
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 28th at Emmanuel United Church in Odessa, Ontario. Registration began at 9 am and the call to order at 10 am. A celebration of minister service was combined with the opening worship. The Regional Council ordained one candidate for ministry in Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry Personnel (56)**

Aruna Alexander, Stephen Ambury, Mark Arnill, Robert Ball, Mary Margaret Boone, Kirby Breithaupt, Wendy Bulloch, Nancy Clarke, Karen Croxall, Elizabeth Cunningham, Jeffery Doucette, Michelle Down, Sandra Farrow, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Sherry Fugard, Susan (Sue) Genge, Caroline Giesbrecht, Margaret Goodwin, Cathy Gradante, Donald Green, Katherine Gregory, Lesley Hamilton, Jacqueline Harper, Svinda Heinrichs, Phil Hobbs, Mary-Jane Hobden, Leslie Elizabeth King, Nancy Lester, Cheryl McMu, Ryan McNally, Sylvia Anne Meredith, Aaron Miechkota, Jeannette Millar, Bonnie Misener, Isaac Mundy, Kaitlyn Ostrander, Kerrie Perry, Joe Ramsay, Paul Reed, Stephanie Richmond, Bob Root, Christine Sloan, Karen Smart, William Smith, Janet Stobie, Max Ward, Merle Lynn Watson, Daryl Webber, Edward Wells, Don Willmer, Nancy Wilson, Phil Wilson, Jean Wilson, Marybeth Wilson, John Young, and Marilyn Zehr.

Lay (42)

Margaret Akey, Shirley Baster, Donna Budgen, Paul Cook, Paul Cornish, Krista Coughler, Carol Cunday, Margaret Curtis, Ian Deslauriers, Helmut Enns, Peggy Fillier, Joanne Gray, Sharon Green, Anthony Griffith, Brian James, Paul Kneebone, Sarah Mayes-Tang, Ted Meyers, Nicolette Mitchell, Evelyn Mitchell, Cheryl Mound, Joyce Payne, Beth Pereman, Susan Pleasance, Elaner Pound, Catherine Reddon, Norman Rice, Marilyn Rodgers, William Sheaves, Tom Smart, Terry Souch, Jack Soule, Grace Stanley, Beth Steinmiller, Leigh Tamlin, Patricia Teskey, Carrie Thompson, Carolyn Vanhorne-Coffey, Sally Weir, Marie Williams, Steve William, and Sheila-Mae Young.

Candidates serving in an Appointment (3)

Krista Moore, Mark Sturman, and Kathleen Whyte.

Regional Council Staff (6)

Sharon Hull, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (voting clergy), Joel Miller, Rev. Caroline Penhale, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley (voting clergy) and Karen Wilson.

Guests of the Regional Council (19)

Judith Amsbury, Linda Bishop, Penelope Culverson, Tanna Edwards, Elaine Farley, Debra Fortin, Marilyn Fortin Brown, Pam Hart, Kelli Hitchman-Craig, Bruce Hutchinson, Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of Canada, Peter Mitchell, Krista Moore, Carol Payne, Nancy Payne, Tom Stobie, Norma Thompson, Michele Whitney, and Sharon Woodrow.

Regrets (6)

Amanda Ellman, Deb Fortin-Brown, Carl Kimmett, Darren Liepold, Debbie Sherwin, and Jennifer Uhryniw.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

In Person Registration/Zoom Meeting Room Opens (Online)

Delegates were invited to join meeting at 9 am via Zoom, and in person at Emmanuel United Church in Odessa, Ontario.

Gathering Music

Gathering music was led by Tom Reynolds, Musician, of Emmanuel College: MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name, MV150 Spirit God Be My Mv Breath, MV 13 O Let the Power, MV 23 Come O Holy Spiritual, VU 625 I Feel The Winds Of God VU637 Jesus Saviour Pilot Me

Call to Order

Rev. Wanda Stride, Speaker of the Assembly of Elders and Chair for this meeting, called the meeting to order at 10 am.

Land Acknowledgement

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice, led the land acknowledgement: (Loyalist Township) Ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee [Hoe-den-o-shown-ee], Mississauga [Mi-chi Sawgeeg(soft)], and Omámíwinini [O-maw-mee-wi-nini] Peoples. The lands we are on today are recognized in the Two Row Wampum, Dish with One Spoon Treaty, Treaty 27, and the Crawford Purchase.

