

**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, May 27, 2022 – 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**

Margaret Curtis	Member (Departed at noon)
Marilyn Fortin	Past-Member
Rev. Lesley Hamilton	New-Member (Departed at noon)
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Pat Long	New-Member
Rev. Don McLean	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Kaitlyn Ostrander	New-Member (Youth)
Rev. Paul Reed	Past-Speaker, Member
Ian Robb	Member
William (Bill) Sheaves	Member
Rev. Wanda Stride	Member, Leading Commissioner, 44 <sup>th</sup> General Council Commissioner
Rev. Lynn Watson	Member
Rev. Edward (Ned) Wells	New-Member
Rev. Phil Wilson	Past-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
Karen Wilson	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant
<b><u>REGRETS/ABSENT</u></b>	
Nancy Sutherland	Past-Member
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister

**Orientation of New Reps** – Rev. Rosemary Lambie welcomed new members and explained the format of the agenda and how it is based on the visioning statement of the Regional Council. Rev. Paul Reed highlighted some of the functions of the Assembly of Elder, in particular that this is a decision-making body representing the Regional Council, tasked with sharing information and collaborating with the Teams and the entire Regional Council.

**Circle Time of Sharing** – All were invited to share.

**Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land** – Rev. Wanda Stride shared a land acknowledgement, and highlighted what is Aboriginal Title – unique collective right (legal terminology). Wanda invited members to

acknowledge the aboriginal lands they were joining this meeting from, and to consider how 'title' plays in their individual lives.

Wanda reflected on the past events (tornado in Uxbridge, ON) and shared Scripture Philippians "Don't worry, instead pray" from The Message. Wanda invited all to consider: "What are the things that you do for a sense of wholeness and joy when things seem to become unmanageable". All were invited to share spontaneously, leading with the letters of the alphabet – 'popcorn prayer'.

Wanda closed this time of devotion with a prayer.

### **Appointment of a Speaker to serve until following the 2023 spring Regional Council Meeting**

It was decided through consensus that Rev. Paul Reed would continue as Speaker and mentor a co-Speaker for future meetings.

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

**2022-05-27-001 MOTION** (P. Wilson/W. Stride) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Ian Robb as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

### **Agenda**

**2022-05-27-002 MOTION** (W. Stride/D. McLean) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as distributed. **CARRIED**

### **Minutes of April 1, 2022**

**2022-05-27-003 MOTION** (M. Fortin/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of April 1, 2022 as distributed. **CARRIED**

### **Minutes of April 30, 2022 email vote**

**2022-05-27-004 MOTION** (W. Stride/D. McLean) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of email vote completed April 30, 2022.

*2022-04-30\_001 MOTION: (P. Wilson/D. McLean) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has concerns about the state of Bancroft- Carlow Pastoral charge and appoints Linda Foy to conduct a review under section J.4 of the Manual. CARRIED*

*2022-04-30\_002 MOTION: (P. Wilson/D. McLean) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders has concerns about the state of Coe Hill-St Ola-The Ridge Pastoral Charge and appoints Linda Foy to conduct a review under section J.4 of the Manual. CARRIED*

*The mandate is to review the state and health of both the pastoral charges in North Hastings, to gather information regarding the operations and governance, to make findings based on that information, and make reports back to the Regional Council Assembly of Elders with recommendations based on the findings.*

*Linda Foy will be conducting interviews with any interested parties either by telephone or on zoom with the proposed timelines:*

*May 8 and 15 - Announce the review to the Pastoral Charges*

*May 24 to 31 - Conduct the interviews by phone/Zoom*

*June 22 - Submit the report(s) on or before this date*

**CARRIED****Minutes of May 5, 2022 email vote**

**2022-05-27-005 MOTION** (P. Wilson/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of email vote completed May 5, 2022.

