

**East Central Ontario Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Elders**  
**Friday, June 24, 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
Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Pat Long	Member
Rev. Don McLean	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Kaitlyn Ostrander	Member (Youth)
Rev. Paul Reed	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	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>	
Rev. Lesley Hamilton	Member
Kathleen Whyte	Member
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice
Rev. David Timpson	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister

**Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land** – Rev. Lynn Watson, reflected that on the fact that the country recently celebrated National Indigenous Day of Prayer, and acknowledged Turtle Island, in particular the unceded territory on which she resides. Lynn reminded all to continue to heed the call to reconciliation and right relations. Lynn read Scripture Luke 9:57-62, and reflected on call, in particular the call to follow Jesus, and the distractions that make it hard to follow, in particular, the idea of not having enough money. Lynn also focused on the deep needs of the country and asked: I wonder if God is calling The United Church of Canada to fulfill the deep needs of the country. Lynn closed this time of devotion referring to a blessing from John O'Donohue's book, *To Bless the Space Between Us*, with focused on leadership and the support that can be found for leaders.

**Circle Time of Sharing** – All were invited to share where their favorite summer-time vacation place is.

It was announced that Rev. Don McClean will be changing Regional Council, going to Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, and therefore, will be leaving the Assembly of Elders as of September 1, 2021.

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

**2022-06-24-001 MOTION** (I. Robb/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Wanda Stride as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**Agenda**

**2022-06-24-002 MOTION** (T. Meyers/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as distributed. **CARRIED**

**Minutes of May 27, 2022**

**2022-06-24-003 MOTION** (L. Watson/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of May 27, 2022 as distributed. **CARRIED**

**Minutes of June 8, 2022 email vote:**

**2022-06-24-004 MOTION** (M. Curtis/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of email vote completed June 8, 2022.

*Motions for Doing Mission Together Grants*

*2022-06-08-001 MOTION (B. James/W. Sheaves) 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 TSAUC Brighton Community Group for \$5, 000. CARRIED*

*2022-06-08-002 MOTION (B. James/W. Sheaves) 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 Provision of Daily Hot Lunches in Downtown Belleville (Bridge Street UC) for \$5, 000 CARRIED*

*2022-06-08-003 MOTION (B. James/W. Sheaves) 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 OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPENS DOORS - WOMEN'S RETREAT for \$2, 210. CARRIED*

*2022-06-08-001 MOTION (B. James/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the creation of an Investment in Leaders 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.*

*CARRIED*

**CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

- a) May 27, 2022 Michael Shewburg, Executive Director – Five Oaks re request to change use of the Mission Support funds received for Diversity Family Camp towards new programming that is evolving work for Five Oaks, that includes space for spiritual and cultural practice, including new training in decolonization and reconciliation – all of which is aligned with the work of living into right relations, anti-racism and social justice for all ages including children and youth. (for action)
- b) May 30, 2022 Janice Kroft, Maple Grove Future Directions Committee (for action)
- c) June 3, 2022 Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Chair of Nominations, UCC copied on letter to Deborah Elliott for reappointment to the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee. (for information – copy placed in ministry personnel file)
- d) June 3, 2022 Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Chair of Nomination, UCC copied on letter to Marybeth Wilson for reappointment to the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board. (for information)
- e) June 3, 2022 Elva Gaudreau, Carlow United Church re forwarding the invoice of Rev. Svinda Heinrichs as Pastoral Charge Supervisor (for action- response and Policy provided)
- f) June 5, 2022 Peter Darling, co-Chair Trustees and Geoff Brown, Chair of Finance, Trinity United Church, Peterborough re plan for dispersal of community of faith funds (for action)
- g) June 7, 2022 Rev. Lyle Horn, Emmanuel United Church re affirmative response to hosting the October Regional Council gathering (for information)
- h) June 7, 2022 Bruce Crouse, Bancroft United Church re complaint regarding Review process and other information clarity (responses sent)
- i) June 8, 2022 Rev. Phil Wilson re storage of financial records for closing churches which is required by CRA for 7 years (referred to Mission through Property and Finance to recommend a viable solution)
- j) June 10, 2022 Rev. David King re Chalmers Commission Report (for action)
- k) June 23, 2022 Tom Worden, Ebenezer United Church re future directions (for action)
- l) June 23, 2022 Canada Life Works re assessment of Rev. David Timpson's claim and have approved their LTD effective July 18, 2022. (for action).
- m) June 23, 2022 Linda Foy, Reviewer re J.4 Reviews of Carlow-Bancroft, and Coe Hill-St. Ola-The Ridge (for action)

