

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Assembly of Elders
Friday, November 25, 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

Brian James	Member - Financial Administration
Margaret Curtis	Member
Pat Long	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, 44th 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. Darren Liepold	Member, Acting Executive Minister, Pastoral Relations Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary
Karen Wilson	Corresponding Member - Communications and Administration Assistant

REGRETS/ABSENT

Kathleen Whyte	Member
Rev. Lesley Hamilton	Member
Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley	Corresponding Member - Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice

Circle Time of Sharing – All were invited to share.

Opening Devotions and Recognize the Land – Rev. Darren Liepold recognized First Nations territories, giving thanks for its stewardship for thousands of years by First Nations Peoples, and reminded all to continue to strive towards right relations and reconciliation. Darren told a story about the gift of a congregational quilt he received as he was moving on from the congregation and how it reminded him of all of the members because each took part in creating the quilt. Darren explained how the Regional Council is very much like this quilt; when we recognize all of the pieces making up the quilt we see how interdependent we all are to do the work of the Regional Council. Darren closed this time prayer.

Appointment of an Equity Monitor for this Meeting

2022-11-25-001 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Wanda Stride as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

Agenda

2022-11-25-002 MOTION (L. Watson/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as distributed. **CARRIED**

Minutes of September 23, 2022

2022-11-25-003 MOTION (B. James/I. Robb) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of September 23, 2022 as circulated. **CARRIED**

Email polls completed on October 7, 2022, October 14, 2022, October 16, 2022 and October 28, 2022

2022-11-25-004 MOTION (W. Stride/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the email polls completed on October 7, 2022, October 14, 2022, October 16, 2022 and October 28, 2022:

Minutes of email poll completed October 7, 2022

2022-10-07-001 MOTION (I. Robb/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders directs, that due to the inadequacy of the manse, that Rev. Lesley Hamilton, having given notice of a request to end the pastoral relationship, is released from requirement to repay a prorated portion of the moving costs incurred at the beginning of the pastoral relationship. CARRIED

2022-10-07-002 MOTION (I. Robb/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders directs that having corrected the required T4 and addressing errors in the remuneration package to Rev. Lesley Hamilton, that:

a. The New Hope Pastoral Charge and Rural Faith Pastoral Charge is required to provide the full balance of the remuneration package that is arrears.

b. The New Hope Pastoral Charge and Rural Faith Pastoral Charge be responsible for the employer portion of the difference between that which has been remitted to CRA and The United Church Pension and Benefits, and that which should have been properly remitted as the employer if the remuneration package had been correct.

c. The Rev. Lesley Hamilton be responsible for the employee portion of the difference between that which has been remitted, and that which should have been remitted, to CRA and The United Church Pension and Benefits, and that which should have been remitted that would have been properly the responsibility of the employee as if the remuneration package had been correct.

d. That the New Hope Pastoral Charge be responsible for both employer and employee remittances to the CRA due to the remuneration error and correction that exceed that which would have been due if the remuneration had been proper.

e. That the New Hope Pastoral Charge be responsible for any financial penalties determined by the CRA.

f. That if an accounting or bookkeeping firm is required to make the above calculations the New Hope Pastoral Charge be responsible for the costs incurred.

CARRIED

2022-10-07-003 MOTION (I. Robb/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders directs, that if, because of corrected remuneration, Rev. Lesley Hamilton is required

to make a large correction of her proper remittances, that the Personal Minister, in conjunction with the Mission through Property and Finance Team, seek financial assistance from emergency grants or loans.
CARRIED

2022-10-07-004 MOTION (I. Robb/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders refers to the Mission through Property and Finance Team
a. the request of the Rural Faith Pastoral Charge to access Trust Funds to initiate a fulltime call
b. the concern of the condition and use of the New Hope manse. **CARRIED**

2022-10-07-005 MOTION (I. Robb/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders refers to the Covenant Support Team and Personal Minister,
a. the need for Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Liaison Officers for ongoing and future work on the New Hope Pastoral Charge and the Rural Faith Pastoral Charge
b. to review the proposed Governance Structure of New Hope Pastoral Charge and make appropriate recommendations
c. the request to make known the availability of Rev Lesley Hamilton for call or appointment.
CARRIED

2022-10-07-006 MOTION: (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request (Schedule A) of St Mark's United Church to sell the real property, the legal description of which is Part Lot 35, Concession 1, save and except Part 17 on Plan 40R-31383 (PIN 26494-00950), the municipal address of which is 1605 Dundas Street West, Whitby pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of St Mark's United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Owner, and the Town of Whitby, as Purchaser, dated the 5th day of October, 2022 and subject to Regional Council approval, the terms of which are as follows:

- The property is offered as a greenspace donation to the community, being surplus to St Mark's UC needs and of no commercial value due to its location.
- Each party will Pay for its own legal expenses associated with the transaction
- The proposed closing date would be 15 days following the wavier or satisfaction of the Purchaser's conditions relating to the physical and environmental condition of the Property, required Due Diligence Deliveries, and any title and off-title issues pertaining to charges, liens, and encumbrances.

