

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, November 26, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Vision of the Assembly of Elders by which we evaluate progress based on:

Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit,
We follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. Paul Reed	Speaker
Margaret Curtis	Member
Marilyn Fortin	Member
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Rev. Don McLean	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Ian Robb	Member
Bill Sheaves	Member
Nancy Sutherland	Member
Rev. Lynn Watson	Member
Rev. Phil Wilson	Member
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

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
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Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Rev. Phil Wilson began opening devotions by acknowledging the land and giving thanks for its stewardship by Aboriginal Peoples who have been on these lands for thousands of years. Phil read Scripture Corinthians 1:3-9, and shared a video he prepared in 2019 for a radio show called “True Meaning of Christmas”. Phil closed this time of devotion with prayer.

Paul shared that the leadership summit on anti-racism had full attendance.

Circle Time of Sharing – All were invited to share.

Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting

2021-11-26_001 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Phil Wilson as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

Agenda

2021-11-26_002 MOTION (L. Watson/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated; including the Order of the Day at 10 AM for EDGE. **CARRIED**

Minutes of September 24, 2021 and October 1, 2021

2021-11-26_003 MOTION (P. Wilson/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the Minutes of September 24, 2021 and October 1, 2021 as circulated. **CARRIED**

Minutes of October 18, 2021 email vote

2021-11-26_004 MOTION (T. Meyers/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of email vote completed October 18, 2021.

2021-10-18_001 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders give its consent to the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is PLAN 29R-10994, in part of Lot 1, Concession 4, geographic Township of Richmond, now Town of Greater Napanee and County of Lennox and Addington and the municipal address of which is 1340 Deseronto Road, Town of Greater Napanee, Ontario K7R 3L1

Pursuant to an agreement between the Boards of Trustees of the Empey Hill United Church of the Town of Greater Napanee, Ontario, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, as seller, completion date to be 19th of November 2021, to Katie Lynn Osborne, for \$250,000.00

Further concur that the disbursement the net proceeds of sale shall be as follows:

10% Indigenous

10% Mission & Service

10% Napanee Hospital

70% to the Selby church for building improvements.

CARRIED**Correspondence:**

- a) October 15, 2021 Jack Soule, Chair of the Sydenham St. United Church Search Committee re Sydenham Street and Faith United Churches wanting to schedule covenanting services in November to formally welcome our new minister, the Reverend Catherine Elsdon and requiring a Regional Liaison minister to replace Rev. Stevan Spicer (*for information/action by Liaison Forum*)
- b) October 19, 2021 Frank Hiebert, Vice-Chair, Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON re dismissing the Commission established by Kente Presbytery (*for action*)
- c) October 19, 2021 Reverend Dr. Jenny Stephens, Office of Vocation Coordinator re copied on letter to Bruce Thompson, Chair of Ministry and Personnel Committee, Westdale United Church, Peterborough, ON regarding standing of Rev. Chris Matheson (*for information – action by Board of Vocation*)
- d) October 23, 2021 Patti James, member of Young's Point United Church re governance implosion. (*for action*)
- e) October 25, 2021 Penny Cross, former Clerk of Session of Young's Point United Church re governance implosion. (*for action*)
- f) October 27, 2021 Rev. David Timpson, Pastoral Relations Minister re recommendations of Covenant Support addressing Young's Point United Church governance implosion. (*for action*)
- g) October 28, 2021 Ebenezer United Church Future Directions Committee re request to Start the process of dissolving our 2-point charge arrangement with Maple Grove and becoming an independent congregation. (*for action*)

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- h) November 1, 2021 Lynda Allair, Chair, Millbrook-Cavan UC Board re permission to distribute funds to support community (*for action*)
 - i) November 15, 2021 Rev. Richard Parker, Columbus Community United Church re request to designate the church as a historic site (*for action – refer to Mission through Property and Finance*)
 - j) November 23, 2021 Rev. Dr. Jenny Stephens, Office of Vocation Coordinator copied on letter to Rev. Calvin Stone (*for information*)
 - k) November 25, 2021 Rev. Margaret Goodwin, Melrose United Church, Tyendinaga Township re support for closing (*for action*)
 - l) November 26, 2021 Moderator of the General Council Office re Certificate of Thanksgiving for 2020 of a donation of \$1,406,393 to the Mission & Service (*for information*)

10 AM Order of the Day

2021-11-26-005 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders welcomes Carla Leon as a guest presenter from EDGE. **CARRIED**

Carla introduced herself; referenced two grants:

1. My Mainstreet - <https://www.mymainstreet.ca/>
2. New Horizons - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/new-horizons-seniors.html>

Carla will share her presentation and forward to Karen information for circulation in the newsletter. Carla can be reached at Carla@edge-ucc.ca

Business arising grouped according to confirmed Guiding Principles

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

Facilitation Team report – Equity has received some feedback from General Meeting; The Facilitation Team will meet in January to review feedback and plan for the spring.

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

Communications – Karen Wilson presented her report (see **appendix A**) – highlighted that logo finalization will come later next week.

Community of Faith Representation: help is needed to verify representatives. Suggested to contact Susan Jackson for a list of Communities of Faith and contact list. David Timpson will review list before contacting begins.

How to deal with Covid 19 questions. Continue to seek local health unit information. David Timpson will forward letter to Karen regarding Covid 19 protocols (include worship and non-worship situations, i.e. bazars)

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

- a) Policy Regarding Proceeds from Sale of Property** (revised) presented by Mission through Property and Finance Leadership Team (see **appendix B**)
- b) Policy Regarding licences to Administer the Sacraments Revisions (November 26, 2021)**
2021-11-26_006 MOTION (P. Wilson/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the amendments to the Policy such that prior to granting such license,
1. Review and assess the applicant for
 - a. theoretical and theological training acquired through the completion of an accredited course of study on the sacraments. Dependent on the training path verification may be required by the Office of Vocation, the training institution/professor/instructor/mentor.
 - b. practical experience and reflection undertaken with the supervision and guidance of an education or pastoral charge supervisor, or other designated mentor appointed by the Regional Council. Opportunities to gain such experience may include occasions of pastoral visitation in preparation for Baptism, participation in sacramental worship preparation and shared leadership in the administering of sacraments. A verbal or written report of the Supervisor is required.
 2. Shall decide based on the experience and learning of the applicant and not on the duration of time. It is noted that the learning goals are candidate specific, learning is contextual, and the opportunities differ among Communities of Faith. In the formation of a new pastoral relationship and dependent on context, adequate practical experience and reflection opportunities may not be available the first six months of a new ministry. **CARRIED**

Discussion:

2021-11-26_007 MOTION (K. Whyte/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the request of Janetville Mt Horeb Pastoral Charge, on the recommendation of the Educational Supervisor Sharon Ballantyne, to grant to candidate Kevin Fitzpatrick a license for the administration of Sacraments, limited to the Communities of Faith comprising his Supervised Ministry Education site and for the duration of his appointment. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_008 MOTION (P. Wilson/D. McLean) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the request of Arden Pastoral Charge, on the recommendation of Pastoral Charge Supervisor Phil Wilson to grant to candidate Kaitlyn Ostrander a license for the administration of Sacraments, limited to the Communities of Faith comprising her Supervised Ministry Education site and for the duration of her appointment. **CARRIED**

ii) Pastoral Relations –

- a) Covenanting Support Team – Change in Pastoral Relations

Eldad-Hampton

2021-11-26_009 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Churchhub, approves the appointment of Douglas Ferris, student supply minister to the Eldad-Hampton pastoral charge half-time 20 hours a week from November 15, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **CARRIED**

Tweed, Whyte Lake and Bethesda Pastoral charges shared ministry

2021-11-26_010 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the retirement of Rev. Norm long from the Tweed, Whyte Lake, Bethesda Pastoral Charges (shared ministry) January 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

Trinity United, Bowmanville

2021-11-26_011 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders commends the work of Brian Reid as a liaison with Trinity Bowmanville in their processes to date, and appoints Brian to the continued work of accompaniment as Trinity works towards disbanding. **CARRIED**

Ebenezer Maple Grove

2021-11-26_012 MOTION (I. Robb/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoints Bill Sheaves to accompany the Ebenezer Maple Grove pastoral charge in its current transitional process. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Conversations regarding property continue and information will come back to this body.

