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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****Friday, September 25, 2020, 9 a.m.****Session One**

The East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Annual General Meeting in two sessions, the first on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m., and the second on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 p.m. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the online indigenous event “Pathways to awareness, understanding & right relations” which was held on September 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10 a.m.

A Celebration of Ministry Service was held at Saint Mark’s United Church in Cannifton, Ontario, on Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry (87)**

Aruna Alexander, Stephen Ambury, Mark Arnill, Sharon Ballantyne, Helen Bickle, Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson, Mary Margaret Boone, Michelle Brotherton, Nancy Clarke, Karen Croxall, Steven Davis, Timothy Dayfoot, Kevin Derry, Jeff Doucette, Lawrence Doyle, Judith Evenden, Kim Falls, Sandra Farrow, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Bradley Ford, Deborah Foster, Bruce Fraser, Susan Genge, Caroline Giesbrecht, Carol Gillard, Margaret Goodwin, Cathy Gradante, Donald Green, Katherine Gregory, Anja Guignon, Elaine Hall, Richard Hamilton, Jacqueline Harper, Svinda Heinrichs, Mary-Jane Hobden, Michelle Hofman, Pamela Holmes, Tom Holmes, Nancy A Hudson, Cordelia Karpenko, Elaine Kellogg, Lionel Ketola, Meggin King, Nancy Lester, Norman Long, Mary Anne Mac Farlane, Elizabeth Macdonald, Andrew Macpherson, Joanna MacQuarrie, Robert Matheson, Donald McLean, David McMaster, Ryan McNally, Sylvia Anne Meredith, Jeannette Millar, David Moore, Harold Morgan, Isaac Mundy, Kerrie Perry, Joe Ramsay, Paul Reed, Allan Reeve, Ian Robb, Michelle Robinson, Robert Root, Catherine Russell, Christine Sloan, Karen Smart, William Smith, N. Lynn Smith, Stevan Spicer, Janet Stobie, Calvin Stone, Wanda Stride, Maryanne Thomson, Max Ward, Merle “Lynn” Watson, Edward Wells, Christopher White, Barbara Willard, Donald Willmer, Marybeth Wilson, Jean Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Phil Wilson, James York, John Young and Daniel Yourkevich.

**Lay (76)**

Shirley Baster, Karen Bates, Kendall Begbie, Donna Bignell, Joanne Brown, Donna Budgen, C. Stephen Coles, Kimberly Collins, Dawn Cox, Garry Culverson, Penelope Culverson, Ian Deslauriers, Elaine Dornn, Merv Dunlop, Sharon Eagleson, Helmut Enns, Doug Ferris, Marilyn Fortin, Glenn Genge, Sharon Goulding, Sharon Green, Kevin Guthrie, Janice Hannon, Donna Henderson, Tina Hiddink, Carolyn Holmes, David Holmes, Chris Ingersoll, Brian James, Kerri Jebson, Emily Jones, Carl Kimmett, Paul Kneebone, Gale Lavender, Patricia Long, M. Joan Macklin, Derek Marsellus, Dianne McCracken, Ted Meyers, Lisa Morasse, Cheryl Mound, Tracy Nickleford, Marie Northey, Glenn Owen, Shirley Penny, Elizabeth Pereman, Carol Peterson, Susan Pleasance, Amy Porter, Elaner Pound, John Purdon, Jim Rainey, Norman Rice, Marilyn Rodger, Karen Rynard, William Sheaves, Debbie Sherwin, Thomas Smart, Arthur Smith, Terrence Souch, Grace Stanley, Juliet Sturney, Floyd Sutherland, Nancy Sutherland, Wendy Sweeney, Leigh Tamlin, Patricia Teskey, Carrie Thompson, Ron Trewin, Linda Unrau, Andrew Vanwyk, Samantha Varty, Linda Walt, Wendy Warren, Ralph Werry and Sheila-Mae Young (Gidney)

**Candidate (4)**

Kimberley Lawrance, Cheryl McMurray, Stephanie Richmond, Marilyn Zehr

**Regional Council Staff (9)**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie (*voting clergy*), Joel Miller, Rev. David Timpson (*voting clergy*), Karen Valley, Sharon Hull, Louise Slobodian, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley (*voting clergy*), Tim Hackborn and Rev. Roger Janes.

