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**FALL GENERAL MEETING****Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6:30 p.m.****Session One**

The East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Fall General Meeting in two sessions, the first on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 p.m., and the second on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m.

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (69)**

Aruna Alexander, Stephen Ambury, Mark Arnill, Sharon Ballantyne, Kristiane Black, Mary-Margaret Boone, Alan Boyd, Jennifer Broomhead, Michelle Brotherton, Wendy Bulloch, Nancy Clarke, Karen Croxall, Elizabeth Cunningham, Steven Davis, Jeff Doucette, Michelle Down, Lawrence Doyle, Deborah Elliott, Catherine Elsdon, Judith Evenden, Sandra Farrow, Bruce Fraser, Caroline Giesbrecht, Margaret Goodwin, Cathy Gradante, Donald Green, Elaine Hall, Richard Hamilton, Jacqueline Harper, Svinda Heinrichs, Mary-Jane Hobden, Michelle Hofman, Cordelia Karpenko, Elaine Kellogg, Lionel Ketola, Margaret King, Kim Lawrance, Nancy Lester, Norman Long, Elizabeth Macdonald, Andrew Macpherson, Joanna Macquarrie, Donald Mclean, Cheryl McMurray, Ryan McNally, Sylviaanne Meredith, Jeannette Millar, Harold Morgan, Kerrie Perry, Michael Putnam, Paul Reed, Stephanie Richmond, Catherine Russell Duggan, Christine Sloan, Karen Smart, Stevan Spicer, Calvin Stone, Wanda Stride, Maryanne Thomson, David Timpson, Jennifer Uhryniw, Max Ward, Christopher White, Barb Willard, Donald Willmer, Nancy Wilson, Phillip Wilson, John Young and Marilyn Zer.

**Lay (73)**

Shirley Baster, Karen Bates, Kendall Begbie, Donna Bignell, Paul Binkley, Linda Bishop, Donna Budgen, Freda Burns, Elaine Casselman, Steve Coles, Kimberly Collins, Jane Crabbe, Garry Culverson, Carol Cunday, Margaret Curtis, Ian Deslauriers, Elaine Dornn, Janet Dowson, Mervyn Dunlop, Sharon Eagleson, Derek Elion, Phyllis Elvidge-Bell, Marilyn Fortin, Joanne Gray, Paul Gray, Sharon Green, Darlene Hallett, Grant Hedges, Donna Henderson, Tina Hiddink, Brian James, Kerri Jebson, Carl Kimmitt, Paul Kneebone, Patricia Long, Elaine Mann, Dianne Mccracken, Ted Meyers, Cheryl Mound, Tracy Nickleford, Glenn Owen, Joyce Payne, Shirley Penny, Elizabeth Pereman, Carol Peterson, Scott Piercy, Susan Pleasance, Elaner Pound, John Purdon, Brian Reid, Norman Rice, Marilyn Rodger, Karen Rynard, Ron Saucier, William Sheaves, Debbie Sherwin, Thomas Smart, Arthur Smith, Jack Soule, Grace Stanley, Nancy Sutherland, Leigh Tamlin, Patricia Teskey, Carrie Thompson, Ron Trewin, Linda Unrau, Andrew Vanwyk, Linda Walt, Wendy Warren, Sally Weir, Ralph Werry, Kathleen Whyte and Sheila-Mae Young (Gidney).

**Candidates serving in an Appointment (2)**

Kevin Fitzpatrick and Kaitlyn Ostrander.

**Regional Council Staff (6)**

Sharon Hull, Rev. Rosemary Lambie (voting clergy), Joel Miller, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley (voting clergy), Rev. David Timpson (voting clergy) and Karen Wilson.

**Guests of the Regional Council (5)**

Penelope Culverson, Debra M Fortin Brown, Bruce Hutchinson, Mark Sturman and Sharon Woodrow.

**Regrets (5)**

Rev. Susan Genge, Rev. Isaac Mundy, Rev. William Smith, Rev. Lynn Watson and Rev. Jamie York.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

**Zoom Meeting Room Opens**

Delegates invited to join meeting at 6:15 PM.

**Meeting Begins**

Rev. Paul Reed, Speaker for the Assembly of Elders, and Chair for this meeting, introduced himself and welcomed all in attendance and provided some housekeeping items, in particular how to raise hand on phone using \*9 and using \*6 to mute and unmute oneself.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Rev. Rodney Smith Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, introduced himself and led in the land acknowledgment, and invited all who were in attendance to acknowledge the lands from where they were attending from. Rodney also made aware some of the history of Canada and First Nation People relations, as well as the history of Residential Schools operated by The United Church of Canada, and highlighted the Healing Fund which supports healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts.

Afterwards, Martha Pedoniquotte, Community Capacity Development Coordinator, introduced herself in her new role within East Central Ontario Regional Council. Martha joins the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit (IMJ) of the United Church of Canada as the Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC) for Ontario/Quebec.

**Responsive Reading**

Rev. Paul Reed opened the meeting's gathering worship by leading a responsive reading adapted from the East Central Ontario Regional Council Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles:

One: Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit,

**All: we follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.**

One: Grounded in the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves,

**All: we nurture and engage our Communities of Faith, joining our hearts and voices in sacred covenant.**

One: In gratitude for our abundant blessings,

**All: we pledge to be faithful stewards of our resources**

One: Called to be agents of God's love, compassion and justice,

**All: we aspire to be faithful servants on earth as it is in heaven.**

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

**All: we reach out in love to those who have been ignored, excluded, condemned, silenced or erased.**

One: We seek to uphold high standards of equity and Affirming ministry,

**All: as individuals and in our Communities of Faith.**

One: 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.

**All: 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.**

One: We promise to walk with, and learn from, Indigenous ministries and Communities of Faith within our church,

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- All:** **and to reach out to all Indigenous Peoples and to encourage others to walk this path with us.**
- One: As we are called by God to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others and to seek justice,
- All:** **so we are called to respect the deep spirituality of traditional Indigenous teachings of Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.**
- One: Further acknowledging that cultural prejudices have prevented us from seeing all people as equally worthy of God's love and compassion,
- All:** **we strive in our communities of faith to become an intercultural church, participating in ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith ministries, partnerships and initiatives in our local communities and in wider society.**
- One: As Jesus gathered children in his arms and spoke of their leadership and spiritual gifts,
- All:** **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.**
- One: Hearing God's call for open hearts and unity in the body of Christ, and recognizing that meaningful communication is essential to unity,
- All:** **we will respect all voices, share information and listen for the Spirit's prompting, that all may be embraced in this work of Love.**
- One: Diverse, yet One in Christ, we seek to serve and support our Communities of Faith as they faithfully serve a broken and hurting world.
- All:** **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.**

- From the ECORC Statement of Vision, prepared by Nancy Payne & Patricia Teskey and passed at the ECORC AGM, September 2020

### **Gathering Prayer**

Kathleen Whyte led the gathering prayer.