Simcoe Street, Oshawa

2021-11-26_013 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoints Steve Coles to the work of the transition team in the upcoming intentional interim ministry at Simcoe Street, Oshawa. **CARRIED**

Harmony Pastoral Charge (south of Peterborough along Highway 28 west)

2021-11-26_014 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Robert Root, retired supply to the Harmony pastoral charge, part-time 20 hours a week from November 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. **CARRIED**

This is a second half-time retired supply appointment on Harmony Pastoral Charge, working in a cooperative ministry with Rev. Linda Hodgson during the current search.

Emmanuel United Church, Peterborough

2021-11-26_015 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Lyle Horn retired supply to Emmanuel United Church, Peterborough part-time 20 hours/ week from October 4, 2021 to June 30, 2022, or sooner if an Intentional Interim Minister is found. **CARRIED**

Grace United Church, Peterborough

2021-11-26_016 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Churchhub, approves the

appointment of Rev. Sharon Ballantyne for Interim Ministry at Grace United Church, Peterborough full time effective July 1, 2021 ending December 31 2021. **CARRIED**

Rev. Paul Reed

2021-11-26_017 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the retirement of Rev. Paul Reed from active ministry effective November 1, 2021. **CARRIED**

Young's Point

2021-11-26_018 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That whereas East Central Ontario Regional Council has been receiving concerns regarding the Young's Point United Church since November 2020, from the Ministry and Personnel committee of the Lakefield Young's point pastoral charge, the minister, and also individual members regarding inappropriate treatment of the minister;

whereas the Young's Point United Church Board of Stewards have repeatedly contravened The UCC Manual B.7.7.4 b requiring specific attendance of the minister at meetings;

whereas treatment of the resident minister, the Pastoral Relations minister for East Central Ontario Regional Council and members of the Session has fallen below acceptable standards of the United Church of Canada as set out in the Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence Prevention and Response Policy (united-church.ca);

whereas the Board of Stewards endeavored to change the governance model of the congregation without having either a congregational meeting, nor the permission of the Regional Council;

whereas the Regional Council engaged *Credence & Co* to conduct a congregational assessment of the Young's Point congregation including widespread interviews with the congregation and a number of recommendations were made in a written Report which was subsequently approved by the Lakefield Young's point pastoral charge executive and apparently then rejected at Young's point, reflecting an unwillingness to participate in the next steps of dialogue and workshop and to undertake necessary change to function in accordance with the United Church polity;

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 East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has received the determination of the Covenant Support Team, citing UCC Manual 2021 section B2.1.9.b that, having failed to meet the requirements to remain in good standing as a body of The United Church of Canada, the Covenant Support Team recommends that Young's Point United Church be closed permanently;

And whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders recognizes that Young's Point United Church is entitled to respond to the proposed action,

Therefore, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders is giving notice to Young's Point United Church that it will be considering a motion to disband.

Should members of the congregation choose to give a response, contact the Executive Minister by Tuesday, December 7, 2021. The Assembly of Elders will review the responses on December 10, 2021 before making its decision. **CARRIED**

Wellington United Church, Prince Edward County

2021-11-26_019 MOTION (I. Robb/B. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders acknowledges the change in pastoral relations of Rev. Stevan Spicer from Wellington United Church effective October 1, 2021 with an agreed upon 90-days salary continuance. Stevan will be retained on the Roll without Call or Appointment pending further notice. **CARRIED**

Rev. Cathy Duggan is the Pastoral Charge Supervisor and Richard Hamilton is the Liaison working with the Community of Faith.

Covenant Support Team Chair

2021-11-26_020 MOTION (I. Robb/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders affirms the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team acclaiming Bill Sheaves as the chair of the Covenant Support Team beginning January 1, 2022. **CARRIED** (*Bill Sheaves abstains*)

Bridge Street United Church, Belleville

2021-11-26-021 MOTION (M. Fortin/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Bridge Street United Church in Belleville to dismiss with thanks the Commission established by Kente Presbytery in 2018 whose work has been completed. **CARRIED**

- b) Report from Liaison Forum –
- c) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum – the Forum has met and soon there will be a Network meeting.
- d) Retirees Forum – (see **appendix C**)

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

- a. Spring Brook United Church – pending
- b. Chalmers Review – pending
- c. Bancroft-Carlow – pending
- d. Ebenezer – Maple Grove:
2021-11-26_022 MOTION (M. Fortin/C. Whyte) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders affirms receipt of the request for a separation of the Ebenezer-Maple Grove Pastoral Charge to allow Ebenezer to become a one-point charge.

Given that the current minister has an appointment to June 30, 2022 and that no ministry plan was presented with the request, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders mandates the Liaison Bill Sheaves who can work with the pastoral charge to prepare plans for the

expectations of future ministry and use of the buildings. These will need approval by the Assembly of Elders before further action can be confirmed. **CARRIED** (*Bill Sheaves abstains*)

e. Cold Springs

2021-11-26_023 MOTION (P. Wilson/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoints Rev. Nancy Lester to pastoral care at Cold Springs Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

f. Melrose

2021-11-26_024 MOTION (M. Fortin/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders affirms receipt of the request of Melrose United Church for a representative of the Regional Council to attend a meeting on December 12, 2021, and help walk through closing motions for the life of their ministry. Representative will be Ed Bentley, failing which, will be Phil Wilson. **CARRIED**

g. Marmora and Zion United Church Cemetery – pending

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 –
Faith United Church**

2021-11-26_025 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Faith United Church roof repairs project at a cost of \$120,000. Repairs come with a 30 Year warranty. Costs will be covered from the COF reserves (\$400,000). **CARRIED**

Cataraqui United Church

2021-11-26_026 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Cataraqui United Church to list the real property, the legal description of which is PT LT 15 CON 3 Kingston; PT LT A W OF LOUGHBOROUGH RD PL 60; BLK D N OF LT 10 W OF LOUGHBOROUGH RD PL 60; PT LT 10 W OF LOUGHBOROUGH RD PL 60 AS IN FR 128302, and the municipal address of which is 965 Sydenham Road, Kingston, Ontario. Property will be listed with Mat Clancy of Re/Max Rise at an asking price of \$299,000 and a 4% commission rate with a flexible closing date.

