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**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, November 27, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Vision of the Assembly of Elders by which we evaluate progress based on:**  
Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit,  
We follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. Paul Reed	Speaker
Rev. Don McLean	Member
Ian Robb	Member
Kathleen Whyte	Member
Marilyn Fortin	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Steve Coles	Member
Rev. Lynn Watson	Member
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Karen Wilson	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

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice

**Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land** – David Timpson reminded us that it is the beginning of Advent. Encouraged all to be hopeful in Christ, in the things that hold us together and make us the Church. David closed the time of devotion with prayer.

David acknowledged the land, recognizing that we are treaty people, and that First Nations peoples have been stewards of this land for centuries, for which we must be thankful. Settlers are called to reconciliation, and to live in right relations.

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

**Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting**

**2020-11-27-145 MOTION** (D. McLean/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Marilyn Fortin as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **Carried**

**Agenda**

**2020-11-27-146 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

**Minutes****a) Minutes of October 23, 2020**

**2020-11-27-147 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of October 23, 2020 as circulated. **Carried**

**b) Minutes of email vote ending on November 18, 2020**

**2020-11-27-148 MOTION** (T. Meyers/L. Watson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approved the Minutes of email poll closing November 18, 2020 as circulated.

*2020-11-18\_001 MOTION (B. James/T. Meyers) 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 SW PT Lot 31- Con 9 Dummer Township, County of Peterborough and the municipal address of which is 3000 County Road 6 and pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Carmen-Zion United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as seller, and Carol Larain James and Kenneth John Marvin Armstrong, as purchaser, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020,*

*and subject to Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:*

- Sale Price - \$100,000
- Deposit of \$10,000 on acceptance of the offer
- Closing - Nov 30, 2020

*2. to the following disposition of the proceeds arising from the transaction:*

*10% of the proceeds to the United Church of Canada Indigenous Ministries,*

*10% to Toronto United Church's Sustainable Energy Loan Fund,*

*20% to East Central Ontario Regional Council;*

*20% to United Church of Canada Mission and Service and*

*40% to local charitable purposes as per the following distribution*

*Camp Quin-mo-lac 10%*

*Duoro Dummer Fire Department 20%*

*Lakefield Community Care 10%*

*Lakefield Foodbank 10%*

*Lakefield Legion Branch 77 10%*

*Norwood Legion Branch 300 10%*

*Peterborough Regional Health Centre 30%*

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

*4. The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Carmen-Zion United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Warsaw Pastoral Charge, in trust for Carmen-Zion United Church as a part of The United Church of Canada;*

*5. The said congregation and pastoral charge are subject to the oversight of the East Central Ontario Regional Council. **Carried***

**Carried****Correspondence**

- a) September 2020 The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott and Sarah Charters, Acting Director of Philanthropy re appreciation for a contribution of \$1,646,541 to the Mission and Service from the Regional Council and \$137,733 from the United Church Women of Nakonha:ka (*for information*).

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**Business arising grouped according to confirmed Guiding Principles**
**I. All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives.**

**Facilitation Team report** – A date needs to be scheduled for spring meeting by Zoom. Various ideas:

- A Friday, an evening time be chosen so that more people can attend. One session or two?
- Separate meeting: a section that focuses on business, and then other sessions for educational workshops, socializing, and worship.
- Educational zoom(s) in February and/or March for priority setting, nominations, education on other topics and socializing in preparation for the spring business General Meeting.
- Celebration of Ministry: Retirees, Memorials, currently there is no indication that there will be any candidates ready.

**II. Clergy, lay leaders and communities of faith express satisfaction with the support, development opportunities and communication they receive.**

**Communications** – Karen Wilson; see **appendix A**.

Discussion: An updated list of contacts for Leadership Teams and Forums needs to be added to the website. It was suggested to add the Leadership team or Forum with which each member of the Assembly of Elders is associated on the attendance list.

**III. 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.**
**IV. People in all roles and capacities within ECORC are aware of Council decisions and policies, and know where to find the information they need.**
**a) Governance:**
**b) Pastoral Relations**

- See report from the Pastoral Relations Minister **appendix B**

**a) Covenanting Support Team –**
**Call: Stirling Pastoral Charge**

**2020-11-27-149 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team who have received the properly completed Form on Church Hub for the Call of Rev. Cheryl McMurray, Ordained minister to full time ministry (40 Hours per week) on the Stirling Pastoral Charge July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 (07/01/21). The terms include 2 days a week work from home and the Sunday after Christmas of as additional holiday. **Carried**

**United Supply Appointment: Uxbridge**

**2020-12-27-150 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team who have received the properly completed form on Church Hub for the appointment of Rev. Karen Croxall, Ordained minister as United Supply minister, Part Time (20 Hours per week) on the Uxbridge Pastoral Charge Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. **Carried** (*Ted Meyer abstains*)

**Retired Supply Appointment: Marmora**

**2020-11-27-151 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team who have received the properly completed form on Church Hub for the appointment of Rev.

Kirby Breithaupt, Retired Supply Ordained Minister to Part Time ministry (24 Hours per week) on the Marmora Pastoral Charge, 01/01/2020 to 06 /30/2021. **Carried**

**Appointment: Port Hope**

**2020-11-27-152 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team who have received the properly completed form on Church Hub for the appointment of Rev. Anja Guignon, Retired Supply Ordained Minister to Part Time ministry (20 Hours per week) on the Port Hope Pastoral Charge, 01/01/2020 to 06 /30/2021. **Carried**

**Retired Supply Appointment: Westdale Peterborough**

**2020-11-27-153 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team who have received the properly completed Form on Church Hub for the appointment of Rev. Lynda Hodgins, Retired Supply Ordained Minister to Part Time ministry (20 Hours per week) on the Westdale Pastoral Charge, 01/01/2021 to 06 /30/2021. **Carried**

Discussion: Annual Declarations must be completed by ministry personnel, and communication of this needs to continually be made, as there remain many clergy who still need to up-date their status. Failing to do so could have repercussions – i.e., not being able to continue in an appointments or calls.

b) **Report from Liaison Forum –**

- Working spreadsheet of communities of faith; Steve Coles invited people to inform the Liaison Forum if any information seems to be missing from the spreadsheet. The Liaison Forum meets every third Wednesday of the Month; next meeting is in January. David Timpson is leading Liaisons training in December. Hiawatha is joined with Keene, and is not vacant – Nancy Wilson is the service minister there.