*2022-05-05-001 MOTION (W. Sheaves/R. Lambie) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the revised position description for the East Central Ontario Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister.*

*(updated to reflect our language and reality from the 2018 version approved by the Transition Commission) CARRIED*

*2022-05-05-002 MOTION (W. Sheaves/R. Lambie) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received the confirmation of eligibility through Churchhub, and the recommendation of the interview team Bill Sheaves, Chair of the Covenant Support Team, Steve Coles, Chair of Liaisons Forum, and Rev. Jean Wilson, Retirees Forum and former Speak of the ECORC, and Rev. Rosemary Lambie Executive Minister, approves the appointment of Rev. Darren Leopold to cover the Restorative Care of Rev. David Timpson, full time beginning July 1st 2022. CARRIED*

**CARRIED****Correspondence**

- a) April 4, 2022 Brad Comeau Professional Corporation, Law Office re process of UCC providing authority to change the name of the registered owner of the Eldorado (Fox) Cemetery from the Trustees of the Fox Congregation of the Methodist Church of Canada to the UCC (*getting legal assistance*)
- b) April 4, 2022 Linda Jacula, Chairperson, Centennial Albert United Church, Oshawa, Ont re retirement of Rev. Bill Tadaja effective April 1, 2022 (*for action*)
- c) April 6, 2022 Cynthia Gunn, Legal Counsel re Eldorado Cemetery (*for information*)
- d) April 27, 2022 Keith Pike, Cedar Dale UC, Oshawa re lay retirement effective June 30, 2022 (*for action*)
- e) April 29, 2022 Reverend Dr. Jenny Stephens, Office of Vocation Coordinator and Team Leader re copied on letter to Rev. Calvin Stone, "Given that Public Health has lifted restrictions and that the Cold Springs Official Board has requested by majority vote that the Measure be lifted, the Remedial Committee removes the final Measure imposed on Rev. Calvin Stone and restores him to good standing effective immediately". (*for information*)
- f) May 16, 2022 Rev. Don Wilmer re request to disband the Cedar Dale congregation effective June 30, 2022 and deal with the property (*for action*)
- g) May 16, 2022 Jennifer Hay (referred to us from office of the General Secretary) re Discrimination at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church (*action was a letter sent*)
- h) May 18, 2022 Rev Pieter A le Roux, Picton United Church and South Bay United church re request for change in pastoral relationship effective July 31, 2022 (*for action*)
- i) May 19, 2022 Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie, Trinity United Church, Peterborough re invitation to participate in the final service June 12, 2022 (*for information*)
- j) May 19, 2022 Reverend Kim Lawrance, Mount Zion United Church re notice of leave of absence as proposed by M&P until August 30 (*for information*)

- k) May 20, 2022 Ron Ewart, Executive Director Toronto United Church Council re invitation to annual meeting on June 23 (*for action*)
- l) May 20, 2022 Rev. Max Ward re Maple Lake United Church further detailed work of Trustees *for Information*)
- m) May 26, 2022 Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator re copied on letter to Trinity United Church, Uxbridge following the tornado (*For information*)

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

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

**Facilitation Team report** – Karen Wilson shared the results of the survey of peoples requested topics for an information session, see **Appendix A<sup>1</sup>**. The Facilitation Team will meet to see if it is possible for an event to be organized in June.

In the future, it was suggested that the Facilitation Team be considered a Forum of the Assembly of Elders.

An invitation was extended to members of the Assembly of Elders to join the Facilitation Team – Ned Wells has expressed interest. It was also suggested that folks who have submitted requests for information sessions be invited to a Facilitation Team meeting to help expand on the planning surrounding their requests.

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

**Communications** – Karen Wilson highlighted items in her report, see **Appendix A<sup>2</sup>**, in particular her work at completing the ECORC directory. Karen highlighted that the vigil that took place last evening at Trinity was recorded and will be available on the website. Karen also shared a template of the letterhead to be used by the Regional Council, see **Appendix A<sup>3</sup>**.

### ***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**

Paul highlighted that a task group will need to be created and soon begin to focus on updating the Governance Handbook.

#### **ii) Pastoral Relations – William Sheaves**

##### **a) Covenanting Support Team – Change in Pastoral Relations**

##### **Simcoe Street United Church**

**2022-05-27-006 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Daryl Webber to Simcoe Street United Church, Oshawa full time intentional interim effective June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024. **CARRIED**

**Bath-Morven Pastoral Charge**

**2022-05-27-007 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the re-appointment of Rev. Bradley Ford, retired, to Bath-Morven Pastoral Charge, 20 hours/week July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. **CARRIED**

**St. Mark's Pastoral Charge, Whitby**

**2022-05-27-008 MOTION** (L. Watson/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the reappointment of Rev. Deborah Elliott, retired, to St. Marks Pastoral Charge, Whitby, 40 hours/week June 16, 2022 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. **CARRIED** (W. Sheaves, K. Whyte, L. Hamilton, I. Robb abstain).