Distribution of proceeds from sale according to ECORC policy Regarding Proceeds from the sale of Property:

- a) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry. This decision is about living into Reconciliation through our Indigenous ministry.
- b) 10% to the Toronto United Church Council's Sustainable Energy Loan Fund.
- c) 20% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council.
- d) 20% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.
- e) 40% be directed for purposes within The United Church of Canada, as recommend by the Community of Faith, and which is approved by the Regional Council before the disbanding of the Community of Faith. (To be determined and the Regional Council – Mission Through Property & Finance will be advised). **CARRIED**

Church Extension Council of Peterborough Presbytery

2021-11-26_027 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the report from the Church Extension Council of Peterborough Presbytery and concur with their intent of their recommendations:

1. That the Extension Council of the former Peterborough Presbytery transfer its capital assets remaining to the Toronto United Church Council without geographic restrictions.
2. That the Extension Council of the former Peterborough Presbytery transfer all capital assets remaining, after legal and other fees, and after settlement of the outstanding loan, to the Toronto United Church Council, pursuant to the negotiation of a Gift Agreement.
3. That the Extension Council of the former Peterborough Presbytery approve the Application for Surrender of Charter and Termination of Corporate Existence (Form 9 of the Corporations Act), following the confirmation that: the corporation has no debts, obligations, or liabilities; that all required notices and returns have been filed; and that the corporation has complied with the requirements of the Corporations Act and the conditions contained in the corporation bylaws.
4. That that the Directors develop criteria for the allocation of funds and make a recommendation to Council at its Annual General Meeting; the suggested criteria for priority investment are:
 - Capital improvements
 - Sustainability improvements (greening projects)
 - Innovative Ministry
 - Indigenous Outreach
 - Technology improvements
5. That the Four current Directors stand for another term in order to complete the transfer of funds and surrender of charter; namely Lyle Horn, Herman Stremmer, Dawn Cox, and Mary Gordon be confirmed as Directors for the 2021-22 term, or until the surrender of the Council's charter.

CARRIED

Policy Regarding Proceeds from Sale of Property (see appendix B)

2021-11-26_028 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the revised Policy Regarding Proceeds from Sale of Property. **CARRIED**

Additions:

Preamble

Identifying UPRC (United Property Recourse Corporation)

Not disbanding

10% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. - ECORC COF Assistance Fund

Disbanding

20% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. - ECORC COF Assistance Fund

Surplus Property

2021-11-26_029 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property and Finance Leadership Team that properties being considered surplus to need and therefore for sale by a Community of Faith must first be reviewed by the Mission Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to assess whether said property might be a candidate for development by the UPRC. (United Property Resource Corporation). **CARRIED**

Discussion: Mission Through Property is preparing guidelines for trustees of Communities of Faith who are disbanding.

Suggested that disbanding Communities of Faith forward names of trustees to The Regional Council so that a motion can be had naming these trustees to work on behalf of the Regional Council.

Trinity United Church, Peterborough – pending a Plan for the Disposition of proceeds

Millbrook-Cavan UC

2021-11-26_030 MOTION (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Millbrook-Cavan United Church to support the community financially with the stipulation that all donations must only go to charities with CRA status. **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 – Assembly of Elders representatives, Marilyn Fortin:

Work on a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) is going on locally and in all the regions.

ISARC - Susan said that she felt personally sick to see union leaders standing the Premier when he announced the \$15 minimum wage for 2022, years after \$15 would have moved wage-earners above the poverty line.

ISARC is also challenging Bill 37, which deals with Long-Term Care. The Ford Government appears to be ramming this through while ISARC has called for public hearings. She did not feel very optimistic about that demand.

Much work is being done in most regions to support the Palestinian people. The Canadian Shield Regional Council received a Proposal from members of Thunder Bay communities of faith to recommend to General Council that Israel be recognized as an apartheid state and that the plight of the Palestinian people be confronted.

Anti-Racism work is continuing. There is much work to be done at the national, regional, and local levels. There is concern about homelessness.

The Truth and Reconciliation Team is churning out really good work. There is some interest in ecotheology, and there is hope that the Care for Creation network would be working on that.

The Horseshoe Falls Region contains people who attended the Mohawk Institute, where searching of the grounds has begun. The question has been asked how the United Church might support Indigenous People as graves are found.

Most Regional Councils have been exploring and responding to the TRC Calls to Action.

Sharon stated, in regard to Affirming Ministries, that a network was being formed to support the process of becoming Affirming. There is a clergy support virtual meeting in East Central Ontario Region every week. They were thinking of supporting staff beyond their own region. She asked that the record reflect this desire.

GCO - Beth stated that a new Vision of Mission had been approved and that they were developing the Strategic Plan through to September 2022. This would include five objectives for the GCO. The Vision of Mission will be housed in the Regions

- b) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages; see **appendix D**
- c) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils – Minutes attached as **appendix E**

ii) Doing Mission Together Priority Grants –
Doing Mission Together 2021 Grants (2nd half of 2021)

2021-11-26_031 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2021 Doing Mission Together grant to Grace United Church, Peterborough, Project H.O.P.E for \$5,000.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_032 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2021 Doing Mission Together grant to Emmanuel UC Mission & Outreach Committee, Peterborough, Food Boxes, a healthy and dignified entry point into Nourish programming for \$5,000.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_033 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2021 Doing Mission Together grant to St. Marks United Church, Cannifton, Evaluating the potential of Rural Connect in ECORC for \$5,000.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_034 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2021 Doing Mission Together grant to St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, The Community Abundance Project for \$4,999.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_035 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the

2021 Doing Mission Together grant to Claremont United Church, Journeys to Justice for \$3,000.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_036 MOTION (M. Fortin/ I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2021 Doing Mission Together grant to Faith United Church, Courtice, Youth Group- mini pantry Food and basic needs Outreach for \$300.00. **CARRIED**

Doing Mission Together 2022 Grants (1st half of 2022)

2021-11-26_037 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2022 Doing Mission Together grant to Grace United Church, Napanee, Good Neighbours Feast for \$3,600.00. **CARRIED**

2021-11-26_038 MOTION (M. Fortin/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2022 Doing Mission Together grant to Greenwood United Church, Bedford House Community Ministry, kick start the Catalyst Fund for \$5,000.00. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Important to get banking information to Regional Council Treasurer. Also a chart of givings will be circulated in the newsletter.

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 – Rev. Rodney Smith Merkle:

1. The Indigenous Justice and Respectful relationship forum met on zoom on Nov. 2nd. Elaine Kellogg co-chaired with Marilyn Fortin and we discussed welcoming other members to the forum to cover the geography of the region. We plan to meet again in early January to plan cluster meetings of 5 to 10 communities of faith to support them in their ministry of reconciliation.
2. Helmut Enns will be working with me to develop a lending library of resources, which is now located at Bridgenorth United Church.
3. Work this week included a Formation Nurture and Justice meeting, collaborating with Sharon Hull around an Advent children's program, and planning an event on Nov. 30th "Sharing our Stories about Murraybun", an event on what would have been Murray Whetung's 100th birthday. There has been good interest from individuals wishing to attend in person and though zoom.
4. Posting previous webinars on the youtube channel will be much of my focus for the rest of this year, along with regular sharing of information.

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*

First Third Ministry**Youth and Young Adult Ministry**Report from Supporting Staff Member (*see appendix D*)

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 – 1. Sharon Ballantyne has stepped down as Chair. Replacement Chair has not been named, rotating Chair will be used. 2. Thanks to Regional Council for purchasing Kapwing (captioning software). General Council is actively seeking 6-8 equity support roles during General Council.

