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) functioning in its ideal state — it is aspirational. The Mission Statement describes how ECORC arrives at this ideal state through faith, belief and action. The Guiding Principles provide practical direction for ECORC to evaluate how well we are living out our faith, beliefs and actions. Central throughout is the idea that language can and should foster community and connection, which means that these statements must be easy for the average person to understand.

Linda Hutchinson, Coordinator of the Affirming Ministry Program for Affirm United, has approved this document as meeting the requirements for the Vision/Mission statement of an Affirming Regional Council within the United Church of Canada. We hope our formatting meets accessibility guidelines; we sincerely apologize if we have fallen short.

This document should be seen as a seedling rather than a foundation. We expect the statements it contains to be revisited and revised over time, and foresee it growing in some areas and being pruned in others as ECORC itself becomes more firmly rooted.

We were honoured to work on this document, and submit it with respect and humility.

Nancy Payne is a member of Cambridge Street United Church in Lindsay and a Licensed Lay Worship Leader. She is the editor of *Kayak*, a history magazine for Canadian children, and is a contributing editor at *Canada's History* magazine. She holds a Master of Journalism degree from Carleton University and has worked as a radio producer, freelance writer and editor, and corporate communication trainer.

Patricia Teskey has been a professional writer, editor and researcher for more than 30 years. Her writing has appeared in a range of publications, including *The Anglican Magazine*, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* and the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario's *Reason to Hope*. She studied journalism at Ryerson University. She belongs to Cambridge Street United Church in Lindsay.

Vision

Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit, we follow the way of Jesus, and help to heal our world.

Mission

Grounded in the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves, we nurture and engage our Communities of Faith, including all ministry personnel, members and adherents, staff and lay leadership, joining our hearts and voices in sacred covenant.

In gratitude for our abundant blessings and in the service of this call, we pledge to be faithful stewards of our resources and aspire to be agents of God's love, compassion and justice on earth as it is in heaven.

Recognizing our churches' participation in historic injustices, we reach out with particular love and care, as Jesus did,

to those who have been ignored, excluded, condemned, silenced or erased.
We seek to uphold high standards of equity and Affirming,
and to encourage these same standards in our Communities of Faith.

Valuing diversity and differences as gifts,
we support the full participation of all people
in the life and work of our church and in wider society.
We publicly, intentionally and explicitly celebrate and seek justice
for people of every age, gender, racialized experience, culture,
sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical health and ability,
economic circumstance or any other diversity.

We promise to walk with, and learn from,
Indigenous ministries and Communities of Faith within our church,
and to reach out to all Indigenous Peoples.
We support and encourage all Communities of Faith to walk this path with us.
As we are called by God to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others and to seek justice,
so we are called to respect the deep spirituality
of traditional Indigenous teachings
of Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

Further acknowledging that cultural prejudices have prevented us
from seeing all people as equally worthy of God's love and compassion,
we invite Communities of Faith to join our vision
of becoming an intercultural church,
participating in ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith
ministries, partnerships and initiatives
in their local communities and in wider society.

As Jesus gathered children in his arms
and spoke of their leadership and spiritual gifts,
we commit ourselves and our Communities of Faith
to nurturing and supporting children, youth and young adults,
learning from them and celebrating their presence
and participation in everything we do.

Hearing God's call for open hearts and unity in the body of Christ,
we commit to uniting the Communities of Faith and individuals in our Region,
inviting all to participate in this Vision and Mission.
Recognizing that meaningful communication is essential to unity,
we will respect all voices, share information and listen for the Spirit's prompting,
that all may be embraced in this work of Love.

Diverse, yet One in Christ,
we seek to serve and support our Communities of Faith
as they faithfully serve a broken and hurting world.
Nurtured by our heritage and strengthened by God's grace,
we witness to the healing power of Christ's love, compassion and justice
on earth as it is in heaven.