**Guests of the Regional Council (16)**

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Margaret Allin, Judy Amsbury, Carol Cunday, Debra Fortin Brown, Pamela Hart, Bruce Hutchinson, Judy Jeffrey, Lyn Miller, Carol Oneil, Joyce Payne, Thomas Stobie, Mark Sturman, Heidi Tawse, Stacey Tremblay, Kathleen Whyte and Sharon Woodrow.

### **Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

### **Zoom Meeting Room Opens**

Delegates were invited to join to the meeting at 8:30 a.m., in order to connect themselves in time for 9 a.m. start-time.

### **Tutorial on how to use Zoom**

Rev. Jean Wilson shared a PowerPoint presentation, which outlined the various interfaces in Zoom such as the chat box, the participants box, muting and unmuting, video sharing and unsharring video, instructions for people on the telephone (\*6 to mute and unmute; \*9 to raise hand), and tools that would be used for voting. Those who were having trouble with finding voting instructions were asked to put their names in the chat and they were sent to breakout room for tutoring.

### **Call to Order**

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, I hereby declare this annual general meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it.”

### **Welcome to Session One of the Annual General Meeting**

Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders Speaker, announced that he was happy to be holding this meeting under the circumstances, and extended thanks to churches who had originally offered to host this meeting, prior to pandemic. Paul also extended thank you to the support team (tech-team, staff) throughout the meeting today.

**Duty of Care** – Paul reminded all that this body is called to stop, remember and to acknowledge the violence caused by slavery and radically racialized oppression, and that it acknowledge these things that it might renew its commitment to persist in anti-racism and oppression practices; that it is an interim affirming Regional Council and that it strives to be a safer space where all can participate, as all are, being their true authentic self..

### **Acknowledging First Nations territory**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, acknowledged that our Regional Council sits indigenous ancestral lands (Anishinaabe Nations, Haudenosaunee Nations and others) and called on those in attendance to remember The United Church of Canada’s 1986 and 1998 apologies, and the promises made by the Church in response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s resolutions.

### **Worship**

A worship service had been recorded and prepared ahead of time by Rev. Sharon Ballantyne, Rev. Mary-Margaret Boone, Penny Culverson, Sharon Hull, Rev. Stephanie Richmond, Rev. Wanda Stride, Patricia Teskey, Rev. Phil Wilson, Sharon Woodrow. Communion was part of opening worship. The tech-team shared the prerecording.

### **Covenanting with new staff** (see **2020 Report Book, p. 5**)

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister led the Call and Response liturgy, covenanting with the following staff members:

1. Louise Slobodian, Communications and Administrative Support
2. Tim Hackborn, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Ontario and Quebec, Office of Vocation Minister for Indigenous and Spiritual Formation.
3. Rev. Roger Janes, Stewardship & Gifts Officer

**Acknowledging Retirees** (for bios see **2020 Report Book, p. 16-18**)

Rosemary shared the liturgy that was included in the Celebration of Ministry Service to acknowledge retirees, and Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, led in prayer of thanksgiving.

1. Rev. Beverly Sumbler,
2. Rev Bruce Fraser
3. Rev. Nadene Grieve-Deslippe.

**In Memoriam** (for memorials see **2020 Report Book, p. 67-69**)

Rosemary shared the liturgy that was included in the Celebration of Ministry Service to acknowledge those who had died in the past year, and Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, led in prayer of thanksgiving.

1. Rev. Dr. Michael Bohler,
2. Rev. Rev. Joseph Sahadat,
3. Rev. Dr. Arthur (Lloyd) Shorten,
4. Rev. Dr. Bessie Lane,
5. Rev. Dr. D'thea Webster,
6. Rev. Robert (Bob) L. Flindall,
7. Rev. Dr. Roger (Mac) Freeman,
8. Rev. Kenneth George Purdon,
9. Rev. Dr. Robert Francis McGrath
10. Rev. Paulene Graham.