**Business arising grouped according to confirmed Guiding Principles*****I. All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives***

**Facilitation Team report** – Plans for Tuesday evening (June 28<sup>th</sup>) and October 2022. Paul shared an announcement for the Tuesday evening gathering that would be sent out to the Regional Council this afternoon.

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

**Communications** – Karen Wilson highlighted registration for Tuesday's information session; Karen met and collaborated with her counterparts in Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka Regional Councils at Riverside United Church in Yarker; the directory has been sent out, an update will be coming in July. Karen also attended a meeting discussing the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) is a provincial law in Ontario that aims to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.

General Council 44 Update: Wanda updated that a meeting session took place last weekend; lots of proposals, meeting in July to make decisions. There is currently one nominee for Moderator at the moment: Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.

Rosemary will check to see if Don McLean status as General Commissioner remains after he switches Regional Councils in September.

**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** – To do: Policy regarding supply, Update LLWL Handbook, VAM policy.

Discussion: Rev. Alan Boyd and Bob Root (already received) intend sending in Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) forms shortly. Alan Boyd is in an appointment, does not need to submit a VAM form:

2022-04-01-010 Motion" ECORC..."approves the appointment of Rev. Alan Boyd, retired, to Mark Street Pastoral Charge (Peterborough) as Christian Education Minister, 10 hours/week July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

**ii) Pastoral Relations** – William Sheaves

a) Covenanting Support Team – Change in Pastoral Relations

**Simcoe Street United Church**

**2022-06-24-005 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. Karen Smart to Simcoe Street United Church, Oshawa 10 hours a week to offer pastoral care as discerned by the pastoral care team of Simcoe Street from July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024. **CARRIED**

**Crossroads United Church, Kingston**

**2022-06-24-006 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 re-appointment of Rev. Drew Strickland, retired supply to Crossroads United Church, Kingston part-time 20 hours/week from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. **CARRIED**

**Sabbatical**

**2022-06-24-007 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of Rev. Nancy Knox to provide ministry for Faith United Church, Courtice during the sabbatical of Rev. Larry Doyle from August 15, 2022 to November 13, 2022. **CARRIED**

**Pastoral Charge Supervisors**

**2022-06-24-008 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the appointments of the following Pastoral Charge Supervisors to Castleton-Grafton – Rev. Calvin Stone. **CARRIED**

**Pastoral Charge Supervisors NEEDED**

- Fenelon Falls

- Roblin-Enterprise
- Ebenezer/Maplegrove (Courtice/Bowmanville); (Bill has a name to ask.)
- Newcastle - to 90-day sabbatical leave; (Bill has a name to ask.)
- Cardiff/Paudash
- Coldsprings (Camborne)- starting 1 Jul 22.

Discussion: There is a concern for the lack of Pastoral Charge Supervisors. It has been suggested to create a team for supervision or potentially hiring someone to only carryout supervisions. There is currently an agenda item at General Council 44 concerning supervision. All three Pastoral Relations Ministers will be meeting with Rosemary to strategize.

