
FALL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, October 29th

The East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Fall General Meeting on Saturday, October 29th. Registration began at 9 AM and the call to order at 10 AM.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry Personnel (48)**

Aruna Alexander, Elizabeth Boehm-Wilson, Mary-Margaret Boone, Nancy Clarke, Elizabeth Cunningham, Steven Davis, Jeff Doucette, Kim Falls, Bruce Fraser, Susan Genge, Caroline Giesbrecht, Marg Goodwin, Cathy Gradante, Donald Green, Kathleen Gregory, Svinda Heinrichs, Lyle Horn, Lionel Ketola, David King, Kim Lawrance, Nancy Lester, Andrew Macpherson, Joanna MacQuarrie, Barbara Mahood, Susan McAllister, Don McLean, David McMaster, Cheryl McMurray, Ryan McNally, Sylvia Anne Meredith, David Moore, Brian Nicholson, Kerri Perry, Paul Reed, Stephanie Richmond, Michelle Robinson, Christine Sloan, Karen Smart, N. Lynn Smith, Janet Stobie, Calvin Stone, Wanda Stride, Jennifer Uhryniw, Max Ward, Lynn Watson, Edward Wells, Barn Willard, Phil Wilson, Jean Wilson, Jamie York, John Young and Marilyn Zehr.

Lay (70)

Shirley Baster, Karen Bates, Donna Bignell, Linda Bishop, Adele Boy, Darlene Brown, Joanne Brown, Donna Budgen, Freda Burns, C. Stephen Coles, Kimberly Collins, Paul Cook, Paul Cornish, Krista Coughler, Dawn Cox, Garry Culverson, Carol Cunday, Margaret Curtis, Ian Deslauriers, Elaine Dornn, Sharon Eagleson, Phyllis Elvidge-Bell, Helmut Enns, Peggy Fillier, Joanne Gray, Paul Gray, Sharon Green, Anthony Griffith, Darlene Hallett, Donna Henderson, Tina Hiddink, Frank Hiebert, Susan Hogan, Carolyn Holmes, Brian James, Kerri Jebson, Carl Kimmett, Paul Kneebone, Colin Leonard, Patricia Long, Mary Lou Lummiss, Dianne McCracken, Peter Miller, Nicolette Mitchell, Rice Norman, Marie Northey, Carol O'Neil, Nancy Payne, Shirley Penny, Elizabeth Pereman, Susan Pleasance, Mark Pleasance-Sturman, Elaner Pound, John Purdon, Marilyn Rodger, Margaret Scott, William Sheaves, Debbie Sherwin, Thomas Smart, Arthur Smith, Jack Soule, Leigh Tamlin, Phyllis Tamlin, Patricia Teskey, Carrie Thompson, Linda Unrau, Samantha Varty, Sally Weir, Kathleen Whyte and Sheila-Mae Young

Candidates serving in an Appointment (4)

Doug Ferris, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Aaron Miechkota and Kaitlyn Ostrander.

Regional Council Staff (6)

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

Guests of the Regional Council (20)

Margaret Allin, Judy Amsbury, Laurie Carr (Chief), Sarah Charters, Penelope Culverson, Stephon Farrow, Debra Fortin Brown, Carol Handcock, Bruce Hutchinson, Wenda Lalande, Caroline Penhale, Lillian Roberts, Nora Sanders, Randy Scott, Michael Shewburg, Thomas Stobie, Shane Suepaul, Norma Thompson, Trevor White and Sharon Woodrow.

Regrets (4)

Elaine Hall, Kevin Moore, Don Willmer and Ted Meyers.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

In-Person Registration/Zoom Meeting Room Opens

Delegates invited to join meeting at 9 AM via Zoom and in person

Welcome

Rev. Paul Reed, Chair, welcomed all who were in attendance, in-person and online, and commented on the high energy levels that could be felt within the group. It had been a few years since the Regional Council gathered in-person during a general meeting due to Covid 19.

Land Acknowledgement and Welcoming to the Land

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley acknowledged the land, explaining that this general meeting took place on the treaty territory of the Michisaagiig and Chippewa. He also provided some examples for how the lands were traditionally lived on.

