
East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, February 26, 2021 – 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
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Karen Wilson	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant
Sharon Hull	Corresponding Member - Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice (arrived at 11:30 a.m.)
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
Karen Valley	Corresponding Member, Office of Vocation Minister (departed at 10:30 a.m.)

REGRETS/ABSENT

(none)

Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Kathleen Whyte gave thanks to First Nations Peoples for their stewardship of the land throughout the centuries, and called for all to continue to walk the reconciliation and justice path together. Kathleen opened this time of devotion in prayer. Kathleen also gave thanks for the news that the United Church has prepared an apology for its part in separating unmarried mothers from their children in maternity homes (<https://united-church.ca/news/apology-past-adoption-practices>). Kathleen closed this time with giving thanks to God for continued presence, accompaniment and guidance.

Circle Time of Sharing – all were invited to share.

Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting

Rev. Lynn Watson acted as Equity Monitor for this meeting.

Agenda

2021-02-26_019 MOTION (B. James/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

Corresponding Members

2021-02-26_020 MOTION (I. Robbs/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders welcome Karen Valley, Office of Vocation during the Covenant Support LT report. **Carried**

Minutes of January 29, 2021

2021-02-26_021 MOTION (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of January 29, 2021 as circulated. **Carried**

Correspondence

- a) February 1, 2021 Bruce Hutchison, Four Winds Presbytery Corporation re dissolution plans (*referred to Mission through Property and Finance Team*)
- b) February 11, 2021 Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley re “Walking the Paths of Peace Together” *for discussion*
- c) February 12, 2021 GCO Stewardship mailing of “Called to Be the Church” (*for information*)
- d) February 23, 2021 Johnny Pearl re offer to purchase former church property in Prince Edward County (*for action; slight legal corrections arrived Feb 25*)
- e) February 23, 2021 Joan Pickell, Treasurer of Ebenezer United Church re Questions/Support regarding Church Amalgamation (*referred to Mission through Property and Finance Team*)
- f) February 25, 2020 Rev. Nan Hudson re revised version of “Walking the Paths of Peace Together” (*for discussion*)
- g) February 25, 2021 Rev. Dr. David McMaster Eastminster United Church, Belleville re Good Friday service to share (*for information*)

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

Facilitation Team report – Paul provided some updates; Paul has been in communication with potential facilitators for preparing “priority setting” for the RC; On March 20th GC 43 is being recalled. Positive feedback re commitment to workshops and June meeting date. Rodney Smith Merkley has expressed interest in being part if the “priority setting” work ahead for the Regional Council.

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

Communications – Karen Wilson highlighted items in her report, including that the newsletter will be sent out every week, having specific information sent out bi-weekly; Sharon Hull shared her screen indicating submission deadlines and which information will be sent out each week; see **appendix A**

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***

- i) **Governance** – Forums and Networks document pending work to come from the Covenant Support Team
- ii) **Pastoral Relations** –
 - a) Covenanting Support Team – Change in Pastoral Relations; Steve Coles informed that Affirm presented to the team at its past meeting. David Timpson highlighted...

Changes

2021-02-26_022 MOTION (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accepts the retirement of Reverend Nan Hudson effective June 30, 2021 with

appreciation for her years of ministry, most recently with Faith United Church in Kingston. Her ministry will be recognized officially in the Celebration of Ministry later this year. **Carried**

2021-02-26_023 MOTION (S. Coles/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of the Reverend Robin Thomson for a change in pastoral relations, ending the relationship with Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay on June 30th 2021. **Carried**

2021-02-26_024 MOTION (K. Whyte/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of the Reverend Don Uhryniw for a change in pastoral relations, ending the relationship with Emmanuel United Church, Peterborough effective Feb 28th 2021, with salary continuance for 6 months. **Carried** (*B. James abstains*)

b) Report from Liaison Forum –

2021-02-26_025 MOTION (B. James/I. Robbs) 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 –waiting for Terms of Reference

d) Retirees Forum-

Members of the Retirees Forum of East Central Ontario Region are: Elizabeth Macdonald, Ian Robb, Jean Wilson, and Caroline Giesbrecht.