#### **Supervised Ministry Education (SME) – Tweed/Queensborough/White Lake**

**2022-06-24-009 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team to approve a Supervised Ministry Education site (SME) for Tweed/Queensborough/White Lake Pastoral Charge, in order to offer a full-time appointment to a student for a two-year period which will be remunerated as per The United Church of Canada pay scale. This motion authorizes the Tweed/Queensborough/White Lake Pastoral Charge to post a vacancy on Church Hub for a full time (40 hours) SME student minister. **CARRIED**

#### **iii) Covenant Support Team Chair**

- a) Report from Liaison Forum –  
William (Bill) Sheaves highlighted some of the on-goings between Ebenezer and Maple Grove future directions process
- b) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum – no report at this time.
- c) Retirees Forum – no report at this time.

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

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

##### **a) Chalmers Commission**

**2022-06-24-010 MOTION** (D. McLean/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders received the Report prepared by Rev. David King and concurs with the following recommendations of the Commission that:

1. The Assembly of Elders recognized and commends the Chalmers congregation for its work with the Commission, its efforts at having continuous, uninterrupted worship, and its embrace of Restorative Practice as a way of re-establishing the opportunity for independent decision making, as per our denominational polity.
2. A one-year extension (August 1, 2022 to August 1, 2023) to the Commission's mandate and functional responsibilities be directed by the Assembly of Elders. The intent of this is to provide continuity of oversight as the congregation continues its commitment to Restorative Practice, designs, endorses, and subsequently proposes to the Region, a governance body structure, such that a slate of officeholders can be elected (a process facilitated by the

Commission), and generally attends to such matters that will further determine and define their identity and missional emphasis. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Paul provided some background information. Other recommendations contained within the report will be reflected upon for further conversations after additional information has been received.

b) **Ebenezer – Maple Grove**

- See future direction plans as **Appendix A**

**2022-06-24-011 MOTION** (L. Watson/W. Stride) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the future direction plans of both Ebenezer and Maple Grove, and commits to have the Covenant Support Team help them. **CARRIED**

c) **Coe Hill-St Ola-The Ridge Pastoral Charge and Bancroft/Carlow Pastoral Charge –**

Rosemary shared a PowerPoint presentation summarising the review process for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary will provide a copy of her presentation summarizing the review process to members on the Assembly of Elders. Rosemary shared a copy of the draft agenda for June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2022-06-24-012 MOTION** (B. James/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives the J.4 Reviews and recommendations prepared by Reviewer Linda Foy for information and agrees to schedule a special meeting on Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> with representation of the community of faith, prior to decisions being made. (L. Watson abstains) **CARRIED**

d) Maple Lake United Church – in process with Max

e) Trinity, Roslin and Thomasburg

The Regional Council still requires further details about the plans for the real property known as Trinity United Church Roslin.

f) A Spring Brook United Church – pending

g) Mount Pleasant United Church: - pending new Trustees

**2022-06-24-013 MOTION** (W. Sheaves/M. Curtis) 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 Rev. Phil Wilson, Rev. Wanda Stride, Ted Meyers and Brian James as Trustees to the Mount Pleasant Church property. **CARRIED**

Further, to arrange for the rent to be deposited in the ECORC accounts.

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 –**a) **Five Oaks**

**2022-06-24-014 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of Five Oaks to change the use of the Mission Support funds received for Diversity Family Camp towards new programming that is evolving work for Five Oaks, that includes space for spiritual and cultural practice, including new training in decolonization and reconciliation – all of which is aligned with the work of living into right relations, anti-racism and social justice for all ages including children and youth. **CARRIED**

b) **Trinity United Church Peterborough - Re Certificate of Trustees asking consent of Regional Council to sell Church property to Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network for \$1.5 million with a \$600k donation credit.**

**2022-06-24-015 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of Trinity United Church, Peterborough (Block B AKA Lots 14 & 15 N of Simcoe St and West of George of George St Plan 1 Peterborough and the municipal address of which is 360 Reid Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 7G6) to Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN) for the net purchase price of \$900,000 (1.5 million minus \$600k donation from Trinity United Church, Peterborough). The distribution plan of surplus assets will be as follows:

10%	Indigenous Ministries	\$90,000
10%	TUCC Sustainable Energy Fund	\$90,000
20%	ECORC COF Assistance Fund	\$180,000
20%	UCC Mission & Service	\$180,000
40%	the remainder of funds have already been included in the net purchase price	

There will be a 5-year covenant clause where the purchaser will agree not sell property to anyone without the United Church/ECORC approval. **CARRIED**

**Disposition Plan for Residual funds of \$620,000**

**2022-06-24-016 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Plan for Partial Disposition of Residual Funds. The distribution plan for Residual Funds will be as follows:

10%	Indigenous Ministries	\$60,000
10%	TUCC Sustainable Energy Fund	\$60,000
20%	ECORC COF Assistance Fund	\$125,000
20%	UCC Mission & Service	\$125,000
40%	Trinity Peterborough Outreach Fund	\$250,000

The Trinity United Church Congregation approved on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, that a 10-year (Annuity) fund called the Trinity United Church, Peterborough Outreach Fund. The fund will continue Trinity's long-lasting support of outreach by supporting the following groups: **Nourish**, a program of the YMCA of Peterborough and Haliburton, **Youth Emergency Shelter**, **School for Young Moms**, a program of the Peterborough Child and Family Centers and **The Friends of Honduran Children**. This support will be disbursed as follows: Nourish 40%, Youth Emergency Shelter 40%, School for Moms 10% and Friends of Honduran Children 10%. This fund will be funded according to ECORC

guidelines by 40% of the residual funds of Trinity United Church on disbandment. The fund will be administered by the Toronto United Church Council. **CARRIED**

Discussion: It was highlighted by a member that the percentage to Indigenous ministries be made higher. When the policy is reviewed this will be taken into consideration. It was the hope that congregants move to other active congregations due to the closing of the church. Ted provided some of the details of other recipients of funding (disbursement falls outside of policy requiring approval from Assembly of Elders - was not residual from sale of property).

c) **Sydenham Street United Church**

**2022-06-24-017 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Sydenham Street United Church project to Upgrade Existing Kitchens at a cost of \$54,000. Funding for this project has come from the Canadian Communities Revitalization Fund (\$34,000) and the Kingston Kinsmen (\$20,000). **CARRIED**

Discussion: Ted highlighted the Canadian Communities Revitalization Fund, encouraged folks to apply.

d) **Trinity United Church Bowmanville**

- See Disbandment/Disposition Plan as **Appendix B**

**2022-06-24-018 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Disbandment/Disposition Plan including the disbursement of surplus to need funds. Details of full plan are attached in Appendices. **CARRIED**

e) **Melrose United Church**

**2022-06-24-019 MOTION** (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of the Melrose United Church at 613 Melrose Road, Tyendinaga, Ontario, K0K 3A0 (PT LT 13 CON 3 TYENDINAGA AS IN QR94379; TYENDINAGA; COUNTY OF HASTINGS) to Georgios Andreus Karidakis and Adriana Karidakis for the purchase price of \$450,613.

The previously approved Certificate A had indicated that the asking price would be in the \$600,000 range. The real estate agent is recommending to the trustees that the price of \$450,613 is more in line with what the market will bear at this time. The trustees have supported this decision. **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 representative, work is ongoing and there is a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There are currently two members from this team (Rev. Ned Wells and Patricia Long). There were two events held in June.

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 – Work is ongoing; see **Appendix C**.



d) Affirm Forum – Nothing to report at this time.

ii) **Doing Mission Together Priority Grants** – grants were passed; see **Appendix C**.

iii) **Clusters and Network News** – work is ongoing; 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 lead Sunday worship at Cambridge St church in Lindsay around truth and reconciliation on June 11. On June 4 I assisted Aruna Alexander in the anti-racism workshop

Our IJRR forum met on June 22 and did some planning for a retreat day in September at the home of Helmut Enns. I met New forum member Kaitlin Ostrander in Peterborough.

I have been part of the planning of Kathleen Whyte's women's retreat on September 17 and 18th. Are used to vent a curve lake that was going to be held the end of June has been rescheduled to September 24. Sharon Hull and I will do some planning for this over the summer.