**Alderville**

**2022-05-27-009 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Dorinda Vollmer, retired supply 20 hours/week to the Alderville pastoral charge from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. **CARRIED**

**Retirement**

**2022-05-27-010 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Rev. Bill Tadaja to retire from ministry effective April 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

**2022-05-27-011 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Keith Pike to retire from ministry effective April 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

**2022-05-27-012 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Rev. Meggin C. Hare to retire from ministry effective September 15, 2022. **CARRIED**

**Pastoral Charge Supervisors**

**2022-05-27-013 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointments of the following Pastoral Charge Supervisors:

- Scugog – Rev. Elaine Hall
- Eldad-Hampton – Rev. Lesley Hamilton
- Centennial St. Albert – Rev. Richard Parker
- Land of Lakes – Rev. Elaine Kellogg

**CARRIED****Pastoral Charge Supervisors NEEDED**

- Fenelon Falls
- Castleton-Grafton
- Roblin-Enterprise

**iii) Covenant Support Team Chair**

- a) Report from Liaison Forum – It is being contemplated by the Liaison Forum that a communication go out far and wide, seeking those with the skill-set required to be a Supervisor or Liaison. It was also suggested to search among retirees. Paul provided some of the distinctions between a Supervisor and a Liaison. It was noted that Supervisors may not be expected to personally fill-in in the absence of a minister, but may be tasked with making sure duties are fulfilled.
- b) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum – nothing to report at this time.
- c) Retirees Forum – Ian Robb, see report attached hereto as **Appendix B**

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

**ON-GOING concerns** – Paul highlighted the following items:

- a) **Maple Lake United Church** – in process with Max
- b) Trinity, Roslin and Thomasburg  
The Regional Council still requires further details about the plans for the real property known as Trinity United Church Roslin.
- c) **Coe Hill-St Ola-The Ridge Pastoral Charge and Bancroft/Carlow Pastoral Charge**  
J.4 Review has begun with Linda Foy, pastoral care is needed
- d) Spring Brook United Church – pending
- e) Mount Pleasant United Church: - pending new Trustees  
2022-02-25-000 MOTION (/) That whereas the former Hills and Shores Presbytery of Bay of Quinte Conference entered into a rental agreement with Mount Pleasant United Church, enabled a lease of \$1200 per year until 2028, and required the naming of four Trustees, and whereas the East Central Ontario Regional Council is the successor council responsible for naming those same Trustees, and whereas the original four Trustees are no longer willing or able to serve, therefore the East Central Ontario Regional Council the Assembly of Elders appoints \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as Trustees to the Mount Pleasant Church property.  
  
Further, to arrange for the rent to be deposited in the ECORC accounts.
- f) Chalmers – pending
- g) Ebenezer – Maple Grove: process in progress
- h) Lakefield and Young's Point – process in progress with Rev. Dan Hayward

**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 –  
Melrose United Church**

**2022-05-27-014 MOTION** (T. Meyers/M. Fortin) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the “Certificate of Trustees Asking Consent of a Regional Council” IN

THE MATTER OF 613 Melrose Road, Con 3, S Pt Lot 13 Reg 0.50AC 177.45FR and Con 2 Pt Lot 13 RP21R9547 Part 1 AND IN THE MATTER OF permission to list property for sale with Exit Realty as represented by Sandra Hussey.

CERTIFICATE OF TRUSTEES ASKING CONSENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL The United Church of Canada Act, Schedule B, Trust of Model Deed Part 6 The Manual (2019 edition), section G.2.3

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the following is a just and true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Trustees and Official Board of Melrose United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Melrose Pastoral Charge, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and Official Board duly held for that purpose at Melrose United Church, on the 5th day of March 2022.

Moved by Steve Doidge, seconded by Margaret Anne Stevenson, that the Trustees of Melrose United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Melrose Pastoral Charge, having received the direction of the Official Board Church of the said pastoral charge to do so, request the consent of East Central Ontario Regional Council:

- (1) to the list for sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Con 3, S Pt Lot 13 Reg 0.50AC 177.45FR and Con 2 Pt Lot 13 RP21R9547 Part 1, and the municipal address of which is 613 Melrose Road, pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Melrose United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as vendor, and a realtor as approved by the Board of Trustees of Melrose United Church at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Trustees held on the 25th day of March 2022.