### **Call to Order**

Rev. Paul Reed called the meeting 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."

### **Opening Motion**

**2021-10-15-16\_001 CONSENT MOTIONS** (Rosemary Lambie/Phil Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda as circulated be adopted;
2. That the minutes of the East Central Ontario Regional Council Annual General Meeting of June 4-5, 2021 be accepted as circulated (**Appendix A**);
3. That the alternate Speaker for this meeting be Steve Coles;
4. That the Equity Monitor Support Team for this meeting consist of Deb Brown, Rev. Max Ward and Rev. Phil Wilson; the Equity Observers consist of the Equity Team;
5. That the Scrutineers for this meeting be Rev. Phil Wilson, Karen Wilson, Sharon Hull and Joel Miller;

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6. That the Discernmentarian/Parliamentarians for this meeting be Steve Coles;
  7. That the Chaplain for this meeting be Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht and Rev. Bob LePage – Friday evening; Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald and Ian Robb – Saturday morning.
  8. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – Holy Manners *The 2021 Manual, Appendix, 2*:

“We will

- keep God at the center of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honor the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.”

*The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38<sup>th</sup> General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.*

## **CARRIED**

### **Introductions/ Statement of Purpose**

Rev. Paul Reed shared this meetings statement of purpose:

- To receive reports from the Leadership Teams
- To share responses to mission objective priorities
- To approve the 2022 Budget

### **Breakout Rooms**

Attendees were placed in breakout rooms, wherein they were asked to do a “Meet and greet” and then focus on “What are you looking to get out of this meeting?”

### **Breakout Rooms**

Breakout rooms lasted fifteen (15) minutes.

### **Mission Through Property Team**

Members of the Mission Through Property were introduced: Ron Trewin, Kendall Begbie, Bruce Hutchison, Arthur Smith, Mary-Margaret Boone, Robin, Thomson, Ian Deslauriers Brian James, Treasurer, Ted Meyers Chair, Rosemary Lambie (staff support).

Ted Meyers, Chair highlighted items in the Mission Through Property Team report – see Mission Through Property Report (**Appendix B**).

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**Financial Presentation 1 – Asset Allocation Proposal**

Brian James, Regional Council Treasurer and Ted Meyers, Chair of Mission Through Property Team, provided a review of restricted and unrestricted funds and presented a proposal on how to use these assets – see *ECORC Restricted Funds 2021 (Appendix F<sup>1</sup>)*. Brian highlighted that the Mission Through Property Team and the Regional Council Treasurer led an information session in September 2021 which led to its recommendations (to be voted on during session two of this meeting).

After discussions, it was decided that IBE (see Appendix F<sup>1</sup>) would be included with money for El Salvador.

Rev. Mary-Jane Hobden, Kerrie Perry and Rev. Wanda Stride offered to start a team that would begin looking at receiving new applications and disburse funding from the Student Bursary Fund.

**Break**

The meeting had a ten (10) minutes bio-break.

**Equity Team Report**

Members of the Mission Through Property were introduced: Phil Wilson, Lynn Watson, Nancy Sutherland, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Deb Fortin Brown, Stephanie Richmond, Wanda Stride, Stacey Tremblay, Max Ward, Nancy Wilson, Paul Reed, Sharon Ballantyne (current chair) and Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice With All Ages (staff support).

Sharon Ballantyne provided an oral presentation:

Hi everyone, my name is Sharon Ballantyne and I am the current chair of our Equity team, humbled to work with so many wonderful people. Since our spring meeting, the big focus has been to develop content and create some videos available on the equity playlist channel for our East Central Ontario Regional Council. You will find the YouTube channel on the website and we hope you will take some time to check the videos out. Whether you want to watch a few short clips about why we have equity, learn more about “the elephant in the room,” explore reimagining God, learn about service animals or just what is involved in equity considerations and the equity lens tool of the United Church of Canada, there are great things to learn. Revisit the song we shared last spring “Take Time to Listen” a wonderful gift of music that you might share in your community of faith.

We are excited that in the most recent videos, Phil has been testing a web based platform for video editing and their "auto generate" captioning or subtitling. Phil reports it worked well and easily allowed him to listen and edit any errors. The software is called kapwing, that's K A P W I N G. Watch for more information about kapwing in the coming months. It is part of our commitment to ensure more accessible content.

If you were at the premeeting event September 9, you may recall Larry Doyle walking us through the process for proposals and the general plans for the GC44 meeting. GC44 is being done virtually with the theme “Who Do You Say That I am?” If you have been looking at proposals you will note that there is now a component that asks us to consider equity. item 3 on each proposal reads: 3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity? This is a good question to lift up in the life and work of your community of faith. It is an ongoing invitation to “lead with equity” reminding us all that we are all part of the “equity support tea,” uplifting equity, helping us all participate together. The term equity monitor, is being replaced with language of “equity support team” inviting everyone's involvement. Some have felt the term “monitor” was uncomfortable. At a brainstorming meeting with the Anti-Racism Equity Officer, Adele Halliday, the equity support team emerged as a more favourable name.

Throughout our time in this meeting, and in every gathering you are part of, you are encouraged to wear your “equity support team” hat and participate, observing all that happens through the lens of equity. during this meeting, we invite you to provide feedback by contacting Deb Brown, Max Ward or Phil Wilson You can call Phil by phone at 613-377-6406) or send an email to equityecorc@gmail.com

If you or your community of faith would like to learn more please reach out to any member of our equity team.

Thanks for listening and taking part.

As I prepare to turn it over to our next presenter, I want to take this moment to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the hard work the affirming form has been doing, advocating and education, leading and learning, being public, intentional and explicit so positively that East Central Ontario Regional Council is now permanently affirming. Congratulations! The current members of the Affirming Forum are: staff support Sharon Hull, Maggie Allin, Judy Amsbury, Mary-Margaret Boone, Kimberly Collins, Michelle Down, Wilde Ferris, Doug Ferris, Elizabeth Macdonald, Don McLean, Joyce Payne, Patricia Teskey, SHARON Woodrow. I am pleased to welcome Sharon Woodrow, who will share the Affirming Forum report.

Sharon Woodrow provided an oral report on work, mission objectives of the Forums:

Affirm Forum Report to ECORC October 15, 2021

Thank You Sharon Ballantyne and thank you for this opportunity to report.

I am Sharon Woodrow (preferred pronouns she/her) and I am a member at Trinity United Church in Cannington. We are an Affirming congregation and along with 6 other churches we call UCM or United Community Ministry, share one full time minister.