The Retirees Forum was set up in the new United Church structure (in the absence of Presbyteries and Conferences) to help connect and support ministry retirees. We have a list of over 160 retirees and continue to update it. Meetings are now by Zoom. Elizabeth continues to post her lively interviews with retirees on You Tube for all to view. Jean has been hosting the monthly “coffee and chat” sessions, which have had a great response. There are three new representatives from different areas of the Regional Council to help with planning and keeping in touch; Judy MacGillivray (Kingston), Bob LePage (Oshawa), and Ed Bentley (Belleville). The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 1:00 p.m.

10-minute break

iii) Supporting the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place

a. Spring Brook United Church – no news

b. Chalmers Review – 3 people have been commission and are ready to begin work: David King, Larry Doyle, Kristianne Black. Faith Cares is continuing to work the congregation.

2021-02-26_026 MOTION (S. Coles/I Robbs) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders commission Rev. David King, Rev. Larry Doyle and Rev. Kristianne Black to take on the role of governing body (with the exception of the work of the trustees) at Chalmers United Church, expenses to be paid by Chalmers, with regular reporting to the Covenant Support Team, and a full a report to be submitted to the Assembly of Elders by the 15th of September 2021. **Carried**

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

2021-02-26_027 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation (FWPDC) to negotiate a transfer of:

- monetary investments including outstanding loans,
- property and
- liabilities

to the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) by the end of 2021. Guidelines related to the use and ministry supported by the transferred assets to be negotiated with TUCC. **Carried**

2021-02-26_028 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request from The Ridge Pastoral Charge, Coe Hill, St Ola to a short-term lease agreement for the manse. **Carried** (*K. Whyte abstains*)

2021-02-26_029 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders acknowledges the necessity of naming Trustees who will be the Trustees for the property of the former Centre Congregation of The United Church of Canada, originally the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada, located on the corner of East County Rd. 23 & Victoria Rd. Ameliasburgh, ON (the "Property"). The Trustees are authorized to enter into and execute an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to sell the Property, and such agreement as may have been signed in advance of this resolution is hereby ratified and confirmed, and all other documents relating to it in their capacities as Trustees appointed under the Trusts of Model Deed annexed as Schedule A to The United Church of Canada Act, S.O. 1925, chapter 125 (as amended) and not in their personal capacities and that such Trustees shall have no personal liability pursuant to the Agreement. The East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Cynthia Gunn, Kathy McDonald and Rosemary Lambie as Trustees, with Cynthia Gunn and Kathy McDonald having full signing authority for all the Trustees. **Carried**

2021-02-26_030 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) 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 PT LT 76 CON 2 Ameliasburgh as in AM1922; Prince Edward County located on the corner of East County Rd. 23 & Victoria Rd. Ameliasburgh, ON, pursuant to an agreement between THE TRUSTEES OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA, as seller, represented by the Trustees for the property of the former Centre Congregation of The United Church of Canada, and Johnny Pearl as purchaser, dated the 23rd day of February 2021, and the terms of which are as follows:

- Sale Price - \$20,000
- Deposit of \$2,500 on acceptance of the offer
- Closing – April 1, 2021

The disposition of the proceeds arising from the transaction will be in a recommendation from the Mission through Property and Finance Leadership Team at a later date. **Carried**

2021-02-26_031 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the document for circulation "Disbanding: Steps for Closing Well" – see **appendix B. Carried**

Discussion: (Ontario Small Business Support Grants) – churches are now eligible (scenario 1: if losses of revenue are greater than 20%; and scenario 2: eligible for energy cost reimbursement for up to three months).

Re Assessments: The Speaker noted that a number of Communities of Faith had opted for the three-year assessment freeze. The freeze ends as of next year, 2022. Additional \$300,000 will be going out of the RC within the next year and this will impact congregations.

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

- a) Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives; Marilyn Fortin highlighted details in her report, see **appendix C**

2021-02-26_032 MOTION (M. Fortin/L. Watson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the draft documentation of an ECORC Anti-Racism Policy for discussion at the next meeting. **Carried**

Discussion: Sharon will resend the policy with links updated, and invited questions to be forwarded to Aruna and Marilyn before next meeting.