Rodney introduced Laurie Carr, Chief Councillor of the Hiawatha First Nations. Laurie's indigenous name is *Eagle Woman from the Hoof Clan, Michisaagiig of Hiawatha community of First Nations*. Chief Carr welcomed the Regional Council to treaty territory of the Michisaagiig, and Chippewa, highlighted that it was Treaties Recognition Week (November 6 – 12, 2022) and shared information about treaties in general, and the treaties that were particular to the territory of the Michisaagiig. Chief Carr's notes are available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2022-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting-oct29/>

Following Chief Carr's presentation, Rev. Paul Reed gave thanks to her for teachings and presented her with a gift. Rodney also extended thanks to Chief Carr and shared that a donation in her honour would be extended to the Dixie Shilling Memorial Student Bursary fund through Fleming College. Also in honour of Chief Carr, Rodney donated a book entitled "The Village of Hiawatha: A History" by Heather Shpuniarsky to the Regional Council lending library, located at Bridgenorth United Church.

Words of Constitution/Instructions

Paul called the meeting to order: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the Inaugural Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, I hereby declare this fall general meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it."

Paul explained some of the proceedings for the day, and highlighted that this meeting was hybrid, offering those attending remotely full participation by zoom.

Opening Worship

The opening worship was led by Rev. Dr. Kerrie Perry and Rev. Lynn Watson. The liturgy that was used is provided here below:

Gathering hymn #12 (MV) "Come Touch Our Hearts"

Opening prayer: led by Rev. Kerrie Perry

Lesson from the Hebrew scriptures: Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Reflection:

What if we're Abram and Sarai? – led by Rev. Lynn Watson

We sing #154 (MV) "Deep in Our Hearts"

Celebration of the feast:
(Thanks to Rev. Kerrie Perry for the following liturgy)

Invitation to the Table

In thanks and praise to God, whose love for us is mirrored in the lives of all who have ever struggled to live faithfully; as an expression of our love for God and all our sisters and brothers - young and old, rich and poor - and in remembrance of all the meals Jesus shared with saints and sinners, we invite all to feast in joy and harmony.

CGP 14A002

Communion Liturgy

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Throughout the pages of your Holy Story, from the time of Adam and Eve, through the Patriarchs and the Prophets, to the coming of the Christ and the formation of your church down through the years you have inspired ordinary men and women, rebels and rascals, harlots and royalty, to carry forward your chronicle of grace, love, redemption, and new life.

Through pillars of fire, grappling angels, heraldic choirs and invitations to fish, you have captured the imagination of those you call to leadership. You empowered them to speak the harsh word of judgment on your people, to challenge authority, to cajole and command humans to seek justice, to resist evil, to walk humbly with God.

Coals touch lips to encourage speech, burning bushes break people free of bondage, utter silence reveals your presence and validates small acts of great faith.

As you revealed your presence, stirred hearts and imaginations, challenged doubters, and equipped the reluctant, the self-abasing, the doubtful, exceptional leaders emerged to guide us. Through those who came close to God, we remember God's action in the world and the lessons of leadership they have for us:

Her voice speaks, trembling with fear when Mordecai reminds her that silence is cowardice. Confrontation and bluster are not Esther's ways. Wisdom, daring and grace adorn the banquet table she sets before Xerxes.

May we too know that we are chosen for a time such as this.

Flawed, deceitful and puffed up, Abram listened when God came close, was tested by and tested God, knew when God was there. His journey led him to the unknown, among the unknown and through it all he trusted in the promise of God.

May we find courage and blessing for the journey ahead. May we recognize when God is with us. May we have the courage to test what we know of God and be tested in return.

Companion and savior, Ruth shows dedication and persistence in her faithfulness and bold proclamation.
May we choose wisely who to follow, and may we have the wisdom then to follow.

A scarlet cord marked her defiance and protection. Rahab offered shelter under flaxen stalks in defiance of the king's edict.

May our leadership also bear signs of defiance.

Pharisee, tentmaker, keeper of the law, persecutor of the faithful, church planter, preacher, traveler to the ends of the earth. Saul, blinders lifted, discovers the courage to go a different way – to let go of what he thought he knew and was right.
May we be willing to let go of what we know to discover what can be. Grant us freedom to figure it out as we go.