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

Affirm Forum – Assembly of Elders representative – Report from Supporting Staff Member (*see appendix D*)

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 – nothing to report

New Business –

2021-11-26_039 MOTION (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Cataraqui United Church, Kingston to name the current Trustees, Rev. Phil Wilson (Chair), Brian Shannon and Eleanor Saunders, as accountable to the Regional Council, effective January 1, 2022 in order to complete the sale of the property and ensure disbursements of the final net assets. **CARRIED** (*P. Wilson abstains*)

2021-11-26_040 MOTION (K/Whyte/I. Robb) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders require the full vaccination of Licenced Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) of East Central Ontario Regional Council, if going to participate in an in-person worship. **CARRIED**

Opening worship for next meeting – Rev. Lynn Watson

Equity Monitor Report – Phil reminded members not to speak all at once. The use of acronyms can be confusing; best to be avoided.

Motion to adjourn

2021-11-26_041 CONSENSUS MOTION that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:40 PM. **CARRIED**

Closing Prayer – Rev. Phil Wilson

Next Meeting Dates Friday, December 10
 Friday, January 28, 2022 9 am-noon ZOOM
 Friday February 25, 2020 9 am-noon ZOOM

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

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Appendix A

Assembly of Elders Meeting - Friday, November 26th at 9am
Communications Summary Report**New Logo Design Update**

- Please see below for idea's that I received.
- The second stage will consist of an email going out next week stating what we would like to see within the new logo. The design needs to be something that can be printed and used digitally. I will bring these designs to our January Assembly of Elders meeting for your review. For the final stage, what are your thoughts of sending out the final designs to ECORC for a vote?
- Do we want to introduce the new logo at the Spring Meeting or go ahead and introduce it once we have it finalized?

Fall Meeting Evaluation Reviews – Please see below**Other Communications**

- It has become very evident that there are some Communities of Faith that are not receiving the ECORC newsletter, and therefore, they are not getting the information re: meetings etc. I have spoken with Rosemary about contacting those who are not on the mailing list and I have come across a helpful page on the UCC website that I wasn't aware of. There is a list of all Communities of Faith in each Region. This can be used to cross reference with the mailing list and pull out those not receiving the e-news. Once I have that list, I will do a mass email with the subscription link and link to the ECORC webpage. My goal is to have this done early in the new year. I may need a little help with this project.
- Using the list above, I believe I can get a starting point on the ECORC Directory as well and get working on that.
- I met with Pastor Ian Robb and Caroline Giesbrecht of the Retirees Forum and we have updated their webpage and set up a private Facebook Group for the Leadership Team. I was invited to attend their Leadership meeting on November 24th to answer questions regarding advertising upcoming events and to discuss the Facebook private group.
- Continuing to meet with my Communications Colleagues (Anita Jansmen – EOORC and Judy Coffin - Nakonha:ka Regional Council) monthly
- Re: Covid - I have received some emails asking about how other Communities of Faith are dealing with the introduction of Covid Vaccinations and being able to fully open. There have also been some posts within the private Facebook group just asking others how they are dealing.
- Newsletters continue to get great feedback. We currently have 768 contacts on the mailing list.
- Sharon Hull, Rev. Phil Wilson and myself met earlier this week to discuss a new program for captioning videos called "Kapwing" and have another meeting set up next week.

Training

- Racial Justice Courses 3 and 4 completed
- Upcoming Dynamics refresher training course – date TBA

New Logo Design Ideas

- *Pride flag colours on the outside with the letters ECORC in the circle or an oval - I think the circle works better. And then at the bottom the green fields with rocks, rivers and/or lakes above, perhaps a waterfall*

cascading over rocks and the towering Spruce trees. I think that the land should be central to our logo because of our commitment to our Acknowledgement of the Land. Perhaps a small cross in the visual layout but not a church. Maybe the circle should say UCC ECORC in the colours that blend together around the outside.

- *A mourning dove - truly are such pleasant and peaceful birds. I thought since we have mourning doves living amongst us, maybe having a dove in the logo could be an idea to consider.*
- *My first instinctive reaction was water. It's meaningful throughout our area for agriculture and recreation--it's a shared resource that has theological importance, too.*
- ***ECORC'S** new Logo might have a softer more welcoming-friendly-colour showing the members of the region: 1. **God is at the center** of their service to the Region. 2. Focus is on assisting & **servicing** the Region. Focus on the heart ♥ of Jesus. 3. **Helping hands** to easily serve and assist in the work of God in the individual communities of faith in God.*
- *I look forward to the new design of our logo:) I would like to see a use of colour to symbolize different skin tones. I like the new Pride flag as an example, the rainbow plus people with darker skin tones.*
- *It should point to our Affirming status*

Feedback from Fall Meeting Evaluation form

Worked Well

- (this was a popular one) Enjoy the Zoom format and attending from home
- Financial report easy to read, really liked the pie chart as a visual aid
- First session on Friday night and second session Saturday morning
- Having the Meeting material ahead of time
- Meeting flowed nicely
- Individual prayers of response to all the reports was a welcome inclusion rather than a simple "thank you", the flow of the meeting was enhanced through the talent of the chair/facilitator. Chat room welcome but needs a directive question to support some who are not used to chats without focus

Did Not Work Well (or could have worked better)

- The voting for the communication leader between GC and ECORC seemed confusing for some. Perhaps more explanation would've helped.
- Breakout room – would have been better to have someone start the topic of discussion
- Rural areas with internet
- If Forum/Task group reports could be distributed prior to the meeting, it would allow participants a chance to digest the material and be in a position to ask questions, if needed.
- More talk on background of the things we vote on. Next time, I am going to make a point to go to the pre-meetings.
- Voting for leading elder. Slides and a pdf explaining the process would have been helpful.

Suggestions

- Having a glossary of common acronyms listed in the meeting material
- Please include opening/closing worship
- More time might be allotted for the meeting to ensure sufficient time for discussion, etc. with less pressure to meet agenda timing/need to extend.
- Keep up the ZOOM format long after COVID-19.
- More "video reports" from various groups.

Appendix B

Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property

POLICY NAME: Policy regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property	Date Approved: Oct 4, 2019 Revised Nov 26 th 2021
	Review date:
Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify expectations of Communities of Faith regarding the sale of Church Property. The Manual C.2.6.	

Preamble

This document outlines the **Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council's** policy and best practices regarding the disposition of proceeds from the sale of congregational property and/or Investment and cash assets. It should be noted that properties being considered for sale must first be reviewed by the Mission Through Property of ECORC to assess whether said property might be a candidate for development by the UPRC. (United Property Resource Corporation)

Policy**Not Disbanding**

When Congregational property is being sold by a Community of Faith that is **not disbanding**, the following guidelines for the use of net proceeds from the sale:

- a) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry. *This decision is about living into Reconciliation through our Indigenous ministry*
- b) 10% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. - ECORC COF Assistance Fund
- c) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.
- d) 70% be retained by the Community of Faith with an approved ministry plan by the Regional Council for the use of the proceeds that is viable for sustaining the COF's ongoing Ministry and Outreach mission as stated in their Mission statement. *Communities of Faith can refer to Covenant Support Leadership and the Mission Through Property Teams.* The Regional Council will normally require that the remaining capital from the sale be protected / invested and that the Community of Faith be limited to drawing up to 5% of the value of the invested capital in any given year to support its operating budget. If the Community of Faith puts before the Regional Council a ministry plan, the Regional Council may allow the Community of Faith to use some or all of the remaining capital from the sale to implement the ministry plan. This may include capital expenses.