First, on behalf of the Affirming Forum, we thank our Staff Representative, Sharon Hull. Sharon's technical talent and insights are greatly appreciated by this group.

The Affirming Forum is delighted to report that following the Overwhelming vote in favour of becoming fully Affirming at the Spring meeting of ECORC, Affirm United/S' affirmer Ensemble has recognized and designated East Central Ontario Regional Council to be permanently Affirming.

Thank you for that vote and Thank you to all of you who participated in our Celebration on September 29th.

Now we are ready to get to work on our 2021-22 Action Plan. We will continue to work with other Teams, Forums and Regional Council ministries as we all live into the many aspects of Affirming Ministries. We are prepared to facilitate and support Networking efforts among those communities of faith and other ministries, who are already Affirming, those in the process and those exploring the possibility of becoming Affirming. Please feel free to reach out to the members on this Forum.

We remain committed to learning more and addressing – Intersectionality in partnership with those working on Indigenous Justice and Anti-Racism. We are developing Measureable Goals based on the Regional Council's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles, so that we can track and assess the effectiveness of our Affirming Efforts.

Thank you.

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Cheryl Mound led a thanksgiving prayer following the presentations, giving thanks for the work that is being done on behalf of the Regional Council.

### **Assembly of Elders Report**

Rev. Paul Reed, Speaker for the Assembly of Elders introduced members of the Assembly of Elders: Paul Reed, Bill Sheaves, Margaret Curtis, Ted Meyers, Brian James, Marilyn Fortin, Nancy Sutherland, Ian Robb, Kathleen Whyte, Don Mclean Lynn Watson, Phil Wilson, Ted Meyers, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister (staff support) and Joel Miller, Recording Secretary (staff support). Paul highlighted the following items in his verbal report:

- That the Assembly of Elders role is to provide oversight and direction to Teams on behalf of Regional Council between full meetings;

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- That part of the role of Assembly of Elders is to bring to the attention of the Regional Council where direction or policy is needed.
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  - Staff members have been working above and beyond the call of duty, especially Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister, as Communities of Faith have struggled through these challenging times;
  - Pastoral Charges have been adapting well during pandemic;
  - It has been challenging to give specific direction with different health regions;
  - That safety of others and the protection of health is a policy of our faith and that all Communities of Faith are expected to meet or exceed provincial mandates, health unit instructions and directives of best practices – respecting rules and regulations regarding masking, distancing and capacity limits are expected to be adhered to.

❖ **Mandatory Vaccinations for Ministry Personnel**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister announced that vaccination is mandatory for ministry personnel., and highlighted that The United Church of Canada does not provide religious exemption letters. Rosemary shared the Office of Vocation interpretation of standards and ethics for information: <https://mailchi.mp/united-church.ca/covid-19-vaccination-expectation-for-ministers?e=73026fdb2b>

❖ **New Staff Position**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie highlighted that the 2022 budget would include a new budget line for an additional staff position that would help facilitate work carried out by the Pastoral Relations Minister. At the moment, there are many Communities of Faith needing assistance, extending beyond the capacity for one staff person.

❖ **License to Administer the Sacraments Policy**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie presented the *License to Administer the Sacraments Policy (Appendix C)*. After discussion were had, the following vote took place.

**2021-10-15-16\_ 002 MOTION** (Rosemary Lambie/Phil Wilson) That East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the License to Administer the Sacraments Policy as amended:

- Change section 4 a) “...~~year~~ six (6) months...” **CARRIED**

**Thanksgiving Prayer**

Cheryl Mound led a prayer of thanksgiving for the work carried out by the Assembly of Elders and the staff on behalf of the Regional Council.

**Concluding Session 1**

Session one was adjourned at 9:02 PM. Attendees were invited to stay in the meeting room/breakout rooms for an additional fifteen (15) minutes for some social time.

**Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021, 9 AM**  
**Session two**

**Zoom Meeting Room Opens**

Delegates were invited to join to the meeting at 8:45 a.m., in order to connect themselves in time for 9 a.m. start-time.

**Meeting Begins**

Rev. Paul Reed, Chair shared a couple of instructions regarding voting using the phone and other features on

Zoom. The Chair asked that the chat box be used for purposes of the meeting and not for dialogue between attendees. It was highlighted that people should refrain from using acronyms as much as possible, as this can be confusing. All were reminded to self-identify before speaking.

### Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Paul Reed, Chair, led the land acknowledgement, and honored First Nations People and their stewardship of these lands that settlers share with them. All were invited to name the First Nation territories they were joining the meeting from.

### Opening Prayer

Rev. Don Mclean led the opening prayer.

### Report from the nominations team, regarding GC44 commissioners

Rev. Paul Reed introduced member of the Nominations Leadership Team: Helmut Enns. Caroline Giesbrecht, Rev. Svinda Heinrichs, Rev. Bill Smith, Rev. Mary Jane Hobden and Wanda Stride (Chair).

Rev. Wanda Stride announced that Rev. Mary Jane Hobden would become Chair of this Leadership Team following the spring general meeting, and provided details as to when team meets, and the work that has taken place since the Regional Council met last.

With regards to General Council 44 Commissioners, Rev. Mary Jane Hobden shared that, as of the spring 2021 meeting:

1) GC reps – we need 15 plus alternates: Who we have from the spring meeting:

#### *Lay 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioners*

1. C. Stephen Coles
2. Penelope Culverson
3. Ted Meyers
4. Joyce Payne
5. Kathleen Whyte

#### *Ordered 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioners*

6. Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander
7. Rev. Meggin King
8. Rev. Don McLean
9. Rev. Ryan McNally
10. Rev. Paul Reed
11. Rev. Wanda Stride
12. Rev. Marilyn Zehr

Therefore, the following decisions were voted upon;

- 1) **2021-10-15-16\_003 MOTION** (Caroline Giesbrecht/ Mary-Jane Hobden) That East Central Ontario Regional Council, upon recommendation of the Nominating Team, name **Kaitlyn Ostrander** and **Andrew MacPherson** as Commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council. **CARRIED**

\*Therefore, and based on June 4-5, 2021 election of Commissioner, GC 44 Commissioners are:

#### *Lay 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioners*

1. C. Stephen Coles
2. Penelope Culverson
3. Andrew MacPherson
4. Ted Meyers
5. Kaitlyn Ostrander
6. Joyce Payne
7. Kathleen Whyte

#### *Ordered 44<sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioners*

8. Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander
9. Rev. Meggin King
10. Rev. Don McLean
11. Rev. Ryan McNally
12. Rev. Paul Reed
13. Rev. Wanda Stride
14. Rev. Marilyn Zehr



Youth Intern GC 44 Commissioner

- 2) **2021-10-15-16\_MOTION 004** (Wanda Stride/Mary-Jane Hobden) That the nominations team of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, reserves a space on the slate of commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council for the Youth Intern as named by the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team. **CARRIED**

Alternate Commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council

- 3) **2021-10-15-16\_MOTION 005** (Wanda Stride/Mary-Jane Hobden) That East Central Ontario Regional Council, upon recommendation of the Nominating Team, name in order **Tom Smart** and **Rev. Kristiane Black** as Alternates Commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council and that vacancies among the Commissioners be filled with respect to maintaining diversity and balance. **CARRIED**

Leading Elder

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, took on the role of Chair during this part of the meeting.