**Celebration of Ministry Recap & Photos** (for bios see **2020 Report Book, p. 13-15**)

Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders Speaker, shared some of the highlights of the Celebration of Ministry service that took place at St-Mark's United Church (Cannifton) and acknowledged the newly ordained and received candidates:

1. Rev. Michiko Bown-Kai
2. Rev. Kim Lawrance
3. Rev. Cheryl McMurray
4. Rev. Stephanie Richmond
5. Rev. Marilyn G. Zher

**Consent Motions (1-8)**

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

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

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

**Corresponding Members**

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

**Scrutineer**

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

**Parliamentarians**

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

**Business Leadership Team**

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

\*As per Enabling Motions, the Business Leadership Team is comprised of members from the Facilitation Team

**Agenda**

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

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

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

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

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

**Carried****Report from General Council Representatives** (for bio see **2020 Report Book, p. 13**)

Rev. Dr. John H. Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership, Representative of the General Council Office, brought greetings on behalf of the Moderator, The Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott, the General Secretary Nora Sanders and the General Council Office staff. Rev. Dr. Young highlighted that; Nora Sanders was retiring and her successor would be Rev. Michael Blair; that there has been a reduction of four million dollars in the 2021 budget (20 -22 positions will be eliminated at the General Council Office before year end, this includes layoffs, retirements, and contractual work not being renewed). Other implications include the end to the publishing of the magazine Mandate, and reductions to Mission Support Grants. Thanks, and appreciated were extend to Regional Council Staff and the Assembly of Elders for their dedicated work in supporting the Church, as it transitions into its new structure and now, as it navigates a pandemic. The General Council Executive Report is included in the **2020 Report Book, p. 61-65**.

**Affirming Presentation – Becoming an Affirming Regional Council**

Three short presentations and a video were presented and prepared by members of the Affirm Forum; Bruce Hutchinson, Judy Ambury, Patricia Teskey, Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald, Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages. Comments and questions were invited from the floor and answered. Following the presentations, the following questions were asked to generate feedback on how the Regional Council would formulate an action-plan.

1. Inclusion: What would inclusion on the East Central Ontario Regional Council Teams, Forums and at ECORC events (like the annual meeting) look like?
2. Safe Space: How can we create a safe (safer and accountable) space, within each of the ECORC spaces mentions in the first question above?
3. What would you like to learn about? For example, Scripture in relation to be affirming, language to use in specific situations, or anything else you can think of.

All were invited to also consult the Affirm United website: <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>. All were invited to attend a Zoom webinar of Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> for further discussion.

**Break – 15 mins**

A stretch break was provided.

**Affirming Presentation – Becoming an Affirming Regional Council (...continued)**

Following the presentation, thanks and appreciation were extended to staff support person to the Affirm Forum, Sharon Hull. Elizabeth Macdonald closed this time of the meeting in prayer (resource: Rev. Norm Esdon, “Poems for God Questers” 2017).

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

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

**Carried**

**Welcoming of Joyce Payne**

Joyce is the president of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council. She is completing her term and is moving within the bounds of ECORC.

**Formation Nurture and Justice Presentation**

Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages shared a video presentation introducing members of the Formation Nurture and Justice Leadership Team, in particular the subgroup involved in anti-racism work. It was highlighted that there are many study groups within the Regional Council offering educational opportunities on anti-racism.

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

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister brought peoples attention to appendix C and offered clarification for questions coming from the floor.

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

**Financial Report, Budget 2021 Presentation**

Brian James, Regional Council Treasurer made the following notices of motion and invited questions from the floor. For questions that weren’t heard during the allotted time, Brian invited people to send him an email and he would provide answers and clarification.

NOTICE OF MOTION (/) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the financial statements as presented.

NOTICE OF MOTION (/) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the 2021 budget as presented.

**Equity Team**

It was announced that although an equity team was not formally mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, there is a team in place working and moderating the meeting. Those in attendance were invited to send their comments, suggestions, concerns to [equityecorc@gmail.com](mailto:equityecorc@gmail.com).

