

**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, June 18, 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
Steve Coles	Outgoing-Member
Margaret Curtis	New-Member
Marilyn Fortin	Member
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Rev. Don McLean	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Ian Robb	Member (departed at 11:30 a.m.)
Bill Sheaves	New-Member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member (departed at 10:10 a.m.)
Kathleen Whyte	Member
Sharon Hull	Corresponding Member - Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Member, Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Karen Wilson	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant
<b><u>REGRETS/ABSENT</u></b>	
Rev. Lynn Watson	Member
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice

**Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land** – Kathleen Whyte highlighted that this Sunday is Indigenous Prayer Sunday and acknowledgement the land giving thanks for indigenous peoples, their stewardship of these lands, and called on all to share in the suffering of the loss of 215 children discovered in unmarked graves at a residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. Kathleen also prayed for a Muslim family that was murdered in London, Ontario and also for indigenous families who suffered the loss of their children do to residential schools. Kathleen highlighted that Canada has systemic racism and white-privilege, and reminded all that God is calling us to peace and reconciliation.

**Circle Time of Sharing** – Paul welcomed Bill Sheaves and Margaret Curtis to the Assembly of Elders and acknowledged that this would be Steve Coles' last meeting- having served since the Commission during the Comprehensive Review. Afterwards, all were invited to share.

**Team Representatives from Assembly of Elders**

Ministry through Ministry and Property – Brian James, Ted Meyers

Equity – Sharon Hull (staff), Rev. Phil Wilson, Rev. Paul Reed, Nancy Sutherland, Rev. Lynn Watson

Faith, Formation and Justice – Sharon Hull (staff), Marilyn Fortin  
 Covenant Support – Rev. David Timpson (staff), Bill Sheaves, Kathleen Whyte  
 Retirees Forum – Rev. David Timpson (staff) Rev. Ian Robb  
 Affirm Forum – Rev. Don McLean  
 Liaison Forum – Rev. David Timpson (staff)  
 Nominations – Margaret Curtis

Discussion: It was asked that more representation be included on the Faith, Formation and Justice Leadership Team. It was suggested that Rev. Lynn Watson and Rev. Paul Reed join after some more reflection.

**Appointment of a Speaker to serve until following the 2022 spring Regional Council Meeting:**

**2021-06-18-096 MOTION** (T. Meyers/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Paul Reed as Speaker until following the 2022 Regional Council Meeting. **Carried**

Discussion: It was suggested that members of the Assembly of Elders take turns providing updates for the newsletter; also, that a co-speaker be named to work with the Speaker.

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

**2021-06-18-097 CONSENSUS MOTION** That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Sharon Hull as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **Carried**

**Agenda**

**2021-06-18-098 MOTION** (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

**Minutes of May 21, 2021**

**2021-06-18-099 MOTION** (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of May 21, 2021 as circulated. **Carried**

**Correspondence**

- a) June 1, 2021 Suzanne Savard, Chair Faith UC Council re help with church name (*referred to GCO for guidance*)
- b) June 3, 2021 Rev. Bruce Fraser, retired re how communications happens (*referred to Covenant Support team and staff*).
- c) June 4, 2021 Susan Jackson GCO re communities of faith who have not yet returned their 2020 statistical forms. (*ask Karen to send reminder in mailing*).  
 Discussion: Norwood-Westwood is working on the stats; Eastminster has changed its email to [admin@eastminster.ca](mailto:admin@eastminster.ca)
- d) June 9, 2021 Marc Grenon, Board of Vocation Chair re progress of candidates (*circulated for information*).

**Business arising grouped according to confirmed Guiding Principles**

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

**Facilitation Team report** – Sharon Hull informed that the Equity Observers will be meeting soon and will provide their feedback to the Facilitation Team. It was noted that preliminary workshops to the AGM were very much appreciated. Karen Wilson informed that she will collate results from the evaluation and get to the Facilitation Team.

**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 report (see **appendix A**); in particular the feedback received from the evaluation form. There was a concern around bandwidth for participants in rural areas.

Discussion: When and how Churches reopen? Can this information be circulated through the newsletter? Rev. David Timpson informed that he is receiving reopening plans. It was suggested that a communication go out indicating best practices for Communities of Faith, i.e., follow local health unit guidelines, no singing, mask wearing, hand washing, no food sharing, no coffee-hour, number of participants during worship. Rev. David Timpson will write a communication (stand-alone piece, not only included in the newsletter).

