
East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, March 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
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
Karen Valley	Corresponding Member, Office of Vocation Minister (departed at 10:30 a.m.)

GUESTS

Dr. Aruna Alexander	Corresponding Member, Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum
Rev. Lionel Ketola	Corresponding Member, Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum
Rev. Meggin King	Corresponding Member, Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum
Rev. Marilyn Zehr	Corresponding Member, Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
Rev. Lynn Watson	Member
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister

Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Ian Robb acknowledged that we gather on the traditional territory of indigenous peoples. Ian opened this meeting in prayer, and reflected on the fact that we are in the Lenten season, referring to John 12:23-25 “...Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds...” Ian spoke of the leaders of the civil rights movement in the 50's and 60's, and Kyal Sin, also known as Angel, who was killed by Myanmar security forces, and reminded all of the power of faith which started in the death on the cross of Jesus Christ. Ian also referred to a book called Thriving Churches by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, which provides examples and

encouragement for churches and the power of the seeds of faith. Ian closed this time of devotion in prayer.

Circle Time of Sharing – all were invited to share.

Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting

2021-03-26_035 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Marilyn Fortin as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **Carried**

Agenda

2021-03-26_036 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

Corresponding Members

2021-03-26_037 MOTION (M. Fortin/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders welcome Guests from Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum: Dr. Aruna Alexander, Rev. Lionel Ketola, Rev. Meggin King and Rev. Marilyn Zehr for a presentation on the Anti-Racism Policy (OD 10 am). **Carried**

Minutes of February 26, 2021

2021-03-26_038 MOTION (B. James/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of February 26, 2021 as circulated. **Carried**

Correspondence

- a) March 25, 2021 Moderator and General Secretary re copied on letter of appreciation to Michelle Brotherton for work on the Candidacy Board (*for information*)
- b) March 25, 2021 Rev. Aruna Alexander re East Central Ontario Regional Council being recognized at Church and Community event in Belleville (*for information*)
- c) March 25, 2021 Rev. Elizabeth MacDonald re recent news items requiring response (*for action or referral*)

Business arising grouped according to confirmed Guiding Principles

I. All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives

Facilitation Team report – Preparations are underway for Priority Setting meeting tomorrow.

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

Communications – Karen Wilson shared that there were many broken links on the website which she has found and updated. The Retirees Forum is being updated (adding photos); News and Events tab is being update. There are 730 subscribers to the newsletter and 69% of subscribers are reading the newsletter. Karen met with Nominations Team last week and new forms and information are going up on the website. She also met with many leaders of networks and forums to learn about how to better facilitate their needs on the website and in the newsletter. Lastly, the Communication Leadership Team will be holding a meeting next week.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders welcome guests from Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum: Dr. Aruna Alexander, Rev. Lionel Ketola, Rev. Meggin King and Rev. Marilyn Zehr for a presentation on the Anti-Racism Policy.

Dr. Aruna Alexander led the Assembly of Elders through a proposed Anti-Racism Policy document and all members of the Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum answered questions.

2021-03-26_039 MOTION (I. Robb/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the draft documentation and affirm the work of Anti-racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum, and requests a draft policy with a strategic implementation plan be developed to share with the Regional Council.
Carried

- 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

a) Pastoral Relations

Covenanting Support Team – Change in Pastoral Relations:

Changes

St Marks Pastoral Charge Whitby

2021-03-26_040 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the re-appointment of Rev. Patricia Armstrong to the St Marks Pastoral Charge Whitby full time 40 hours per week, June 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021. **Carried**

Castleton Grafton Pastoral Charge

2021-03-26_041 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the Call of Rev. Patricia Armstrong to the Castleton Grafton Pastoral Charge part time 24 hours per week effective September 6, 2021. **Carried**

Emmanuel Pastoral Charge, Peterborough

2021-03-26_042 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the re-appointment of Rev. Bryan Ransom to the Emmanuel Pastoral Charge, Peterborough Part time 20 hours per week, March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. **Carried**

Picton Pastoral Charge

2021-03-26_043 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the Call of Rev. Pieter La Roux to the Picton Pastoral Charge part time 20 hours per week, July 1, 2021. **Carried**

Prince Edward South Pastoral Charge

2021-03-26_044 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the Call of Rev. Pieter La Roux to the Prince Edward South Pastoral Charge part time 20 hours per week, July 1, 2021. **Carried**

Bridge Street Pastoral Charge

2021-03-26_045 MOTION (S. Coles/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received proper documentation on Church hub approves the Re-appointment of Rev. David King Intentional Interim minister to the Bridge Street Pastoral Charge full time 40 hours per week, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 – this represents a need to give additional time for Interim work delayed by the Pandemic **Carried**

Discussion: Covenant Support Team is concerned about reopening plans following Covid-19; financial status of many Communities of faith in light of Covid-19 and rising insurance rates, etc. These items are being addressed.