Moved by Steve Doidge, seconded by Nancy DeMille, that realtor Sandra Hussey of Exit Realty be engaged to list the certain Real Property as described for sale. The agreement between the Board of Trustees of Melrose United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as vendor, and Sandra Hussey, Sales Representative of Exit Realty, as realtor dated on the 28th day of March 2022, and subject to Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

The asking price for the described property is \$600,000.00 at a commission rate of 5%.

Exclusions from the sale are limited to the cross in the chancel of the church, the piano in the sanctuary of the church, and the two filing cabinets in the vestry of the church.

- (2) the following disposition of the proceeds arising from the sales transaction is

described as follows:

- a) Legal, realtor and operating expenses\* incurred to be paid from the sale proceeds prior to further distribution of funds
- b) 10% remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry
- c) 10% remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council
- d) 10% remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for ongoing support of the wider church
- e) Of the remaining 70%, 60% of this is to be provided to Emmanuel United Church of Foxboro Emmanuel Pastoral Charge and 40% of this to St. Mark's United Church of St. Mark's United, Cannifton Pastoral Charge.

and in pursuance of the said resolution, we hereby apply to East Central Ontario Regional Council for its consent to list the property for sale.

## **CARRIED**

### **St Andrew's UC Westwood**

**2022-05-27-015 MOTION** (T. Meyers/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the Certificate of Trustees Asking Consent of a Regional Council

IN THE MATTER OF St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood) – Westwood Community Cemetery, Lot 11 Conc 2-176 (176 Centre Line - Pt. Lot 11) Conc 2;

AND IN THE MATTER OF Transfer of Westwood Community Cemetery from St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood) to the Township of Asphodel-Norwood.

### **CERTIFICATE OF TRUSTEES ASKING CONSENT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The United Church of Canada Act, Schedule B, Trust of Model Deed Part 6 The Manual (2019 edition), section G.2.3

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the following is a just and true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood), a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Norwood-Westwood Pastoral Charge, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees duly held for that purpose at St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood), on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2022.

Moved by Mary Hay, seconded by Rev. Don McLean, that the Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood), a congregation of The United Church of Canada and part of the Norwood-Westwood Pastoral Charge, having received the direction of the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood), dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2022, to do so, request the consent of East Central Ontario Regional Council:

- (1) to the transfer of certain Real Property, the current legal description of which is Westwood Community Cemetery, Lot 11 Conc 2-176 (176 Centre Line - Pt. Lot 11) Conc 2, and the municipal address of which is 176 Centre Line, Asphodel-Norwood, Ontario, pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church (Westwood), a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as owner, and the Township of Asphodel-Norwood, as transferee, dated the 30th day of June, 2022, and subject to Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

pending, with the cooperation of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood, having determined and applied for a severance continuing ownership of land necessary for the operation of the church and its activities, that the Westwood Community Cemetery, including its land, administration, and operations, including all records and funds held, be transferred to the Township of Asphodel-Norwood.

ALL TO the satisfaction of the Mission Through Property and Finance Team having received the completion of the final documentations.

## **CARRIED**



**Cold Springs United Church**

**2022-05-27-016 MOTION** (T. Meyers/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Cold Springs United Church to use funds from their Manse fund up to \$40,000 to cover the amount owing to Rev. Stone (retiring July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022) for back pay, to the United Church for employer-paid pension premiums and to the Canada Revenue Agency for EI and CPP premiums. **CARRIED**

**Cedar Dale United Church**

**2022-05-27-017 MOTION** (T. Meyers/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Cedar Dale United Church to disband as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. **CARRIED**

The action to disband was approved by the COF at a congregational meeting held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The Official Board has planned a final service on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**2022-05-27-018 MOTION** (T. Meyers/W. Sheaves) whereas Kindred Works (United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) conducted a site visit and consider the property suitable for redevelopment by the United Church, the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders directs the Cedar Dale trustees to enter into a letter-of-intent agreement with the East Central Ontario Regional Council and UPRC/Kindred Works for the property, the legal description of which is Lots C-50, C-50½, and C-51, according to Sheet 29, Plan 335, in the City of Oshawa, comprising 0.5 acres (0.2 hectares) more or less, and the municipal address of which is 824 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa, (initially valued at nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$950,000.00).