There will be no disposition of proceeds arising from the transactions as no proceeds will be generated.
CARRIED

Minutes of email poll completed October 14, 2022

2022-10-14-001 MOTION: (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of Roslin United Church having already approved the Certificate A submitted by Roslin Trinity United Church to sell the property at 157 Roslin Rd with legal description of PT Lt 2 Con 1 Huntingdon as in HGD 616 RT 21R 3500 part 3, to Elizabeth Popvski for the amount of \$220,000.

Distribution of proceeds will be as approved on September 23, 2022.
CARRIED

Minutes of email poll completed October 16, 2022

2022-10-16-001 MOTION (N. Wells/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team to amend a Doing Mission Together grant to Walking Together, Sharing the Information, Advocating for Palestinian

Farmers for \$5,000.00 due to Covid and travel issues- to change the delivery method of the program to online and to create resources.

CARRIED

Minutes of email poll completed October 28, 2022

2022-10-28-001 MOTION: (T. Meyers /B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the request of St. Ola United Church, part of the Coe Hill, St. Ola, The Ridge Pastoral Charge, having received the direction of the Unified Board of the Pastoral Charge, to the sale of certain Real Property, the legal description of which is Township of Limerick, County of Hastings, being Part of Lot 10, Concession 1 and the municipal address of which is 787 St. Ola Road, Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0 pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of St. Ola United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as seller and 1142829 Ontario Limited as purchaser, dated the 25th day of October, 2022, the terms of which are as follows:

- sale price of \$169,000.00,*
- deposit of \$20,000.00, balance due date on completion of this transaction,*
- mortgage holder, no mortgage,*
- excepting the moveable contents of the church and the free standing bell,*
- scheduled closing date of December 08, 2022 no later than 6:00 pm.*

Distribution of funds as per the ECORC policy for a church disbanding.

- a. 10% to the United Church Indigenous Ministry*
- b. 10% to Toronto United Church's Sustainable Energy Fund*
- c. 20% to ECORC COF Assistance Fund*
- d. 20% to United Church of Canada Mission and Support Fund*
- e. 40% to be directed for the purposes within the United Church of Canada as recommended by the COF and approved by the ECORC. Unknown at this time pending a St. Ola Congregational Meeting.*

CARRIED

CARRIED

Minutes of email poll completed November 21, 2022

022-11-25-005 MOTION (L. Watson/T. Meyer) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive the minutes of the email polls of November 21 and 23 as distributed:

Motion (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the sale of to the sale Roblin United Church 3271 County Road 41, Greater Napanee, Ontario to Paul and Lisa Castonguay for the net purchase price of \$199,900. The distribution plan will be as follows:

Sale of Property – Not Disbanding” (Nov 2021)

- 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry.*
- 10% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. - ECORC COF Assistance Fund*
- 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.*

*Also see amending motion 022-11-25-015 MOTION here below which 022-11-25-005 MOTION

Minutes of email poll completed November 23, 2022

Moved by T. Meyers/ B.James that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the Agreement of Purchase and sale of The Roslin United Church Property at the real Property address of 157 Roslin Road Roslin Ontario, K0K 2Y0 in the Municipality of Centre Hastings and legally described as PT LT 20 Con 1 Huntingdon as in HGD616 RP 21R3500 Part 3. for a selling price of \$215,000 to Elizabeth Popovski. and the distribution of proceeds after expenses of 30% to the United Church of Canada and 70% to the Roslin-Thomasburg United Church.

CARRIED**Correspondence**

- a) Sept 20 email New Hope United Church Congregational Model (*refer to CST*)
- b) Oct 7 email New Hope United Church Congregational Model of Governance (revised October 6, 2022) (*refer to CST*)
- c) October 21 e-mail the very Rev. Richard Bott, thank you to Andrew McPherson (*placed in personal file*)
- d) October 23: e-mail Rick and \Judy Dolan Draft revision to Joint Profile *Ebenezer* (*refer to CST*)
- e) Nov 9: email from Jean Wilson and Calvin Stone with attached letter from maple Grove United Church with recommendation for financial split of assets (*for action*)
- f) Nov 21: e-mail Rosemary Lambie, five documents reflecting ongoing discussion with Camp Quin Ma Lac and work to complete By-laws. (*for information*)

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

Facilitation Team report – debriefing from Oct 29th hybrid meeting and future plans. Ned Wells provided some details regarding feedback received from the survey. Overall the feedback was very positive, there were a couple suggestions for improvement (in regards to tech, additional volunteers to help in planning).