Bluster and promise, faith and doubt, Peter recognized Christ even as he could not always understand him. As he struggles with submission and glorification, the waffler becomes the rock.
May we too recognize our own weaknesses and unfaithfulness as we try to follow more closely.

Moses went before and led the way. Spoke with God. Carried the complaints of the people.
May the burdens of those we carry not extinguish our radiance at being in the presence of God.

The life of John the Baptist continually pointed to the One who was to come.
May we show humility in our service and leadership.

God bearer, recipient of angel messages, challenger of God, witness to resurrection.
Like Mary, may we birth God into daily life.

In the midst of Israel's oppression under Rome, a new leader emerged. This One confused and confounded all who heard him, inspired and challenged Pharisee and commoner, with his message of servanthood and defiance of injustice.

Around a table, upon a hillside, in the temple, this One spoke truth to power, healed hearts and bodies and minds, and taught his way of justice and love.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thomas is the one forever remembered as one who doubted. The zealous, the tormented - with these he gathered to remember a tradition of old. And when the Passover remembrance was complete,

Jesus took bread and broke it. He said it was like his own body, an offering of self broken, that we might know the ways of peace. Each time you do this, remember me.

He also took a cup and, after blessing it, said it was like his blood, a pouring out of his very being in service. Whenever you drink of it, remember me.

**We remember Jesus' integrity unto death.
We remember the Easter hope of resurrection.
We remember the promise of realm of peace.**

CGP 8Oc012

Spirit Prayer

**Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three.
Praise now!
Praise tomorrow!
Praise forever!**

Distribution:*Songs sung while bread and cup are shared.**#18 MV "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"**#47 MV "Born in Human Likeness"**#62 MV "There is Room for All"****Prayer After Communion****God of Elijah, who whispers in numinous silence,**God of Mordecai who challenges us to be more than we believe of ourselves, God of John, cryptic and undefinable, God of Thomas who disturbs and astounds us with the reality of torn flesh and empty tombs, God of Moses, who leads us into the wilderness and illumines the way. Lead us into life! Nurture us into love! And impel us with your grace to share again and again the Good News: Christ is risen!**With inspiration and resources from Bruce Sanguin and Ian Price***Opening Motion**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister presented the opening motion:

2022-10-29-001_CONSENT MOTIONS (R. Lambie/P. Wilson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda as circulated be adopted;
2. That the minutes of the East Central Ontario Regional Council Annual General Meeting of April 29-30, 2022 be accepted as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the alternate Speaker for this meeting be Steve Coles;
4. That the Equity Monitor Support Team for this meeting consist of Deb Brown, Rev. Max Ward, Kaitlyn Ostrander, Kevin Fitzpatrick (in person) and Rev. Phil Wilson, Rev. Nancy Clarke, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham (online). ecorcequity11@gmail.com;
5. That the Scrutineers for this meeting be Rev. Phil Wilson, Karen Wilson, (online) and Rev. Ned Wells (in person);
6. That the Discernmentarian/Parliamentarians for this meeting be Steve Coles and Rev. Phil Wilson;
7. That the Chaplain for this meeting be Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht .
8. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – Holy Manners *The 2021 Manual, Appendix, 2:*

“We will

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

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

CARRIED

Equity Leadership Team Reporting

Rev. Phil Wilson, Chairperson, introduced members of the team and shared some of what has taken place throughout the year; this included the joining of new staff support person Karen Wilson joining the Team to replace Sharon Hull. Appreciation was extended to Sharon for her three and a half years of support. Phil also highlighted that closed captioning would soon be available for all videos posted on the Regional Council website, that a PowerPoint template was being created for use by presenters at general meetings, that terms of reference and practices would be updated, that the current logo for the team was created by Karen Wilson and Deb Fortin-Brown, and that any equity issues (for this meeting or for others) could be forward to ecorcequity11@gmail.com.