**2020-11-27-154 MOTION** (S. Coles/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information the working spread sheet of communities of faith. **Carried**

c) **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum –** Currently a chair is being sought after. Still waiting for a term of reference for this body.

d) **Retirees Forum –** Ian Robb, *Java with Jean* is a subset of the Retirees forum

c. **Supporting the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place:**

a) **Spring Brook United Church –**

**2020-11-27-155 MOTION** (L. Watson/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team, based upon the request of the Springbrook United Church, to separate the Rawdon - Springbrook Pastoral charge into two separate communities of faith, effective 01-01-2019. **Carried**

**2020-11-27-156 MOTION** (L. Watson/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders disband Rawdon United Church, effective 01-01-2019. **Carried**

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Discussion: There exist a motion from the Session of Springbrook to separate. There is a pastoral supervisor working with Springbrook. Questions: Is Rawdon living within the terms of the lease (Brain and Ted will look into this).

It was suggested that Springbrook rename itself to mark new beginning and moving forward.

**Break** – The meeting took a 10-minute break at 10:45 a.m.

b) **Chalmers Review** – The search is underway for a half-time administrator, who would potentially serve as pastoral care minister in a full-time ministry position. It was suggested that this approach of hiring one person for two jobs not be acted on.

V. *The number of church buildings in our Regional Council that are accessible is increasing. There is faithful stewardship of property and finances.*

**Mission through Property and Finance**

a) **Review Engagement**

**2020-11-27-157 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders authorizes Price Waterhouse to conduct a Review Engagement for the Regional Council finances of 2019 and 2020. **Carried**

b) **Control Log**

- Control Log

**2020-11-27-158 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the Mission through Property and Finance Leadership Team Control Log for information. **Carried**

c) **Sale of Westdale United Church**

**2020-11-27-159 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that having received the request of Westdale United Church to list the church property, 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 PCL 7-11, SEC 45-C12-NMO-PET; PT LT 8, CON 12 (N MONAGHAN), PTS 1 & 2 45R5027; SECONDLY PT LT 8, CON 12 (N MONAGHAN), PTS 6 45R5027, described in the offer as the vacant parcel of land comprised of approximately 3/5 acres more or less, and being part of Lot 8, Concession 12 (North Monaghan); and the municipal address of which is 1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON, pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Westdale United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as seller, and Moloney Project Developments Inc., as buyer, dated the 20th day of October, 2020.

- i) The purchaser of the said Real Property would be the Moloney Project Developments Inc.
- ii) The sale price would be \$305 000 per acre, for approximately 3.5 acres, resulting in a sale price of approximately \$1,067,500.00.
- iii) The deposit would be \$50 000.00, resulting in a balance due of \$1,017,500.00.
- iv) There is no existing mortgage on the property, nor has there ever been one.
- v) Warrantees include all relevant and standard warrantees, as set out in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, including Schedule A.

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vi) The scheduled closing date on the sale would be 30 days after the removal of the buyer's conditions, as set out in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

**Carried**

**2020-11-27-160 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that regarding the disposition of proceeds of Westdale United Church, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders give its consent to

1. To transfer 10% of the proceeds, net of the selling costs, to The United Church of Canada Indigenous Ministries and
2. For the remaining 90% of the proceeds, the vision of the congregation is to use proceeds from the land sale to eventually open a much needed infant and child care centre on the property. There are numerous steps to be taken before this would be possible, and in the meantime, the funds would be invested in the United Church Investment Portfolio. Should obstacles to opening a infant/childcare centre prove insurmountable, there is a secondary vision of opening a Seniors/Community recreation centre, possibly in conjunction with a Seniors Centre in the area, as a satellite centre. Appropriate steps to obtain ECORC's approval for use of the funds will be taken once a final plan has been determined;
3. The Real Property referred to in the above resolution is within the bounds of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council;
4. The said Real Property is held by the Trustees of Westdale United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada;
5. The said congregation is subject to the oversight of East Central Ontario Regional Council

**Carried**

- d) **Disbanding & Amalgamating** – P&F is working on creating a document regarding disbanding to provide some guiding principles to communities of faith. Hopefully available in January.

**VI.** *ECORC events take place in a variety of geographic locations within our Region throughout the year.*

**VII.** *We hold events every year related to outreach and social justice within our Regional Council.*

- i) **Formation, Nurture and Justice** (see **appendix C**) – Kathleen Whyte highlighted items in the report.
  - a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives
  - b) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages (see **appendix D**) – It was announced that Sharon has been engaged in her role as salaried employee, no longer on contract.
  - c) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils (see **appendix E**)
- ii) **Doing Mission Priority Grants** - These Covid19 grants were to cover programing and communication that had to be applied for before October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**2020-11-27-161 MOTION** (K. Whyte/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accepts the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the Special Covid 19 Doing Mission Together grants as listed in the chart below of 25 applicants for a total of \$66,760. **Carried**

**2020-11-27-162 MOTION** (K. Whyte/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accepts the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the Special Covid 19 Doing Mission Together grants to use \$560 from the 2021 Doing Mission Together grants to fund the total of \$66,760. **Carried**

<i>Special Covid 19 Grant Applications</i>				
	<b>Applicant name</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Haliburton United Church	3500	Haliburton	
2	Highland Hills United Church	3110	Minden	
3	Bethany United Church	3500	Bethany	
4	Tonyat Grace United Church	1000	Peterborough	
5	Cambridge Street	0	Lindsay	Rec'd \$10,000 in 2019
6	Dunbarton Fairport	2500	Pickering	
7	St. Paul's United Church	2970	Ajax	
8	Westminster United Church	2880	Whitby	
9	Northminster United Church	3095	Oshawa	
10	Faith United Church	2500	Courtice	
11	Trinity United Church	3500	Cobourg	
12	St. Paul's United, Warkworth	3070	Warkworth	
13	Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church	2500	Brighton	
14	Trenton United Church	3500	Trenton	
15	Bloomfield United	2750	Bloomfield (PEC)	
16	Cressy United Church	3000	Stella (PEC)	
17	Eastminster United Church	3000	Belleville	
18	Newburgh/Centreville PC	600	Newburgh	production - already paid
19	Selby Pastoral Charge	3000	Selby	
20	Trinity United Church	3500	Napanee	
21	Grace United Church	785	Napanee	
22	Glenburnie United Church	3500	Kingston	
23	Sydenham Street UC (SSUC)	2500	Kingston	
24	St. Andrew's by-the-Lake UC	3500	Kingston	
25	Port Perry Prince Albert PC	3000	Port Perry	
	<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>66760</b>		
	Budget	66200	Take \$560 from 2021 Budget	
<i>Doing Mission Together Grants 2021</i>				
1	Bridge Street UC	5000	Belleville	
	<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>5000</b>		

\*Note: \$23,000 was set aside for 2021, the following motion takes from these funds. Deadline was November 1<sup>st</sup> for 2020 for these funds (to cover first 6 months of 2021).