Paul highlighted that the Facilitation Team is not yet recognized as a Team with terms of references, and which membership is filled through nominations. It was suggested that the terms of reference could include various details such as when and why we gather, continued hybrid style of meetings.

It was noted that an in-person gathering is being planned for the beginning of May 202.

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**

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

ii) **Covenanting Support Team** – William Sheaves

a. change in Pastoral Relations:

Lakefield Pastoral Charge

022-11-25-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Bryon Ransum, retired supply, to Lakefield Community of Faith part-time 15 hours/week from November 1st 2022 to Dec 31st 2022. **CARRIED**

Cold Springs Pastoral Charge

022-11-25-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Nancy Lester, retired supply, to Cold Springs Community of Faith part-time 20 hours/week from October 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023. **CARRIED**

Picton Pastoral Charge

022-11-25-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Brian Nicholson, Designated Lay Minister retired supply, to Picton Community of Faith part-time 20 hours/week from October 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023. **CARRIED**

Columbus Community Pastoral Charge

022-11-25-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the appointment of Rev. Richard Parker, retired supply, to Columbus Community of Faith part-time 10 hours/week from Sept 1st 2022 to June 30th 2023. **CARRIED**

Greenwood -Mt. Zion

2022-11-25-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, having received confirmation of eligibility through Church Hub, approves the call of Rev. Karen Smart, OM, to Greenwood – Mt. Zion part-time 20 hours/week effective March 1st 2023 to June 30, 2023. **CARRIED**

b. Alignment of Pastoral Charges:

Ebenezer – Maple Grove

2022-11-25-011 MOTION (S. Sheaves/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accepts the recommendation of the Covenant Support Team and directs the financial assets of the Ebenezer Maple Grove Pastoral Charge be split 60% to Ebenezer and 40% to Maple Grove and approves the separation to form two Pastoral Charges, Ebenezer Pastoral Charge and Maple Grove Pastoral Charge effective December 31st 2022. **CARRIED**

Bancroft/Carlow Pastoral Charge

2022-11-25-012 MOTION (W. Sheaves/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the separation of Carlow from the Bancroft-Carlow Pastoral Charge to form two Pastoral Charges, Bancroft Pastoral Charge and Carlow Pastoral Charge effective December 31st 2022. **CARRIED** (L. Watson abstains)

Discussion: Darren Liepold will follow up with Susan Jackson, Statistics Coordinator, to inform her of the changes.

c. Pastoral Charge Supervisors

2022-11-25-013 MOTION (W. Sheaves/W. Stride) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders confirms the appointments of Pastoral Charge Supervisors:
Rev. Svinda Heinrichs to the Bancroft Pastoral Charge
Rev. Max Ward to the Hope Norland Pastoral Charge
Rev. Lesley Hamilton to the Havelock-Trent River Pastoral Charge
Rev. Mary Jane Hobden to the Maple Grove Pastoral Charge

CARRIED

iii) Additional reports from the Team

Supporting the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place

ON-GOING concerns:

- a. Chalmers Commission: continuing to work with Rev. David King to August 1, 2023
- b. **Coe Hill-St Ola-The Ridge Pastoral Charge:** updates following Review – L. Watson shared some details, and informed that recommendations are being worked on. A letter will be coming to Assembly of Elders re a few of the recommendations.
- c. Spring Brook United Church – pending

VAM List 2022-23

2022-11-25-014 MOTION (W. Stride/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information the following update to the list of names of Voluntary Associate Ministers (retired ministry personnel not appointed, or engaged in ministry not recognized as 'community of faith') for July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023:

Mary-Margaret Boone	Bethany Pontpool Pastoral Charge	On the Registry
Susan Genge	Westminster United Church (Whitby)	On the Registry
Darren Liepold	Grace United Church (Peterborough)	On the Registry
Kathryn Toivanen	Rural Faith United Church	On the Registry

CARRIED

V. The number of church buildings in our Regional Council that are accessible is increasing. There is faithful stewardship of property and finances

022-11-25-015 MOTION (B. James/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the amended the amount of sale price of Roblin United Church to \$204,000 with a closing date of February 15 202 and add the following additional information in regards to the distribution of the net proceeds:

Distribution of net proceeds from sale according to ECORC policy Regarding Proceeds from the sale of Property: Distribution of funds as per the ECORC policy for a church not disbanding.