Assembly of Elders Report

Steve Coles was asked to preside over the court while Rev. Paul Reed presented the report from the Assembly of Elders. Paul explained that the Assembly of Elders is a representative of the Regional Council, which includes a diversity comprising young and old, lay and clergy and different geographical areas. After listing its members, Paul provided examples of some of the work that is done, from receiving reports, acting as conduits of information, discerning when and where needed, and making decisions as required. Following his presentation, Paul introduced the following motion

Request from Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

2022-10-29-002_MOTION (P. Reed/ K. Ostrander) That Candidate Alex Jebson having been authorized as having completed his Supervised Ministry Education and as being Ready for Ordination by the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, and at his request, the East Central Ontario Regional Council request that the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council ordain Alex Jebson on our behalf. **CARRIED**

Discussion: It was informed that Alex would be ordained at Brussels United Church on Saturday, November 19th at 4 PM.

Naming an Acting Executive Minister

Paul highlighted that Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister is retiring and that in her absence the Regional Council would be naming an acting Executive Minister. The search process for a new Executive Minister is carried out by the General Council. Paul highlighted that he and the Presidents of the other two Regional Councils Rosemary was serving, were part of the search committee.

2022-10-29-003_MOTION (P. Reed/B. James) that given the vacancy in staff support with the retirement of the Executive Minister, that the East Central Ontario Regional Council names the Pastoral Relations Minister, Rev. Darren Liepold as 'Acting Executive Minister' until the new Executive Minister is ready to begin their role. **CARRIED**

Discussion: It was highlighted that the Pastoral Relations Ministers in the other two Regional Councils will also be acting Executive Ministers, that Rosemary would continue to offer support as needed, that Executive Ministers in neighboring Regional Councils have offered support, and that a new Executive Minister would be chosen by January 1st 2023.

Following the motion Rev. Darren Liepold was formally introduced to the court. Paul returned to role of chairing the meeting.

Ministry Through Property

Brian James, Regional Council Treasure presented on behalf of Ted Meyers, Chair of the Mission Through Property Team. Brian referred to the report which was circulated prior to the meeting. After introducing the members of the team, Brian highlighted items in the report. Brian received questions as the end of his presentation.

- See report as **Appendix B** – <https://ecorcuccan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ECORC-Oct-2022-Mission-Through-Property-Report.pdf>.

United Church Foundation

Sarah Charters, President of The United Church of Canada Foundation, joined the meeting remotely, brought greetings from the board and staff, and shared a PowerPoint Presentation. Sarah highlighted the purpose of the foundation, that the foundation was celebrating its 20th anniversary, and that the foundation is modeling its vision based on The United Church of Canada's 2022-23 Strategic Plan, and the Call of the Church to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. Sarah provided examples of who the fund currently supports and highlighted that the fund currently owns \$88 M in assets.

Executive Minister Report

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, introduced the Regional Council staff and highlighted the roles fulfilled. Rosemary also provided an update on Rev. David Timpson's health, and asked all to continue to keep him in their prayers. Lastly Rosemary introduced new Office of Vocation staff who are replacing Karen Valley as she changes jobs within the Office of Vocation.

Office of Vocations

Rev. Lillian Roberts introduced herself and highlighted that her role's focus is the work related to the accountability of ministry personnel for the East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka. Rev. Caroline Penhale introduced herself and highlighted that her role's focus is to provide support to the Candidacy Board, facilitating the logistics for the meetings during the year, supporting the candidates, discerning with individuals feeling called to ministry, interacting with theological schools, training LSTs, and working with Regional Councils around SME sites. Both Lillian and Caroline are considered part-time staff.

Covenanting with new Pastoral Relations Minister (Rev. Darren Liepold)

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, led the covenanting service for Rev. Darren Liepold. Following the service, Rosemary and Joel Miller, Executive Assistant, led in the singing of hymn 'Sprit, Open My Heart' (More Voices 19). This hymn was chosen by Darren, being one of his favorites. All welcomed Darren with great enthusiasm.

Lunch Break

Rev. Janet Stobie was introduced by Rev. Paul Read, and it was highlighted that Rev. Stobie is a writer, with many books in circulation, one of them being the story of *A Place Called Home*, which is a homeless shelter providing residency in Lindsey. It was highlighted that all of the proceeds from this book (\$10,000) went to helping support the homeless shelter. Following the introduction, Rev. Stobie led the assembly in the Grace before lunch.

Call to Order after Lunch

The speaker called the meeting to order following the lunch break.