- b) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages – see **appendix D**
c) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils

ii) Doing Mission Priority Grants

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; Rodney Smith-Merkley highlighted various items in his report, see **appendix E**

Discussion on the ministry and future of Faith United Church, Kingston:

2021-02-26_033 MOTION (S. Coles/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the documentation entitled, “Walking the Paths of Peace Together” (see **appendix F**) and further, affirms its purpose and direction, including the repatriation of this land to an indigenous non-profit body, and take steps to ensure that this United Church of Canada land is protected from sale by the United Church of Canada and designated in perpetuity by the United Church of Canada for the use of the Kingston Indigenous Community in the spirit of right relations and true reconciliation. **Carried**

Rodney highlighted details contained within the document “Walking the Paths of Peace Together” and answered questions. For more details, members of this body were invited to consult with Nan Hudson.

It was made know (regretfully) that Murray Wheaton passed away last night. Murray was 99. The Speaker acknowledge Murrays participation within the life of the church and gave thanks.

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; Sharon highlighted that next meeting will take place in March. A couple of members have been invited to take part in the planning of GC 44 planning.

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

Affirm Forum

Forum Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives; Don informed that there are announcements in the RC newsletter regarding upcoming educational events. Meetings are continuing to take place with members from the forum and other teams and forums within the Regional Council. Question remains: how will registration take place for upcoming workshop in April.

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; Paul reported a meeting is set for the near future and research is taken place re vacancies.

Additional Reports – Speaker's meeting with the General Secretary, four major topics: 1. Assessments (moving towards full amounts); 2020 will show a strong financial position because of grants; suggestions for a minimum assessment for any body of the Church, but so far has not been received well; planning for how change in assessments will affect Communities of Faith. It is foreseen that assessments will remain at 4.5%. 2. Adele Halliday share church vision of equity and anti-racisms. 3. The 43rd GC is reconvening to receive proposal that the 2022 GC will be entirely virtual; stages of meeting begin in March 2022 (June 14th is the deadline to receive names of Commissioners. 4. Rev. Michael Blair, incoming General Secretary, shared details of vision for setting as a priority the mission-work of the General Council. As priorities do get set, mission-work remains the focus as it is deemed as essential.

New Business

Question has arisen if clergy-member of the Regional Council can be declared as essential workers. It was noted that hospital chaplaincies were not considered essential workers, and would not be vaccinated ahead of others. It was suggested that an effort be made by the Regional Council to have clergy-members recognized as essential-workers. If not at least for individuals who are 'card-carriers' providing spiritual-care and currently working in hospitals.

The Speaker will provide a note for the Regional Council newsletter from the Assembly of Elders outlining the conversation above offering support for clergy in regards to recognition of work in dangerous times despite not being deemed essential workers.

Opening worship for next meeting – Ian Robb

Equity Monitor Report – Please wait until you have been called upon by the Speaker to speak when you would like to be heard. It was noted that the chat can be used as well. Be careful of making gender-assumptions.

Motion to adjourn

2021-02-26_034 MOTION (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:45 p.m. **Carried**

Closing Prayer – Brian James closed this meeting in prayer.

Next Meeting Dates

- RC Workshop on Priorities, Saturday, March 6 or 13
- Executive - Friday, March 26, 2021 9 am-noon ZOOM
- RC Workshop on Affirm, Saturday, April ??
- Executive - Friday, April 23, 2021 9 am-noon ZOOM
- RC Workshop on Nominations, Wednesday, May 12 7-9 pm
- Executive - Friday, June 4 – Sunday, June 6... agenda TBC

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

Appendix A	Communications Summary Report	Page 33
Appendix B	Disbanding: Steps for Closing Well	Pages 34-40
Appendix C	Formation Nurture and Justice Elder Report	Page 41
Appendix D	Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages	Page 42
Appendix E	Report of the Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice	Page 43-44
Appendix F	Walking the Path of Peace Together- 2016-2020 - Summary for ECORC	Pages 45-47

Appendix A

Assembly of Elders Meeting
Friday, February 26th at 9am
Communications Summary Report – Karen Wilson

WEBSITE UPDATES:

- I have been working on updating the website and Wanda Stride has been helping with the [Ministry Teams](#) page and made the following suggestion: *“I would check back with the assembly of elders about status of people. We have found it’s not as simple as “lay members and ministry personnel”, even though that is technically correct. For instance, Kevin Fitzpatrick is doing his SME close to being ordained... we have had to break everything down into specifics.”* I was wondering, if you could have a look at the page, when it’s convenient, let me know of any corrections and I will get it updated.
- Rodney Smith-Merkley and I have been working on the [Indigenous Ministry page](#), which you will see has been renamed and updated as per his request.
- We will also be looking at updating the Retiree’s Forum webpage.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE:

This year I have noticed the newsletter is getting busier so I have been looking at ways on how I could make sure it isn’t too overwhelming but more importantly, people don’t miss anything. After receiving some great feedback over the last couple weeks from subscribers and a meeting this past Tuesday with both Sharon Hull and Elizabeth Macdonald, who had her own questions re: newsletter, Sharon and I had some brainstorming sessions. Starting this week, the newsletter will go out weekly, but will consist of 2 groups. Each group is bi-weekly. It will be a work in progress as we move forward for a little bit, but I think it will work out well.

All in all, it has been a busy month but a very productive one! Also, thank you to Sharon for all your help, advice and great ideas.

Karen Wilson

Appendix B

Feb 2021

ECORC / COF

Disbanding: Steps for Closing Well

Regional Council

East Central Ontario Regional Council

A **Community of Faith** may experience one or more of the following changes during its lifetime:

- Amalgamating with one or more other Communities of Faith;
- Becoming a single-point pastoral charge, part of a multi-point pastoral charge, or part of a different multi-point pastoral charge;
- Relocating; and
- Concluding or disbanding its ministry.

All of these changes require the approval of the Regional Council and a change to the covenant between the congregation and the Regional Council.
(The Manual G.1.3)

Feb 2021

Contents

When is it Time? 3

Deciding to Disband as a Congregation 3

 Quorum for the meeting:..... 3

 Pastoral Charge Name: 4

Things to do Before the Disbanding Date 4

 Honour Your History: 4

 Care for your Members:..... 4

 Care for your Staff:..... 4

 Care for your Finances: 5

 Care for your Property: 5

 Scatter Your Seeds: 5

Additional Resources 7

Feb 2021

When is it Time?

Like all living things, congregations experience a life cycle, with a birth, a middle and an end. These changes may happen slowly over centuries or much faster. Sometimes it can be difficult to identify the reasons why a congregation may no longer be viable, but often it is due to changes in the surrounding area, such as shifting demographics, social trends, escalating maintenance costs, fewer volunteers and dwindling finances. The decision to disband is often difficult and emotional. It is important to remember that the work of closing well, is a special type of ministry. Those who find themselves carrying out this work are called to oversee the faithful “scattering of seeds” which will be the ongoing legacy of their community of faith. This is a special and very important aspect of congregational ministry.

Although no one wants to close pre-maturely, leaving the decision too late can lead to rushed decisions and missed opportunities. Regularly reviewing a congregation’s financial viability, volunteer strength, energy levels, and sense of purpose (living faith story) helps identify when it may be time to start preparing to disband, amalgamate with another congregation or exploring re-development options. Note that according to the regional council’s property policy, in the case of amalgamation, a congregation will normally take all of its asset into the newly formed congregation. The formula for distribution of assets following disbanding is also detailed in the policy.

Deciding to Disband as a Congregation

1. The governing body makes a decision to call a congregational meeting to consider making a request to disband. Notice of the meeting, and its purpose, is read during public worship for two Sundays. The meeting may take place the next day (Monday) or any time after that.

Quorum for the meeting:

A meeting of the congregation or pastoral charge may take place only if a minimum number of full members is present, as follows:

- a) for congregations or pastoral charges with 100 or more full members, at least 20 full members must be present;
 - b) for congregations or pastoral charges with between 30 and 99 full members, at least 10 full members must be present; and
 - c) for congregations or pastoral charges with fewer than 30 full members, at least 1/3 of the full membership must be present. (Manual 2019, B.5.5)
2. If the congregation decides to disband, a request is sent to the Covenant Leadership Team of the Regional Council. The congregation may propose a date for the disbanding. It is important to leave enough time to complete the work and to celebrate the ministry

Feb 2021

of the congregation. If possible, choose a date at the end of the calendar year rather than the beginning to avoid having to file a tax return for an extra year.

If the congregation does not select a date, the Assembly of Elders may propose a future date for the disbanding to come into effect.