**Theological Reflection**

Rev. Bill Smith defined what theological reflection is, defining it as the process of seeking the acts of God through the everyday actions of God’s People. It is discerning the will of God as enacted by God’s Church. It is a process of action and reflection, of spiritual grounding and seeking the reality of the spirit in our lives that it may

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be on earth as it is in heaven. Theological reflection looks for sign posts Bill highlighted the signposts as evident to him that have arisen from the days meeting.

### **Speaker's Final Announcement for the Day**

Paul reminded those in attendance to join the "Pathways to Understanding Indigenous Event" which is the educational event that is part of this Regional Council meeting. Paul thanked all for their attendance and looked forward to convening with all again for session two.

**Saturday, September 26, 2020, 2 p.m.**

### **Session Two**

#### **Zoom Meeting Room Opens**

Delegates were invited to join to the meeting at 1:30 p.m. in order to connect themselves in time for 2 p.m.. start-time.

#### **Tutorial on how to use Zoom**

For the benefit of those not present during session 1, Rev. Jean Wilson reshared a PowerPoint presentation, which outlined the various interfaces in Zoom such as the chat box, the participants box, muting and unmuting, video sharing and unsharring video, instructions for people on the telephone (\*6 to mute and unmute; \*9 to raise hand), and tools that would be used for voting. Those who were having trouble with finding voting instruction, were asked to put their names in the chat and were sent to breakout room for tutoring. It was requested not to excessively use chat. It was suggested to use speaker view instead of gallery view. All were asked to type their names into the chat for roll call.

#### **Call to Order and Welcoming to Session Two to the Annual General Meeting**

Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders welcomed all in attendance to session 2 of the meeting. Paul went over a few housekeeping items, in particular how participants could raise their hand to signify that they want to speak. Paul also reminded participants that this body is called to stop, remember and to acknowledge the violence caused by slavery and radically racialized oppression, and that it acknowledge these things that it might renew its commitment to persist in anti-racism and oppression practices; that it is an interim affirming Regional Council and that it strives to be a safer space where all can participate, as all are, being their true authentic self.

#### **Acknowledging First Nations territory**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, acknowledging that we are inhabitants on the Anishinaabe Peoples' land, "the People who live at the mouth of the river". Indigenous people have lived, hunted on and cared for the land and waters of this territory; and we are thankful for their stewardship of these lands. The Regional Council remembers First Nations Peoples, their lands and honors its relationship with them, as it continues to work towards right relations and reconciliation..

#### **Response to Indigenous presentation in morning – "Pathways to Awareness, Understanding & Right Relations"**

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, brought focus to the "Pathways to Awareness, Understanding & Right Relations" presented earlier in the morning and summarized and highlighted various points expressed during the presentation. It was emphasized that the recording of the event would be available for 14 days.

Rodney invited all to begin to think about and discuss during its breakout session: "What next steps might you or your community of faith take around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations - 94 Calls to Action)? All were invited to share responses in the chat and forward to [rsmerkley@united-church.ca](mailto:rsmerkley@united-church.ca), which would be forwarded to members of St-Paul's United Church's (Bowmanville) Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Team, to help guide their work.

**Vision Statement & Guiding Principles for the East Central Ontario Regional Council.** (see **appendix D**)

Nancy Payne & Patricia Teskey prepared a video presentation on the document entitled *Vision Statement & Guiding Principles for the East Central Ontario Regional Council*, highlighting various point contained therein. A time was dedicated towards questions and answers/clarification; and more time given to two breakout sessions for discussion and reflections on the following question (attendees were reminded to share their feedback in the chat):

1. Do you see yourself and your ministry as included in this list of guiding principles?
2. Is there something that you are doing which is not listed here?

Following the presentation Nancy and Patricia were thank you for their work in preparing the document

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

Paul explained that the Vision Statement & Guiding Principles for the East Central Ontario Regional Council would be used for determining priorities during 2022, moreover, it will become the focus of the Assembly of Elders as it carries on with its work.

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

Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders Speaker

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

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

**Carried**

Discussion: It was asked that the process for determining priorities for year 2022 be expanded to include more conversation and reflection by they entire Regional Council, i.e. separate meeting and workshop in its own.