- a. 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of 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 Service for ongoing support of the ministry of the wider church.
- d. 10% to Kingston General Hospital.
- e. 10% to Lennox & Addington County General Hospital.
- f. 10% to Moscow United Church.
- g. 10% to Morning Star Mission (food serving program in Napanee)
- h. 10% to Camp Quin Mo Lac.
- i. 10% to Napanee Food Bank (Salvation Army)
- j. 5% to Newburg/Centerville United Church
- k. 5% to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre

CARRIED**Mission Support Grants**

2022-11-25-016 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request by New Hope United Church to use investment funds up to \$44,500 for capital improvements to the New Hope manse. **CARRIED**

2022-11-25-017 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of Newcastle United Church to withdraw \$49,000 from the earnings of the manse fund investment to cover operating expenses. **CARRIED**

2022-11-25-018 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request of St Paul's United Church in Warkworth to access \$40,000 of restricted funds from a previous sale of the manse to cover the costs of the repayment of the CERT loan. **CARRIED**

2022-11-25-019 MOTION (T. Meyers / B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve a grant of up to \$2000 to Bloomfield Pastoral Charge for extra ministry expenses (i.e., pulpit supply, pastoral care, supervision) during the passionate leave granted to Rev Cathy Duggan; and further that Personal Minister Darren Liepold to receive and approve grant requests. **CARRIED**

2022-11-25-020 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council direct the Covenant Support Team and the Mission through Property Team create a joint response to listen, learn and support the community of faith at Bethany United Church as per the request of the Community of Faith for an unbiased opinion and assessment of their financial situation and future of the pastoral charge. **CARRIED**

2022-11-25-021 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders endorses the establishment of an Annual Report Review task group, accountable to the Mission through Property Team, to review and assess the viability of the financial status of Communities of Faith's. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Mary-Margaret Boone and Darren Liepold have already offered to work in conjunction team.

2022-11-25-022 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the development project at Trinity United Church Uxbridge with Kindred

Works to replace the Church, lost in the Tornado of May 2022, along with an Affordable Housing facility. **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**

- Minutes of Faith Nurture and Justice Meeting of November 10, 2022, see **Appendix B**

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a) **Team Progress report** – Assembly of Elders representative

2022-11-25-023 MOTION (P. Long/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the recommendation of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team for the 2023 Doing Mission Together grant to St. Matthew's Table and Food Pantry (St. Matthew's United Church, Belleville, ON) for \$5,000.00. **CARRIED**

- Letter to Members of Parliament regarding the use of notwithstanding clause, see **Appendix C**; Ned shared the letter orally. It was suggested not to use acronyms in the letter.

2022-11-25-024 MOTION (N. Wells/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders endorses the letter prepared by the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team to Ontario members of parliament in regards to the negative use of the notwithstanding clause and invite their names to be included in the letter as support (Members of the Assembly of Elders of the East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada on behalf of its 150 congregations). **CARRIED**

b) **Report from Supporting Staff Member** - Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationship and Justice for all Ages highlighted items in minutes from meeting on November 10th (appendix B); Sharon also submitted her own report, see **Appendix D**.

c) **Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils** – see **Appendix D**.

d) **Affirm Forum** –

ii) **Doing Mission Together Priority Grants** – see **Appendix D**.

iii) **Clusters and Network News** – see **Appendix D**.

iv) **Long Term Care Network** – Ned Wells provided feedback about the first meeting of this new network (held on November 16th). Sharon highlighted that this had been a network that was happening nationally; the intention is to connect folks in our Regional Council with folks nationally.

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 Merkley provided a written report:

1) Frontrunners film and talking circle, lending library, and teaching from Chief Lori Carr from Hiawatha were all part of regional meeting. Resources continue to be shared through newsletter.

2) I am participating in an Ontario/Quebec Indigenous minister's event and Five Oaks and offering leadership in a discernment event for Indigenous ministries this Thurs.-Sat.

3) I worked with Sharon Hull on hosting an event for youth and their leaders at Curve Lake on Nov. 5th.

4) I facilitated a zoom meeting with Wanda Stride and Susan and Harvey Gabriel around the Mohawk words "All my Relations" on the UC crest.

5) I completed staff evaluation process, participated in FNJ meeting, meeting around new executive minister, etc.

6) IJRR forum will meet in next week or two.

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 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 Elders representative, Karen Wilson provided some feedback from a meeting held last week:

The Equity Team met on November 17th and discussed any equity related feedback and how we may address it. One of the tasks Karen Wilson has agreed to do is to create a living document on “How to Navigate Zoom” from multiple devices. This will be made available on the website as well as available to be sent out with online meeting information/documents. The goal is to have this completed in time for the next Equity meeting in January.