- b) Report from Liaison Forum –
- c) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum –waiting for Terms of Reference
- d) Retirees Forum – meeting will happen in April.

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

- a. Spring Brook United Church –
- b. Chalmers Review –

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:

2021-03-26_046 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Sydenham Street United Church for their capital projects (roof 200k & windows 70k) and recommend the application of a bridge loan of \$125K for the roof work from TUCC. **Carried**

2021-03-26_047 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of St Mark's UC, Whitby to have the restriction removed on use of funds from the manse sold 20 yrs. ago (\$250,000) to spend for two capital projects: 1. driveway restoration with a collapsing retaining wall between neighbours; estimated cost \$80 000. 2. ceiling/wall repairs and painting in the sanctuary from moisture issues in the past (roof has been renewed); estimated cost \$20,000. Surplus of \$150 000 maintained in reserve as the policy requires. **Carried**

2021-03-26_048 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of the Sandford and Zephyr United Churches to the listing for sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Part of Lot 25 Concession 3 Township of Scott, and the municipal address of which is 12835 Durham 39, Zephyr, ON L0E 1T0, pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Sandford and Zephyr United Churches, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as deed holder, and [other party, unknown at this time], as purchaser, terms as follows:

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- Agent: Nancy Hill, K.R. May Real Estate Limited
 - A list/asking price of \$699,900.00
 - Commission rate of 4% plus HST of the selling price. From the 4% commission half (2%) is paid to the Brokerage that brings in the buyer. If the successful buyer has no Agent and wishes K.R. May Real Estate Ltd. to represent them and act as a dual agent, the commission would be reduced from 4% to 3%.
 - Proposed possession date of June 1st.

(2) Sandford and Zephyr United Churches, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Sandford Zephyr Pastoral Charge agrees to follow the Manse Fund Policy of Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council and agrees to work with the Regional Council Mission through Property and Finance Leadership Team to determine an investment plan that best fits their community of faith. **Carried**

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

Team Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives – next meeting April 14th – see report directly below:

- Some members of the Anti-Racism Forum led by Dr. Aruna Alexander will give a presentation of the Anti-racism policy that this forum is working on.
- Aruna has sent The Assembly of Elders the preliminary information compiled by the core team to enter into a discussion about this Anti-racism policy.
- On March, 8th there was a successful “Diversity And Inclusion” event held in Belleville with the Chief of Police as the guest speaker.
- Our next Formation, Nurture and Justice Team meeting will be held on April 14th and the next Social Justice Networks of Ontario Regional Councils will be held in April.

Faithfully submitted, Marilyn Fortin

- a) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages (**see appendix A**):
- b) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils – meeting in April

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, see report directly below:

Still working on finding resource people for third webinar on the Fragile Gift of Indigenous language. In the meantime, will be promoting land acknowledgement event sponsored by EOORC on April 7th.

I have received an invitation to record a sermon for Glenburnie UC's Anniversary, will plan on recording part of that message for other congregations to use as a resource on June 21 or another time.

I've been working with the IJRR Forum on terms of reference and will send to the March 14 Formation, Nurture and Justice (FNJ) team meeting for approval. Decided to have co-chairs of the forum, a role I had been taking. Marilyn Fortin offered to co-chair with me in transition, and we will be recruiting for some additional numbers of the forum.

Indigenous communities of faith were given an opportunity to apply for a grant from unused 2020 travel funds. Curve Lake received a grant to distribute Easter Lilies throughout the community along with a card. This is taking place this Saturday morning from 10-12, which will prevent me from being a part of the ECORC's priority setting. The IJRR Forum will be setting priorities this fall, as per the recent FNJ consultation.

Towards Being Good Relations, Rodney

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 A*)

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

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

Affirm Forum

Forum Progress report – Assembly of Elder representatives

Two recent media releases with issues of grave concern for those who identify as members, friends, and family of the Two-Spirit/LGBTQIA+communities:

- a) Bill C-6, an Act of Parliament in opposition to Conversion Therapy, is due for its third and final reading in this session of Parliament. The Affirming Forum requests ECORC intentionally declare support for the passing of Bill C-6 in its final reading and that the Elders of the East Central Ontario Regional Council formally request the Members of Parliament for constituencies contiguous with the boundaries of the East Central Ontario Regional Council to vote 'yea' in favour of passing Bill C-6 into law during this third reading.

Namely, this would include the Members of Parliament representing the following national electoral districts: Bay of Quinte, Durham, Glengarry, Halliburton, Hastings Lennox and Addington, Lanark Frontenac Kingston, Leeds Grenville, Northumberland, Oshawa, Peterborough, Pickering/Uxbridge, Stormont/Glengarry, and Renfrew.

2021-03-26_049 MOTION (S. Coles/K. Whyte) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders declare support for the passing of Bill C-6, an Act of Parliament to ban Conversion Therapy, in its final reading and formally request the Members of Parliament for constituencies contiguous with the boundaries of the East Central Ontario Region to vote 'yea' in favour of passing Bill C-6 into law during this third reading. **Carried**

Discussion: Motion is to be circulated through communications with a statement from Speaker of Assembly of Elders, inviting members of the Regional Council to write their members of parliament – List of contact info will be provided for various constituencies.