Disbanding

When Congregational property is being sold by a Community of Faith that is **disbanding**, the following guidelines apply for the disposition of net proceeds from the sale:

- a) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry. *This decision is about living into Reconciliation through our Indigenous ministry.*

- b) 10% to the Toronto United Church Council's Sustainable Energy Loan Fund.
- c) 20% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. – ECORC COF Assistance Fund
- d) 20% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.
- e) 40% be directed for purposes within The United Church of Canada, as recommend by the Community of Faith, and which is approved by the Regional Council before the disbanding of the Community of Faith. If a Community of Faith disbands without such a plan, it becomes the responsibility of the Regional Council to determine the disposition of the remaining funds.

If the Congregational Property is a Manse please refer to the Manse Sale Policy

Note: Net proceeds means the amount left over after all expenses directly related to the sale of the property have been paid, e.g.: real estate fees, legal fees, cost of surveys and so on.

The Manual 2021 section re:

C.2.6 Property

The regional council is responsible for:

- a) co-operating with the community of faith in buying, selling, leasing, and renovating community of faith property, and distributing any proceeds within denominational policies and guidelines, including
 - i) making decisions on requests from communities of faith to buy, sell, mortgage, exchange, renovate, lease, or otherwise deal with community of faith property;
The regional council makes decisions relating to the property of amalgamating congregations. See Congregational Life G.1.4.5.
 - ii) making decisions on the meaning of the terms “other major assets” and “major renovations” for that regional council;
The terms “other major assets” and “major renovations” are explained in Congregational Life G.2.1.2 and G.2.1.3.
 - iii) communicating the meanings of those terms to each community of faith within the bounds served by the regional council; and
There are three exceptions to the regional council's responsibility for making decisions about the property of communities of faith that are congregations. They are set out in Congregational Life G.2.2.2, G.2.2.3, and G.2.2.4.
- b) making decisions on the property of communities of faith remaining after the communities of faith cease to exist; and
- c) buying, selling, leasing, and renovating regional property, and distributing any proceeds within denominational guidelines.

Appendix C**Report, Retirees Forum (RF) for November 2021.**

This has been a very busy month of activity for the RF and the RF leadership group which comprises Ian Robb, Caroline Giesbrecht, Ed Bentley, Elizabeth Macdonald, Judy MacGillivray, Bob LePage, Wayne Hilliker. We continue to keep Jean Wilson apprised of what is being discussed even though she has taken a sabbatical from this forum for now.

We intend to have two meetings per month. One meeting will be for the Leadership of the RF and the other will be The Retirees Network at which there will be an event structured to appeal to a wide audience.

Highlights of the month of November have been a very successful visit from Alan Hall, UC Pensions and Benefits administrator. Alan gave information and answered questions (where he was able) about the Pension Fund in 2022 moving forwards, its long-term viability, its ethical investments, and benefits as they applied to those eligible. We had about 30 + people in attendance by Zoom. Alan was prepared to speak with individuals on a personal basis and made that clear during the meeting (77 minutes) which was recorded and is available through Karen Wilson and the Newsletter.

We now have a list of Retired Ministers who have indicated their willingness to provide occasional Sunday supply where requested. The caveat for this work is that they are vaccinated, are affirming, and meet the Office of Vocations requirements for which we are grateful to Karen Valley's oversight. This list will be available from Caroline (rev.carolineg@xplornet.ca) on request. We also have the list from Carol Cunday (c.cunday@hotmail.com) of 28 named LLWL's who may also be available, and the distribution of this list remains to be decided.

These lists remain fluid, and we feel should be available through one person for each of the two streams of supply.

"Karen Wilson" has been very helpful with preparing certain tasks and advertising, none the least of which is the beginning of a private Facebook page accessible only initially by the leadership of the RF. There they can exchange views on a multitude of subjects without having to issue a formal email or Zoom invitation. We will see how this develops.

Karen Valley of the Office of Vocations will be with the RF on the 9th. December at 10.00 a.m. for a 60-minute discussion on the Office of Vocation ... its purposes etc. as well as a run-down on the HUB and how to get the best out of what it offers ministry personnel. We will advertise this through the newsletter and separately; hopefully having a large attendance. Ed Bentley has agreed to Moderate the event as he did so successfully with the previous Alan Hall event.

In January, on Thursday 13th. At 2.00 p.m. we have Rosemary Lambie and Paul Reed presenting a Q and A Zoom meeting on current regional structure of the United Church which has replaced the old Conference/Presbytery structure... its hopes/aims and its structure. This event will also be widely advertised with the hopes of participation from not only ECORC personnel but a wider audience. (We may have to increase our viewership capability from 100 persons +)

As our activities increase, we may have need of greater active participation on the leadership of the RF to which the word "Retired" takes on a new meaning.... Perhaps "Ministry" "under a different guise/label.

This completes the report of the Retirees Forum prepared by:
(Ian Robb/Caroline Giesbrecht, Secretary)

Appendix D

Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages**Formation, Nurture and Justice Report**

- Rodney's report- gathering to Celebrate Murray- what would have been his 100th Birthday- in person and online
- National 40 days of Anti-racism- Ends today- lots of resources are online
- National Love and Justice Gathering - resources will be available for 6 months used the Whova app for the gathering

SJNORC

- Meeting- Nov- (draft minutes will be sent) - Next meeting in January- planning and visioning meeting .

Doing Mission Together Grants

- Motions today - will ask Karen to post in the Newsletter and I will update the ECORC webpage

First Third's Ministry (Children, Youth and Young Adults)

- Connecting with youth, young adults, children and youth leaders
- Ongoing- 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
- Ongoing work to Form a First Third's Ministry Forum - with both youth, young adults and leaders (in the newsletter)
- Quin Mo Lac - Planning for the 2022 season. Fundraising is ongoing.
- 3 Webinars offered twice each (day and evening) with First Third Ministry leaders from across Ontario - resources sent out after each set of sessions. One of the key things that was heard that being overwhelmed and what to Do for Advent
- Last Friday- purchased the GO project Advent Curriculum to use as a RC wide weekly online Advent sessions. Description: [The four Sundays in Advent and the four directions of the medicine wheel give us opportunity to reflect on the changes and blessings in our lives. In this curriculum you will explore the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love in connection to the themes of Indigenous teachings of the four directions. Thanks to our guest writer, Metis educator Marilyn Robitaille. Packed with candle lighting prayers, a digital Advent calendar, games, crafts, and weekly lessons. - a bit of work to get it all ready for this Sunday.](#)
- Talk with Rodney about purchasing camping supplies to be used for future gatherings (there are good sales on outdoor gear).
- Information in the newsletter and on FB about the youth intern- paid positions for General Council 44 (youth ages 15 - 19) each RC will have 5 youth interns.
The Youth Forum will gather online the weekend of Feb 4th to 6th for some time to build community (time details to follow soon).