*Emergency Plan* – how are Communities of Faith to use this plan?

**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 –**

**ii) Pastoral Relations –**

- a) **Covenanting Support Team** – Steve Coles reported that it was suggested that a new forum be created (emergency response team) to assist Communities of Faith prepare, consider alternate futures in the face of financial hardship. There is a concern that a multitude of Communities of Faith will close if some form of assistance (trained team) is dispatched. This concern also resonates with the Mission Through Property and Finance (P&F) Team. It is the hope that the Covenant Support Team and the P&F Team work together to think at possible solutions.

Rev. Ian Robb reported that the Covenant Support Team made a motion recommending that additional staff support to Rev. David Timpson be considered. The Pastoral Relations Minister is bearing the brunt of all of the questions for Communities of Faith pondering their future.

Rev. David Moore is retiring on 15<sup>th</sup> of September, the church is looking for Interim Minister.

**Change in Pastoral Relations**

**Maynooth-Madawaska Pastoral Charge (at the eastern Gates of Algonquin Park)**

**2021-06-18-100 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received the completed form on Church Hub approves the reappointment of Rev Marilyn Zehr to the Maynooth-Madawaska Pastoral Charge part-time Ministry 20 hours per week 07/01/ 2021 (July 1 2021) to 06/30/2022 (June 30 2022). **Carried**

**Little Brittan Pastoral Charge (west of Lindsay)**

**2021-06-18-101 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received the completed form on Church Hub approves the reappointment of

Denise Boyd, DLM, to the Little Britain Pastoral Charge part-time Ministry 24 hours per week 08/01/2021 (Aug. 1 2021) to 07/31/2022 (July 31, 2022). **Carried**

### **Trinity Peterborough**

**2021-06-18-102 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, pending receipt of the completed form on Church Hub approves the reappointment of Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie retired supply to the Trinity Peterborough Pastoral Charge full-time Ministry 40 hours per week 07/01/ 2021 (July 1 2021) to 06/30/2022 (June 30 2022). **Carried**

### **Port Hope**

**2021-06-18-103 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received the completed form on Church Hub approves the reappointment of Rev. Anja Guignon retired supply to the Port Hope Pastoral Charge part-time Ministry 20 hours per week 07/01/ 2021 (July 1 2021) to 09/30/2022 (Sept. 30 2022). **Carried**

### **Ebenezer- Maple Grove**

**2021-06-18-104 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having receipt of the completed form on Church Hub approves the reappointment of Rev Carol Gillard retired supply to the Ebenezer-Maple Grove Pastoral Charge full-time Ministry 40 hours per week 07/01/ 2021 (July 1 2021) to 06/30/2022 (June 30 2022).

It is recommended that Rev. Carol Gillard and Rev. Larry Doyle make plans for the congregation's missional identity during this appointment. **Carried**

**2021-06-18-105 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, with thanksgiving for the work of a career in ministry, approves the retirement of Rev David Moore from Simcoe Street United Church Oshawa October 31, 2021. **Carried**

**2021-06-18-106 MOTION** (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, with thanksgiving for the work of a career in ministry, approves the retirement of Rev Judith Evenden From Crossroads United church (Kingston) November 1, 2021. **Carried**

- b) Report from Liaison Forum – Rev. David Timpson, referred to the updated spreadsheet. There is a request that churches with vacancies be communicated through the newsletter to highlight that they are in search. It was suggested that Covenant Support Team prepare a list for circulation, with specific instruction for how to apply through Church Hub.
- c) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum – Rev. David Timpson reported that this forum is working towards reanimating the forum, and a meeting is planned for July.
- d) Retirees Forum – Rev. David Timpson reported that the \$700 bill for video production is to be paid from Covenant Support Team budget.