The letter-of-intent agreement needs to specify that either the Regional Council or UPRC will maintain the property and cover the carrying costs of the property (including insurance, utilities, and repairs) after June 30, 2022, pending any redevelopment.

It is possible that there may come a time when redevelopment is no longer considered feasible. If that happens reasonably soon, then the congregation would want its recommendations regarding remittances to the Back Door Mission and the Durham Hospice Clarington site to come back into play. Therefore the congregation will want the letter-of-intent agreement to specify that in the event that the property is sold before July 1, 2027, five years from now, then 40% of the net proceeds from that sale will be disposed of as directed by the Regional Council, taking into account the recommendations of the Cedar Dale congregation, as if the property had been sold on June 30, 2022.

If the property is sold, the recommendations of Cedar Dale United Church are that the assets of the congregation, including the proceeds from the sale of the church property net of the expenses of disposition, be remitted as follows:

- a) 10% to The United Church of Canada for the ongoing support of indigenous ministry;
- b) 10% to the Toronto United Church Council's Sustainable Energy Loan Fund;
- c) 20% to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council's Communities of Faith Assistance Fund; and
- d) 20% to the Mission & Support Fund of The United Church of Canada;

all in accordance with the East Central Ontario Regional Council policy regarding the disposition of proceeds from the sale of property (approved October 4, 2019; revised November 26, 2021);

and that the congregation of Cedar Dale United Church recommend to the East Central Ontario Regional Council that the remaining 40% be remitted as follows:

- e) 20% to the Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty, Oshawa; and
- f) 20% to the Durham Hospice, Clarington site.

### **CARRIED**

**2022-05-27-019 MOTION** (T. Meyers/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs the request of Cedar Dale United Church, that should the need arise following the date of disbanding, that the East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada appoint Linda Hamilton, Bill Morris, Richard Taylor, and Wayne White to act as trustees of the property for the East Central Ontario Regional Council, effective July 1, 2022, and to follow its lawful orders and directions. **CARRIED**

**Apsley United Church** – for information:

Request to disband, without date provided, and referred to lawyer, Bob Sedore, to clean up title on property pending possible disbanding.

**Trinity United Church Peterborough** – discussion continues; for information:

Pending Motion re Certificate of Trustees Asking Consent of a Regional Council to sell church property to private developer Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN) for \$1.5 million.

- Sale includes a \$600,000 donation to PPRN. Not a recognized United Church charity.
- Appraised market value of \$1.5 million might be too low. Getting another opinion
- Why not develop property using UPRC Kindred Works?
- Who assumes ongoing expenses during pre-development?
- Hold meeting with COF to flush out the above questions.
- Disbursement plan of other investment assets approx. \$1.5 million.

TUCC – Paul named directors continuing with the TUCC: Carole Bennett, Greg Daly, Roberta Howey and Christopher White.

**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 – No report at this time, Team has not met since last reporting.
- b) Report from Supporting Staff Member - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages, see **appendix C**
- c) Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils –

ii) **Doing Mission Together Priority Grants** – see **appendix C**

An email-vote will take place soon.

iii) **Clusters and Network News** – see **appendix C**

- iv) **Affirm Forum** – Assembly of Elders representative – Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages, **see appendix C**

**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 provided a written report:

I continue to share learning opportunities through the regional newsletter.

Through zoom, I met with a team at Castleton/Grafton Pastoral Charge, supporting them on a journey of education and action. I also joined St. Paul's Bowmanville for an online study of "Unsettling the Word". I met with a member of Crossroads United in Kingston

I met in person with a group at Cambridge St. in Lindsay to prepare for a presentation in morning worship through a pulpit exchange.

Our Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship forum has met, and a subgroup of Ned Wells and Kaitlin Ostrander met with myself, Sharon Hull and Karen Wilson to discuss a social media strategy for our forum, and more broadly for the regional council.