**2020-11-27-163 MOTION** (K. Whyte/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accepts the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the Doing Mission Together grant to Bridge Street UC, Belleville for \$5,000.00 **Carried**

### iii) Clusters and Network News

**VIII.** We observe increasing use of land acknowledgments and more participation in learning opportunities related to Respectful Relations and Indigenous Justice.

**Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice (see appendix F)**

Discussion: It was announced that language education will be available in the new year.

**IX.** *Children, youth and young adults are represented on all decision-making bodies.*

**X.** *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.*

**Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

Report from Supporting Staff Member (*see appendix D*)

**XI.** *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.*

**XII.** *Reports from equity monitors and meeting notes give evidence of a growing awareness of equity standards.*

**Equity Team**

Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives (*see appendix D*)

**XIII.** *The number of Communities of Faith designated as Affirming continues to increase.*

**Affirm Forum**

Forum Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives (*see appendix D*)

Discussion: Sharon was thanked for her technical support during the Affirm Forum online gathering.

**XIV.** *An increasing number of Communities of Faith, along with ECORC and the Assembly of Elders, are developing plans to increase their environmental stewardship.*

**XV.** *We can document specific actions we have taken to become intercultural.*

**Nominations** – Does the nomination team populate the Affirm Forum? It was suggested that they do not nominate, but keep track of who the members of all of the Forums.

**2020-11-27-164 MOTION** (P. Reed/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders add Joyce Payne to the Affirm Forum as a corresponding member. **Carried**

Discussion: Affirm Forum – adding Joyce Payne (corresponding member until she transfers her membership).

**2020-11-27-165 MOTION** (I. Robb/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders acknowledge that Lynn Watson will represent the Assembly of Elders on the Equity Leadership Team. **Carried**

**New Business** – David invited members to attend the Liaisons training workshop on December 10, 2020 (10 a.m.).

**Equity Monitor Report** - It was noted that internet service was lacking, but all managed despite this. Meeting went well.

**Opening worship for next meeting** – Lynn Watson

**Motion to adjourn**

**2020-11-27-166 MOTION** (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 11:52 a.m. **Carried**



**Closing Prayer** – Kathleen Whyte closed the meeting in prayer.

**Next Meeting Dates** Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 9 am-noon ZOOM

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Rev. Paul Reed  
Speaker

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Rev. Rosemary Lambie,  
Executive Minister

**Appendices**

Appendix A	Communications Summary Report	Page 357
Appendix B	Pastoral Relations Minister's Report	Page 358
Appendix C	Formation, Nurture and Justice Leadership Team Report	Page 359
Appendix D	Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages	Page 360
Appendix E	Minutes of the Social Justice Network Of The Ontario Regions Virtual Meeting By Zoom (19 November 2020)	Pages 361-374
Appendix F	Minister for Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Report	Page 375

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Appendix A

**Communications Summary Report**

- Volunteer Minister Association (VAM) form has been added to our website under the “Resources” page.
- Both Vision and Mission Statements have now been added to the website as well under the “Home” page.
- I was able to get familiarized with Dynamics 365 by helping complete a list of Retired Ministers for the Retirees Forum for Pastor Ian.
- My first newsletter went out last week. We currently have 728 contacts and 686 subscribers. Last weeks newsletter had 11.4% clicks and 46.5% opens.
- Sharon Hull and I met with Louise last Tuesday to do some YouTube training via Zoom and I have been in touch with the “We’re Not Done Yet” team to introduce myself.
- Anita Jansman, Judy Coffin and myself plan to connect over Zoom some time soon.

Questions:

1. Is there a list or could I get one as to who should be getting which notifications as they come in through email?
2. What type of content should I be posting in the Facebook group as well as on Instagram and Twitter?

And I am to ask, as per Louise: When is the next meeting date?

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**Appendix B****Pastoral Relations Minister's Report**

It is hard to believe that we are to the end of November 2020 and we are still dealing with shutdowns from Covid 19. The requests to reopen churches have really dried up. In fact, I am sure that some have decided to close again as the pandemic numbers seem to be creeping outward from the biggest of our cities. The effects of the closures have begun to be felt in many of our churches. This is showing up in the stress load of ministers who are dealing with many issues that in other years might well have been simply dealt with in a pastoral visit or over coffee after church. This means my relationships with conflict resolution facilitators are being expanded.

The Lakefield Young's Point Pastoral charge is the latest to formally ask for assistance, I have begun the conversation with Creedence and Co at the suggestion of the national church. I cannot imagine circumstances where this will not be followed up with a request for financial assistance from the Region, something we will have to deal with at the proper time.

The liaison Forum continues to be busy we continue to deal with about 1/3 of the pastoral charges of the region. I would make an open invitation to any of the elders who want to understand the system to a basic initial training session for liaisons that will take place Dec 10 by zoom. It is my hope to have a few more liaisons for our next meeting to approve. The liaison Database should be included in the minutes of this meeting. It is an excel database that will include the information on where our people are working and a few places where needs still need to be met. I continue to work with Pastoral Charges to facilitate meeting in places where I have not been able to provide a Pastoral Charge Supervisor or Liaison Officer. PCS and LO in the database.

The load of disability cases, except for my own household are comparatively low just now. Heather Sanford has been dealing with the College Hill congregation in the fact of my obvious conflict of interest. She has indicated that an appointment for pastoral care is in the works for College Hill United though I have not yet found it on church hub. Though it seems we are now able to process Pastoral relations in the according to the actual dates (even in the past).

One of the major works of this month can be reflected in the appointments below some of which have taken convincing to reach this point. The eligibility of ministers for reappointment is now dependent on completed mandatory courses and annual declarations. Appointments must be done on Church hub. This has been harder than one might expect in 3 of the appointments for final approval today.

The current action of the office of vocations towards list of an accredited Ministers will require support in communications. Our ministers need to be more aware of the implications of this list in their ministry. Today good standing is not the only requirement that must be met. If one has not completed this year's annual declaration by years end eligibility will not be complete.

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**Appendix C****Formation Nurture and Justice- update Nov 2020**

Truth and Reconciliation—IJRR-Rodney facilitating meetings of Indigenous Communities of Faith; working on building relationships with local community leaders. Resurrection stories from Alderville. Good news stories from other places as well. Talks with Paul Carl from Queen's University in Kingston. Possible language classes. There will be zoom calls and Youtube videos in the new year.- See Rodney's report for more information

A Place at the Table—ongoing work, UCC Anti- Racism, Adele as Equity and Anti-Racism officer for UCC.

Anti-Racism Forum-- Aruna reported on the Standing Together webinar- there were 85 registrants and approximately 65 attendees. Intercultural initiatives are growing, with encouragement. There is an intertwining of language, racism, and culture. Complex issue of land ownership where areas overlap. Very complex issue. Explanation of 'ceded' versus 'unceded' territories. Belleville police services sent Chief and Deputy chief to inclusion meeting. Very exciting.