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

- a. Spring Brook United Church – Rev. David Timpson reported that Spring Brook continue to meet with their pastoral charge supervisor.
- b. Chalmers Review –

**2021-06-18-107 MOTION** (T. Meyers/I Robb) that whereas, having found Chalmers United Church, Kingston to be in an unsatisfactory state, the East Central Ontario Regional Council's Assembly of Elders has directed that certain outcomes be realized in support of discerning whether sufficient vitality and viability exists within the congregation to sustain its continued existence, including the appointment of an Administrator, therefore the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders agrees with the direction of the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Administration position and concurs with the recommendation that NarrowGate Leadership, via its principal, (Rev.) G. David King, is retained for a period of one year (with the possibility of extension for a further year) to animate the role of Administer by functioning as a Commission, per the polity and praxis of The United Church of Canada. The cost to be borne by the community of faith. **Carried**

c. Bancroft-Carlow – Rev. David Timpson reported that work is ongoing.

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** – The activity log was circulated, highlighting updates.

**Tabernacle United Church - Seymour Pastoral Charge.**

**2021-06-18-108 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of Tabernacle United Church of the Seymour Pastoral Charge to demolish the Tabernacle United Church building. The costs of doing so will be offset by a donation from the Empire Cheese Co-operative (\$25,000). **Carried**

**Trinity United Church – Bowmanville.**

**2021-06-18-109 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of Trinity United Church – Bowmanville to have access to their Manse Fund for the ongoing operation of their church. Work with Brian Reid, liaison from the Covenant Support team is ongoing as they determine their future direction however these funds will be necessary to keep them going to the end of January 2022. **Carried**

**Hampton United Church –**

**2021-06-18-110 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of Hampton United Church to negotiate their current loan with Lakeridge Presbytery Extension Council. **Carried**

**Kingsview United Church- Oshawa.**

**2021-06-18-111 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of Kingsview United Church- Oshawa to increase the previous approved (2021-05-21\_076 MOTION) amount of \$300,000 to \$370,000 being for the replacement of asphalt in parking lot, curbing, sidewalks, removal of waste and replacing of engineering fill. **Carried**

**Dunbarton Fairport United Church**

**2021-06-18-112 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves in principal with the engagement of Dunbarton Fairport United Church and the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) in the feasibility of developing low-density residential housing on their site. **Carried**

**St Mark's United Church - Whitby**

**2021-06-18-113 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) approves the St Mark's United Church - Whitby Property and Facilities projects estimated at \$102,000. This approval is required before St Mark's can apply for funding assistance from Lakeridge Extension Council. **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 –**

a) Team Progress report – will be meeting in the future.

b) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages (see **appendix B**); highlighted that mission extended grants have been extended to September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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:**

Much of my work over the past month includes supporting Dorothy Taylor's teaching and the video from Walking the Path of Peace together for the regional meeting, and the information in a special newsletter around Indigenous Justice (including links to a sermon and children's story for June 20th), and Thursday's regional newsletter.

In addition to this work, I have been in communication with other congregations and individuals who are awakening to this moment in our history together. I talking circle will take place this Tuesday at noon, with future talking circles as needed.

One piece of work which I haven't been able to get to is posting previous webinars to our youtube channel. There hasn't been time, and now I am wondering if these webinars (likely 8 or 10 hours worth) need to be closed captioned prior to posting.

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 B*)

**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 – meeting in the near future.

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

**Affirm Forum** – Assembly of Elders representative, it was highlighted that

**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** – Business arising from nominations meeting, June 15, 2021, for the Assembly of Elders:

1. We recommend that team members not be allowed to extend their terms by one year, unless there are particular circumstances such as needing to finish a job, needing to maintain a balance demographically etc. This would be decided as an exception, between the chair and the team.
2. We recommend that team members be permitted to renew their term once, by re-entering the nominations process and submitting an expression of interest. After two terms, we recommend that team members be given a one-year sabbatical before being eligible for that team again.
3. Please give us guidance: should all chairs be elected people, to ensure accountability and limited term of office, or is there a way to build in terms of office for non-elected and elected people. For instance, a maximum of four years as chair, whether elected or not.
4. we request that the region produce a directory of all regional council members to assist us in the nominations process
5. Please give us direction on the election process for the remaining GC44 commissioners and alternates.

October 2021 is new deadline for submitting names of commissioners.

### **Additional Reports**

#### **UCW**

Margarete Curtis provided an oral report from UCW.

#### **Ministry Personnel Extended Vacation**

Rev. Don McLean highlighted that there has been an extra burden on Ministry Personnel during this past year.