- b) publicly denounce the recent Vatican ban on blessing same-sex unions within the world-wide Roman Catholic Church, and to express pastoral concern for and support of Roman Catholic individuals and communities experiencing pain as a result of this ruling.

2021-03-26_050 MOTION (D. McLean/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders in partnership with the General Council of The United Church of Canada to reaffirm that the love of God is for all LGBTQ2SIA+ people, to reiterate the support of same-sex marriage and the church's blessing upon the same, and that both the East Central Ontario Regional Council and the General Council produce written public statements and publicise - to this effect that as we affirm the theology in our New Creed and Song of Faith and our ECORC Mission Statement, and live out in the actions of our Christian witness, we are called to "Build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live, and where the love of Christ ends divisions. A place where all are welcome!" (Words in quotation marks by Marty Haugen). **Carried**

Discussion: It was suggested that this Regional Council post this on the website and communicate it widely, and be in consultation with Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

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 – In regards to renewals, nominations will post vacancies, receive expression of interests, consider people who want to remain on Teams, while considering new expression of interest forms.

2021-03-26_051 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders confirms the process for those members seeking reappointment to various Leadership Teams go through the Nominations process. **Carried**

It was suggested that the policy be revisited to articulate the process in regards to renewals. Moreover, it was suggested that a team be devised to consider all of the policies and structure of the Regional Council to ensure there is consistency.

Leading Elder (name change)

No action will be taken at this point in regards to the request from the Nominations Leadership Teams to consider changing the name "Leading Elder" which is used to designate a specific Commissioner to General Council.

Additional Reports

Discussion: recommending that the Nominations Team consider populating Teams from previous members belonging to the previous Toronto Conference.

Discussion: Ontario Government church grants for up to four (4) months to reimburse electricity and oil costs. Ted will prepare something for communications to send out. It was also suggested

New Business

Opening worship for next meeting – Nancy Sutherland

Equity Monitor Report - Good meeting.

Motion to adjourn

2021-03-26_053 MOTION (D. McLean/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:22 pm.). **Carried**

Closing Prayer – Ian Robb

Next Meeting Dates

- RC Workshop on Affirm, Saturday, April 24th 9 am-noon
- RC Workshop on Nominations, Wednesday, May 12 7-9 pm
(AGM) **Friday, June 4 – Sunday, June 6, agenda TBC**

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

Appendix A	Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages	Pages 56-57
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Appendix A

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

- Anti-Racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum- many book studies, webinars and community event on zoom on March 18th, will present today on the Anti- Racism Policy
- See Rodney's report for IJRR
- Guaranteed Living Income Network Gathering for ECORC held on March 23, presenters were a young adult from the youth network and the Very Reverend Lois Wilson, it was well attended and very informative. Next event- showing of a video on April 7th and a nation vigil on April 8th at 12:30 pm. We are planning an online vigil. Some learning on how to best support this network, set up a free mail chimp to add the people who sign up for the mailing list on the ECORC website.
- National Conversation on For the Love of Creation - info in newsletter to start a network and national conversation in April
- National Conversation on Long term health care homes - info in newsletter to start a network, mailing list on ECORC website
- Book Study for GLI - Cathy RD- info in newsletter
- SJNORC will meet online in April

Doing Mission Together Grants

- Next grant application deadline April 7th

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
- Quin Mo Lac - AGM on April 10. Hoping to offer a CIT program- maybe online
- VIBE- preparing to offer program online

Equity Team

- Ongoing- planning for items for the You tube channel
- Still need to schedule a meeting to discuss the proposed Policy update that was sent from Sharon B- perhaps-Phil, Nancy, Lynn, Sharon's and Paul

Affirming Forum

- The gatherings on March 14th 2SLGBTQIA+ and 21st for Friends- went well and it was good to get feedback from people in the Regional Council
- Continued to Meet with teams and forums
- Preparing for pre-meeting gathering zoom on April 24th

UCW

- Holding meetings and Presbyterials on zoom
- continuing outreach projects

Meeting of Teams and Forums

On March 10th we had a gathering of 3 staff - Rodney, Karen Wilson and myself with some representatives from each of the teams/forums below.

- Formation, Nurture and Justice Team

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- Indigenous Justice and Right Relation Forum
 - Anti-Racism Interfaith/Intercultural Forum
 - Equity Team
 - Affirming Forum

There is intersectionality in these groups, we shared what each team/forum is currently working on, talked about what we can do together going forward, permission to share contact information and if it would be helpful to meet again as this group.

When talking about our history we need to include the history of all in our Regional Council. We are not only B of Q, we have some from the former Toronto Conference. We need to be intentional in getting more representation in leadership.