Presentation of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

Rev. Darren Liepold provided background information on the License Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) program existing within the Regional Council, including the process for granting licenses. It was highlighted that the Regional Council was no longer allowing exceptions to our policy as of June 30th, 2023. So, after June 30th LLWLs would be limited to preaching at one location to no more than 5 Sundays out of 8 to a maximum of 10 times a year

2022-09-23-022 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Hamilton) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders affirm its current Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Policy and that the renewal of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders licenses in 2023 will require full compliance. CARRIED

Following this, Darren presented the following motions:

2022-10-29-004_ MOTION (C. McMurray/C. Gradante) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the presented list of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders for 2023:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Karen Bates | Chris Ingersoll | Susan Pleasance |
| Robert Bennett | Mary Kay | Cathy Shaw |
| Gwen Bevan | Paul Kneebone | Susan Sheremeta |
| Adele Boy | Lynn Liddell | Debbie Sherwin |
| Helen Bowman | Dianne McCracken | Tom Stobie |
| John Bowman | Lisa Norman | Mark Sturman |
| Evelyn Chambers | Ruth Olley | Phyllis Tamlin |
| Carol Cunday | Carol O'Neil | Richard Weigand |
| Marilyn Fortin | Nancy Payne | Angela Wiseman |
| Darlene Hallett | Darlene Peddle | Kathleen Whyte |

CARRIED

Covenanting with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)

Immediately following the granting of licenses, the Regional Council held a covenanting service with the LLWLs. Following the service, the newly licensed LLWLs were greeted with the singing of hymn 'Halle, halle, halle' (Voices United 958)

Team Reports**Nominations**

Steve Coles presented this report on behalf Mary Jane Hobden, Chair of the Nominations Leadership Team. It was highlighted that the help of the entire Regional Council was needed, in seeking out volunteers and fill vacancies during the spring nomination cycle, which are to be approved at the spring general meeting.

Formation, Nurture and Justice (FNJ)

Rev. Ned Wells and Patricia Long are the Assembly of Elders representatives on this team, and they highlighted some of the work that the Formation, Nurture and Justice Leadership Team does. An information session was held on October 5th by the team, which also highlights much of this work and will be made available on the Regional Council website. Ned listed the following Forums that make up part of FNJ, and they are: Affirming; Anti-Racism, Interfaith, Intercultural; First Third's Ministry; and Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationships. Also making up FNJ are Networks, Clusters, Camps, the United Church Women (UCW) and Fair Trade. Patricia listed members of the team, and the staff support. Following this each of the groups making up the FNJ were given an opportunity to share their work in more detail and list their members.

Additional Ministries

The following ministries were introduced:

- Five Oaks (Michael Shewburg)
- Camp QML (Trevor White)
- Hay Bay (Phil Wilson)
- Bedford House Community Ministry (Allan Smith-Reeve)
- UCW (Margaret Curtis)

It was highlighted that each of these ministries receive Mission Support grants to help sustain their ministries.

Covenant Support Team (CST)

William (Bill) Sheaves, Chair of CST, highlighted the work of this Leadership Team and list the Forums that make of part of CST, which are: Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Retirees and Liaisons Forums. Bill introduced Rev. Darren Liepold, Pastoral Relations Minister and staff support to this Leadership Team, who shared a reflection about how Communities of Faith can incorporate anti-racism tactics during their search process processes. Following the presentations, Bill and Darren received questions from the floor; it was announced that there are about 45 congregations in the search process; there are 5 congregations that are considering closing, and many other churches discerning their future existence. It was emphasized that there is a need for people to volunteer as Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Liaisons.

All information on the various Leadership Teams, Forums and Networks can be found on the Regional Council website <https://ecorcuccan.ca/>

Stretch Break

A 10 mins stretch break was had by all.

2023 Budget

Brian James, Regional Council Treasurer, drew peoples' attention to the *ECORC Financial Statements up to August 31, 2022* and the *Proposed Budget for 2023* – see as **Appendices C¹** (Administration) and **C²** (Mission) – and highlighted items therein. Following his presentation, Brian presented the following motions.