Children and youth-- see Sharon's reported

Church and Community partnerships. Ongoing work in Oshawa and Belleville. David reported: there is a "Locker" project starting in Ajax as a follow-up to the ground-breaking project in Oshawa. A place for the homeless to store possessions, and also--- VERY important-- provides an address for the clients so they can receive mail. A way of enabling social assistance.

**SJNORC report--** Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>- Updates from GCO staff and Ontario RC's. Meeting more often online and updating with reports due to time. David will forward the minutes once they have been received.

**COVID grants— see report**

**Announcements:** Adele mentioned that there is a petition in Parliament re: the rights of children in Palestine. She also has some webinars she would like to present and needs some help planning and/or facilitating these. Sharon and Rodney will connect with Adele.

Marilyn R noted that the Fair Trade sales (Olive oil, etc) and projects are progressing. She now has Advent masks which will be on the ECORC website. Future projects will include the UCC crest and the Mission and Service crest (to confirm permission still).

2019-360

The United Church of Canada  
L'Église Unie du Canada

East Central Ontario Regional Council  
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders

November 27, 2020  
Zoom Teleconferencing

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Appendix D

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

## Appendix E

**Social Justice Network Of The Ontario Regions  
Virtual Meeting By Zoom  
19 November 2020**

**Participants From Regional Councils And Geo  
(East To West)**

## Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Charles Barrett, Chair of SJNORC

Jane Dawson, Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters, and Networks

## East Central Ontario Regional Council

Sharon Hull, Minister of Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relations, and Justice

David Moore, Chair-Faith Formation, Nurture and Justice Team

Marilyn Fortin, Assembly of Elders

## Shining Waters Regional Council

Bri-anne Swan, Minister for Social &amp; Ecological Justice and Network Support

Susan Eagle, (Chair-Social and Ecological Justice Commission) Chair of ISARC

## Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

## Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

Carey Wagner, Member-Mission &amp; Discipleship Commission and the Social and Ecological Justice Network

Marg Murray, Member-Social and Ecological Justice Network

## Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

Jenn Hind-Urquhart, Minister, Emmanuel United Church and its Waterloo Wayside Communities

## Canadian Shield Regional Council

Will Kunder, Minister for Congregational Support &amp; Justice Animation

Ernie Epp, Member-Support for Communities of Faith Commission

## General Council Office--Church in Mission Unit

Lori Neale, Identity and Mission Network

Ren Ito, Identity and Mission Network

As Chair, Charles Barrett observed that the meeting would be a short one, beginning as it did at 11:05 am-- "perhaps an hour and a half"--and he noted that Will Kunder was the Zoom Host. Ernie Epp was keeping the record.

Ernie had circulated the record of the meeting of 17 September 2020, which was acceptable to all.

Carey Wagner then opened the meeting with a prayer. He also enquired about the possibility of recording this Zoom meeting. Since everyone was good with this suggestion, Charles asked Will to launch the recording.

Jenn Hind-Urquhart introduced herself as a new member. She is the minister at Emmanuel United Church in Waterloo.

Charles proposed that the meeting begin with reports from General Council Office and ISARC, followed by the several Regions represented.

## REPORTS FROM GCO AND ISARC

Lori Neale, in the Identity and Mission Network of the Church in Mission Unit, noted a number of priorities: Palestine and Israel, including the Unsettling Goods campaign, the No Way to Treat a Child and MP Paul Manley's e-petition to be presented the following day, and Zatoun products now available online; Climate Justice, including an ecumenical effort by 30 churches entitled "For the Love of Creation," with sessions that began on November 1st, and the Faithful Climate Conversations at three levels; and the Guaranteed Livable Income campaign, in which United Church people are active (she is the staff person for this campaign). She asked Ren Ito, who is working on a half-time basis (while Beth Baskin is on sick leave), to state his responsibilities, which include Antiracism work--"The General Council is committed to becoming anti-racist"--and he noted the appointment of Adele Halliday as the Anti-Racism and Equity Officer of General Council who is leading in the General Council Office. Ren is also looking to the new year and the Living Apology to LGBTQ+ people.

Lori offered the following links:

Some links:

1. For the Love of Creation – [Fortheloveofcreation.ca](http://Fortheloveofcreation.ca)

The November sessions have been and are being offered on Mondays in November. The videos are posted. Resources for Faithful Climate Conversations are posted differentiated for engagement in three levels.

2. Current People in Partnership opportunity

<https://www.united-church.ca/opportunities/seventh-global-inter-religious-peace-conference-article-9-national-christian-council>

3. Thursdays in Black

I've attached the jpg for a zoom backdrop. A recent posting at:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/rev-michael-blair-collaborate-in-the-healing-and-transformation-of-the-world>

4. Key communications around justice issues are the United Action for Justice Facebook page, and the UAJ e-newsletter that go out every few weeks, and Essentials newsletter that goes out every week. I recommend everyone making sure they are on all three of these. <https://www.united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

5. Palestine and Israel update

see below. Please let me know if you want to be added to this email list. ([Lneale@united-church.ca](mailto:Lneale@united-church.ca))

**From:** Neale, Lori

**Sent:** November 12, 2020 2:38 PM

**To:** Justice <[justice@united-church.ca](mailto:justice@united-church.ca)>

**Cc:** Neale, Lori <[LNeale@united-church.ca](mailto:LNeale@united-church.ca)>; Gichuru, Wendy <[wgichuru@united-church.ca](mailto:wgichuru@united-church.ca)>

**Subject:** Some Updates and Resources for Unsettling Goods Champions -November 12, 2020

Dear Unsettling Goods Champions,

There is a lot of activity going on across the church and resources to tap into that have come to our attention over the past few weeks.

1. Olive Harvest Initiative 2020 - World Council of Churches - The olive harvest, like every other aspect of Palestinian life in the West Bank, is carried out under a military occupation that has lasted for 53 years and which continues to profoundly and negatively impact the lives, livelihoods, and human rights of

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the Palestinian people, even if the threat of formal annexation may have temporarily receded. Speak out publicly about the need to protect the rights and dignity of all those living under military occupation in the Holy Land.