- Equity “Terms of Reference” will be reviewed in January with the goal to have it completed in March, 2023.
- The new editing software, Filmora, has been purchased and Karen has been learning to navigate the new platform.
- Phil Wilson will be recording a video on how to turn on the captioning in Zoom and using the transcription option
- The revised Power Point template is ongoing as we have realized there is more involved in regards to accessibility. However, our example used at

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 – no news at this time. Paul highlighted that it is time to consider vacancies on Assembly of Elders.

Discussion: It was reiterated that the Governance Handbook needs to be updated and a process still needs to be created for this to happen (i.e., task group to look at the Governance Handbook as a whole, consult with Teams re terms of reference, etc.).

Lynn Watson, Wanda Stride, Ryan McNally, Kailyn Ostrander, Paul has agreed to help facilitate in this process, and how to review the

2022-11-25-025 MOTION (W. Stride/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders create a Review Committee, to review the governance document and the Regional Council structure, to include but not limited to, Lynn Watson, Wanda Stride, Ryan McNally, Kailyn Ostrander and Paul Reed. **CARRIED**

It was suggested that the Regional Council lead General Council Commissioner engage the General Council in regards to how well The United Church is living into the new structure.

New Business –

Property Team

2022-11-25-026 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the request from Northminster United Church, Oshawa for access to their protected/restricted funds (\$168,810). **CARRIED**

Payers and support were offered to Rev. Nancy Wilson who is leading the funeral for the family that was lost in an accident, who were part of the Keene Community of Faith.

Meeting day for Assembly of Elders: Has there ever been a discussion of day/time of this meeting as it relates to the Minister's days off? In response to this inquiry about changing Assembly of Elder meeting dates, it was suggested that new dates can be considered at the creation of new assembly of Elders in spring. For this group, the majority expressed they were ok with meeting on Fridays.

Paul will be taking active steps to introduce the new Executive Minister to the Regional Council. Paul highlighted that it is expected that the role of the Speaker may change (i.e., prepare agenda).

It was suggested that the Regional Council consider a role of President juxtaposed to Lead Commissioner.

Opening worship for November meeting – Kaitlyn Ostrander

Equity Monitor Report – Wanda Stride reminded folks to use the raise hand button when wanting to speak in the meeting, to mute themselves to reduce background noise.

Motion to adjourn

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM

Closing Prayer – Darren Liepold closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting Dates -Friday, January 27, 2023 9:00 to noon ZOOM

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Darren Liepold,
Acting Executive Minister

Appendices

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Appendix A**Assembly of Elders Meeting: Friday, November 25th at 9am**
Communications Summary Report – Karen Wilson**Meetings Attended in October/November:**

- **October:**
 - Tech support for three pre-meetings in October
 - Fall Business Meeting in October
 - Facilitation Team Meeting
- **November**
 - Equity Meeting
 - Facilitation Team Wrap Up Meeting
 - Long Term Care Network Meeting (Call for Interest)
 - Performance Review with Rosemary Lambie
 - Communications Team Meeting
 - Assembly of Elders Meeting

Communications:

- The new editing software has been purchased and I have been working on some videos – currently working on Rosemary's Celebration at our Fall Meeting to be shared.
- I am planning to be in touch with the Chairs of Teams, Forums and Networks to set up meetings to update their webpages as needed.
- I spoke with Darren Liepold about a monthly addition to our newsletter that will be under Pastoral Relations which will refer to calls, appointments, retirements – basically a list of changes in pastoral relations. I feel this is something that we can start in the new year.
- In December, I am going to send out a survey asking for input on the newsletter ie:
 - *Is there more information they would like to see?*
 - *Do they feel the news is reaching their Communities of Faith?*
- Re: Newsletter Analytics between October 26th-November 24th
 - *Current subscribers 680*
 - *Open rate is 35.1% which is up 30%*
 - *Engagement is about 57%*
- Private Facebook group currently has 311 members which is an increase
- I am happy to see that the "Submit your own Event" is starting to be used – this allows others to upload their own events and information to the website where it is saved in 'Draft' pending my review.