Finally, I have been in conversation with Aruna Alexander about the June 4th Pentecost service in Peterborough, and with Sharon Hull about a youth and young adults gathering in Curve Lake on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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**

Report from Supporting Staff Member, see **appendix C**

**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** – Will be updating terms of reference.

**Affirm Forum** – Noting to report at this time.

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

**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**

**2022-05-27-020 MOTION** (W. Stride/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders confirms that Tom Smart, duly elected as an alternate General Council 44 commissioner will now be a full voting commissioner for East Central Ontario Regional Council.  
**CARRIED**

**New Business –****a) Representatives from the Assembly of Elders serving with Teams**

- Margaret Curtis – Nominations
- Lynn Watson – Equity
- Kaitlyn Ostrander - Equity
- Ted Meyers – Mission Through Property
- Brian James – Mission Through Property
- William Sheaves – Covenant Support Team
- Leslie Hamilton – Covenant Support Team
- Kathleen Whyte – Covenant Support Team
- Ned Wells – Formation Nurture and Justice
- Patricia Long - Formation, Nurture and Justice

**Opening worship for next meeting** – Rev. Lynn Watson

**Equity Monitor Report** – Ian Robb reported that the meeting worked very well today.

**Motion to adjourn**

**2022-05-27-021 MOTION** (D. McLean/M. Fortin) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:28 PM. **CARRIED**

**Closing Prayer** – Rev. Wanda Stride closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Next Meeting Dates**

- Friday June 24 9:00 to noon ZOOM
- Potential meeting in July re review (to be determined)
- Friday September 23 9:00 to noon ZOOM
- Friday Oct 28 - Saturday Oct 29 ECORC RC - save the dates
- Friday November 25 9:00 to noon ZOOM

Rev. Paul Reed  
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,  
Executive Minister

**Appendices**

Appendix A <sup>1</sup>	Suggested topics for discussion for an ECORC information session	Pages 14-15
Appendix A <sup>2</sup>	Communications Report	Pages 16-17
Appendix B	Retirees Forum Report	Page 18
Appendix C	Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages	Pages 19-20

Appendix A<sup>1</sup>

## Suggested Topics for Discussion for ECORC Information Session

- Bridging Poverty & Privilege: lessons for crossing socio-economic barriers to make neighbours out of those struggling in poverty. (Allan Smith-Reeve)
- given the number of closures of our churches I think a topic ECORC should be talking about is **Re-Imagining our places of faith and how our Communities of Faith can meaningfully engage the community in sustainability of our Communities of Faith and the buildings we meet in.** The UPRC housing initiative is one way to assist Communities of Faith by using property for housing ... that should be well understood by all of our COF's ... but if there is no additional property for this kind of use, what other models are available for COF's? Sydenham Street United Church has a story about such an initiative. (Bruce Hutchinson)
- How to communicate regional information in a way that all lay people are aware. (Wendy Bulloch)
- Sense of isolation- I have heard both ministry personnel and lay folk describe the sense of isolation they are now feeling in the new system. Our staff seem overworked to the point that even emails pleading for help go without response and there do not seem to be opportunities for building relationships for support and guidance. (Wendy Bulloch)
- do we want to consider, an evolving pattern of 'church membership' - during the pandemic, many of us were 'adherents' of many churches, some online, some as in-person guests when perhaps our usual community of faith was closed. We have different kinds of communities..both on-line and different levels of affiliation...could I be a member of The United Church of Canada without have only one church building/community of people to whom I am 'attached'? Someone said, the 'pandemic has changed forever the way we worship as a community of faith'.... another says, "we need people to come back to the pews" why? this is not just a debate between online vs in-person worship.... are we called to focus our relationship/service to God in one building/community? (Cheryl Mound)
- I would be interested in a discussion on polarization in churches. I often hear about it in the context of congregations wanting their ministers to be more or less political. With all the social justice issues that ministers might feel called to preach on (including the identified priorities of ECORC), but are concerned it might be viewed as "too political" I think this would be a helpful topic for an information session. (Ned Wells)
- "How do we get people of all ages interested in being part of a COF. If the declining numbers can not be stopped we will have no United Church's or maybe a few will survive. I think we need an aggressive advertising campaign to market what church can provide to the many young families. Grow or die a slow death. Who is addressing the need to grow our faith? (Ted Meyers)
- I would be interested in more specific ideas/suggestions/contacts/resources of how local Communities of Faith can address the topics recently approved for our 2022 ECORC mission. (Kerri Jebson)
- I would like to see a conversation about bolstering the pension fund with some of the monies accrued from property sales. (Calvin Stone)
- a discussion on how to effectively support ministers (Lynn Watson)