General Council 44 online meetings:

- Sunday Feb 13th from 12:00 – 5:00 pm ET (LIVE Participation is required)
- 5 weekly learning sessions on Wednesdays from March 16th to April 13th (7:00 – 8:30 pm ET) with 2 additional learning sessions April 27th and May 4th (if needed), these sessions are also recorded.
- Discussion Sessions: Friday, June 17, 2022 to Sunday, June 19, 2022 (LIVE Participation is required)
- Discussion Sessions: Evening of Thursday, July 21, 2022 to Monday, July 25, 2022 (LIVE Participation is required)

- Closing Worship/Installation of the Moderator: August 07, 2022 – details to be determined

More information about the GC44 schedule: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/agenda>

UCW

- Online gatherings for Presbyterians and Bay of Quinte ECOR
- Celebration of becoming a Affirming Ministry
- 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

Clusters/Networks

- Networks have been busy- great to be able to connect to national objectives
- GLI, Care of Creation, Long Term Care Crisis, Palestine Network
- Affirming Forum- forming a network, possible an occasional clergy network

Equity Team

- Work is ongoing- connecting at the national level- working on videos. Also talking about welcome packages. We celebrated the work of Rev. Sharon Ballantyne with a video and prayer quilt for all her contributions to the RC, national and previously the conference.

Affirming Forum

- Ongoing work on the Action plan and measurable goals
- A big thank you to Don for being our Elder
- Talk with the FNJ Team - would the affirming forum be a good fit to join

Appendix E

Social Justice Network Of The Ontario Regional Councils
Virtual Meeting By Zoom
16 November 2021

**Participants From Regional Councils And GCO
(East To West)**

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Charles Barrett, Chair of SJNOR

East Central Ontario Regional Council

Sharon Hull, Minister of Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relations, and Justice

Marilyn Fortin, Assembly of Elders

Meggin King, Chair-Formation, Nurture, and Justice Team

Shining Waters Regional Council

Tina Conlin, Davenport Perth Community Ministry

Jeffrey Dale, Minister, Justice and Faith Formation

Susan Eagle (Chair-Social and Ecological Justice Commission), Chair of ISARC

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

Thérèse Samuel, Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice

Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

Thérèse Samuel, Right Relations and Social Justice

Tabitha Carey, Member-Mission and Discipleship Commission

Marg Murray, Member-Social and Ecological Justice Network

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Minister of Social Justice

Thérèse Samuel, Right Relations and Social Justice

Canadian Shield Regional Council

Melody Duncanson-Hales, Minister, Congregational Support, Stewardship, Youth,

Mission, and Justice

Ernie Epp, Member-Support to Communities of Faith Commission

General Council Office--Church in Mission Unit

Beth Baskin, Identity and Mission Network

As Chair, Charles Barrett observed that the meeting would be a short one, beginning as it did at 10:05 am-- "perhaps an hour and a half." Diane Matheson-Jimenez was the Zoom Host.

Participants were asked to introduce themselves and did so from east to west. Susan observed that she was attending as the ISARC representative—the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition.

Charles observed that Ernie had provided a record of the June 17th meeting and circulated it. No corrections were offered. Ernie agreed to keep the record again.

Charles observed that the customary order of the meeting was a survey of the Regions and their Councils. It was agreed that the presentations would be east to west again.

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNCILS AND GCO

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Charles did not have a written report but noted that Jane Dawson had moved to British Columbia – “we’re working to fill big shoes!” He noted that volunteers were working in the Guaranteed Livable income Initiative, with the Bell’s Corners community of faith being especially active. The Right Relations Circle was developing involvements with Indigenous People, and he had attended an event. A cluster was working to coordinate an outreach project. First United Church has been developing spiritual support for front line workers.

East Central Ontario Regional Council

Meggin reported that an Anti-Racism policy had been approved by the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Council and that the Anti-racism Interfaith Intercultural Forum was working on an action plan and measurable goals, starting with a survey to all communities of faith. A community workshop had been held in early October. The Guaranteed Livable Income Network had sponsored a number of gatherings. There is some interest in ecotheology, and she hoped that the Care for Creation network would be working on that.

Marilyn reported that they had organized a webinar sponsored by a number of churches with the Rev. Murray Pruden, who had spoken of the “United Nations of Canada.” She found this view of the First Nations of Canada very exciting. The Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relations Forum is doing really good work and had held its first on-person meeting at Curve lake. (Charles observed that he was at his second home that morning, quite close to Curve Lake.) Charles also observed that the tendency of governments has been a “divide and conquer” policy.

Sharon noted that they had obtained a captioning program and hoped to have a webinar on this work soon. (Kapwing.com)

Shining Waters Regional Council

Jeffrey asked Tina to lead and she reported on a number of activities. The Annual General Meeting of the Regional Council met on November 13 and confirmed the Social and Ecological Justice Network. Two Proposals to General Council, one dealing with decriminalization of drug use and the other, with the plight of the Palestinian people, had been passed. Anti-Racism work is continuing, especially in the anti-Asian hate context. There is much work to be done at the national, regional, and local levels. There is concern about homelessness and the response of government to the resulting encampments. Work on a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) is going on locally. She expressed disgust with union leaders who stood with Premier Ford when he was announcing a \$15 minimum wage, several years after it represented a living wage. Right Relations work continues. Climate change impacts so many things. She concluded: “There’s a lot of work to do!”

Jeffrey thanked Nina for her survey of activities. The Social and Ecological Justice Network had been made permanent by the Annual General Meeting, and its membership was renewed. The PalNet work is continuing and is being made available to others. He noted that the fifteen students employed during the summer--thanks to federal funding--had done a lot of interesting work. They had really focused concerns and produced some great videos. They were working on a website. He thanked Marg for her work, too!

Susan thanked Tina for her report and noted that the Guaranteed Livable Income Initiative was hard at work. The material produced for October 17 had been used by some churches. The focus was now on the provincial election next spring. And she thought that the Social and Ecological Justice Network needed people to focus on environmental issues.

Tina observed that she had joined the GLI vigil on April 8. She had also made a presentation at Bloor Street United Church on October 17. The MP for Davenport, Julie Dzerowicz, had proposed a Basic Income motion in the last Parliament, and Tina had urged her to continue the GLI work.

Charles commented on the discussion he and Ernie had been having as the meeting convened, which related to his having reviewed Stephanie Kelton's book, *The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy*, for the Rideau Book Club. The author is from a smaller American college, not one of the academic powerhouses, but she is focused on the possibility of guaranteed employment, a "cousin" of the Guaranteed Livable Income. The book is somewhat polemical in nature but well worth reading.

Ernie responded with observations on the legislating of full employment as a goal at the end of the Second World War in the United States, but the conviction of the Rt. Hon. C.D. Howe, then MP for one of the Lakehead ridings and "Minister of Everything," that re-conversion to peacetime production of Canadian industry and the meeting of postwar consumer demand would lead to full employment—which was largely true for a dozen years after the war. The challenge of inflation, as the Seventies began, led the first Trudeau government into a preoccupation with the value of the dollar—rather than full employment—and Canadians have been cursed by that bias ever since. Tom Kent, a leading intellectual figure in the Pearson Government, in fact resigned as Deputy Minister of Regional Economic Expansion in February 1971 and went to Nova Scotia because he was convinced that his vision of full employment could not be achieved under the Trudeau government.