A poll was created with the following names (delegates were asked to chose one):

Stephen Coles - st paul's Bowmanville  
 Penny Culverson – Mark Street Peterborough  
 Rev. Meggin King – St Paul's Warkworth  
 Rev. Ryan McNally - Cannifton  
 Ted Meyers – trinity uxbridge  
 Kaitlyn Ostrander – arden pastoral charge  
 Joyce Payne - Edith Rankin  
 Rev. Paul Reed - Hope, Norland  
 Rev. Wanda Stride – Trinity St Andrew's

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, provided a point of clarification regarding the role of *The Leading Elder*: To facilitate communication between the Regional Council and the General Council, a conduit of communication. This role is not to be confused with the role of “speaker” who presides over meetings of the Assembly of Elders. (Governance Document for the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada – September 2020; Page 24)

- 4) **2021-10-15-16\_ 006 MOTION** (Phil Wilson/Mary-Jane Hobden) That East Central Ontario Regional Council nominate Rev. Wanda Stride as Leading Elder. **CARRIED**

Discussion: It was commented that there needs to be a clearer process going forward, in particular so that poll results are displayed. The United Church of Canada elects its Moderator using an elimination process - so there is a precedent.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Cheryl Mound read some words attributed to Saint Teresa by Betty Turcotte “Christ has no body but yours...”, which was followed by a prayer of thanksgiving for the work performed by the Nominations Leadership Team.

Formation Nurture Justice Team

Rev. Paul Reed, Chair, introduced members of the Formation Nurture and Justice Team: Derek Marsellus, Helmut Enns, Marilyn Fortin, Marilyn Rodger, Adele Boy, Aruna Alexander, Isaac Mundy, Wendy Bulloch and Meggin King (Chair). This team is supported by the work of Forums and staff members Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages, and Rodney Smith-Merkely, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice

Meggin King led the reporting on the work and mission objectives of Forums, and Networks and Clusters, and other members of the team also shared in the reporting (oral report embedded here below):

Our team has been busy this year, overseeing the work of the Region's outreach forums. We have been focused on committed efforts towards the stated priorities of the ECO Regional Council, and a lot of good work has been done. To summarize, with thanks to all the Forums and Teams for submitting these details:

**Our Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum-- Rodney Smith-Merkley, Staff.**

The Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum has spent time accompanying communities and Communities of Faith in learning about the Truth and taking steps toward Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Since June, Canada has experienced an awakening around the impact and legacy of Residential Schools through the discovery of unmarked graves of children who died while attending these institutions. While shocking for many, the church has long recognized its part in this tragic story.

The forum continues its work in education, advocacy, and building relationships with Indigenous peoples. The Forum has recently completed a term of reference, and now has co-chairs Marilyn Fortin and Elaine Kellogg to work alongside staff Rodney Smith-Merkley. The forum also welcomed new member Mary Anne McFarlane at a recent backyard retreat at the home of Shelley Knott Fife. Posting of past webinars on the youtube channel will be part of a workplan being developed. Also watch for news of a lending library, formerly located in the Conference Office, being administered through Bridgenorth United Church. We appreciate and support the efforts of many communities of faith around the recent National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and the daily work and witness this requires.

Thanks also to secretary Helmut Enns and Sharon Hull for being a part of the Forum along with the aforementioned folk.

**Our Anti-Racism Forum – Aruna Alexander, Chair**

The Anti-Racism Forum of FNJT is acutely aware that creating ECORC's Policy was only 10% of our work. Implementation processes and work will constitute the remaining 90%. Therefore, we continue to work on a foundation of Spiritual/moral, Theological and Ethical values, as Christians and concerned citizens in our various communities.

As was done for the creation of our AR Policy, insights from research-based data, scientific, historical and educational facts that support anti-racism work, and best practices, will inform our deliberations and recommendations. Thus far, support for highlighting ECORC'S commitment to "admit and address the lack of knowledge of Canadian and Newcomer religious and cultural diversity (see page two of AR-Policy) has been strong. This is seen as taking an appropriate first steps approach within the East Central Ontario context, coupled with personal intercultural /interfaith encounter and dialogue events.

Aruna Alexander was invited by UCC's National Committee, along with representatives across the nation to offer feedback on the National Anti-Racism Committee's goals. She participated in two groups: (1) Education, (2) Theology.

In order to begin our work of implementation, the AR Forum has had an in-person meeting, this Fall, and has made a fruitful start on this work.

We want to highlight the upcoming "Orange the World" event, sponsored by GRANquinte (a branch of Grandmothers Advocacy Network), in partnership with the United Nations Association, Quinte branch, and the Formation, Nurture and Justice team. "Orange the World" supports the UN 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which draws attention to sexual and gender-based violence. From November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>, what has become known as the Orange Campaign draws attention to this campaign. People and businesses are encouraged to light their homes and facilities with orange lights, and learn more about the issues of sexual and gender-based violence around the world, and locally. More information about this program is available through our ECORC website and in our newsletters.

As the next year unfolds, we will look forward to seeing how our Regional Council works to implement the Anti-Racism policy into its own operations.

- Anti-racism Survey- newsletter will be sent out today (Saturday)
- National- 40 days of Anti-racism Oct 12 to Nov 26 with zoom/you tube on Tuesdays – either at noon or

7pm

**The First Third's Ministry Forum (formerly called children, youth and young adult ministry) Sharon Hull- Staff.**

- This forum is in the beginning stages and we are still looking for members to join. It is a group of both youth, young adults and leaders who will meet together a couple times a year to dream and plan ECORC events.
- It has been a challenging time to connect with children, youth and young adults online, since they have spent so much time online for school. We are looking forward to when we can safely gather together in person- perhaps in smaller groups and staying in geographical areas to reduce travel.
- There was a zoom webinar in September to connect the first Third ministry leaders in our Regional Council, to share ideas of what has worked well online and to share challenges. If you know any leaders who are not already on our mailing list, please ask them to sign up using the form on the ECORC website- so we can get connected.
- 3 upcoming webinars/zoom gatherings (which are each held in two timeslots – day and evening) for First Third ministry leaders – the first one is Outdoor faith formation programs - Tuesday Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – in the evening or Wednesday Oct 20- in the morning.
- We have an opportunity to have 5 youth ages 15 – 19 participate in the GC 44 youth forum. It will begin online with a gathering in February. The youth will apply to be hired as interns for the summer as part of a fulltime summer grant. More information and applications will be available soon. **Please spread the word to any youth who may be interested.**

**Camp Quin Mo Lac**

- No campers for the 2021 season. A virtual counsellor in training program was created and offered to 2 years' worth of youth. It was very well done and it is a great foundation for the leadership of camp. Projects and improvements are being done while there isn't as many people at camp. Some fall rentals have been able to go ahead with much planning for covid protocols. Fundraising is ongoing and they would appreciate any support that is available after 2 years of no camp.