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- **STRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATION:** Clarity on present Structure and Communication: What is the chain of order for disseminating information, and initiating action, within Communities of Faith? **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** What is the role of Representatives from Communities of Faith to the Regional Council? **REGIONAL MISSION PRIORITIES:** Who is responsible for ensuring that Mission priorities are being worked on within Communities of Faith? (Aruna Alexander)

And I am sharing Mary-Margaret Boon's full email as well: At the regional meeting I was blessed to be in a like minded group in our Sat. Breakout rooms. We didn't talk about what we were supposed to talk about. We had a heartfelt conversation about other priorities. One I would name as clergy bullying that has happened during the past 2 years. I have seen it personally in my home charge and in another site in conversation with a colleague and in a site where I see as a supervisor. Our gathering made up of 3 active clergy, 2 retired clergy, 2 lay reps. had stories as well. Our concerns reflected the role of the region being spread too thin. Not a criticism but a fact. We are not lamenting the loss of closer connections that were experienced at the presbytery level but that not enough resources were allocated at the regional level. This is not a time or place to expect only volunteers to step up to the plate. My second concern is one that is actually a struggle for me. I have always been a think outside of our 4 walls, mission oriented person. But people in the pews are suffering. I would like to see some retreats funded so people can open up about their needs and hopefully have their faith renewed and rejuvenated. Thank you for this time and opportunity to air my thoughts.

Blessings

Rev. MM

Appendix A<sup>2</sup>

**Assembly of Elders Meeting - Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am - Communications Summary Report**  
**(Includes both April and May)**

**Meetings Attended in April/May:**

- Part of the Tech team for Regional GC Commissioners Meeting - April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Kapwing Editing with Phil Wilson and Sharon Hull - April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Communications Meeting/Dynamics Training with Anita Jansman, Judy Coffman and Jayne King on April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup> (*ongoing training in Dynamics with Jayne King each month as needed*)
- ECORC Spring General Meeting Rehearsal - April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Part of the Tech team for ECORC's Spring General Meeting - April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>
- Facilitation Team wrap up meeting - May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Social Media Meeting with Rodney Smith-Merkley, Sharon Hull, Kaitlyn Ostrander and Ned Wells – May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Meeting with Wanda Stride and Elizabeth Cunningham re: Prayer Vigil – May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Tech person for the Prayer Vigil – May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Assembly of Elders Meeting – May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Communications/Social Media:**

- Continuing to open Zoom meetings for Covenant Support Team, Liaison's as well as weekly Clergy Check In
- Continuing work on the Regional Directory – I have now received all the information I need to complete the Directory from Nominations Team and I reached out to ECORC's Retirees for permission to be added as well, which the majority were very appreciative of
- Weekly newsletters as well as any others that are time sensitive
- Social Media
  - I found that we have a public Facebook page which I am now admin and working on getting it active again
  - Focusing on adding more activity to our Instagram account
- Logo is now added to our website under "Resources" for anyone who would like to have access to it
- I was asked by Brian James to create a letterhead using our new logo for the Assembly of Elders which has been reviewed by both Brian James and Rosemary Lambie and now shared with the Assembly of Elders
- After asking for suggested topics for upcoming ECORC Information Sessions, I gathered them and shared with the Assembly of Elders for review



- Helped Wanda Stride with the ECORC Gathering of Commissioners event this coming May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Helped Wanda Stride in putting together and sharing the Prayer Vigil for Trinity United Church in Uxbridge which takes place May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**Next Steps:**

- Complete and send out the Directory
- Update website to reflect new members of the Assembly of Elders and Teams
  - Contact Chairs of the Teams to see if I can add their email contact on the website