<https://youtu.be/bjNiU5GePqc>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/olive-harvest-initiative>

2. Zaton – Olive Harvest time and Advent season are great times to promote fair trade olive oil and other products in your communities of faith. Delivery now available to your home in these COVID times. [www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com)
3. Canadian churches have heard Palestinian Christians Cry for Hope. In our response, we commit to encouraging Christians in Canada to engage the Cry for Hope of Palestinian Christians (letter attached). <https://www.cryforhope.org/>
4. Kairos Palestine Christmas Alert 2020: Kairos Palestine has issued its Christmas Alert, urging Christians to spread the good news of peace and to see God's image in all of humanity. (see: <https://www.kairospalestine.ps/images/kairos-palestine-christmas-alert-2020.pdf>)
5. The Canada, Stand Up For Children's Rights E-petition has closed. 2451 people signed an e-petition asking the Canadian government to appoint a special envoy to investigate the ways in which Palestinian children are being arrested, interrogated and imprisoned. On Nov. 27 MP Paul Manly will present the petition to our Parliament. Write to your MP asking them to persuade the government to actually appoint a special envoy. <https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Sample-letter-Fall-2020.pdf>  
More info about other actions will be posted on [www.unjppi.org](http://www.unjppi.org).
6. Will you Speak about Palestine on the First Sunday of Advent? Resources for first Sunday of Advent – November 29  
From Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
<https://www.fosna.org/keepawake>
7. Children's Sunday, November 15 – Resources pulled together by Region 15 (full email follows)

Let's stay connected and continue to support each other.

Blessings,

Lori and Wendy

p.s. Please forward and share with others.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rose, Tracey** <[TRose@united-church.ca](mailto:TRose@united-church.ca)>

Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 3:01 PM

Subject: Children's Sunday Resources

To: Rose, Tracey <[TRose@united-church.ca](mailto:TRose@united-church.ca)>

Good Afternoon,

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child was ratified on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1989 and so each year we celebrate by observing **Children's Sunday** in worship on a Sunday close to that date.

This year, Regional Council 15 is asking Communities of Faith to consider using the occasion to highlight the need to protect the human rights of Palestinian children. The situation for Palestinian children is desperate.

Children are an integral part of The United Church of Canada. From Communities of Faith to Camping Ministries to Outreach Ministries like afterschool programs and daycares, the call to nurture and care for children, as well as celebrating their gifts and the joy they bring, makes clear the place that Children play in our lives of faith and how we live that out. When one child suffers, we all do.

Please consider this invitation to celebrate Children's Sunday in an act of praise to God for children and all that they offer, in an act of solidarity with children who cannot advocate for themselves, and in an act of awakening to the many issues that children face here in Canada and around the world.



## **Children's Sunday Resources**

### **[2019 Children's Sunday Service "It's Not Fair"](#)**

**[Sample Worship Service Outline](#)**– St. Andrew's UC, Halifax

**[Assorted Worship Resources](#)** – Includes prayers, video links, "Biblical Voices" reading, points for reflection, words for a hymn.

**[Worship Service Suggestions](#)** (Part One) – Includes Call to Worship, Prayers, Scripture and Reflection, Images, a Poem with a call to action, and Hymn suggestions.

**[Witness from an Ecumenical Accompanier](#)** (Part Two)

### **[Luke 18 Dramatization for Children's Sunday](#)**

### **[Palestinian Children's story with Children](#)**

### **[Palestinian Children's story with Youth](#)**

**[Images](#)**– assorted images uploaded as Power Point slides/PDF that may be projected or printed as needed including maps.

**Video of Rev. Catherine Stuart**, Minister for Children, Youth, and Young Adults, serving Atlantic Regions offers Children's Sunday statement and a prayer. [https://youtu.be/skB8Bd\\_FQIk](https://youtu.be/skB8Bd_FQIk)

**Video from a young Palestinian Activist** (5 minutes) [https://youtu.be/cMWuk\\_mi5kw](https://youtu.be/cMWuk_mi5kw)

**Video - Patricia Mercer** delivers 5 minute message at Gower St. United Church, St. John's, NL, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (starting at minute 49) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeOH9eEW7OY&t=2s>

### **Actions:**

Join other churches and justice-seeking organizations actively lobbying the Canadian government "to ensure the human rights of Palestinian children are protected by instructing a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza."

**LETTER**- Use the attached template to send a letter or email to the **Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs.**

**[Suggestions for Follow-up Actions](#)**– a list of possible actions take now and also for further learning.

The above links can also be found on the **[Just Peace](#)** page of the [ucceast.ca](http://ucceast.ca).

Laura Hunter

*Minister for Justice and Mission*

*servicing Atlantic Regions of The United Church of Canada*

1-800-268-3781 . 6157

[lhunter@united-church.ca](mailto:lhunter@united-church.ca)

Lori Neale

Network Coordinator, Identity and Mission

(she/her)

The United Church of Canada  
L'Église Unie du Canada

East Central Ontario Regional Council  
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders

November 27, 2020  
Zoom Teleconferencing

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The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada  
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200 Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4  
[lineale@united-church.ca](mailto:lineale@united-church.ca)  
<http://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/people-partnership>  
[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

Tel 416 231 7680, Ext 4152 1 800 268 3781, Ext 4152 Fax 416 231 3103 (attn: Lori)

*The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

*Our vital, innovative, and healing ministries are supported by generous Mission & Service donations*

...

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

**4 Attachments**

Preview YouTube video Olive harvest initiative 2020 - Understanding the context



Ren offered the following:

**The United Church of Canada: Working to Become an Anti-Racist Denomination**

The United Church of Canada has started to work on becoming an anti-racist denomination. Why has the church

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made this commitment? What does this commitment mean? And how might the church go about doing this work?

### *Why become an anti-racist denomination?*

Racism exists in many forms in both church and society. For decades, the United Church has condemned all forms of racism, named racism as sin, and worked to eliminate systemic racial discrimination. People in the United Church have developed [anti-racism](#) policies and education programs, worked towards reconciliation and [Indigenous justice](#), adopted the [Calls to the Church](#), and created [intercultural policies](#) and initiatives. In spite of this steadfast and faithful work by committed people over generations, the reality of racism in the church is ever-present.

At the United Church's General Council meeting in 2018, in the final two hours of the afternoon session, many of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour participants lined up at microphones to [share their painful stories of racial exclusion](#) within the church. Ministry personnel who are racialized as Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour spend more time searching to find appointments or calls when compared to their White colleagues; many are also sharply critiqued for their diverse accents. In a national [United Church survey on intercultural ministries in 2019](#), several racialized and Indigenous people shared their stories about their experiences of racial discrimination, including tokenism and a lack of safety within the church.

There are many more specific examples of lived experiences that can be shared. Additional reasons for why we need do to this work are detailed in written United Church statements, policies, and documents. What is clear now is that much more needs to be done to dismantle systemic racism within the church. The June 2020 proposal, "[Towards an Anti-Racist Denomination](#)"—which was written for the General Council at the height of global protests for racial justice and in the midst of deepened awareness for the Black Lives Matter movement—names this dynamic clearly:

As people of faith, our call to act justly is named as part of our anti-racism policy, and this call is a part of our Christian faith and discipleship journey. The theological and scriptural basis for anti-racism work is well-documented in the United Church's policies, including our anti-racism policy, "[That All May Be One](#)": "As a community of believers we are called to live out God's love in the world, to advocate for and with the oppressed, to model moral leadership and to seek justice for all people."