**VIBE**

- Which was previously an in person – roaming vacation bible camp in the Kawartha Highland cluster, did a large pivot this year to an online program. Camp this year was a combination of online zoom, camp in a bag and prepared content on you tube- to watch on your own time. We were blessed with the young adults who were hired to run the program (they had previously participated in our youth forum). The camp format was changed to 2 sessions- of 2 weeks each. It was so great to spend time online with children from our RC. The Go Project curriculum was purchased and the theme was the promise of the rainbow which explored the 8 colours of the pride flag. Some of you may have seen the presentation at the service to celebrate the RC becoming an Affirming Regional Council.

**UCW**

- A wonderful, well organized and spirit filled day event was held outside at Quin Mo Lac at the end of August - it was great to see everyone safely in person.
- Outreach has been adapted for covid and many outreach projects are ongoing.
- Ongoing sales of masks with UCW crests being made by Marilyn Rodger with the funds going towards the UCW 60th Anniversary project "Change for Women of Zambia" which ends in July 2022.
- Affirming Ministry Celebration for the Bay of Quinte ECOR UCW is on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The ECORC newsletter and the website will have information on all of these things I have just mentioned. If you have any questions or want to get connected- please contact our staff person – Sharon Hull.

In addition, we have oversight of some Networks.

Some social justice issues are being supported by national networks and we have started some networks in our Regional Council- all at different stages of organization.

Our Guaranteed Living Income Network-- Cathy Duggan, Isaac Mundy, Allan Smith-Reeve, Co-coordinators. "We need to get our people off their butts to support this thing!" Such was The Very Rev. Lois Wilson's prophetic call to United Church folks to join the movement for a Guaranteed Livable Income in Canada.

By way of a response, our network has:

- Sponsored online events with nationally recognized advocates including the Very Rev. Wilson, Health Economist and author Evelyn Forget and members of the Basic Income Canada Networks Youth Network.
- Held an online book study of Dr. Forget's Basic Income for Canadians: From Pandemic Emergency to Financial Security for All,
- Sponsored online showings of a documentary film, The Manitoba Story: A Basic Income Film by Truth be Told Films.
- Hosted one of many nationwide candle light vigils for GLI ahead of Liberal Party's spring policy convention
- Launched the GLI Club podcast available through podbean. Com. Two episodes are currently available, with more on the way.
- Connected regularly with the National GLI network for the United Church of Canada, and Basic Income Canada

Although GLI was certainly in the news in 2020 with its adoption at the Liberal policy convention, a private member's bill sponsored by Liberal MP Julie Dzerowicz and a motion from NDP MP Leah Gazan to convert the CERB into a Guaranteed Livable Income Program, it was disappointing that GLI, rising poverty and income inequality in general were little discussed during the recent federal election. However, to defer once again to The Very Rev. Wilson again This is a long-term fight. Our network is now for the next stage of the movement for GLI, recognizing that this is a marathon and not a sprint.

Our next planning meeting will be mid November, and we welcome the support, prayers and "get-off-our-butts-involvement" of all those who want to see a social change that would transform overnight the lives of millions of Canadians who live in poverty right now, and provide a guaranteed floor of financial security to all in the future. "and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10-12

#### **Our Palestine/Israel Network-- Adele Boy**

As a new network in this region, the past year, Pal Net / ECORC has seen a conducted book study of Jean Zara's book 'Occupied with Non-Violence'. A 'Virtual Tour of Palestine 'was offered in May and was so popular is running again in October . This is a joint effort with Shining Waters Pal Net group whom we thank for their generosity.

Articles regarding everyday life in Palestine/Israel (written by Adele Boy, a former Ecumenical Accompanier) have been published in our newsletter to draw attention to life in the Occupied Territories.

Palestinian products are available through the Free trade marketplace operated by Marilyn Rodgers. Look for a webinar in November called A Taste of Palestine live from the West Bank in which an organic farmer and family will be sharing their story.

Speakers and resources are available for congregations looking to learn more of the UCC's partners in the region.

#### **For both the Care of Creation and the Long-Term Care Networks,**

- we are connected to Nation events/webinars – any information will be in the newsletter
- have a mailing sign up list on the ECORC website
- looking for some co-ordinators from our RC to help keep them going

#### **Rural Connect Network –**

- starting up a network –

- sign up for mailing list on the ECORC website-
- contact Ryan McNally for more information

Are there other Networks out there or communities of faith doing great things who would like to connect as a network- we know there is community outreach in Oshawa, Peterborough and Belleville- what other network possibilities are there?

Connect with FNJ Team, staff Sharon Hull or Rodney Smith- Merkley, we would like to add stories to the ECORC website or the newsletter to let people know what great things are being done in the RC. There is staff support needed if we are going to get these networks up and running.

We hold our local camps under the umbrella of the FN and J team, and staff support is available to our Region's UCWs, when and as needed.

Representatives from our Team take part in the broader "Social Justice Network of Ontario" At their last meeting, Sharon and Meggin shared the news of the passing of an Anti-Racism Policy for our Regional Council, and the news that we are now an Affirming Regional Council. The SJNORC group is doing a lot of good work, highlighting injustices among those in the margins, acknowledging the harm being done to Indigenous peoples, the trauma of MMIWG, violence against people of colour and of different gender expressions and sexual orientations, as well as those in our communities who are materially impoverished.

**We also have oversight of the 'Doing Mission Together' grant process.** We have distributed quite a bit of funding this year to fund a number of good projects, helping communities of faith to expand existing programs, and initiate new ministry possibilities. We are in the process of reviewing the grants for the second half of 2021 and will have news to share soon.

We are really hoping to encourage more people in our Region to be a part of this important work. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and we certainly have enough work to share.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meggin King,  
chair, Formation, Nurture, and Justice committee.

### **Anti-Racism Forum**

Aruna Alexander shared the following report:

In addition, the Anti-Racism Forum will put together practical AR best practices for congregations. These will relate to the Policy's commitment to "admit and address the lack of knowledge of Canadian and Newcomer cultural and religious diversity" in our Region. Since worship is where we gather once a week as Christians, Educational resources and methods will be recommended - this will include Sunday School material.