Guiding Principles

We are accountable to all people of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) in living out our vision and mission in ways that can be measured over time. We will know we are doing so when we can say “yes” to these statements, which are presented by theme rather than by priority or importance:

- All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives.
- Clergy, lay leaders and communities of faith express satisfaction with the support, development opportunities and communication they receive.
- We hold events every year related to outreach and social justice within our Regional Council.
- Reports from equity monitors and meeting notes give evidence of a growing awareness of equity standards.
- The number of church buildings in our Regional Council that are accessible is increasing.
- The number of Communities of Faith designated as Affirming continues to increase.
- There is evidence that inclusive language is becoming the norm in the life and work of our church throughout our Regional Council, especially inclusive language and images of God in worship.
- We observe increasing use of land acknowledgments and more participation in learning opportunities related to Respectful Relations and Indigenous Justice.
- An increasing number of Communities of Faith, along with ECORC and the Assembly of Elders, are developing plans to increase their environmental stewardship.
- We can document specific actions we have taken to become intercultural.
- Children, youth and young adults are represented on all decision-making bodies.
- There are events planned for and by children, youth and young adults every year. A significant number of these events provide children, youth and young adults with leadership opportunities.
- Those involved in any way with ECORC demonstrate awareness of our Vision and Mission statements, and express a feeling of connection to and commitment to the work of ECORC.
- People in all roles and capacities within ECORC are aware of Council decisions and policies, and know where to find the information they need.
- ECORC events take place in a variety of geographic locations within our Regional Council throughout the year.

 Appendix E

Mission Priorities 2020 (2019 in bold)

Truth and Reconciliation - Calls to Action	63
Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women	3
A place at the table - affirming, racial justice	63
esp mental health issues	4
Rural Ministry	57
Children and Youth	66
Care of Creation	58
esp climate change	6
water	3
cluster and network promotion	11
clergy support/renewal/retreats	11
emergency financial support for clergy	4
retirees	3
Women in Ministry	2
Faith formation	10
healthy community of faith development	9
innovative ministries/alternate worship/arts	8
UCW	7
community outreach/ engaging events	6
healthy care/ ministry for elderly/seniors	6
homelessness/ shelter/hospice/affordability	6
basic income/economic justice	5
evangelism/spiritual growth	5
intercultural actions with other faiths	5
poverty reduction (in rural areas)	4
bridges out of poverty/Bedford House	4
refugee /immigrant support & advocacy	4
food banks/community gardens	4
mission awareness/trips/global ministries	4
small church communities (not rural)	3
making churches accessible	3
church closures	3
sex trade/human trafficking	3
creative and joyful worship / local love	2
revitalization	2
life long learning funds	2
Christian camps	2
Mission and Service	2
financial support for small cof from amalgamations, sales of property	1
policies about use of Funds for ALL communities of faith	1
social justice	1
inner city	1
affordable housing	1
urban ministry esp St Vincent Kitchen, Osh	1
drug-safe injection sight/rehabilitation	1

proclaiming JC, prayer, grounding in scripture	1
building partnerships	1
new ministries	1
youth employment in church	1
VIBE	1
Thursdays in Black	1
Nursing homes/home bound	1
Fresh Expressions	1
support for emerging technologies	1
our theology	1

Appendix F

The East Central Ontario Regional Council Travel Policy

Preamble

This document outlines the East Central Ontario Regional Council's policy and best practices regarding requests for travel compensation for those attending regional gatherings.

Policy

1. It is the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council that said Council reimburse travel at 100% the General Council Rate for Ministry Personnel not in a call or appointment, chaplains and retired Ministry Personnel not in a call or appointment, traveling to meetings of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, and an additional \$0.02 per km for each additional person in the vehicle.
2. It is the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council that Communities of Faith reimburse travel at 100% the General Council Rate for Lay Persons, and Ministry Personnel in active paid accountable Ministry, attending general meetings of the East Central Ontario Regional Council
3. It is the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council to reimburse travel at 100% the General Council Rate for persons travelling to meetings of the Assembly of Elders, Leadership Teams, Forums, and staff-led training. An additional \$0.02 per km for each additional person in the vehicle.
4. The Regional Council recommends that Communities of Faith pay travel costs for lay persons traveling to meetings of clusters, networks.
5. It is the policy of the East Central Ontario Regional Council to reimburse travel at 100% the General Council Rate for appointees by the Covenant Support Team for transition work.

Note: It is expected that active paid accountable Ministry personnel will be reimbursed for travel to the East Central Ontario Regional Council general meetings by their Community of Faith.