Consultation with the Regional Council, the Mission through Property and Finance Team and the Covenant Support, is encouraged throughout the disbanding process. The Pastoral Relations Minister and the Executive Minister are the staff who can assist you.

Pastoral Charge Name:

In a multipoint pastoral charge, where one or more points are remaining open, consideration should be given, in conversation with the remaining points, to the name of the pastoral charge. If the name of the pastoral charge is to be changed then there are a number of things to be done by the remaining points.

- a) Send a copy of the motion for the name change to the Regional Council;
- b) After the Regional Council approves the change, contact Canada Revenue Agency to have the name change recognized;
- c) Change letterhead, website, etc.

Things to do Before the Disbanding Date

Honour Your History:

- Set the date for the last worship service and decommissioning of the building. Consider who you might invite.
- Plan a celebration honouring the years of faithful ministry, or hold a series of special events in the time leading up to the final service.
- Arrange for Registers (baptism, wedding, burial, historic roll), Minutes and other documents to be sent to the Archives. (see resources for more information)

Care for your Members:

- Arrange for each member to receive a certificate of membership for transferring to a new community of faith. Discuss where members will worship after disbanding. Will they go in a group or groups to nearby congregations? Will they each go their own way? Consider visiting other congregations to explore options.
- Consult with members who are unable to make their own arrangements, or their decision makers, to ensure they are transferred to a new congregation for ongoing pastoral care and other aspects of congregational life.

Care for your Staff:

- Arrange appropriate severance packages for all lay staff. Remember that 90 days notice is the standard used in the United Church.

Feb 2021

- Give proper notice (90 days) to all ministry personnel, called or appointed.
- Give proper notice to ADP
- Fill out Record of Employment forms, final tax documents etc.

Care for your Finances:

- Ensure there are sufficient funds for all closing costs, for example payroll, celebration, building costs including possible demolition, transfer of records to the archives etc.
- Arrange for the final charitable tax return to be filed.
- Arrange to have Canada Post forward all mail to a designated Trustee for one year to ensure nothing is missed.

Care for your Property:

- If you have a cemetery, make arrangements to transfer management to another organization such as the municipality.
- Consult with the Regional Council about the future of the land and buildings. If the decision is to sell the building, follow the appropriate steps for this process which can be provided by the Mission Through Property and Finance Team.
- Sort through all the furnishings and items belonging to the congregation. See if other United Churches have a need for anything, such as hymn books, laptops, chairs, banners etc. While remembering that trustees are responsible for ensuring fair market value is received, you may choose to have a silent auction for items that do not have a high resale value. You may not simply return items to donor families as this is not permitted by Canada Revenue (see [Consequences of returning donated property](#)).
- For any item with a higher retail value, such as a grand piano, solid silver or brass items etc. it is best to seek an appraisal and consult with the Mission Through Property and Finance Team before selling.

Scatter Your Seeds:

- Upon disbanding, the assets of the congregation are disbursed according to the property policy of the Regional Council. This policy ensures that the resources of the congregation continue to benefit the ministries of the United Church of Canada.
- This can be a joyful experience as you see how the legacy of your congregation will continue to live on in new ways. This can be part of the celebration as you give thanks to God for the years of faithful stewardship that make it possible for the congregation to strengthen a variety of ministries within the United Church.
- Disbanding congregations are invited to make a proposal for the dispersal of a percentage of the total assets by directing them to specific ministries within the United Church of Canada. This includes, among other options: congregations, church camps, outreach ministries and Mission and Service. This is your opportunity to direct a third of the assets toward ministries that reflect the interests and concerns of the congregation.

Feb 2021

It should also be noted that: "A congregation may give an amount equal to the percentage of its previous year's revenue that was donated to a non-United Church registered charity to that charity." For example:

If, in the previous year, the congregation gave X dollars to the local hospice (a registered charity),

and this was equal to 1% of that year's revenue,

then they may direct 1% of the closing funds to the same hospice.

This 1% is part of the percentage being directed by the congregation.

- Once the congregation has prepared its proposal for the appropriate percentage of its assets, this request is sent to the Regional Council Mission Through Property and Finance Team for review, consideration and recommendation to the Regional Council.
- Any property that is remaining after the effective disbanding date becomes the responsibility of the Regional Council and the Regional Council will direct the trustees regarding such property.