At the Spring AGM meeting, the Anti-Racism Forum had announced that a survey questionnaire would be emailed to congregations. If you have not already received it, this will appear in your inbox later today. The survey consists of three questions:

- (1) What training opportunities/education/events would help your congregation?
- (2) How many languages are spoken in your congregation other than English as a first language?
- (3) What other opportunities can help your congregation learn about anti-racism?

In order to expedite the first phase of our implementation plan, we have requested you to return the questionnaire by November 5th. This will allow us time to tabulate and analyze your responses - providing evidence-based data for relevant anti-racism work in our Regional context. For their commitment, time, and excellent team work.

- I acknowledge the contributions of Lionel Ketola, Meggin King, Marilyn Zehr, Wendy Bulloch, and Staff person Sharon Hull.

**Thanksgiving Prayer**

Margaret Curtis led the thanksgiving prayer, giving thanks for all of the work carried out by the Regional Councils' Forums, Clusters and Networks.

**Covenant Support Team & Forums**

Paul Reed, Chair, introduced members of the Covenant Support Team: Kate Gregory, Craig Donnelly, Larry Doyle, Darlene Hallett, Ian Robb, Bill Sheaves, Cheryl McMurray, Lisa Monsma, Kathleen Whyte, Sue Hogan, Steve Coles, Donna Bignell, Freda Burns David King (Chair) and supported by members of Forums and Staff Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister.

Ian Robb reported on the work, the mission objectives including Forums. A transcript of the oral report given is here below:

Good morning to you all. My name is Ian Robb and I am here with David Timpson, our Staff person to provide an outline of the work that the Covenant Support Team has been involved with these past few months.

I am indebted to David Timpson for his role in constructing the bulk of the framework for this report of the Covenant Support Team.

We are quite a unique group of individuals comprising:

**Kate Gregory, Craig Donnelly, Donna Bignell, Larry Doyle, Freda Burns, Darlene Hallett, Ian Robb, Bill Sheaves, Cheryl McMurray, Freda Burns, Lisa Monsma, Kathleen Whyte, Sue Hogan, David King (Chair) and last but by no means least, David Timpson, (Our Staff Person)**

The Covenant Support Team has primary oversight of the pastoral relations processes, as well as assisting in various times of conflict and difficulty in pastoral charges.

We have met monthly over the past year, with the exception of August.

One of the focuses of our meetings is the consideration of every call and appointment across the ECOR region. This year we have approved 39 calls and appointments across the region. We do review and recommend approval to the Assembly of Elders who take our recommendation as further evidence of a suitable call for a particular Pastoral Charge. More on that later.

In addition, we also oversee the work of three forums, licensed lay worship leader forum otherwise known as LLWL's, the Retirees Forum, and the Liaisons forum.

Each of these bodies has a particular work or function in the region.

The license lay worship leaders forum, which will make their own presentation later this morning, is currently building a committee to oversee the licensing requirements of license lay worship leaders.

We also interact with the licensed lay worship leaders' network in a more informal way, and the network does bring together LLWL's from across the region for mutual support and education events, in which we as Covenant Support, also have a role in these events.

The Retiree's Forum is a primary body of collegiality and support for retired ministers who hold a vast knowledge and experience over decades within The United Church of Canada. This body has been active recording some of the stories of retirees and gathering retirees together over the past year.

It is the body that takes on the region's responsibility to care for, and support a retired minister, and retirees from other United Church work.

This year has seen an increase in opportunities for retirees to gather on the Zoom platform, and a deepening of the relationships between retirees across our region. Future work may include work on a pulpit supply list to match the existing Licensed Lay Worship Leader's list, currently on the website.

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I will now defer to Caroline Giesbrecht who will provide you with a more in-depth report of this evolving Retirees Forum.

### **Retirees Forum**

Caroline Giesbrecht reported on the work of the Retirees Forums. A transcript of the oral report given is here below:

Hello, my name is Caroline Giesbrecht. I am a retired minister in this Region and a member of the Retirees Forum, which is part of the ECORC Covenant Support Team. The Retirees Forum is composed of all the retired United Church ministry personnel in the East Central Ontario Region. There are about 160 of us. Our purpose is to provide opportunities for retired ministers to connect with each other for purposes of mutual support, discussion about theology, church issues, or any other topic of interest. With the new United Church structure and the end of Presbyteries, many of us felt that this might be a real need. And then the COVID pandemic with its restrictions brought about an increased sense of isolation for many retirees. So, our meetings have been largely through Zoom technology.

Once a month Jean Wilson hosts a discussion (via Zoom) open to all ministry retirees, called "Java with Jean" (participants provide their own coffee or other beverage). Topics we have covered in the past include: progressive theology, our role as retired clergy, enabling congregations to become more inclusive, responding to national and world events (such as the pandemic and the discovery of mass graves at Indian Residential Schools), and looking for ways to connect with isolated retirees. In the future we hope to have someone from United Church Pensions with us to answer questions. When the number of participants is large, we break into small chat groups.

Elizabeth Macdonald, under the heading "We Are Not Done Yet" has put together a number of interviews with selected retirees and other persons who have shared their stories and experience with her. These include Rev. George Lavery, Rev. Jean Wilson, Rev. Dr. John Young, Ruth Wood, Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Rev. Wayne Hilliker, Rev. Anne MacDermaid, Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander, Rev. Donovan Brown, Rev. Janet Stobie, Rev. Dr. Jackie Harper, Rev. Leslie-Elizabeth King, Rev. Mary-Margaret Boone, and Rev. Gary Stokes, with more coming. These interviews are available to everyone on the ECORC website.

We also have plans to start a chat group through a private medium in which participants can address topics which are of joy or concern to them. This will begin in a small way and then may be opened up to a wider group of retirees.

One concern we have heard from those in active ministry, is how to find out who might be available for occasional pulpit supply (to cover for illness or vacation/study leave). There is no definitive list, a situation which we hope to rectify through our connections with retirees.

Our ministry retirees have a wealth of experience and knowledge (maybe even wisdom!) to share, so if anyone has ideas of how we might be helpful to the church and its communities, **please let us know**. We can be contacted directly or through Karen Wilson and the ECORC website. The leadership team for the Retirees Forum consists of Ian Robb, Elizabeth Macdonald, Wayne Hilliker, Judy MacGillivray, Ed Bentley, Jean Wilson, Robert Lepage, and myself (Caroline Giesbrecht, as secretary). Thank you.