A World Council of Churches [statement on discipleship](#) also reminds us of the importance of dismantling racial discrimination:

"We are called as disciples to belong together in just and inclusive communities, in our quest for unity and on our ecumenical journey, in a world that is based upon marginalization and exclusion." As a church, we also have a role in speaking to the world, and in being prophetic. This prophetic witness follows in the ways of Jesus, who not only spoke of uncomfortable realities in his time, but also challenged power structures and took tangible action

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for justice. We engage in anti-racism work to follow Jesus' example of dismantling unjust power and creating better places of belonging for all.

Public statements are not enough. Words are not enough. This is a moment for The United Church of Canada to wrestle with its White privilege, its role in systematizing anti-Black racism within its own policies, procedures, and practices, and its role within the wider Canadian context. There is a need to make becoming an anti-racist denomination and dealing with anti-Black racism within our denomination a missional priority at all levels of the denomination.

***What does this mean?***

An anti-racist denomination is one that actively works at dismantling racism and White supremacy at all levels of the church, continues to work at decolonizing its theology, and strives to redistribute racial power more fairly. It does this anti-racism work so that people from all racial backgrounds can participate in the church's life fully and freely.

“Anti-racism” and “racial justice” are related terms, but should not necessarily be used interchangeably. Racial justice describes the utopic and intercultural dream where people of all races are engaged in equitable communities, where people are treated fairly and without racial discrimination, where unjust power is dismantled, and where all are welcome. Anti-racism is a verb: it includes specific recognition of the presence of racism and the sustained active efforts to overcome it.

The dream of a racially just community is not quickly or easily attainable. Racial justice will never be fully achieved by attending one workshop or preaching a single sermon. “Racial justice” is also not a simple action that we can check off our “to-do” lists. But because racism is so deeply embedded in our churches and communities, dismantling racism will be an ongoing effort. Anti-racism, therefore, demands energy and attention from all parts of the church. The work of becoming an anti-racist denomination is a journey and process that requires continuous reflection and action.

[Ibram X. Kendi](#) describes the meaning of becoming an anti-racist organization and society. He is a Black American historian, award-winning scholar, and the author of the book *How to Be an Antiracist*. Kendi shares that when people deny the reality of racism, then people allow racism to persist. Through being passive, or through inaction, systemic racism is upheld. Instead, anti-racism requires concrete action. The United Church's anti-racism policy also states this: “Even though by action we may not have been racist, by inaction we have helped

sustain a social climate where racism can occur.” Kendi, along with other anti-racist activists, clearly names that action against racism must be intentional: people must be actively anti-racist.

Kendi also writes that [racial inequity is partly a problem of bad policy](#). Anti-racism must ask what is wrong with our policies. Too often, there are racist policies that allow racism to persist in church and society. Kendi reminds us that we cannot do anti-racism work unless we are very attentive to policy development. Furthermore, people of the church remind us that in addition to developing strong policies, we need to live out in practice the statements and actions proclaimed in policy.

For the United Church, the work of becoming an anti-racist denomination therefore requires tangible action. It must be intentional, and it must be represented in both policy and practice.

This intentionality and action means:

- *Continuous effort.* Our anti-racism policy notes that: “We believe that the struggle against racism is a continuous effort.” This clarifies that engagement with anti-racism is a process and a continual journey that demands persistent and consistent dedicated work.
- *All parts of the church are involved.* Intentional dialogue will be needed at all levels of the church. Anti-racism work is for more than the General Council Office or for staff, and it is more than policy creation alone. In addition to these key aspects of the work, all levels of the church need to be actively involved—including regional councils, communities of faith, camps, community ministries, and many more. The United Church’s anti-racism policy also reflects this: “We believe we are all called to work against racism and for a society in which the words of the Gospel are realized among us.”
- *Equipping leaders.* The leaders of the denomination—including clergy and senior staff—need to be trained and equipped to effectively integrate anti-racism work as part of their regular ministry practice.
- *Engaging with anti-racist practices.* Some of these practices might ask questions about how we pray and what we pray for, how we preach and what we preach about, how we read and interpret the Bible, how we name and describe Jesus, what curriculum and Bible commentaries we use, how we engage in outreach, how we work with people in our communities, etc.
- *Building on history.* Anti-racism work is not new for this year. The United Church has been engaged in this work for decades, and has embraced an intercultural vision. Many concrete actions have been worked on, and new ones have been proposed. Most recently, the Executive of General Council [issued a strong statement](#) in June of 2020. In addition to what has been named before—including continuing to follow up on recommendations from earlier reports—the work of becoming an anti-racist church needs to be linked

with the church's [intercultural vision](#). [SEP]

- *Reflecting on theology.* The church's theological basis for anti-racism work needs to be clear, explicit, and continually reflected upon. At times, our theological basis for racial justice work tends to go back to the simplicity of love for one another and being made in the image of God. While this is true, additional and more complex concepts also need further reflection, including postcolonial theologies or decolonizing theologies. [SEP]
- *A concrete strategy.* Recognizing that all parts of the church must be involved means that there are different parts of the church doing different parts of the work, and each [SEP] would have some level of responsibility for advancing anti-racism work, as well as monitoring and reporting the work being done.

### ***How might we do this?***

All parts of the church are invited to actively participate in the ongoing work of creating better places of belonging for people of all racial backgrounds, and in continuing the prayer "That All May Be One." Anti-racism work asks people to deepen their understanding and awareness of racism, acknowledge the presence of systemic racism in church and society, and take tangible action to dismantle racism in all its forms.

Through the active involvement of people throughout the church, and with a concrete strategy in place, the United Church is determined to continue its unwavering commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination.

In further discussion, Will expressed regret at the elimination of Mandate which he described as a "tremendous loss." Lori said that she had not been involved with the decision but that regular mailings of information were planned.

Charles noted the establishment of staff support as an interesting way of doing things.

Lori pointed to her "Thursdays in Black" Zoom backdrop as an initiative of the World Council of Churches "for a world without rape and violence" ("Google" for more information).

### **ISARC**

Susan Eagle noted the Faith Leaders Forum on November 25 and then reported on a number of ISARC activities:

- 1) a submission in regard to Bill 218, which had all sorts of things dumped into a municipal governance bill, including Long-Term Care;
- 2) an oral presentation to the Minister of Finance in the pre-budget consultation by Zoom, which allowed her to see the minister roll his eyes when the Basic Income was mentioned; and
- 3) a written submission regarding the inadequate social assistance rates, the worsening housing crisis, and the Basic Income.