Feb 2021

Additional Resources

[The United Church Manual 2019](#)

[Trustees Handbook](#)

[Archives](#) (for information on what to archive and how to send it)

[Service for Closing a Church](#)

[Amalgamating – Steps for Beginning Well](#)

East Central Ontario Regional Council Information

[Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property](#)

[Property & Finance MANSE FUNDS POLICY](#)

Appendix C**Formation Nurture and Justice Elder Report**
Feb 28, 2021

I attended the Eventbrite webinar entitled Canada, the Churches, & Bill C-15 that was an online conversation about the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UCC is conversing with the Indigenous elders before endorsing this bill.

A Place at the Table- Meggin reports that there is not much going on at this time, but she is monitoring the different number of study groups and forums/webinars etc that are taking place in our region around issues of anti-racism, and issues of First Nations' peoples.

Anti-Racism Forum- Aruna has sent us the preliminary information compiled by the core team, to write an ECORC Anti-racism policy. This has now been sent to the Assembly of Elders to read and prepare questions for the March 26 meeting when we will be joined by several members of the Anti-Racism Forum so they can address them.

The Anti-Racism Forum has circulated a poster sponsored by the United Nations Association in Canada-Quinte. Dr. Aruna Alexander, Founding President UNAC-QUINTE will be a moderator of this “Diversity And Inclusion” conversation highlighting Leadership for an Inclusive Society and also featuring Mike Callaghan The Chief of Police Belleville on March 8th.

Church and Community Partnerships- David has been looking for input from other areas but not getting much response. Lots of Federal money is being given to homeless initiatives across the Region. There are initiatives underway for developing low-rent housing. Oshawa's “Back Door Mission” is being copied across the country. David noted that the opioid crisis of deaths from unintended overdoses is staggering. Its mortality rate rivals that of COVID in some jurisdictions. There are community partners stepping up with food and clothes for those in need.

The question arises, 'What will happen post-pandemic vaccinations?' Shelter deaths are a crisis. One step forward is a “by name” registry. This will be extremely helpful for people whose lives are nomadic. Marilyn Rodger mentioned initiatives taken by Queen's University and the city of Kingston.

Marilyn Rodger noted that the Four Winds Lent Study group has started. Also- “Toonies in a Pill Bottle” raised \$50,000 for the “Food for the North” project. Our Region was a part of this initiative, and it's good to continue this project. Marilyn's masks are now being sent out with the UCC crest on them (with permission from the UCC), and are also available with the Mission and Service crest. She has raised \$780. The money raised was used to purchase various items from the “Gifts With Visions” catalogue. Marilyn's masks are now all across Ontario.

Helmut shared that his church also raised \$1,700 for 'Food for the North' through their distribution of church meals. He noted people pay for these meals by donation, so the generosity of the local folks is really wonderful!

Elaine Kellogg, David Moore and Sophie Goodfellow complete their term at the rise of the Annual Regional Council Meeting and have been asked to stay on for another year.

Next Formation Nurture and Justice meeting will be April 14 @ 3:30

Faithfully submitted, Marilyn Fortin

Appendix D

Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages

See Formation, Nurture and Justice Report for more information on

- Anti-Racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum- working on Anti- Racism Policy that will be brought to the Assembly of Elders, book studies and more webinars
- See Rodney's report- Hosted zoom for Feb 3rd Language event, Next event on March 2
- Lenten book from UCRD- Faith on the Move- Also united in Learning webinars on leading a book study
- Guaranteed Living Income Network Gathering for ECORC held on Feb 18th, a lot of staff time to get the first gathering up and running- discussion, registration on ECORC website, use the ECORC zoom. There was a good turnout and good momentum, staff will now step back but still offer support.
- National Conversation on For the Love of Creation - info in newsletter to start a network
- National Conversation on Long term health care homes - info in newsletter to start a network
- Book Study for GLI - Cathy RD- info in newsletter
- SJNORC will meet online in April- date TBD

