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**SPRING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

-Motions-

**Session one  
Friday, April 19, 2024**

**Behavior Covenant and Omnibus Motion**

**2024-04-19-20-001\_CONSENT MOTION** (E. Hebert-Daly/T. Meyers) 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 fall general meeting of October 28, 2023 be accepted as circulated - see **Appendix A**;
3. That the ECORC Report Book 2024 be received and accepted as circulated - see **Appendix B**;
4. That the Equity Monitor Support Team for this meeting consist of Deb Fortin Brown, Karen Wilson, (online) and Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander, Rev. Nancy Wilson and Rev. Elizabeth Cunningham (in person);
5. That the Scrutineers for this meeting be Karen Wilson, (online) and Rev. Darren Liepold (in person);
6. That the Discernmentarian/Parliamentarian for this meeting be Steve Coles;
7. That the Chaplains for this meeting Rev. Sharon Campbell Rayment (in-person) Ruth Wood (online)
8. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – *Holy Manners*; and the *Virtual Holy Manners*:

**Holy Manners**

One Voice: Called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place as we offer our varying gifts,

Many Voices: We commit to keeping God at the center of everything we do;

One Voice: We confess, that we have not always lived up our vision of community, we need the Spirit to reorient us, to live an emerging faith, challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement,

Many Voices: We commit to be truthful in our communications by: speaking for ourselves; and speaking purposefully;

One Voice: We are called as a diverse community of people celebrating our differences;

Many Voices: And so, we commit to honouring our intercultural vision through welcoming the conflict of ideas; making space for the full and equitable participation of all, enabling especially people who are quiet to speak; being mindful of our body language; listening carefully without interruption and separate people from problems;

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

Many Voices: As we live into our call to discipleship we will hold one another to account when we do not keep to our commitments; We will take a future orientation in our discussions and imagination; demonstrate appreciation; And honouring the decisions of the body;

One Voice: We are called to lead in hope with purpose and vision as members of a community held and inspired by God, partnering with God in the mending of the world

Many Voices: So, we commit to keeping the discussion at the table and to be faithful stewards of our time.

All: We affirm that we are Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, to offer leadership to The United Church of Canada as it seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. Amen

*In the 2023 Manual (see page 192), the expression Holy Manners is translated as rules of conduct based on respect and benevolence.*

### **Virtual Holy Manner**

- use the Chat feature of Zoom appropriately:
  - understanding that speaking in Public Chat is equivalent to speaking out loud in a meeting and is disruptive and rude and should be directed to the Chair of the meeting and used for Points of Order and/ or matters of personal privilege;
  - responding in Chat when invited to do so by the Chair;
  - using direct messaging when desiring or needed to engage with another
- use of transcription not for use outside of the meeting/event;

**CARRIED**

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**Session two**

### **Accountability Reports**

- See *Governance Review Proposals* as **Appendix D**

#### *Executive Committee*

**2024-04-19-20-002\_MOTION** (P. Reed/ K. Ostrander) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that the executive committee of the Regional Council, currently known as the Assembly of Elders be renamed the Council of Elders and that the presiding officer relating to the General Council be called the Lead Commissioner. These changes to be in effect upon the rise of this Spring 2024 meeting of the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

#### *Speaker*

**2024-04-19-20-003\_MOTION** (P. Reed/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that the Regional Council elect annually an individual to serve a three-year term on the Assembly of Elders/Church Council as Speaker designate, Speaker, past Speaker.

And further,

That the Nominations Team receive expressions of interest and that the first Speaker -Designate be elected in the Fall of 2024 to assume the role of Speaker Spring 2025 and thereafter elect a speaker designate at each Spring meeting starting in 2025. **CARRIED**

#### *Adding clarity and consistency to governance structure*

**2024-04-19-20-004\_MOTION** (P. Reed/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that:

1. The terms of reference of the Formation Nurture Justice, Covenant Support, Nominations, and Mission through Property Team be revised for consistency, accuracy and thoroughness by:
  - a. Confirming the number and role of elected (voting) members determined through the Nominations process and distinguishing from the non-elected, non-voting corresponding members serving by appointment.

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- b. Including within the Terms of Reference sections describing and answering questions relating to Purpose, Accountability, Membership, Meetings, Quorum (50% elected members plus 1), Role of Members, Chairperson (selected from elected members), Vacancies, Forums, Duties, Mandate.
    - c. Removing sections that are solely descriptive of process (how to) and expanding upon those that describe outcome (the what).
  2. The terms of reference of all Forums be revised for consistency, accuracy, and thoroughness by:
    - a. Including within the Terms of Reference sections describing and answering questions relating to Purpose, Accountability, Membership, Meetings, Role of Members, Responsibilities.
    - b. Removing sections that are solely descriptive of process (how to) and expanding upon those that describe outcome (what).
  3. The Governance Review Team in consultation with the Teams prepare the revisions for approval at the Fall 2024 meeting of the Regional Council and that the Teams may be guided by the revisions prior to approval. **CARRIED**

*Changes to reflect current practices*

**2024-04-19-20-005\_MOTION** (P. Reed/L. Watson) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that the Governance Structure be revised immediately to reflect the adopted practices of the Regional Council, namely.

