

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, December 10, 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

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| Rev. Paul Reed | Speaker |
| Margaret Curtis | Member |
| Marilyn Fortin | Member |
| Brian James | Member - Financial Administration |
| Rev. Don McLean | Member |
| Ted Meyers | Member |
| Ian Robb | Member |
| William (Bill) Sheaves | Member |
| Rev. Lynn Watson | Member |
| Rev. Phil Wilson | Member |
| Kathleen Whyte | Member |
| 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 |
| Rev. Dan Hayward | Corresponding guest, Pastoral Relations Minister for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council |

REGRETS/ABSENT

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| Nancy Sutherland | Member |
| Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley | Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice |
| Karen Wilson | Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant |
| Sharon Hull | Corresponding Member - Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages |

Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Rev. Paul Reed, Speaker, acknowledged the land, in particular the Indigenous Peoples of the St-Lawrence of Great Lakes region, and reminded all that we as members of The United Church are called to continue to work towards truth and reconciliation. Paul referred to his father, who in the past was the Executive Minister of Bay of Quinte, and his old notes where he surmised based on statistics that if churches did not have funds in the amount of at least two and a half times the cost of having a full-time Minister, they would not be able to continue in mission and ministry as a single point church, and should consider amalgamating or closing. It was pondered if this was still the case at the present time. Paul opened this meeting in prayer, in particular for God's guidance as the Assembly of Elders considers the futures of Young's Point United Church and Lakefield United Churches.

Circle Time of Sharing – All were invited to share.

Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting

2021-12-10-042 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Phil Wilson as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

Agenda

2021-12-10-043 MOTION (B. James/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated regarding the future of Young's Point United Church and the Lakefield-Young's Point Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

Corresponding Member

2021-12-10-044 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders welcomes Rev. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Business arising re Young's Point United Church**Young's Point**

At a special meeting called on December 10, 2021, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders addressed the situation regarding the Lakefield-Young's Point Pastoral Charge:

Whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has been receiving concerns regarding the Young's Point United Church since November 2020 from various sources;

Whereas in September 2021 the Regional Council received a formal request from the Lakefield congregation to immediately change the boundaries of the Lakefield Young's Point Pastoral Charge, separating Lakefield from Young's point;

Whereas the Young's Point United Church members have responded to the November 27, 2021 motion, clearly requesting for an opportunity to continue as an active community of faith; with those members not in leadership positions unaware of the extent of the challenges;

Whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has reservations about the ability of the Young's Point congregation to undertake necessary changes to function in accordance with the United Church polity;

Whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders recognizes that Young's Point United Church has experienced various governance challenges during the pandemic, including limited access to technology for meetings, the inability to meet in person for leadership elections, and the absence of the minister for medical reasons, and further Young's Point United Church has demonstrated a need for instruction to meet the requirements to remain in good standing as a body of The United Church of Canada;

Whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has been made aware that there is a potential dispute regarding ownership of the Young's Point United Church and does not want to engage either party in a legal encounter while documents are being assessed;

a) Disbanding the current Pastoral Charge

2021-12-10-045 MOTION (D. McLean/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received a formal request from the Lakefield congregation to change the boundaries of the Lakefield Young's Point Pastoral Charge, separating Lakefield from Young's Point,

concur with the request to disband the Lakefield Young's Point Pastoral Charge, creating two separate pastoral charges; Lakefield United Pastoral Charge and Young's Point United Pastoral Charge effective January 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

b) Provide Governance Support

2021-12-10-046 MOTION (P. Wilson/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders authorizes Rev. Dan Hayward to provide governance support to the Lakefield United Church congregation effective January 1, 2022, and report to the Assembly of Elders at regular intervals. A report submitted in Sept 2022, shall outline the on-going viability of the community of faith, and confirmation of understanding of, and compliance with, United Church polity. The Assembly of Elders to make decision on the viability and future of the Lakefield Pastoral Charge as determined by the assessment of the mission strategy, governance model, financial capacity, capacity for call or appointment of ministry leadership. **CARRIED**

2021-12-10-047 MOTION (I. Robb/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders authorizes Rev. Dan Hayward to provide governance support to the Young's Point United Church congregation effective January 1, 2022, and report to the Assembly of Elders at regular intervals. A report to be submitted in Sept 2022, shall outline the on-going viability of the community of faith, and confirmation of understanding of, and compliance with, United Church polity. The Assembly of Elders to make decision on the viability and future of the Young's Point Pastoral Charge as determined by the assessment of the mission strategy, governance model, financial capacity, capacity for call or appointment of ministry leadership. **CARRIED**

Discussion: It was noted that appointment of representatives to the Regional Council must come from both Pastoral Charges now.

Discussion: It was iterated that there be no meetings of the Session, Stewards and Official Board without the presence of Rev. Dan Hayward and or the Pastoral Charge Supervisor.

c) Ministry

Lakefield United Church

2021-12-10-048 MOTION (L. Watson/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Bryan Ransom to Lakefield United Church, Lakefield part time (15 hr/week) effective January 1, 2022 for worship leadership and emergency pastoral care to cover the medical leave of the Rev. Kerrie Perry. **CARRIED**

Lakefield United Church

2021-12-10-049 MOTION (P. Wilson/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Team will consult with Rev. Dan Hayward and Rev. Bryan Ransom to determine whether a Pastoral Charge Supervisor is required to work at Lakefield United Church to ensure quorum for governance and meetings effective January 1, 2022 until the return of the Rev. Kerrie Perry. **CARRIED**

Young's Point United Church

2021-12-10-050 MOTION (B. James/D. McLean) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Team will appoint a local Pastoral Charge Supervisor to work with Rev. Dan Hayward at Young's Point United Church to ensure quorum for governance and meetings effective January 1, 2022 during the transition to confirm viability. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Reminder that Pastoral Charge assessments for 2021 need to be paid in full.

Opening worship for next meeting –

Equity Monitor Report – Good meeting, all collaborated productively.

Motion to adjourn

2021-12-10_052 CONSENSUS MOTION that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 10:45 AM. **CARRIED**

Closing Prayer – Rev. Paul Reed closed this meeting in prayer, and called upon blessing for the work that is to be done and support for all of those involved.

Next Meeting Dates Friday, January 28, 2022 9 am-noon ZOOM
 Friday, February 25, 2022 9 am-noon ZOOM

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

(none)