Finally, I have been in conversation with Aruna Alexander about the June 4<sup>th</sup> 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**; highlighted 3 youth interns (GC 44 Commissioner interns); they will be attending meeting in July. In person event at Curve Lake in June will be moved to September. Vibe events are planned for August (Messy Church style, potluck lunch), Camp is in full swing.

**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 Elders representative; Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander provided background information leading to decision to have staff person responsible for closed captioning. Team is also looking at providing templates for PowerPoints during meetings. Brian highlighted that funds are available for Equity Team request.

Discussion: Brian reminded all representatives to remind Teams to get budget to Treasurer before end of August.

**2022-06-24-020 MOTION** (K. Ostrander/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the request of The Equity team to increase Karen Wilson's hours from 21 hours (60% fte) to 28 hrs (80% fte) to allow her to become the staff person responsible for captioning all the Regional videos being produced. **CARRIED**

**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**

**New Business** – Zoom farewell for Rev. David Timpson, afternoon preferable; David has moved to long-term disability as July 18<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that a program and master of ceremonies be used during this time. Rosemary will lead preparing/coordinating and welcomes input from all. Wanda and Karen have volunteered to help. The event will most likely take place in early July.

**Opening worship for September meeting** – Ian Robb

**Equity Monitor Report** – Rev. Wanda Stride noted the importance of reducing the use acronyms; be mindful when folks are on the phone, especially when it comes to voting.

### **Motion to adjourn**

**2022-06-24-021 MOTION** (D. McLean/I. Robb) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 12:07 PM. **CARRIED**

**Closing Prayer** – Rev. Lynn Watson closed the meeting in prayer.

**Next Meeting Dates**

- Thursday, June 30 9:00 to noon ZOOM - REVIEW
- 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	Ebenezer – Maple Grove future direction plans	Pages 11-12
Appendix B	Trinity United Church Bowmanville Disbandment/Disposition Plan	Pages 13-14
Appendix C	Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages	Pages 15-16

## Appendix A

**Ebenezer United Church  
Our Path To The Future**

After many years of sharing a two-point charge with Maple Grove United Church, the Ebenezer United Church congregation has overwhelmingly determined that it would like to become a one-point charge.

It may well be asked why? At a time like this with declining attendance and financial stresses affecting many churches, why would you choose to “go it alone.” There are a number of reasons but the most important seems to be that we believe our best opportunity to revitalize and grow our church is with a minister whose total time and efforts can be devoted to one church. Ebenezer has served this community for well over 150 years. We do not want to sit by watching it decline without being able to say we did our best and that is exactly what we plan to do.

Spiritual and Leadership Needs:

Our spiritual and leadership needs from one minister are well documented in our “profile” which was submitted to the Region. Obviously, among the other needs a minister committed to helping us grow will be very important in our ultimate success.

This document will then address two key questions related to this transition to a single point charge:

1. Financial – how can we afford this?
2. Transitional arrangements for the separation from Maple Grove

### 1. Financial

It may seem illogical to separate from Maple Grove at a time when both churches are experiencing financial challenges and a separation would result in increased total expenses. That is a very valid concern. However, it is a challenge that we want to take on because, as stated above, we believe this is our opportunity to save our church. Based on the 2021 Annual Reports, Maple Grove contributed about \$25,000 to the joint pastoral charge. Assuming no other increases in expenses and a similar transfer from reserves, Ebenezer will need to cover this amount. Over time and with sustained efforts we believe that we can do this and more. It is worth noting that in 2021 Ebenezer broke even on operations, despite having incurred large maintenance expenditures (approximately 16,000.00) on our roof and furnace. The best way that serves our future, will be increased attendance and the revenue that follows that. Ebenezer is located in a very high residential growth area and that provides us with an opportunity to attract new and younger congregants. This, coupled with a growth-oriented minister, should be a large contributor to increasing our revenues in the long term. However, we do realize that this will take time, and that we will need to supplement our revenue from other sources. These include actively pursuing more rental income from our facilities, an aggressive plan from various

church committees to expand our fund-raising efforts, and a general request to our congregation to “dig a little deeper.” Again these will take time to come to fruition.