Appendix B

Minutes of Faith Nurture and Justice Meeting of November 10th, 2022

Attendance: *Aruna Alexander (Interim Chair); Isaac Mundy (Recording Secretary); Sharon Hull, Marilyn Rodgers, Rodney Merkley-Smith; Helmut Enns, Patricia Long; Sharon Woodrow; Peggy Fillier; Wendy Bulloch; Adele Boy; Carol Peterson*

Opening Prayer (Aruna)

Land Acknowledgement (Aruna)

Volunteer Equity Support person (Marilyn Rodger)

Minutes from September: (Moved/Seconded) Approval of minutes. Adele/Peggy CARRIED

Reports have been shared- brief verbal updates and questions:

- Forums:
 - Affirming Forum- Sharon W. (Report circulated by email- see below)
 - Anti-Racism Interfaith Intercultural Forum (Aruna, Sharon, and Wendy)
 - At last meeting speaker's fee of \$500 was approved for Dr. Brian Carwana to lead world religion sessions (covering costs of extra fees)
 - Met with Darren Liepold
 - October FNJ meeting was successful in sharing the work of the committee
 - An interfaith/intercultural music group is being formed and will potentially lead worship at the ECORC meeting in May
 - 49 Registrations for world religions courses. Has been successful
 - Dorcas Gordon session on anti-racist interpretation of scripture went well
 - Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum (Rodney)
 - Written report submitted by Helmut Enns (see below)
 - Sharon H. and Rodney co-hosted event in Curve Lake for Youth
 - Meeting later today with group from Akwesasne for further dialogue
 - This is Treaties Week
 - First Third's Ministry Forum (Children, Youth, Young adults- and their leaders)
 - Report submitted by Sharon Hull (see below)
 - Some events open to all ages
 - Event in Lindsay went well
 - Some events having lesser uptake
- Networks- updates-
 - Palestinian Justice (Adele)
 - Palestinian Art session was well attended with individuals across the country and around the world
 - Next session will be a speaker running Community Refugee Centre
 - Thanking team for the passing of motion to reallocate funds for further education sessions

-
- Requesting speakers' fee: Motion (moved/seconded) Request of speaker's fee for \$450 to the Palestine Network for the Art as Resistance in Palestine session from the FNJ budget for 2022 co-hosted with Shining Waters Region (Adele/Peggy) CARRIED
 - Aruna will send this motion to Brian
 - There is a request for a new network. More information to come
 - Creation Care Network
 - Candle Lighting taking place this week
 - Long Term Care network planning new events
 - Clusters
 - Quin Mo Lac- fundraising and improvements, bylaws
 - UCW and Fair Trade- Marilyn
 - Meeting took place in October
 - In 2023 there will be a new project for the coming five years related to the Healing Fund and Indigenous women and children. Aiming to raise over \$100,000
 - Pat Long and Betty Turcotte and Cheryl Mound were guest speakers at latest meeting and spoke about the summer national meeting
 - Fair Trade: Excepting orders and Marilyn will be at various church events around the Region soon and available further in the future
 - Placemats and pens and pen holders available from Canadian Food Grains
 - Masks and red dress pins are continuing to sell well. All proceeds will be distributed by mid-December
 - Friends of the north project with bedding donation were shipped to thrift stores in northern Indigenous communities in Ontario
 - New business:
 - Doing Mission Together grants
 - 1 submission for Saint Matthew's Food Ministry to ramp up their program \$5000. Their proposal and budget have been circulated to the committee. MOTION: (Moved/Seconded) That the FNJ Team recommends to the Assembly of Elders \$5000 of Doing Mission Together grants be awarded to Saint Matthew's Table and Food Pantry in Belleville (Marilyn/Patricia) Carried
 - SJNORC – Meeting online- need 2 reps- 1 clergy, 1 lay person (Sharon reporting)
 - Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils
 - Sharon continues to represent our Region although some of our members have retired
 - The next meeting is online on November 24th at 2 PM
 - Adele has volunteered to be a lay representative
 - Sharon will provide more info to interested parties
 - Correspondence
 - Letter of November 3 sent from United Church member in our Region to Murray Pruden asking the United Church to speak against the recent use of the notwithstanding clause in Ontario. Response from General Council on November 4 expressing agreement of concern but forwarded on to our jurisdiction because of the regional nature of the request (Sharon to circulate correspondence). MOTION (moved/seconded) For Adele Boy draft a letter for approval of the Assembly of Elders and SJNORC to be sent on to the government requesting that the

notwithstanding clause not be used in labour negotiations. This letter will be circulated to the committee in the coming week for approval (Sharon/Wendy) CARRIED

- Volunteer to chair or co-chair team
 - Sharon to send out job description of chair position
 - Wendy to chair the next meeting as interim chair
- Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 12th, 2 PM

Reports- (Circulated by email before the meeting)

ECORC Affirming Forum Report to the FFNJ Team Nov. 10, 2022

- The AF Networking workshop held via Zoom on Oct. 15th was well attended and productive. Approximately half of attendees were C of F currently perusing what it means to be an Affirming place of worship. Together with those already declared Affirming, it was a very helpful time to share experiences. We were particularly thankful for the technical support of both Karen Wilson and especially Sharon Hull.