**Travel Policy** (see **appendix F**)

Rev. Jean Wilson, member of the Assembly of Elders, introduced the travel policy; discussion time for questions and answers/clarification was allotted on the agenda. The travel policy was simplified as requested during the General meeting on November 9, 2019.

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

Discussion: It was noted that military chaplaincies are also included in this policy.

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

Rev. Wanda Stride, Chair of the Nominations Leadership Team, presented a video highlighting the Nomination report, and providing background information on how the Nomination Leadership Team prepared the list.

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

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The Nominations Team move the appointments of the following people:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Carried**

Discussion: The Nominations Leadership Team finds difficulty to find youth to become members on the Assembly of Elder as scheduling of meeting is usually during the week daytime while youth are attending their courses. This is an equity issue and it is the hope that the Regional Council and Assembly of Elders consider this more in detail.

**Break 15 mins (order of the day 15:30)**

**Financial Report, Budget 2021**

Brian James, Regional Council Treasurer highlighted that he had not received any questions for his presentation during session 1 and moved the following:

**2020-09-25\_015 MOTION** (B. James/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the financial statements as revised: \$495,813.00 to revised total on page 78 of the report book. **Carried**



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

### **Office of Vocation Presentation**

Karen Valley, Office of Vocation Minister for Quebec and Eastern Ontario, introduced herself and Tim Hackborn, Indigenous Office of Vocation Minister, and provided information about online boundaries refresher courses, recent updates circulated in the Regional Council newsletter in May, and shared a video presentation about the vocational life of ministry personnel. Following the presentation Tim Hackborn introduced himself and explained that he has two part time roles, one as the Community Capacity Development Coordinator for the Indigenous Ministries in Justice for Eastern Canada, and two, the Office of Vocation Minister for Indigenous Spiritual Formation (as of January 2021 this will become full time). Tim explained how the Indigenous Spiritual Formation is unique the Candidacy Pathway as presented in the video.

### **Philanthropy Unit Presentation**

Rev. Roger Janes, Stewardship & Gifts Officer, introduced himself and his role as Stewardship and Gift Officer, brought greetings from the Philanthropy Unit and highlighted resources in the area of congregational stewardship and congregational giving.

### **Youth Report**

Sharon Hull, Minister supporting Justice and Mission/Faith Formation and Spiritual Nurture shared some of what is happening with the Youth and Youth Adults within the Regional Council, in particular the pathway event, and the rendezvous.

### **Closing Motions**

*Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders Speaker*

**2020-09-25\_017 MOTION** (R. Lambie/K. Smart) that following the rise of this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Assembly of Elders until the next General Meeting. **Carried**

**2020-09-25\_018 MOTION** (R. Lambie/J. Wilson) that the meeting be adjourned following the concluding worship, theological reflection and closing prayer, and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded. **Carried**

### **Closing worship**

Closing worship was led by Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Rev. Paul Reed and Rev. David Timpson, and incorporated recognizing and covenanting with LLWLs (28) and covenanting with Assembly of Elders and the Leadership Teams.

### **Theological Reflection**

Rev. Bill Smith reflected on the events of the day and shared some of the signposts which emerged to him; in particular how he felt drawn to consider the apparent 'truths' of our times, and how perhaps it was time to revisit them, in particular when we consider the Church's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its relationship with indigenous Peoples and the Church's call to anti-racism.

### **Closing Prayer**

Rev. Paul Reed, Assembly of Elders Speaker closed the meeting in prayer and thanked all for their having attended and sharing in the work of the Church.