**2021-06-18-113 MOTION** (K. Whyte/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders recommends that Communities of Faith extend and additional vacation period to Ministry Personnel throughout this year. **Carried**

It was suggested that links and resources be circulated in the newsletter to help provide worship materials in the absence of their ministry personnel for an extended week. It was also suggested that the rationale be explained (burnout, mental health, not having the opportunity to get away from work, etc.). Rev. Paul Reed will prepare something for newsletter.

**Proposals to General Council**

Suggested that pre-gatherings happen to present proposals; that proposals come to Assembly of Elders prior to pre-gathering (in order to facilitate preparations). Rev. Paul Reed will prepare a recommendation for how process will unfold.

**Thanking the Moderator**

It was suggested that extending thanks and appreciation be sent to the Moderator. Rev. Paul Reed will extend a direct message from the Assembly of Elders.

**New Business –****Opening worship for next meeting – Rev. David Timpson**

**Equity Monitor Report** – Sharon highlighted that we become more conscious of our language (acknowledging that we have more than two genders).

**Motion to adjourn**

**2021-06-18-112 MOTION** (B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:20 PM.

**Closing Prayer – Kathleen Whyte****Next Meeting Dates**

Friday, September 24, 2021 9 am-noon ZOOM  
General Meeting date Oct 16-17 ZOOM  
[remove Friday, October 29, 2021 9 am-noon ZOOM]  
Friday, November 26, 2021 9 am-noon ZOOM

Rev. Paul Reed  
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,  
Executive Minister

**Appendices**

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## Appendix A

**Communications Summary Report****Website Updates & Information:**

- Spring Annual Meeting webpage has been updated to include post meeting documents and videos.
- I have been in touch with some of the Teams and Forums about updating/adding new information to their webpages, so I will be working on that over the next while.
- It was brought to my attention that the VAM form was showing correct on the website, but when searched, it brought up the old version. This has been corrected.

**Spring Meeting Communications:**

- Being part of the Tech Team for the Spring Meeting, I can now say I have my first Regional meeting completed! A HUGE thank you to everyone for all your help and support as I asked questions and navigated my way. Amazing teamwork!!
- Final attendee count at the Spring Meeting was 187 participants.
- To date, we have 27 people that have filled out the evaluation form. A reminder will be going out in this weeks e-news.

**Other Communications:**

- I will be attending the All Staff Meeting on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> as well as our Regional Staff meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The ECORC videos from the Spring Meeting have been uploaded to YouTube.
- Working with Rodney and Wanda last week, we put together a newsletter from the Indigenous Justice & Respectful Relationships Forum that was sent out Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter also included 2 videos prepared by Rodney & friends, which have been uploaded to the ECORC YouTube channel under the Right Relations playlist.
- Wanda has been in touch re: Nominations Team and we are working on getting the GC44 Commissioners nominations form open again for the fall, so people can sign up over the summer.
- For the month of June, the newsletter will continue to be sent out weekly and then will move to bi-weekly for July and August with time sensitive items to be sent as needed.

*Karen Wilson*

## Appendix B

### **Report from the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages**

#### **Formation, Nurture and Justice Report**

- Ongoing - next meeting on June 24th, IJRR - See Rodney's report

#### **SJNORC**

- Meeting on June 17th- brief updates on RC's that had meetings, updates from GCO, spent time talking about how to focus our efforts. Minutes will be shared once available.

#### **Doing Mission Together Grants**

- Application form has been updated with new information (new deadline of September 15, 2021 for 2021 programming). Will send out in a grants newsletter and updates about grants to the ECORC website (working with Karen, Brian and Ted).

#### **First Third's Ministry (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
- Forming a First Third's Ministry Forum - with both youth, young adults and leaders ( in the newsletter)
- Quin Mo Lac - No campers for the 2021 season. Having a virtual CIT program to focus on the camp leadership. Fundraising is ongoing. Info added to newsletter.
- VIBE- approved for the Gov grant - preparing for program online- purchased the GO project curriculum, job posting is open.

#### **UCW**

- 1 day event being held outside at Quin Mo Lac at the end of August - registration is open- see info in Newsletter.
- continuing outreach projects
- Ongoing sales of masks with UCW crests being made by Marilyn with the funds going towards the UCW 60th Anniversary project "Change for Women of Zambia" which ends in July 2022- see newsletter for more information

#### **Equity Team**

- Work is ongoing, the next meeting will be scheduled in June.

#### **Affirming Forum**

- Next meeting is scheduled for June 23rd.