- We have ordered 100 Progress Pride flags which will show the ECORC and Affirming Logo. These will be gifts from ECORC AF to all Affirming C of F in the Region.

- Our Prayers are with Trinity UC in Uxbridge today as they hold a vigil at 7 pm for the loss of their church building. The building was destroyed in the May tornado that did major damage to that town.

- We plan to work with Karen Wilson to ask for a separate Affirming page on the ECORC Website. This page would be used to update our Action Plan, share resources and list events.

- On Sunday March 27th, 2023, we have been asked to make a 30 minute presentation, via Zoom, to the Fellowship Breakfast Meeting hosted by Edith Rankin Memorial.

- We continue to offer support to all Regional teams and forums in our effort to be P.I.E. Public, Intentional and Explicit.

Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum Report

ECORC meeting October 29th

FRONTRUNNERS, a 40 minute video of a play was shown Friday night at Mark Street. Rodney, Shelley Knott-Fife and Mary-Ann McFarlane facilitated a discussion after the showing. https://www.nfb.ca/film/niigaanibatowaad_frontrunners/

Rodney has purchased the licence to allow anyone in ECORC to show the video. The ECORC Indigenous Justice and Right Relations committee would be happy to assist in any way possible, with the showing of the film and hosting of the Blanket Exercise mentioned below.

Welcome: Laurie Carr Chief at Hiawatha First Nation welcomed us and provided a teaching.

Rodney explained the bursary at Fleming College in recognition of Dixie Shilling. The bursary is awarded to a full-time student in the Early Childhood Education program who self-identifies as Indigenous and demonstrates

financial need. <https://flemingcollege.ca/financial-aid/scholarships-and-bursaries/dixie-shilling-memorial-student-bursary>

Book Display: Mary Anne provided a display of some of the ECORC Indigenous library. The display was to inform attendees of the library and also people were allowed to sign out books.

Blanket Exercise

Mary Anne is a facilitator. Pam Hart is also trained, so the two could partner as Indigenous/settler leaders.

Kingfisher Bay Retreat

The following was sent to ECORC Elders by participants of the retreat:

TO: The United Church of Canada September 17, 2022.

At the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) of The United Church of Canada (UCC) Kingfisher Bay Retreat, participants affirm the challenges made by the Government of Canada to partner with Indigenous Peoples in the spirit of Reconciliation by issuing the following petition for action.

1. Walking together and listening in humility and with respect, acknowledging historical truth, Reconciliation challenges us to move forward together for the sake of all our relations, for future generations.
2. As members of The United Church of Canada, it is our commitment theologically, socially, economically, and ethically to educate ourselves about the truth (true history), to honour Indigenous Peoples as members of our family and follow Jesus's commandment to love one another as ourselves, be relevant to young people, to create a better society for us all -- so that each of us will be happy, healthy and whole.
3. To partner with Indigenous Peoples for the purposes of reconciliation, we propose that The United Church of Canada seek a partnership with Toronto Metropolitan University by developing an endowment project called the Saagajiwe Endowment Fund that establishes storytelling education projects in any media for young people.

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

- Attended an in person Sunday service, lunch and workshops in Bowmanville with some young adults that focused on Indigenous learning- Sept 25th
- Promoted an event in Oshawa on Sept 30th- open to everyone
- Big Drum on Oct 8th in Oshawa
- Oct 14th- inclusion event in Lindsay- organized by youth intern
- Great to have one of the youth interns at the fall meeting
- November 5th- in person event- joint with Rodney- at Curve lake, games, food and a teaching
- Building stage- focus on connecting people geographically to build local connections
- Leaders online gathering- 2 dates and times next week

Palestine Network Report November 10/22

- Plan B regarding Palestinian farmers Mona and Fayez Taneeb is continuing. Several groups to which Fayez was to speak in person have booked virtual sessions with him. Fayez is working with a film maker to create a 15 minute film re Farming as Resistance.

We are thankful for the approval from the Assembly of Elders to transfer the Doing Mission Together grant funding from in person visit to Canada to Plan B .



A 3 part webinar entitled “Art as Resistance in Palestine “ is being delivered in conjunction with Shining Waters Palestine Network. Nov. 9 th is our first webinar featuring Yahya Natour, storyteller. At this time 45 people have registered.

I will bring a motion to the meeting today to use FNJ Funds to co-sponsor this learning series.

Adele

Appendix C

Dear (MPP's)

We, the members of the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team of the East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada, want to express our gratitude to you for your ongoing dedication in serving the needs of Ontarians. We understand that keeping children in school and allowing their parents to work at their jobs is vitally important. The additional hours you have put into resolving a labour dispute with CUPE's 55,000 workers have not gone unnoticed. Thank you.