- a. the Terms of reference of the Nominations Team be revised to clarify that the Team is not responsible for naming Team Chairs and Forum Members.
- b. that the Facilitation Team become a Forum accountable to the Council of Elders
- c. that the Equity Team become a Forum accountable to the Council of Elders.
- d. That the membership of the LLWL (Licensed lay Worship leaders) Forum be limited and appointed by the Covenant Support Team and to be inclusive of both LLWL and others.
- e. That the accountability of the Affirming Forum be to the Formation Nurture and Justice Team. **CARRIED**

*Granting Commission Powers*

**2024-04-19-20-006\_MOTION** (P. Reed/K Ostrander) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that:

1. the Covenant Support Team is granted Commission powers for specific matters, namely,
  - a. The appointment of Liaison Officers
  - b. The appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisor
  - c. The approval of a vacancy and the initializing of a search when the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge have not changed.
  - d. Approval of a Call when it matches the terms set out by the approved Search.  
These powers do not extend to any circumstance that emerges from conflict, uncertainty or deviates from precedent.
2. the Mission through Property and Finance Team is granted Commission powers to conclude the sale of Property declared surplus by the executive body of the regional council when the sale meets any imposed criteria and falls within 20% of the proposed sale price. **CARRIED**

*New and revised Policies*

**2024-04-19-20-007\_MOTION** (P. Reed/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that:

The Governance Review Task Group in consultation with the Teams and others deemed necessary to develop and present to the Regional Council for approval, no later than Spring 2025,

1. New Policies
  - a. Regional Meeting Guidelines - to name objectives, agenda items etc.
  - b. Reimbursement of costs - incurred by leadership required to be physically present at Regional Council Meetings.

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- c. Investment guidelines- addressing ethical investment practices.
  - d. Use of investment funds – sustaining the present activities and protecting future resources
  - e. use of surplus properties – (manse, churches, cemeteries) balancing land and financial options
2. Revised current policies.
    - a. Travel reimbursement – updated to reflect approved budget
    - b. Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) – separate from Marriage Policy
    - c. Marriage – separate from VAM Policy
    - d. Retired Ministers – provide guidance for engagement in communities of faith.
    - e. Policy for Electing Commissioners – to reflect practice
  3. And further provide links to Denominational Policies. **CARRIED**

*Directed Actions*

**2024-04-19-20-008\_MOTION** (P. Reed/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that:

1. The Covenant Support Team ensure that the terms of Call/Appointment include.
  - a. in the position description, expectation of participation within the Regional Council, local Clusters and Networks, and that it reflects an appropriate percentage or hours of time:
  - b. in the terms of remunerations and support, community of faith responsibility for costs to attend Spring and Fall meetings of the Regional Council be included. **CARRIED**

*Use of Word 'Mission'*

**2024-04-19-20-009\_MOTION** (P. Reed/K. Ostrander) That the Regional Council respond to the request of the Indigenous church to avoid the use of the word 'mission', replacing it as appropriate with alternatives such as 'purpose' or 'ministry'. **CARRIED**

**Nominations**

- see ECORC Report Book (2024) as **Appendix B** (Nominations Report is on page 16)

**2024-04-19-20-010\_MOTION** (S. Heinrich/S. Coles) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive and approve the recommendations of the Nominations Leadership Team to appoint the following people into leadership positions on ECORC Assembly of Elders and leadership teams for three-year terms, from the rise of the spring 2024 meeting until the rise of the spring 2027 meeting:

**Assembly of Elders**

Rev. David King  
Dr. Sheila Mae Young  
Rev. Brian Nicholson

**Mission Through Property Leadership Team**

Jeff Julian  
Rev. Isaac Mundy  
Ron Trewin

**Covenant Support Leadership Team**

Patti James  
Rev. Cheryl McMurray

**Formation, Nurture, and Justice Leadership Team**

Patricia Teskey  
Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander  
Rev. Wanda Stride

**Equity Leadership Team**

Rev. Nancy Wilson

**Nominations Leadership Team**

Rev. Svinda Heinrichs

Rev. Wanda Stride

**CARRIED**

**Finance**

- see ECORC Report Book (2024) as **Appendix B** (Finance Report is on page 11\_
- Audited 2022 Financial Statements as **Appendix C<sup>1</sup>**;
- Financial Statements as of April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 as **Appendix C<sup>2</sup>**;
- Q1 Budget to Actual Report as **Appendix C<sup>3</sup>**;

**2024-04-19-20-011\_MOTION** (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive and approve the audited 2022 Financial Statements as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2024-04-19-20-012\_MOTION** (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive for information the Full Financial Statements as of April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2024-04-19-20-013\_MOTION** (B. James/T. Meyers) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive for information the Q1 Budget to Actual Report as circulated. **CARRIED**

\*All appendices located at:

<https://ecorcuccan.ca/2024-ecorc-spring-annual-meeting-april-19th-and-20th/>

Appendix A	East Central Ontario Regional Council Fall General Meeting of October 28, 2023
Appendix B	ECORC Report Book (2024)
Appendix C <sup>1</sup>	ECORC Audited 2022 Financial Statements
Appendix C <sup>2</sup>	Financial Statements as of April 7 <sup>th</sup> 2024
Appendix C <sup>3</sup>	Q1 Budget to Actual Report
Appendix D	Governance Review Proposals