So what will we do to cover any deficits in the early years? Fortunately we have two sources of reserves that are available to us. The first is accumulated surpluses which total about \$135,000. The second is our share of the joint pastoral charge endowment. This was created by the sale of our manse some years ago. That endowment totals approximately \$500,000. While it appears from our historical records that the funding of the original manse came from Ebenezer, we have agreed that this endowment should be shared with Maple Grove and that Ebenezer's share would be a minimum of 67%. Finally we have members in our congregation who have substantial resources and are committed to our church and its future. All this to say that we feel strongly that we have the financial capability to give us the time to implement our growth plans and return Ebenezer to a point where it is financially stable on an annual basis.

## 2. Transitional plan arrangements for shared ministry and for separation from Maple Grove.

The following plan has been discussed with Maple Grove and we understand that they are in general agreement with the terms.

1. The endowment will be divided on a 2/3 : 1/3 Ebenezer/Maple Grove split.
2. Ebenezer will hire a minister for the transitional period and will share that minister with Maple Grove on the basis of an 80%:20%. Ebenezer/Maple Grove split which will allow Maple Grove to have the minister conduct services in their church every fifth Sunday. Maple Grove will reimburse Ebenezer for 20% of all minister related costs.
3. Should this transitional support continue through Christmas, the minister will conduct all Christmas related services at Ebenezer, irrespective of the timing of the 20% allocation to Maple Grove.
4. For those services where the minister is absent, each church will be responsible for obtaining their own pulpit supply.
5. Ebenezer will have the right to select its preferred time for all services.
6. Should Maple Grove wish to use the church office, which is located at Ebenezer, they will reimburse Ebenezer on the basis of total office costs and the usage required.

The targeted date to begin this transitional arrangement is October 1, 2022, with the final separation to be completed on or before December 31, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration . Please contact as with any questions.

Ebenezer Future Directions Committee

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**Appendix B**

**Trinity United Church – Bowmanville, Ontario**  
**Disposition Plan - February 2022**  
**Prepared by Council Chair & Finance and Facilities**  
**(Input from Chattels group and Roll Clerk)**

**Background**

- In December, 2021 the congregation of the Trinity United Church (TUC) voted to disband effective June 30 2022
- The last worship in the TUC sanctuary will be June 12, 2022
- Request to disband as pastoral charge sent to ECORC December 2021
- Approval to disband received from Assembly of Elders January 2022

**Direction from Region**

Our chattels group and Trustees will work to leave a “functional but uncluttered building” as of July 1, 2022.

We will remove all liturgical, iconic and personal chattels and leave all non-liturgical, common chattels. e.g., remove the bibles, hymnals, prayer books etc. and any denominational accessories, quilts, banners etc. Leave the chairs, tables, flatware, dinnerware, cooking utensils, cleaning and maintenance equipment etc. that can be used by temporary users of the space. Leave things as we would want to find them coming in.

**Work Plan****1. Documents**

- Archived material (to be sent to National Archives) met with UCC archivist on Dec. 7, 2021
- Shredded material (delivered to a document shredding service)
- Recycled (blue bin any not required to be shredded)

**2. Chattels**

We have identified 6 outcomes:

- leave anything that is in good condition and is serviceable
- have a method for congregation members to request item(s) that is meaningful with a reciprocal donation to M & S, B.L.U.E. or TUC Operating Fund
- offer items to local UC congregations or agencies (particularly for liturgical items)
- Items of greater value (grand piano, glass antique cabinet) to be appraised
- Have a public “yard sale” for remaining items. Date: TBD
- Disposal bins on site for remaining articles

**3. Membership Care**

All members will receive a Certificate of Membership for transferring to a new community of faith.