Welcoming to the Land

Patricia Roebuck introduced (Grand Mother Kate), Kathy Brant indigenous elder, who welcomed delegates to the land.

Teaching Moment

Kathy Brant (Grand Mother Kate) introduced herself in her native language and shared some of her personal background. Grand Mother Kate highlighted the 'Walking the Path of Peace Together' which is a communal project that is in collaboration with Faith United Church in Kingston. Many delegates, on the day prior to the general meeting, participated at an information session on these communal and sacred grounds. Grand Mother Kate also shared an indigenous teaching: 1. 'Times of Gathering' gathering: When the big dipper is emptying in mid-winter, is a time of giving thanks for gifts of harvest. 2. 'Great Law of Peace': Carrying the great peace; the great peace is the derivative a great empathy – always protect your own personal peace, to bring to others.

Response to Welcome

Rev. Wanda Stride provided an explanation for why land acknowledgement precedes formal gathering, provided a reminder regarding voting on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization, drew delegates attention to a reconciliation quilt that had been gifted to the regional council as a piece for reflection.

Words of Constitution/Instructions

Rev. Wanda Stride 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 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.

Welcome from Host Congregation Emmanuel United Church

Rev. Phil Wilson welcomed all in attendance to Emmanuel United Church, and highlighted some housekeeping items, like access to washrooms, emergency exits, and where and how lunch would be served.

Opening Motion

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister presented the opening motion:

2023-10-28-001_OMNIBUS MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Steve Ambury) 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 May 5-6, 2023 be accepted as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the alternate Speaker for this meeting be Steve Coles;
4. That the Equity Support Team for this meeting consist of Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rev. Nancy Clarke, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham, and Rev. Nancy Wilson (in person) and Rev. Phil Wilson, Karen Wilson, Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander (Online). ecorcequity11@gmail.com;
5. That the Scrutineers for this meeting be Rev. Phil Wilson, Karen Wilson, (online) and Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rev. Nancy Clarke, Rev. Nancy Wilson, Rev. Elizabeth Cunningham (in person);
6. That the Discernmentarian/Parliamentarian for this meeting be Rev. Paul Reed;
7. That the Chaplain for this meeting be Rev. Jean Wilson (in-person) and Rev. Max Ward (online).
8. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – *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. **CARRIED***

Celebration of Ministry Service/ Welcome from Host (Emmanuel United Church)

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Emmanuel United Church, situated in Odessa Ontario, and began at 10:45 AM. Tom Reynolds performed the prelude. The officiants included, the Executive Minister, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly; the Speaker, Assembly of Elders, Rev. Wanda Stride; the Moderator of The United Church of Canada and General Council Guest, The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne; the Vocational Minister – Candidacy Pathway for East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka Regional Councils, Rev. Caroline Penhale; the Pastoral Relations Minister, Rev. Darren Liepold; the Minister for the hosting congregations (Emmanuel United Church, Odessa), Rev. Phil Wilson; and Musician, Tom Reynolds.

Following the Prelude, the officiants and candidate entered the sanctuary to the processional hymn 'Joyful Joyful We Adore You' (VU 232). The service opened with words of welcome, the call to worship, the lighting the Christ Candle, the prayer of approach, and the anthem 'Come O Fount Of Every Blessing' (arranged and performed by Tom Reynolds and Wanda Stride). The Scripture reading was John 21: 1-19, 25, and the theological reflection, called 'A-Ha!' was shared by Rev. Dr. Bill Smith (former Executive Secretary of Bay of Quinte Conference). Following the reflection, the hymn 'I The Lord of Sea and Sky' (VU 509) was sung. The offertory was followed by the hymn "For the Gift of Creation" (VU 538), and a offertory prayer led by Rev. Dr. Bill Smith. This was followed by the singing of hymn 'O Holy Spirit' (VU 200).