Returning to the Faith Leaders Forum, she noted that it was a virtual gathering for the first time in which people across the province could participate. Lois Wilson would offer the theological reflection and the theme speakers include Jamie Swift.

In response to Charles' question, Susan said that the plenary would be recorded but not the four breakout rooms, one of which will hear of lived experiences.

## **REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCILS**

### **Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council:**

Jane Dawson began with the UNJPPI-sponsored study of the book by Jean Zaru, *Occupied by Nonviolence*, which Marianna Harris is leading. A recent development is cooking classes led by Palestinian women. This is designed to enlarge the conversation.

She noted Right Relations work that carried over from Presbytery work and focused on Indigenous Justice and Right Relations. They are having a virtual conversation on the Calls to Action to the Churches, which was news to some people. Lacking any Indigenous Churches in the Region, they were having more need to talk about issues.

Thirdly, the Guaranteed Livable Income issue called for much work and she asked how to build a network that is staff-supported but not staff-led. This called for tapping some people on the shoulder. She was talking up the ISARC Faith Leaders Forum.

Among other concerns she noted climate change and ways of involving people in our communities of faith.

Charles added the Multifaith Housing Initiative which had created Barr Haven and was now building Veterans House on what had been the Rockcliffe Air Base. The Regional Council has made a commitment and is encouraging communities of faith to do so as well. And refugee work has traction throughout the region. He and Jane have both worked with Transformation in Ministry; Jane led a workshop on applying for grants, since money is available and people need to be encouraged to apply.

### **East Central Ontario Regional Council**

Sharon Hull had a written report and noted that their Regional Council had met on-line with pre-recorded presentations that had been sub-titled as an Equity action. They have dedicated Equity Monitors in their communities of faith. She has done a number of Webinars relating to Indigenous issues and Anti-Racism work.

David Moore reported on the Service Hubs they had developed to meet the needs of people in their communities which were proving very useful in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and being copied in other parts of the province, even outside Ontario. The United Church mission becomes a focus of activity, as in Belleville and Oshawa. There was also increased interest in federal housing initiatives. They had been able to achieve a nine-bed transition house. These initiatives were bring communities of faith together in a new way.

In response to Jane's query, Sharon noted that there are firms that provide the subtitling and said that she would add this information to her written presentation:

### **Shining Waters Regional Council:**

Bri-Anne Swan noted that Tina Conlon was not able to attend--the meeting was later informed that she was dealing with Covid-19, and Charles expressed best wishes for a speedy recovery--and reported that staff had undertaken a number of initiatives:

- 1) doing anti-racism work in the churches, with separate sessions for white people and for biracial/racialized people,
- 2) a plenary session at the Regional Council Annual Meeting had been addressed by Dr. H
- 3) the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council had voted to become an Affirming Regional Council; a company had been hired to do captioning in real time;



- 
- 4) in September, they had supported the Livable Income bill with a gathering in front of the MP's office of Chrystia Freedland, Minister of Finance;
  - 5) plans are being made for on-line services for Advent, with some focus on social justice work; items are being put on a Website as they create a bank of resources (copyright issues are being worked out); four congregations have signed on;
  - 6) a podcast with a former Right Relations minister focuses on a faith that requires social justice work; although done for the Regional Council, it brings in people who are not with the United Church;
  - 7) Jeffrey Dale, their Minister of Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adults, is in a podcast for Christ the King Sunday entitled "Not Your Ordinary King," in which he talks "about his work advocating advocating for safe consumption sites . . .and wondering what it would mean if we just took Matthew's words [Matthew 25:31-46] at face value" ["Google" for it]; and
  - 8) she is continuing a newsletter available to all.

Susan added that the Social Justice Commission was continuing, and they were seeking involvement in communities of faith from people, not just the same old, same old--it's hard slogging!

### **Horseshoe Falls, Antler River Waterways, and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Councils**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez reported on activities in all three Regional Councils, which all voted to become Affirming at their meetings this fall. They aim to celebrate the decision in late spring/early winter 2021. They had Equity Monitors for each regional meeting. From that experience, they are now working to devise a job description for an equity monitor

She did a 101 workshop on antiracism for those in ministry with children and youth and discovered that--"although we've already done this!"--there were still attitude issues. She hosted a webinar on gender identities ahead of voting on the remit at regional meetings this fall. It is clear there is still much to be done in this area!

In partnership with Shining Waters Regional Council, they hosted two virtual tours of the former residential school in Brantford (<https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>).

**Horseshoe Falls Regional Council** had been doing advocacy work for migrant agricultural workers before the pandemic and is planning to host a virtual town hall for all levels of government to address how to best support migrant workers in the Niagara region--"to end the passing of the buck"!

**Western Ontario Waterways Region** is aiming to work together in regard to the Livable Income issue.

A group of folks are coming together to discuss how to best animate the Palestine-Israel issue for all three regions.

Diane is working to host a big name speaker--she mentioned Dr. Monica Coleman, Associate Professor of Constructive Theology and African American Religions at Claremont Graduate University ["Google" her name]--for members of all three regions. She will keep SJNORC in the loop, expecting there will be partnership opportunities ([monicacoleman.com](http://monicacoleman.com)).

Charles commented, in regard to migrant workers, that there is a complex of issues including housing, but it should help to bring people together to consider solutions to the problems.

In **Western Ontario Waterways Region**, Emmanuel United Church in Waterloo has made ecological justice a priority for preaching and faith formation. Jenn Hind-Urquhart is the minister of its Waterloo Wayside Communities, too.



In regard to Social and Ecological Justice being pursued in the Antler River Watershed Region, Diane recognized the challenge of getting to the people in the pews. Marg Murray wondered whether a Website might help. Charles pointed to the recording being done of the meeting, and wondered whether we had the resources needed. Sharon pointed out that the East Central Ontario Regional Council is creating a Youtube channel with ten sub-channels. Charles recognized that Youtube could be a possibility. He encouraged Bri-Anne and Diane to discuss these possibilities.

### **Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

Carey provided a written report:

#### **Antler River Watershed Region Mission and Discipleship Commission Report November 19, 2020**

The Commission was active this September approving Mission and Support Grants.

To help us better understand the context of the grant requests, we will be including virtual tours or short videos from the grant applicants at our M&D Commission meetings throughout the year.

The Mission and Discipleship Commission continues to explore ways to communicate to the broader church but especially those in the pews.

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**Antler River Watershed Region Social and Ecological Justice Network** – the addition of ‘ecological’ in the title reflects an emphasis on all of Creation rather than only humans.