*Karen Wilson*

## Appendix B

**Synopsis of Retirees Gathering, May 12, 2022**

The Zoom gathering for ministry retirees of ECOR and surrounding regions was well-attended (23 participants). We had two guests: Rev. Catherine Elsdon (serving Faith United Church and Sydenham Street United Church, each half-time) and Rev. Michelle Robinson (serving Westminster United Church in Whitby). They each spoke openly and from the heart about ministry today – in particular the challenges. Catherine spoke about ministering to two very different congregations: Faith (without a building, meeting in a school, and partnering with a local Indigenous group to repatriate land that had been set aside for a church building) and Sydenham Street (a historic stone church in downtown Kingston, partnering with local organizations as “The Spire” to provide support for the building). Some of the challenges they shared: learning new technology (especially during COVID); dealing with COVID restrictions and people not coming back after opening up; how to engage with people not physically present; anxiety about the future and survival of churches; loss of confidence in the church (with discovery of mass graves in residential schools); the isolation experienced with loss of Presbytery; having to guide congregations in decline; high level of fatigue; the pressure of “extra” requirements such as anti-racism, LGBTQ rights, Indigenous issues; little time for family. They did both say that they appreciate the support they have had from retired ministers, but aren't sure how to connect with them. After their presentations, we broke into small groups to discuss the question: “Having been given a glimpse of the challenges facing ministers today, how might we as retirees with our experience, offer support and encouragement?” There was much discussion in the groups, but little time to share results. Two points that were mentioned were: the importance for some of having regular spiritual direction, and the possibility of setting up a supportive group of retirees in particular locations, such as Kingston and the Belleville/Trenton/Brighton area.

## Appendix C

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

- see Rodney's report
- No full meeting of the team- waited to receive info about new members, also we need an Assembly of Elder rep to this team. Thank you to Marilyn Fortin for her work on the team and being a rep from the team to the Social Justice Network Ontario RC (SJNORC).
- Anti-racism Interfaith Intercultural Forum
  - June 4th 2022 - ECORC PENTECOST CELEBRATION- Flames of Joy and Justice with speaker DR. Brian Carwana (Encounter World Religions Center) and a recognition of Chancellor Murray Sinclair, and Elder Murray Whetung.
  - Need to get permission to add the racism in the county study to the website and other information mentioned at the April ECORC meeting
- June 2nd- Brighton- in person and on zoom - An Evening with Stephen Dorsey- author of Black and White. Please email information about these 2 events to your teams to help promote.

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander on an very successful community cluster event in Belleville, Marilyn Fortin attended and has accepted an award on behalf of ECORC

**Social Justice Network Ontario RC**

- May 1st 7:00 - 9:00 pm Social Justice Round Table on zoom
  - All UCC Ontarians are invited to a pre-election round table on guaranteed livable income, harm reduction, housing, and long term care reform
  - KEYNOTE SPEAKER - The very Rev. Lois Wilson, former United Church Moderator
  - LEADERSHIP FROM
    - ISARC
    - Susan Eagle
    - Jeffrey Dale
    - ECORC GLI Network

**Doing Mission Together Grants**

- A small group held a meeting to discern the Doing Mission Together grant applications that were received and they approved 4 motions. Those 4 motions were sent out by email for the whole Formation, Nurture and Justice Team to vote on. There has been a challenge with access to email -We are still waiting. I would like to send those motions to the Assembly of Elders by email. The last motion is the creation of an Investment in Leader fund.
  - This fund would use the amount of \$4,190 (remaining Doing Mission Together grant 2022 funds) for 2022. Objective-To provide both ministry personnel and lay leaders with financial assistance for learning events, grants through the Investment in Leaders Fund. Criteria-One of the guiding criteria adopted is an effort to share equitably the funding allotted to our Regional Council. Therefore, grants will be limited to one-third (1/3) of the associated costs, to a limit of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). There is no longer an expectation that the Community of Faith and applicant must share the remaining costs equally.
    - Applications can only be received by an individual once per calendar year.
    - At least half (1/2) of the entire fund is reserved for grants to lay leaders.

**Clusters/Networks**

- Ongoing
- Cathedral of the Trees Algonquin park is running this year - flyer to be put into the newsletter.
- Wanda to talk with Sharon and Karen about a new Tech network

**UCW**

- AGM on zoom in May.
- Looking forward to Anniversary in July and weekend at Quin Mo LAc in September

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

- GC44 Youth Interns- 3 youth interns so far for our RC - Ellia- from Lindsay, Olivia from Bowmanville and Stephon from Oshawa
- Planning an event together with Rodney in person outside at Curve Lake
- VIBE - reimagined for 2022 - 2 intergenerational Sundays in August- more details to come soon
- Camp Quin Mo Lac- held AGM and training weekends for staff, Interview day for Counselor In Training (CIT) Program

**Equity Team**

- Work is ongoing