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**Celebration of Ministry Service**  
**St-Mark's United Church, Cannifton, ON**  
**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 (11:00 a.m.)**

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at St-Mark' United Church, situated in Cannifton, Ontario, at 11 a.m. The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary to the singing of the processional hymn was "Called by Earth and Sky" (MV135). The service opened with words of welcome by host Minister, Rev. Ryan McNally and Speaker of the Assembly of Elders Rev. Paul Reed. This was followed by the Call to Worship, the Welcoming to the Land and the lighting of the Christ Candle. Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Regional Council Executive Minister led the Prayer of Approach which was followed by the signing of the hymn "God Says (MV 172 sung to the tune of O Waly Waly. The Scripture reading was John 21:1-19 'Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish'. The sermon, "On the Care and Feeding of Caprini", was preached by host minister Rev. Ryan McNally. This was followed by the singing of hymn "We Have This Ministry" (VU 510). There wasn't a collection of the offering but attendees were invited to support the Mission and Service Fund by donating online. The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. David Timpson, Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister, in prayer for members of the Order of Ministry who had died throughout the most recent church calendar year – Rev. Dr. Michael Bohler, Rev. Rev. Joseph Sahadat, Rev. Dr. Arthur (Lloyd) Shorten, Rev. Dr. Bessie Lane, Rev. Dr. D'thea Webster, Rev. Robert (Bob) L. Flyndell, Rev. Dr. Roger MacClement, Rev. Kenneth Purden, Rev. Dr. Robert Francis McGrath and Rev. Paulene Graham (bios included in **appendix A**, Report Book pg. 21-26). The memoriam was followed by the singing of hymn "Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore" (VU 563). A celebration of the ministries of those retiring was led by Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, for members of the Order of Minister who were retiring – Rev. Beverly Sumbler, Rev Bruce Fraser and Rev. Nadene Grieve-Deslippe. (**appendix A**, Report Book pg. 16-18). The Celebration concluded in Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn "I Have Called You By Your Name" (MV 161).

A Celebration of New Ministries, through the Service of Ordination, was led by Rev. Paul Reed and Rev. Rosemary Lambie, and began with the reciting of "Our Affirmation of Faith". The candidates were presented by Karen Valley, Minister for the Office of Vocation. The taking of the vows and laying on of hands of each of the Ordinands was followed by the presentation of a certificate, a Bible, a chalice, paten and a prayer shawl. A selected family member or friend of each the Ordinands presented them with their stole. When the ceremony of ordination had concluded those in attendance responded by singing hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle" (VU 958). The taking of the vows of the Admitted was followed by the presentation of a certificate, a Bible, a chalice, paten and a prayer shawl. When the ceremony of admittance concluded those in attendance responded by singing hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle" (VU 958). Bios for each of the candidate was included in **appendix A** of the Report Book pg. 13-15).

Michiko Bown-Kai	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Kim Lawrance	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Cheryl McMurray	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Stephanie Richmond	Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Rev. Marilyn G. Zehr	Admitted to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada

The celebration concluded with the singing of hymn "My Soul Cries Out" (MV 120). Due to Covid 19, there wasn't a service of Communion, instead there was the Blessing of Water and a Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vowels. The liturgy was prepared and shared by Pacific Mountain Regional Council. This portion of the service concluded with the singing of hymn, "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" (VU 644). This was followed by the Closing Benediction, which was followed by the singing of Recessional Hymn "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" (MV 138). The new members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada and the officiants were led out of the sanctuary.

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Rev. Paul Reed  
Speaker

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Rev. Rosemary Lambie  
Executive Minister

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Joel Miller  
Recording Secretary

**Appendices:**

- Appendix A Draft Minutes – General Meeting, November 9, 2019  
Appendix B Report Book September 25, 2020  
Appendix C Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0  
on Ministry Personnel  
Appendix D Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles  
Appendix E Mission Priorities 2020  
Appendix F Travel Policy

Appendix A

**Draft Minutes – General Meeting, November 9, 2019**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix B

**Report Book September 25, 2020**

\*distributed on Regional Council website

Appendix C

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

**Background:**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council 2019:

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

**The Question:**

Does the Regional Council agree that:

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

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

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## Appendix D

### **Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles**

*Prepared for the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada*

*By Nancy Payne & Patricia Teskey*

Revised draft submitted September 15, 2020

#### **Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Vision**

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

#### **Mission**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Guiding Principles**

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

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

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 Appendix E

## Mission Priorities 2020 (2019 in bold)

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



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

## Appendix F

### **The East Central Ontario Regional Council Travel Policy**

#### **Preamble**

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

#### **Policy**

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

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