Our mandate, as members of the F, N & J team, is to critically call attention to incidents of injustice within our Church and in the broader communities of Ontario, Canada and the world. So it is, with great dismay, that we observed our elected officials pass legislation that prevented CUPE workers from striking recently. We proudly watched union leaders from across the country publicly decry the inappropriate use of the "notwithstanding clause" and we are compelled to join them in supporting CUPE workers too. Rescinding that legislation was the right thing to do. Thank you.

It is our deepest desire and request that you honour the work of those who created Canada's Charter of Human Rights. Never should it be used to decrease the rights of Ontarians, especially those who are some of our province's lowest paid workers; in particular those who selflessly dedicate their lives in supporting our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

Your work is not over! Other Ontarians are in the midst of negotiating agreements too and we are watching, perhaps more avidly than ever before. May your work be fair and just, supporting an Ontario that is better than ever.

Sincerely,

(Names of members)
FN&J Team, ECORC, The United Church of Canada

Appendix D

Report of the Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages**Formation, Nurture and Justice Team Report**

- see Rodney's report and the draft FNJ Team meeting minutes
- no chair at the moment- taking turns chairing the meeting- Aruna chaired the November meeting- Wendy to chair the January meeting
- Good feedback and learning at the November 8th in person event- coffee/ tea snacks provided with people bringing their own lunches
- The 5 weeks online learning series-Encounter World Religions by Dr. Brian Carwana- connected with Stephen Fetter and used ChurchX- great platform- easy to use, handouts and recordings- all in one place-

Social Justice Network Ontario RC

- Meeting- Nov 24th- online- Sharon- staff rep, Adele Boy- lay rep- still looking for a clergy rep- will send draft minutes once they are available- next meeting to be held in January to vision for 2023

Doing Mission Together Grants

- 1 application for 2023- see motion in the agenda for today's meeting
- The Investment in Leadership fund is up and running- 3 applicants so far, plus 1 declined- not from our RC- put them in touch with staff from their RC

Networks:

- Affirming Ministries- network event on Oct 15th- connect and share resources- Next network gathering – Saturday January 14 2023- Open table discussion
- Care of Creation- connecting with National events
- Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI)- see latest podcast
- Long Term Care Crisis- trying to reconnect, info session for those interested in our RC- will work on connecting them with other national support
- Palestine- partnering with Shining Waters RC- 3 week learning series on zoom,
- Rural Connect- Darren and I hope to meet with Randy and Ryan in December
- Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)
- Retirees
- Tech Support- need to schedule the next meeting

Meetings/Events:

- Attended an in person Sunday service, lunch and workshops in Bowmanville with some young adults that focused on Indigenous learning
- Promoted an event in Oshawa on Sept 30th- open to everyone
- Organized pre-meeting for FNJ Team- Oct 5
- Big Drum on Oct 8th in Oshawa
- Oct 14th- inclusion event in Lindsay- organized by youth intern
- Tech support for Affirming Network gathering on Oct 15th
- Learned how to use churchx- support for the 5 week learning series
- Nov 5th- youth, young adult and leaders event together with Rodney in person at Curve Lake
- In person 1 day learning event in Cobourg
- National First Third Ministry leader meetings- to talk about possible upcoming events- how to move forward- gathering for staff in 2023, gathering for leaders in 2023, possible Rendezvous in 2024

-
- FNJ Team meeting
 - Affirming Forum meeting
 - Anti-racism Interfaith Intercultural Forum meetings and planning sessions
 - Facilitation Team planning meetings and debrief meeting
 - Check in with some of the networks
 - Staff review with Rosemary
 - Zoom webinar for children and youth leaders with 2 dates and times week of Nov 14th

Online Training:

- Understanding URLs
- Classic Danger Zone
- Phil Hendrie & Kevin Mitnick Pretexting - Credential Harvesting Attack
- Phishing: Don't Get Reeled In
- KnowBe4 Pretexting - "Tech Support" Social Engineering
- 2022 Social Engineering Red Flags
- When You Report, We Get Stronger – PAB
- Internet Security When You Work From Home

Upcoming meetings:

- Planning meeting for National staff gathering
- Meeting to be scheduled for VIBE - reimagining- possibly PA days or intergenerational Sunday services
- Visioning and planning with Darren- connecting with communities of faith (roadshow) waiting for a custom report from Dynamics (from Karen- as I don't have access)- that will pull many data fields together in one report.
- Setting a time to connect with Peter Bartlett (Clusters and Networks in EOORC) in December to collaborate
- Setting a time to connect with Randy and Ryan in December- possibly with Darren- to reconnect about Rural connect
- Check in with networks