2022-10-29-005_MOTION (B. James/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council receives for information the financial statements up to September 30, 2022. **CARRIED**

2022-10-29-006_MOTION (B. James/P. Wilson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approves the 2023 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

It was highlighted that information around available grants can be found on the Regional Council website <https://ecorcuccan.ca/>

Equity Monitor Report

Rev. Phil Wilson, Chair of the Equity Team, shared details that went into making the Equity Team logo, and then shared some observations that were brought to equity monitors about this general meeting. The Team would collect all of this information and bring a summary to the Assembly of Elders, and then pass along to the Facilitation Team who plans and prepares these general meetings.

Closing Motions

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister moved the following motions:

2022-10-29-007_MOTION (R. Lambie/P. Wilson) that following the rise of this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Assembly of Elders until the next Spring General Meeting on May 5-6, 2023 (location to be determined).

2022-10-29-008_MOTION (R. Lambie/P. Wilson) that the meeting be adjourned following the rise of the closing worship, and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded.

Celebrating the Ministry of Executive Minister Rosemary Lambie

Rev. Paul Reed, Speaker, expressed gratitude for the gifts that Rev. Rosemary Lambie brought into her leadership as Executive Minister of the Regional Council, and also expressed sadness to see Rosemary moving into retirement. Rev. Jean Wilson and Rev. Wanda Stride shared stories of their working with Rosemary and extended best wishes to her as she moves into retirement. Following this, Rev. Carol Hancock, longtime friend of Rosemary, made a surprise appearance and shared stories of friendship and collegiality with Rosemary throughout the years, and expressed best wishes to Rosemary as she experiences a new chapter in her life, one that can afford more time to be spend with friends and family (and 10 grandchildren!). Lastly, Nora Sanders, Past General Secretary and former colleague Rosemary, made a surprise appearance and shared stories and offered encouragement to Rosemary as she ventures into retirement. Nora Sanders also recently retired and shared many new wonderful additions to her life upon entering into this new phase of life.

Following this, members of the Regional Council shared gifts with Rosemary, as tokens of appreciation for all of the work that Rosemary accomplished in her tenure and through her leadership.

This time of recognizing Rosemary's ministry as Executive Minister ended with a formal release of the covenant between her as the Executive Minister and the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

Closing Worship and Commissioning

Rev. Dr. Kerri Perry and Rev. Lynn Watson led in the closing Prayer and Commissioning:

Closing worship:

#154 MV "Deep in Our Hearts"

Litany of service:

My people hunger for living signs of my love for them. Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people are weary, and long for encouragement as they labour at tasks with few stopping to thank them.

Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people yearn to have their giftedness called forth in the service of love. Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people live in an age which prizes individualism, and starves their need to contribute to something bigger than themselves. Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people thirst for leaders who reveal me as a God of hope who accompanies them in their struggle and pain.

Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people long for leaders who have tasted their brokenness, and have learned to serve with humility and joy.

Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

My people's eyes and hearts search for role models who honour my presence in the poor, the hungry, the

grieving, the peacemakers, and those wrongly persecuted for my sake. Whom shall I send?

Here am I, send me!

** Based on a prayer by Les Miller, YCDSB (EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.)*

Closing prayer:

Lord, as we discern the meaning of our call to servant leadership, help us recognize the ways you seek to minister through our lives. Inspired by the knowledge of your abiding presence, may we have the courage to reach out and support one another, to stand firm in what is true, to decrease when others should increase, and to lead with vision and compassion, as faithful followers of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.

Commission and blessing

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Rev. Paul Reed
Speaker

Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

Appendix A

East Central Ontario Regional Council Annual General Meeting of April 29-30, 2022

*distributed and on Regional Council website

Appendix B

Mission Through Property Report

*distributed and on Regional Council website

Appendix C¹

ECORC Financial Report to 2022 August 31 and Proposed Budget for 2023 (ADMINISTRATIVE)

*distributed and on the Regional Council website/copies available at in person meeting

Appendix C²

ECORC Financial Report to 2022 August 31 and Proposed Budget for 2023 (MISSION)

*distributed and on the Regional Council website/copies available at in person meeting

All documents located at:

[2022 ECORC Annual Fall Meeting - October 29th - East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada \(ecorcuccan.ca\)](https://www.eorccc.ca)