### **Liaisons Forum**

Ian Robb reported on the work of the Liaisons Forums. A transcript of the oral report given is here below:

The Liaison Forum which is chaired now by Steve Coles, provides support and education to the Liaison persons who provide front-line support to pastoral charges who are in the midst of ministry change. The new process outlined in Churchhub.ca is the basis for this ongoing work.

Living Faith profile's our many congregations and churches this body supports, as they do this important work preparing for search, and through search right up to representing the region in Covenanting services.

Of course, the \$20,000 budget of the Covenant Support Team can be seen as doing the Region's work in care for retirees and congregations in times of **change**, and supporting ministry.

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The balance, during the Covid pandemic, has shifted to online meetings and this has saved the region countless dollars travel expenses at, unfortunately, the loss of a more face to face and personal experience which an online experience cannot hope to mirror. This is indeed unavoidable, and yes, regrettable. Some of that change has notably been experienced in a larger demand for conflict resolution work.

Our commitment to the mission statement of the region can be felt most deeply in our commitment to serve congregations.

We, and the Team, perceive that a growing edge for our committee in the coming year will be a deeper interaction, encompassing our regions commitment to being an affirming and an anti-racist Church.

Of course, these considerations are always an evolving and incomplete work. Simply, we all need to be better at living into our commitments made through our mission statement.

You do not need the Covenant Support Team to tell you that we are in deeply challenging times. Many of our congregations have found the pandemic has left us tired and shorter on reserves than we were two years ago. In many places, the pandemic has accelerated change in our pastoral charges. This is expanding the work of the covenant support team, and we are struggling to keep up with vastly increasing demands.

The good news story is that we have expanded the team, adding more members over the past year. We are pleased to include several persons who are new to this work.

Our 'purpose' perspectives are expanding, thanks mainly to the forward-looking nominating committee.

It is our hope that every congregation may continue to become familiar with Churchhub.ca as it is becoming one of the major communications tools of the National Church.

Within your pastoral charge there should be an **Administrative** connection to Churchhub, and a **Treasurers** connection to Churchhub, each with different access.

The Administrative function will allow you to record your officers in a way that will enable deeper communication with the wider church.

The Treasurer's function will give you access to online tools around your apportionment to the National Church and your statistical work for the National Church.

This function becomes even more important as you move into times of pastoral change, when your profiles for search will also be placed on Churchhub as the main advertising opportunity for pastoral charges who are in search or transition.

Further, all calls and appointments are now recorded on Churchhub.

The approval process is threefold.

The pastoral charge approves a call or appointment, usually at a congregational meeting, but during the pandemic, that can happen in and through the governing body.

This decision is then written up on the appropriate Form for calls or appointments on Churchhub.

Once accepted, this form is transmitted to the Minister who has been selected on the form, based on their request through Churchhub, to be made available for search.

The minister then must agree and approve their Call.

Once the two approvals have been received, this Call or request, is then placed before the Covenant Support Team, and finally the Assembly of Elders, at which point the Form or Call is approved. The final approval is as I said, that of the Region.

Church hub will publish via email the approved form to all those who have agreed to the Form. Once this confirmation is received, Covenanting

Services can be planned with the liaison who has worked with the pastoral charge throughout the search process.



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As I said earlier, we do not need the Covenant Support Team to tell us that we are in deeply challenging times. The dichotomy we face is that, more than ever, there is a need for a Christian voice which speaks for our whole multi-faceted community. It is perhaps through paying more attention to change like this, that we will indeed discover fresh new fields of dreams to incorporate into our ministry as The United Church of Canada.

I leave any final comments to be made by our colleague in ministry, Rev. David Timpson.

### **Covenant Support Team**

Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister reported on the work of the Covenant Support team. A transcript of the oral report given is here below:

The covenant support team has primary oversight of the pastoral relations processes as well as assisting in various times of conflict and difficulty in pastoral charges. We have met monthly over the past year with the exception of August. One of the focuses of our meetings is the consideration of every call and appointment across the region. This year we have approved 39 calls and appointments across the region. We do recommend approval to the assembly of elders.

We also oversee the work of the three forums, licensed a worship leader forum, retiree's forum, and liaisons forum. Each of these bodies has particular work in the region. The license they worship leader's forum is currently building a committee to oversee the licensing requirements of license they worship leaders. We also interact with the licensed lay worship leaders' network in a more informal way the network does bring together LLWL's from across the region for mutual support and education events, we also have a role in these.

The retiree's forum is a primary body of collegiality and support for retired ministers. This body has been active recording some of the stories of retirees and gathering retirees together over the past year. It is the body that takes on the region's responsibility to care and support retired ministers, and retirees from other united church work. This year has seen an increase in opportunities for retirees to gather on zoom. And a deepening of the relationships between where retirees across our region. Future work may include work on a pulpit supply list to match the licensed lay worship leader last currently on the website.

The liaison forum provides support and education to the liaisons who provide front-line support to pastoral charges in the midst of ministry change. The new process based in Churchhub.ca is the basis for this ongoing work. Living faith profile's our new to many churches this body supports congregations as they do this important work preparing for search and through search right up to representing the region in covenanting services.

Of course, the \$20,000 budget of the covenant support team can be seen as doing the region's work in care for retirees and congregations in times of change and supporting ministry. The balance during the pandemic has shifted to online meetings this has saved the region part of this money during these times. Some of that change has been expanded in a larger demand for conflict resolution work.

Our commitment to the mission statement of the region can be felt most deeply in our commitment to serve congregations. I think a growing edge for our committee in the coming year will be a deeper interaction both our regions commitment to being affirming and an antiracist church. Of course, these considerations are always an incomplete work. Simply we all need to be better at living into our commitments made through our mission statement.

We are in deeply challenging times, many of our congregations have found the pandemic has left us tired and shorter on reserves than we were two years ago. In many places the pandemic has accelerated change in our pastoral charges. This is expanding the work of the covenant support team and we are struggling to keep up with vastly increasing demands.

The good news is that we have expanded the team adding more members over the past year. We are pleased to include many folks new to this work. Our purpose perspectives are expanding with thanks to the nominating committee.

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It is our hope that every congregation may continue to become familiar with Churchhub.ca as it is becoming one of the major communications tools of the national church. On your pastoral charge there should be an administrative connection to Churchhub and a Treasurers connection to Churchhub each with different access the administrative function will allow you to record your officers in a way that will enable deeper communication with the wider church. They treasurers' function will give you access to online tools around your apportionment to the national church and your statistical work for the national church.

This becomes even more important as you move into times of pastoral change when your profiles for search will also be placed on Churchhub as the main advertising opportunity for pastoral charges in search. Further all calls and appointments are now recorded on Churchhub. The approval process is threefold pastoral charge approves a call or appointment usually at a congregational meeting but during the pandemic that can happen in the governing body. This decision is then written up in the form four calls or appointments on Churchhub. Once accepted this form is transmitted to the Minister who has been selected on the form based on their request through Churchhub to be made available for search. The minister then must approve.