Doing Mission Together Grants

- Next grant application deadline April 1

Children, Youth and Young Adults

- Connecting with youth, young adults, children and youth leaders
- Using the ECORC website to gather more children, youth and young adult leaders in our RC, including permission to create a contact list to share
- The regions are still gathering to provide online webinars for children, youth and young adult leaders are continuing. The same webinar offered twice- night and day- sharing contact information to form a cluster
- The GO Project curriculum is available through UCRD. They are also offering virtual Sunday School and confirmation. For more information: <https://thegoproject.ca/> or <https://thegoproject.ca/curriculum/>
- Quin Mo Lac - Continuing to fundraise online, magic penny fundraiser was a success, working on updating their bylaws
- VIBE- submitted application for Government grant- preparing to offer program online

Equity Team

- Ongoing- will have the next meeting in March
- planning for items for the You tube channel
- Will have a meeting in March to discuss the proposed Policy update that was sent from Sharon B- perhaps-Phil, Nancy, Lynn, Sharon's and Paul
- Two members of our Equity team have been invited into a discussion about Equity planning for the GC 44 meeting.

Affirming Forum

- Registration on the ECORC website for Webinar on March 14th 2SLGBTQIA+ and 21st for Allies- both at 2pm
- Continued to Meet with teams and forums
- Preparing for pre-meeting gathering zoom on April 24th (registration?)
- Great webinar last night by Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble for Affirming Ministries

UCW

- Holding meetings and Presbyterials on zoom
- continuing outreach projects

Training: Some zoom and website training, had a meeting with Stephen Fetter

 Appendix E

Minister for Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Report, February 2021

Since beginning my work, with the Formation Nurture and Justice (FNJ) team I have sought out a forum to work with. This forum is now preparing a terms of reference, which will be shared with the FNJ team (with the view of then sharing with the assembly of elders). It is a two page document, but here is the first paragraph:

Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationships (IJRR) Forum
Terms of Reference
Vision Statement
East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) of United Church
Vision:

Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit, we follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.

Part of Mission/Purpose:

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.

Mandate:

The team will work with the IJRR minister to promote/support/resource Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationships throughout the regional council. The work will be guided by TRC recommendations with a focus on education, advocacy and relationships. The team is advisory in nature, but also offers educational events.

February Report:

- 1) we continue to organize events such as "The Fragile Gift of Indigenous Language". This was identified as a priority from the Forum, as well as the Standing Together Against Racism Forum. We had over 40 attendees at our first event, and about 10 who have received a recording of the video. We hope to post this series and other webinars on the Regional Council Youtube Channel.
- 2) I share information around the national church's efforts around reconciliation, such as the newsletter article and recent webinar around bill c-15. There is a network of others engaged in this work from various regions and we do keep in touch from time to time. I attempt to share other relevant learning opportunities through the regional council webpage, and to a growing email list I keep. This month I have been working with Karen Wilson to update the webpage. We are also using Facebook to promote events.
- 3) I support projects such as the "Walking the Path of Peace" project in Kingston. I have been seeking to connect this initiative with Tim Hackborn and the national Indigenous Church. Other Kingston initiatives I am involved with include a book study, the "Friends of the North" project (whose story recently appeared on the webpage), and I will be speaking to a breakfast group at Edith Rankin about IJRR initiatives in May.
- 4) I have consulted with Westminster United Church in Whitby around a plaque recognizing the ancestral lands their church is situated on. I joined St. Paul's Bowmanville in their future planning, which includes a similar project. I have connected these communities of faith with each other, and with other resources. I am joining a

second Indigenous Allies forum in Peterborough. I consulted with Adele Boy about a webinar connecting Indigenous and Palestinian women: their art and their stories.

5) I stay connected to church communities in Alderville and Hiawatha, as well as the pastoral charge I serve which includes Curve Lake (I serve a pastoral charge at $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and am engaged 20% or 7 hours per week with the regional council). This work sometimes overlaps. This week I have been offering pastoral care to the family of Murray Whetung who is dying. Murray is a retired United Church minister and someone who has shared much with all levels of the church.

Appendix F

Walking the Path of Peace Together (WTPPT) – Faith United Church Kingston - February 2021

By Rev. Dr. Nan Hudson

When Faith United Church began 32 years ago, the congregation decided not to build on land purchased by the UCC on Highway 15 south of the 401, but rather rent space for weekly worship. In 2014 as the new minister, I suggested the members pray about what higher purpose this land might have.