- We had Kate Graham speak at our October meeting on Women in Leadership. She has a vision of an Ontario where every single person is living a happy, healthy life, where they can achieve their big dreams. We were energized by Kate’s half-hour presentation. You can find out more about Kate at <https://www.kateforleader.ca/meet-kate>
- We are seriously exploring our communication opportunities both within and outside our Region.
- We value the Fall Forum series of ‘[For the Love of Creation](#)’, the collaborative initiative of Kairos, Citizens for Public Justice, etc., and churches, including the United Church of Canada - described in November’s [Oxford CONNECTIONS](#), page 10.
- From the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel (UNJPPI), Paul Manly is presenting a petition calling for a Special Envoy to investigate the plight of Palestinian children arrested by the Israeli government tomorrow.

Children’s Rights/ International Day of the Child – November 20 See the UNJPPI website for more information on [children’s rights](#) and [children’s Sunday](#).

Marg spoke of the need to engage people in regard to the Climate Crisis, which underlies every challenge of our time> Lori encouraged us to look at Ecological Grief in this regard--do "Google" the term!

Charles thanked Marg for her passion in regard to the climate crisis of our time and expressed the hope that the next US administration will respond to the challenge. He asked what we can do in the communities of faith. Jenn Hind-Urquhart stated that she was preaching once a month through the year on the challenge. They had also been able to set some land aside on the church property to allow a garden group to create a "food forest," with Indigenous crops, This is an excellent way to "engage with the Earth"! Charles responded that Food Security is a good focus.

### **Canadian Shield Regional Council**

Will, speaking in North Bay from the east end of this vast region, noted the recent Annual Meeting voted on an Affirming statement--the Regional Council had voted on becoming Affirming at its initial meeting last year--and obtained almost unanimous support (two people abstained on the vote).

He noted the challenge of the Region's size, encompassing part or all of three different Conferences. He himself is retiring after eighteen years of serving Manitou Conference and now the Canadian Shield Regional Council. He noted strength in North Bay and Sudbury and in Thunder Bay, which a new staff person will be able to draw upon. He may be involved with finances.

Will referred to the work of UNJPPI, specifically the book discussion led by Marianna Harris on Jean Zaru's *Occupied by Nonviolence*; anti-racism efforts; and the work organized by the North Bay and Area Mission Cluster in regard to the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in British Columbia. "Wet'suwet'en Witness" included three Webinar sessions in October:

October 14: Wet'suwet'en Call for Justice: and has anything changed since Oka?

October 21: Environmental Justice, Racism and Northern Ontario

October 28: Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls

Ernie, speaking from Thunder Bay at the west end of the region, expressed his appreciation for both the UNJPPI activities and the Wet'suwet'en sessions organized by the Indigenous Solidarity Team of the North Bay and Area Mission Cluster. He had missed the middle one, ironically enough because he was involved in a Regional Shield discussion about Equity Monitors with the Rev Sharon Ballantyne of the East Central Ontario Regional Council!

Ernie was focused on the presentation by Paul Manly of his e-petition calling for a Special Envoy the next day and wondered whether anyone had thoughts about making a media event about it.

Ernie then said that he had been given the opportunity--on behalf of the Support for Communities of Faith Commission--to address the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council on November 7 regarding social justice work and been part of one of the break-out groups that discussed social justice issues facing communities of faith.

The Thunder Bay Cluster, meeting just a week later, had some discussion of social justice issues and focused on food security as an important one. (As it happens, the Food Security issue is important at Lakehead University, where the Food Security Research Network offered more than a hundred plots in a Community Campus Garden last summer.) There will be further discussion in the new year.

In the meantime, Poverty Free Thunder Bay--where Ernie represents the United Church--is working to achieve are-Free Transit for the residents of Thunder Bay. A survey during a period of suspension of fares revealed the importance of such a policy, and discussions continue with the City and community organizations.

## **FINANCES**

Charles turned to Will for financial information, and Will stated that the suggested assessment of \$1,500 had been accepted by most of the Regional Councils and that the Social Justice Network had a current balance of some \$9,500. Charles described this as a god situation, undoubtedly reflective of the lack of in-person meetings this year. He then observed that this November meeting was usually the one at which a grant to ISARC was made. With a balance of more than \$10,000--given the honouring of the last two assessments--the usual grant of \$3,000 was certainly possible.

**Ernie moved, Diane seconded That the Social Justice Network of the Ontario Regions grant \$3,000 to ISARC. A friendly amendment increased the amount to \$5,000,** which Susan indicated they could certainly use. ISARC has a staff person who is working very hard on the issues and organizing of the Faith Leaders Forum. The motion **Carried.**

Susan then raised the matter of Will's retirement from the staff of the Canadian Shield Regional Council and observed that she was a member of the Network on behalf of ISARC. She suggested that Will should continue as the Treasurer--and not just as the Treasurer but for his knowledge of the ins-and-outs of organizations. No decision was come to.

Charles observed that these virtual meetings have their limitations. Ernie said that he would circulate a draft record shortly seeking a critical reading to ensure that he had "got it."

Susan then mentioned the Canadian Christian University issue in Toronto, and Ernie observed that his wife had personal knowledge and appreciation of Charles McVety's father--and grandparents--which made his current activities all the more painful for her!

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ernie murmured words of appreciation of Charles' leadership in which others joined as they all left the meeting. The meeting concluded at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ernie Epp, Recorder

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Appendix F

**Minister for Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Report Nov. 26, 2020**

In addition to continuing on with items reported in October 23 report, I have worked with other members of the Faith Nurture and Justice Team (FNJT) on Co-vid grants.

I connected with Adele Boy, a new member of FNJT from the Uxbridge about a project she's involved with around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Karen Wilson will help us share this in the next newsletter.

Perhaps in the new year Karen can share about coursera.org : Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions

I have been exploring how congregations might work with Rotary Clubs around reconciliation work through their HIP program: Honouring Indigenous Peoples.

I met with Aruna Alexander from the Anti-Racism and Intercultural Team and Paul Carl on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This strategy emerged to co-host 4 webinars, perhaps monthly, beginning on an evening late January (7-8:30?), around the theme of Indigenous Language. While learning some language (especially around place names and a few important words), we might also learn about the various communities relationship to their Indigenous language. For instance, much grief around loss of language. Paul could speak from his urban/Anishnaabe/Haudenosaunee perspective, DJ Fife and Anne Taylor may speak from their perspective (Curve Lake). Rodney may contact Betty Maracle for a third session from Tyendinaga, and a fourth session might come from Alderville. Hope these sessions may be recorded for region's Youtube channel as this seems an effective and efficient way to do things.

I have been invited to prepare a 30 minute presentation to the Edith Rankin UC men's group in the new year, likely March or April via zoom (would be good to record this for youtube channel as well). They are hoping to hear "*about indigenous issues in general and more specifically in relation to this Region. An understanding of programs, events, activities, needs or possible partnerships that we might respond to either individually or as a faith community would be helpful in our outreach efforts.*"