Information collected and compiled on nearby congregations and distributed to members. Encourage exploring congregations for worship options.

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#### 4. Finances

- Congregants who use “PAR” will be instructed to stop their automatic offerings effective May 31, 2022.
- All other donations will cease as of June 5, 2022 allowing time for records to be updated and tax receipts for the 2022 tax year to be prepared and issued.
- TUC Council meets again on May 11, 2022 and the Chair of Finance will prepare a summary of our financial position, including cash flow and investments that will allow a decision on final disbursements (over and above our financial obligations and closing costs).
- Considerations include, but are not limited to: M.&S., local outreach ministries - B.L.U.E. and The Gathering, Durham Hospice, Bowmanville Memorial Hospital Foundation, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac and other local churches
- Loan payment to CIBC of \$30,000 made by April 20, 2022

#### Trustees – Post June 30<sup>th</sup>

Bob Denard and Jim Hilborn have offered renew as Trustees for the next, interim period. Provide mailing address for forwarded mail.

#### Outstanding Items:

- Discuss and review leases with the Montessori tenant and the tenant in the “manse” rental unit.
- Discuss and review the contract with Action Scrubbers (custodial service)
- Arrange for payment of monthly insurance premiums with Broker Link and ECORC
- Arrange for meter readings of natural gas, sewer and water and hydro.
- Arrange for timely cancellation of Bell landlines and ISP (or arrange transfer to ECORC)
- Respond to enquiries from potential other renters
- Collect outstanding keys from all renters and congregation members

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**Appendix C****June 24, 2022 Report for Assembly of Elders by Sharon Hull**  
**Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages****Formation, Nurture and Justice Team Report**

- see Rodney's report
- 2 great events at the beginning of June- see the newsletter for a write up about the event in Brighton.
- Meeting date set for Thursday afternoon (June 30th) - Ned and Pat as Assembly of Elder reps to this team.
  
- I attended an Indigenous Peoples Day event on Tuesday in Pickering, it was great to have the day off to be able to attend the event. A next step would be to have the RC office closed- no meetings on holidays to encourage everyone in the RC to also participate and learn.

**Social Justice Network Ontario RC**

- Ongoing- new reps to be named from the FNJ Team for the fall

**Doing Mission Together Grants**

- The 4 motions were sent by email- passed and an email sent with funding info- Sharon to update the website next week
- Sharon to follow up with Brian James and take recommendation to the June 30th meeting (FNJ Team) - to get the Investment in Leader fund up and running

**Clusters/Networks**

- Ongoing
- Cathedral of the Trees Algonquin park is running this year - flyer in this week's newsletter- with the ask to spread the word for people vacationing
- Wanda to talk with Sharon and Karen about a new Tech network - need to schedule

**UCW**

- Looking forward to Anniversary in July and weekend at Quin Mo Lac in September

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

- General Council 44 Youth Interns- 3 youth interns for our RC - Ellia- from Lindsay, Olivia from Bowmanville and Stephon from Oshawa, they start in July- so you will see them at the GC 44 meeting in July.
- Planning an event together with Rodney in person outside at Curve Lake (now looking into dates in September)
- VIBE - planning is still ongoing- 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, camp weeks are filling up - look at the website for more information <http://quin-mo-lac.org/>

**Equity Team**

- Attended part of the meeting in June due to scheduling conflict (meeting moved from May date). Waiting for meeting notes from Phil- to get caught up.

Part of an initial meeting of staff with Emo (covering GCO position previously done by Adele) to talk about Ontario's Accessibility Action Plan 2025 (AODA 2025) - also invited Karen Wilson to the meeting.

- focus on Communities of Faith compliance
- Looking to share resources to reduce the duplication of staff work - [https://arwrcucc.ca/a-to-z-resources/Accessibility Policy & Training Template](https://arwrcucc.ca/a-to-z-resources/Accessibility%20Policy%20&%20Training%20Template)

There will be follow up meetings in the fall with a wider audience.