Canadian Shield Regional Council

Ernie and Melody had prepared a written report: The Canadian Shield Regional Council is coming to grips with the social justice challenges the communities of faith and their members face across our vast region. This report is based on the perspectives of Ernie Epp, who used to represent the Christian Outreach and Social Action Committee of Cambrian Presbytery, Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, on the SJNOR and Melody Duncanson-Hales, who has joined the SJNOR as Minister for Congregational Support, Stewardship, Youth, Mission and Justice of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Ernie lives in Thunder Bay, and Melody lives in Sudbury. While our current perspectives are urban ones, at the west and east ends of the Canadian Shield Region respectively, Melody has a strong rural background with a specialist in rural ministry and Ernie grew up on a farm in Manitoba

The constitution of the Canadian Shield Regional Council includes two commissions—one of them Support to Communities of Faith and the other, the Pastoral Relations one. The former includes social justice work through the Affirming Ministry Resource Team and the Right Relations Resource Team. The Annual Meeting held on 16 October 2021 celebrated the fact that the Regional Council has been accepted as an Affirming Ministry. The Annual Meeting was also briefed by Sara Stratton on the development of the National Indigenous Council and National Elders Council and the development of relations between our Indigenous brothers and sisters in their several organizations and the various Regional Councils to which each might relate. Sara pointed to the continuing operation of the Healing Fund, and she noted that the next deadline for applications to the Justice and Reconciliation Fund is in March 2022.

One of the workshops, led by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, explored the path "From Reconciliation to Reparations." Those in attendance contemplated the 1986 Apology given at Laurentian University in Sudbury, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission appointed by the Federal Government, and the 2006 settlement agreement, which has become current in the context of the finding of unmarked graves of Indigenous children who attended residential schools in decades past. The Moderator spoke to the response of the United Church to the findings at Kamloops with four days of prayer and mourning. More action is needed, and participants in the workshop discussed what they should do.

The Annual Meeting had also received a Proposal from members of Thunder Bay communities of faith to recommend to General Council that Israel be recognized as an apartheid state and that the plight of the Palestinian people be confronted. The Annual Meeting referred this to the Regional Council Executive, which convened a Town Hall by Zoom on 26 October to receive input on the Proposal. Lively discussion occurred in this Town Hall, and the Executive passed on the Proposal with concurrence.

There is a real challenge for communities of faith in the Canadian Shield Region to move beyond work by various communities and volunteers within these communities. Ernie notes the activity for a number of years of the Interfaith Refugee Committee in Thunder Bay. A number of churches are active in supporting food banks, such as the Regional Food Distribution Agency, the Rotary Shelter House, and the Dew Drop Inn “soup kitchen” operated by St. Andrew’s RC Church. Ernie has also been active in Poverty Free Thunder Bay, which carried on a vigorous Fare Free Transit Campaign in 2020, after City Council suspended transit fares for a time early in the pandemic. Ernie is also involved with the Guaranteed Livable Income Campaign, which has been inspired by former Moderator, the Very Rev. Lois Wilson, and is pushing the effort from coast to coast. A retired Ontario public servant, Frank Wilson, has been keeping GLI concerns before the city through Diversity Thunder Bay and Poverty Free Thunder Bay.

Melody pointed to activities throughout northeastern Ontario, where communities of faith continue to support food security and anti-poverty initiatives. These include partnerships with food banks, support services and wellness outreach work. In Sudbury, the Downtown Churches group is advocating with the City of Greater Sudbury to provide sustainable housing supports for those living in encampments. In Timmins, Mountjoy United Church continues to deepen partnership with Project Love, a meal sharing program. In North Bay, churches work together to support the Loaves and Fishes food bank. While many of these initiatives are charitable in nature, the advocacy and relationship building invites proactive justice work.

North Bay Mission Cluster continues their collective work engaging with the United Church faith community. They have been successful in a number of social justice initiatives such as workshops addressing micro-aggression, webinar series connecting Indigenous rights and climate action, with speakers from the Wet’suwet’en nation, offering leadership to the “Give it Up For Earth” campaign, and support for churches engaging with the Blue Umbrella program offered by the Alzheimer’s Society of Canada.

On Manitoulin Island, United Church congregations joined together with local KAIROS members to create outdoor displays recognizing the history and impact of residential schools. This work continues to evolve with planned KAIROS Blanket Exercise workshops when pandemic restrictions allow for larger group gatherings.

Manitou Intentional Learning Community, a network of learners originating from Sudbury area and building across northern Ontario, has hosted a number of educational workshops and conversations addressing social justice issues and concerns, in particular in partnership with the Right Relations Resource Team from Canadian Shield Regional Council. The most recent opportunity, offered last month, focused on the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Right Relations Resource Team also continues to offer leadership throughout Canadian Shield Region. They are developing a social media presence, and they have produced a number of videos and reflections suitable for both online and in-person worship to deepen engagement in reconciliation and action.

Ernie has also been concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people, with support for Independent Jewish Voices-Canada important in his thinking. Webinars organized by IJV-Canada, the American Friends Service Committee, the United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel, and the Society for Socialist

Studies—among others—have been deeply informative. These webinars and books inform his own work on a book, *On Seeking God's Will for Palestine and Israel*.

All who participated in the KAIROS Twenty Years of Spirited Action for Justice in the last week of October had the opportunity to learn about the plight of people--especially in Guatemala--impacted by Canadian mining companies and to be reminded of the labours of the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability to achieve an ombudsperson to act on complaints against these companies from people hurt by them. (Ernie and Melody first met at the gathering at Church House in 2013 that led to the organization of United for Mining Justice, which supports the work of the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability.)

The Three Western Ontario Regions

Diane noted a couple of items not included in the meeting agenda, namely, a provincial election focus with the possibility of a January meeting, and the new mission statement of the United Church of Canada. She thought it would be useful to spend some time unpacking that document.

Work since the last SJNOR meeting in the three Regions included their all becoming Affirming Ministries and supporting a priest who has been excommunicated for conducting a same sex marriage. Anti-Racism work has been carried on in virtual gatherings.

Diane mentioned the book by Carol Kilby, *Evolutionary Dancer*, which offers some rituals for our environmental plight. The author will be at a church in Welland on Earth Day 2022. In anticipation of Lent, she pointed to rituals for the season in "Coming out of Exile."

Diane noted that the Horseshoe Falls Region contains people who attended the Mohawk Institute, where searching of the grounds has begun. She asked how the United Church might support Indigenous People as graves are found.

Lastly, she noted that Long Term Care homes have been a source of crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic and suggested that this would be focused for the Provincial Election next spring.

Charles observed that his community of faith is an Affirming Ministry and that other groups use the church building, too. One applicant is an Anabaptist fellowship, and he wondered how they stood on the Affirming Ministry principles. Ernie responded by noting his own Mennonite background and his subscription to *Anabaptist World*, an internet journal, from which he has observed discussion towards a favourable resolution on LGBTQ2S matters among Mennonite Brethren people in Canada and within Mennonite Church USA. So the Ottawa fellowship might agree with the Affirming Ministry principles. Charles responded, "We hope so!"

Thérèse spoke to the other half of Western Right Relations work. After the graves were found at Kamloops, a vigil was organized on July 1 and more than 250 people attended. They were Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and gathered under the rubric, "Together in Prayer." They had held a second vigil on November 1—All Saints Day—under the rubric, "Together in Song." Art and food were part of these gatherings. On-line gatherings were first of all of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, secondly of Indigenous people involved in United Church outreach, and thirdly of non-Indigenous and Indigenous people active in Right Relations work. Some good connections had come out of this activity.