In 2015, following the release of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Report, Faith members had their answer, deciding unanimously to offer the land for a joint Indigenous-Church reconciliation initiative.

Highlights of that Journey:

2015-2017:

Faith members began to:

- Educate Ourselves through use of UCC, Kairos and other resources, book studies, the news, attending MMIWG events, lectures (e.g. Murray Sinclair at Queens U), and much more.
- Attend Indigenous Events as appropriate, including Katorokwi Grandmothers seasonal events, Pow Wows, rites of passage (funerals, birthdays, etc.), etc.;
- Develop relationships & form new friendships.
- An Indigenous Community Survey using an Indigenous Consulting firm indicated a wary willingness to work together with a local United Church. The name WTPPT emerged.
- July 1st, 2017 (Canada's 150th) Indigenous and Church people gathered on the land to offer prayers, song, ceremony & drumming, establishing an annual event of recommitment.

2018:

- A Land Council formed to guide the initiative forward, with a majority of Indigenous members, some Faith United members, and a few wider church representatives. Until Covid-19 stopped us in March, we met monthly..
- December – Invited by Faith UC, Susan Aglukark led a daytime workshop for 75 church people and evening Christmas benefit concert supporting WTPPT, the largest gathering of Indigenous and 'Settlers' together ever held in Kingston, with over 500 present.
- Four Winds & Four Rivers Presbyteries passed motions supporting giving this land in time to the Indigenous community.

2019:

- April - the Four Winds Development Corporation, ECORC's David Timpson & Land Council members met, resulting in FWDC's approval of WTPPT's direction, including the eventual repatriation of the land to the Indigenous community. The general terms of repatriation requirements were also discussed.
- Summer - a well, pump, shed, and generator were installed to bring water to the property. 100 Eastern Cedar seedlings planted.
- A WTPPT Sign at the front of the property was erected in three languages, Mohawk, Ojibway, & English, with our Logo, both designed by Land Council member, Cree artist Jaylene Cardinal.



wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton' tewataté:ken
Boozhoo nindinawemaaganidog

- September - a full day **Planning Event** took place, with directions and Planning Committee established.

2020:

- January - following the day-long Katarokwi Grandmother's Midwinter Community Festival, a **prayer ceremony** was held on the land that evening - community offerings were made around the sacred fire (despite the -19 temperature and wind!).
- **March** – Covid curtailed our monthly Land Council meetings since not all Land Council participants have access to reliable internet.
- **Summer** - Development of **gardens and planting of over 50 trees**, including one on each corner representing the Four Directions and a designated raised bed for the cultivation of tobacco. A **centre point for ceremony** was discerned, a 100'-wide circle was demarcated around it. It was dedicated on July 1st for our annual gathering of prayer and recommitment, despite Covid limitations. This effort was coordinated by retired minister & member of Faith UC, Rev. Tom Walton. A second larger shed was erected for equipment storage.
- **The Huge Harvest** of food grown on the land was distributed to needy people through Loving Spoonful (local food security organization) and Indigenous Health Council.
- **Increased use of the land** by Indigenous people and groups such as the Kingston Indigenous Language Nest for ceremony, teachings, & renewal. See: <https://kingstonindigenouslanguage.ca>

2021:

- Two 'Tiny Forests' will be established, and gardening efforts will be entirely Indigenous led.

Throughout, we are **Grateful** to several donors, including the UCC for funding from the Justice & Reconciliation Fund, EDGE, ECORC, and Mission Support funding.

Purpose of the Project: Today, the purpose of Walking the Path of Peace Together (WTPPT) remains to nurture this land and walk together so Indigenous peoples can gather outdoors for their own purposes, where Indigenous and Settlers can gather for ceremony, sharing, and learning; where Indigenous vegetables and sacred medicines can be cultivated; and in time, see this land repatriated to an Indigenous non-profit body.

Our Request to the East Central Ontario Regional Council is to affirm our purpose and direction, and take steps to ensure that this United Church of Canada land is protected from sale and designated in perpetuity by the UCC for the use of the Kingston Indigenous Community in the spirit of right relations and true reconciliation.



Group WTPPT Planning Meeting, July 2018



Rocks Used on July 1st 2020 Ceremony
Painted by Jaylene Cardinal, Land Council Member