The final approval is that of the region this request once the other two approvals have been received is then placed before the covenant support team and finally the assembly of elders at which point the form is approved. Churchhub will publish the approved form to all those who have agreed to the form via email. Once this confirmation is received covenanting services can be planned with the liaison who has worked with the pastoral charge through the search.

### **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Margaret Curtis led the thanksgiving prayer, giving thanks for all of the work carried out by the Regional Councils' Forums, Clusters and Networks.

### **Break**

A bio-break was had by all for ten (10) minutes.

### **Voting**

#### **a) Proposal – Cooperative Communities of Faith and Alternative Pastoral Relationships**

- See Cooperative Communities of Faith and Alternative Pastoral Relationships Proposal (**Appendix D**)

**2021-10-15-16\_ 007 MOTION** (Stephen Coles/Phil Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council forward to the General Council the Cooperative Communities of Faith and Alternative Pastoral Relationships Proposal. **CARRIED**

#### **b) Proposal - Clergy Consultative Committee**

- See Clergy Consultative Committee Proposal (**Appendix E**)

**2021-10-15-16\_ 008 MOTION** (Ryan McNally/Stephen Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council forward to the General Council the Clergy Consultative Committee Proposal as amended:

- Add under section 4 “E. For GCE to formulate a response by December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.” **CARRIED**

#### **c) Asset Allocation Proposal**

- See ECORC Restricted Funds 2021 (**Appendix F<sup>1</sup>**)

**2021-10-15-16\_009 MOTION** (Ted Meyers/Brian James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council, approve that creation of an ECORC Community of Faith (CoF) Assistance Fund to be used for:

- 50% for capital improvements, emergency repairs and/or upgrades to CoF physical buildings or properties
- 50% for Community of Faith ministry activities such as outreach projects, stewardship projects, youth initiatives, networking initiatives and Community clusters etc.
- Assistance to be provided in the form of grants/loans from the investment income from the fund. At the direction of the ECORC the principal may also be used to fund special initiatives or projects.

- Applications must come from CoF will be received by the Mission through Property Team three times per year (Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>)
- The Maximum per application will be \$5,000. **CARRIED**

**2021-10-15-16\_010 MOTION** (Ted Meyers/Brian James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council, approve that the Treasurer of the Regional Council be directed to invest \$700,000 in a Restricted Investment Fund with Toronto United Church Council to support the ECORC COF Assistance Fund, and that the following funds be brought into the new ECORC COF Assistance fund:

- Property Fund (\$361,946)
- Shinning Waters Legacy Fund (\$159,909)
- The Library Networking and Clustering Fund (\$17,788)
- Stewardship Initiative Fund (\$9,192)
- Eldorado Church Accessibility Fund (\$32,556)
- Library and Resource Ministry Fund (\$35,449). **CARRIED**

**d) 2022 Budget Proposal**

- See ECORC Draft 2019 Financial Statements (**Appendix F<sup>2</sup>**)
- See ECORC Draft 2020 Financial Statements (**Appendix F<sup>3</sup>**)
- See ECORC Financial Report to 2021 August 31 and Proposed Budget for 2022 (**Appendix F<sup>4</sup>**)

**2021-10-15-16\_011 MOTION** (Brian James/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council receives for information the financial statements of 2019 and 2020. **CARRIED**

**2021-10-15-16\_012 MOTION** (Brian James/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approves the 2022 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

**e) Student Bursary**

**2021-10-15-16\_013 MOTION** (Marg Goodwin/Cristopher White) That That the East Central Ontario Regional Council authorize the Student Bursary forum to award bursaries retroactively to eligible students since the formation of EOORC. **CARRIED**

**2021-10-15-16\_014 CONSENSUS MOTION** That the East Central Ontario Regional Council extend its meeting by 30 minutes. **CARRIED**

**Presentation of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders**

**2021-10-15-16\_015 MOTION** (Kathleen Whyte/Cheryl McMurray) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the presented list of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for 2022:

Karen Bates  
Robert Bennett  
Gwen Bevan  
Adele Boy  
Helen Bowman  
John Bowman  
Evelyn Chambers  
Debbie Cowling  
Carol Cunday  
Marilyn Fortin

Darlene Hallett  
Chris Ingersoll  
Paul Kneebone  
Lynn Liddell  
Dianne McCracken  
Ruth Olley  
Carol O'neil  
Nancy Payne  
Darlene Peddle

Susan Pleasance  
Susan Sheremeta  
Debbie Sherwin  
Mark Sturman  
Phyllis Tamlin  
Richard Weigand  
Kathleen Whyte  
Angela Wiseman  
Louise Wood

**CARRIED**

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**Recognition of LLWLs and Covenanting with GC 44 Commissioner and Leading Elder**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, led a Call and Response liturgy recognizing the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for 2022, and covenanting with General Council 44 Commissioners and the Leading Elder.

**Closing Prayer**

Rev. Paul Reed, Chair, emphasized that all the reporting that was presented during these past two days, was work that had guided and help create the Regional Council's 2022 budget, which was the task set before the Regional Council at the onset of the meeting. Margaret Curtis was invited to lead one last prayer of thanksgiving.

**Equity Support Report**

Rev. Phil Wilson shared that equity concerns would be brought back to the Facilitation Team for further pondering at finding solutions for how to make meetings work better in the future.

**Closing Motions**

**2021-10-15-16\_ 016 MOTION** (Rosemary Lambie/Phil Wilson) 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 Spring General Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. **CARRIED**

**Adjournment**

**2021-10-15-16\_ 017 MOTION** (Rosemary Lambie/Phil Wilson) that the meeting be adjourned at 12:21 PM, and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded. **CARRIED**

**All documents located at:**

**<https://ecorcuccan.ca/2021-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting-oct-15-and-16/>**

Appendix A

**East Central Ontario Regional Council Annual General Meeting of June 4-5, 2021**

\*distributed and on Regional Council website

Appendix B

**Mission Through Property Report**

\*distributed and on Regional Council website

Appendix C

**License to Administer the Sacraments Policy**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix D

**Cooperative Communities of Faith and Alternative Pastoral Relationships Proposal**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix E

**Clergy Consultative Committee Proposal**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix F<sup>1</sup>

**ECORC Restricted Funds 2021**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix F<sup>2</sup>

**ECORC Draft 2019 Financial Statements**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix F<sup>3</sup>

**ECORC Draft 2020 Financial Statements**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website

Appendix F<sup>4</sup>

**ECORC Financial Report to 2022 August 31 and Proposed Budget for 2022**

\*distributed and on the Regional Council website