Thérèse also stated that the Antler River Watershed Regional Council has been responding to the TRC Calls to Action and has hosted three of four sessions already. There are fifty registrants exploring the Calls to Action.

Thérèse spoke of the Affirming Ministry work in which LGBTQ2S people were being welcomed and support was being provided for staff needs. She referred to a specific group and wondered if it would continue and asked, “how might it continue.”

Sharon stated, in regard to Affirming Ministries, that a network was being formed to support the process of becoming Affirming and to encourage communities of faith to continue on their journey—create and update action plans—ongoing learning and focus. There is a clergy support virtual meeting in East Central Ontario Region every week. There was wondering about also having a clergy support virtual gathering for 2SLGBT+ clergy, perhaps once a month or every other month. Hearing Thérèse speak, Sharon wondered if a group for clergy/staff across Ontario would be a good idea.

Marg said, in following up on what Thérèse had said, that there was a **sharing circle in ???** in which Gloria Cook, who served at one time in the GCO, was active. She also mentioned “Nations Uniting” as a community of faith in the Grand River area among United Church people.

ISARC

Susan raised the matter of the support that the Social Justice Network has customarily offered ISARC, which did not appear in the record of the June 17 meeting. Ernie suggested that it might be in the record of the earlier meeting.

Susan then pointed to the upcoming Religious Leaders Forum on November 24 and expressed regret that this interfaith gathering would not occur at Queen’s Park. “It is a pre-election gathering, and many MPPs have appeared at previous gatherings in the period before a provincial election!”

This year’s gathering will focus on housing. The plenary will be led by Ricardo Tranjan, senior researcher for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, with a theological reflection by Rabbi Yael Splansky, Senior Rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple and President of the Toronto Board of Rabbis.

Break-out rooms will cover several themes with fine speakers including:

Sandra Caleta, leader of Advocates for Long-Term Care Ontario,

Natalie Mehra, Executive Director, Ontario Health Coalition,

Douglas Kwan, Director of Advocacy and Legal Services, Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario,

Jennifer VanGennip, Co-chair of the Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness and Chair, Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness Barrie Chapter, and

Laura Cattari, Senior Policy Analyst at Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Susan described this as an engaging three hours of learning and advocacy.

Susan also said that ISARC is pushing the Guaranteed Livable Income—“it is doable!” They are also pushing for an increase in the shelter allowance for people on social assistance

Susan noted two policy papers worth consulting:

Building a Strong Foundation—an Ontario Government document, which follows on a bad history of pushing people into employment and off social assistance

Ontario Government Housing and Homelessness report, which appears designed to reduce social housing

ISARC is also challenging Bill 37, which deals with Long-Term Care. The Ford Government appears to be ramming this through while ISARC has called for public hearings. She did not feel very optimistic about that demand.

Susan also said that she felt personally sick to see union leaders standing the Premier when he announced the \$15 minimum wage for 2022, years after \$15 would have moved wage-earners above the poverty line.

GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

Beth noted that a new Mission statement had been approved by the 43rd General Council:

Deep spirituality
Bold discipleship
Daring justice

The Vision of The United Church of Canada as approved by the 43rd General Council at its meeting on Saturday, 23 October 2021 reads as follows:

“Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, the United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.”

The Strategic Plan which will run to GC45 in 2025 is being developed. From now until September 2022 there will be the development of both strategic and operational plans. This includes five objectives for GCO staff work. A super year September 2022-December 2023 is being planned. Staffing is being developed in meetings chaired by Jennifer Henry, with an Executive Minister for each strategic focus. The Vision and Mission will hopefully be implemented in the Regions, too.

Church in Mission hosted the Engage Love and Justice conference November 3 to 7. All of the sessions were recorded and can be accessed for six months. Watch out for communications that share details on how to access those sessions. Several of you participated. Thanks!

As regards LGBTQ2S matters, Beth observed that the Office of Vocations with Adam Hanley's leadership has done some preliminary work relating to ministry personnel when Jordan Sullivan was still on staff. She was not sure of the status now..

Among recent exciting activities, Beth noted:

UCCan COP26, which had produced a host of postings reflective of the views of For Love of Creation: “This is a really great blog!” I

With respect to COP, if you want to peek into COP26 UN Climate Conference through the eyes and ears of our [ecumenical delegation](#), here's a few key places to look:

Daily Delegation Reports: [in image with text](#), [just text](#), [just text in french](#)

These are being pulled together by Darlene O'Leary, delegate, Sisters of St Martha Justice Ministries, and reposted in text form in both languages by the Catholic Religious Conference. They reflect reports of whole group, not just the Catholics.

Daily social media on UAJ: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedAction> pointing to blogs on For the Love of Creation site: [English](#) [French](#)

#UCCanCOP26 and #FLCCop26

A recording of the workshop by Tony, Janet and Karri Munn-Venn can be viewed on youtube: https://united-church.zoom.us/rec/play/24M_PmQOo35LnQBYgz2RXsNDiwQ9RS14VimGXRmh1NDQ68_iSRBI7TIKtnvSSfbTQpsvvW86YeRB7-v8.MGFYMoINIDNSL87I

Guaranteed Livable income Initiative and the designated Sunday, October 17, for which material had been produced which is still up on the UCC website. She had noticed one of the posters in a store window in Kingston

when she was visiting. The general GLI page is <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program>

The GLI worship resources are to be found at <https://united-church.ca/worship/special-days/international-day-eradication-poverty>

Also as mentioned 40 Days of Engagement in Anti-Racism is taking place and has involved a number of people in our churches in webinars, reading materials, etc. The website is <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism/40-days-engagement-anti-racism>

A national network of people facilitating local anti-racism is in the beginning stages and being supported by Beth, Ren Ito, and Adele Halliday.

Charles complimented Beth for her presentation—“a real tour de force!”—and recognized what she and Lori Neale had been doing at the General Council Office

Tina asked whether there was work going on in regard to the World Day of Prayer for Unity 2002 and said that she knew some people who would like to work on that. Beth responded that she would meet with the leadership of Justice and Peace in regard to this request.

ISARC

Charles raised the matter of the annual donation to ISARC, and Ernie suggested that it might have been passed at an earlier meeting and promised to check the minutes. [He did so later and discovered that the donation was customarily made at the November meeting. Unfortunately, the meeting did not have a financial report on which to base a motion.]

Sharon suggested that a resolution might be passed, just to be sure about support.

Charles offered to check with the GCO on the SJNOR account and the state of requests to the Regional Councils of Ontario for their support. Susan wondered whether Will Kunder, who had retired from the SJNOR, might resume the Treasurership—“after his wedding!” She thought that financial information was needed before a motion was made. Charles said that he would be happy to reach out to Will on these matters. Marg thought that Will could serve for a year and train a successor. Melody suggested that she had worked with Will and had the links—“I could be trained!”

Charles raised the matter of how to interface regarding the next Provincial Election. A conference call early in the New Year could open the way to a planning session. Ernie noted the email Charles had sent out on June 17 suggesting two tasks, one the development of an economic policy paper and the other, the drafting of a theological statement. Charles responded: “we could do these things.”

Charles thanked everyone for a rich discussion.

Sharon suggested that the mandate of the Social Justice Network of the Ontario Regions should be reconsidered in light of the new Vision Statement.

Susan concluded the meeting with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Epp, Recorder