The Celebration of Ministries began with the reciting of Our Affirmation of Faith. The candidate was presented by Rev. Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister, Candidacy Pathway and the Regional Council was asked for its pledge of support. Following the declaration of vows, the laying on of hand was administered along with the placing of the stole. The candidate was presented with a Bible, a certificate, a chalice and paten, a gift from the regional council youth, and a prayer shawl. Following this, all in attendance responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958). The Ordinand:

Morgan Bell Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care within
The United Church of Canada

The Holy Communion liturgy was led by The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and included a call, the singing of hymn 'Bread for the Journey' (MV 202), the great thanksgiving, the remembrance and blessing, the reciting of The Lord's Prayer, sharing of the elements, and the prayer following Communion.

The Celebration of Ministry Service concluded with a closing benediction, followed by the recessional hymn 'Let All Things Now Living' (VU 242). The Postlude was performed by Tom Reynolds.

Reception and Lunch Break

A reception and catered lunch were served in the Church's hall.

Gathering Music

Following the reception and lunchbreak, delegates reassemble to the following gathering music: MV 30 It's A Song of Praise and VU 578 As A Fire Is Meant for Burning.

Special Announcement

The Chair announced that vandalism had occurred within the regional council. Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, Brighton had painted its steps the colors of the rainbow, after celebrating a formal recognition as an affirming congregation, but vandals dropped black paint over the rainbow. The incident was heart wrenching, but following the incident, the community showed its support by coming together to help restore the rainbow-colored stairs. The incident help to create awareness, and garner further support for protecting the LGBTQIA2+ community.

Recognition and Covenanting with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs)

Cathy Gradante, Cheryl McMurry and Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (Executive Minister) led a liturgy that covenanted with License Lay Worship Leaders within the regional council who had been relicensed. The service included, introductions of LLWL, reading from Scripture (Corinthians 12), prayers of thanksgiving, vows, and concluding prayers.

The following persons renewed their vows as LLWLs recognized by the regional council:

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

Assembly of Elders

Rev. Wanda Stride outlined some of the work of the Assembly of Elders, particularly its practices, how it prepares for its meetings, areas of focus, and meeting occurrences (monthly and as needed).

General Council Proposal GS 57

- see GS 57 *Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of The Church in the 2020s, Part B Designated Lay Ministry* as **Appendix B**

The proposal was discussed at length, and clarity was provided on its implications for Designated Lay Ministry and overall implementation.

2023-10-28-002_MOTION (Steve Ambury/Mary Margaret-Boone) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council move to call the question. **CARRIED**

2023-10-28-003_MOTION (Margaret Curtis/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council grant membership and sacramental privileges to all those who are retired from active ministry as Designated Lay Ministers, and make eligible to apply for Voluntary Associate Minister status. Furthermore, that those who continue to be Designated Lay Ministers or who are currently completing studies to become a Designated Lay Minister, be permitted to carry their status and serve other Communities of Faith. **CARRIED** (6 abstentions).

Strategic Plan (Discerning Current working group)

- See *Strategic Plan Proposal* as **Appendix C**

The PowerPoint Presentation is available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Rev. Larry Doyle and Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly presented the strategic plan in detail, highlighting the process in which the plan was created, and how this plan responds to The United Church of Canada's *Call* to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice, and *Vision*: Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. There are twelve (12) priorities within the regional council's strategic plan, and each has activity streams, sixteen (16) in total, that are to be completed

within specific timeframes.

2023-10-28-004_MOTION (Larry Doyle/Steve Ambury) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the Strategic Plan presented by the working group Discerning Currents. **CARRIED** (1 abstention).

Mission Through Property

- See *ECORC 2023 Budget Report and 2024 Budget* as **Appendix D**

The PowerPoint Presentation is available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Brian James, regional council treasurer shared a presentation reporting on the 2023 year to date finances, as well as the 2022 financial reports summaries. Included in this presentation was a list of grant distributions in 2023, the 2022 December balance sheet, and 2022 revenue and expenses.

2023-10-28-004_MOTION (Brian James/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the 2023 year to date and 2022 financial reports summaries. **CARRIED**

Brian also presented the regional council's 2024 budget (*see in appendix d*) highlighting some of the changes to be aware of in the coming year.

2023-10-28-006_MOTION (Brian James/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council adopt the 2024 budget. **CARRIED**

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) Loan

Ted Meyers shared that the repayment of the CEBA loan (originally \$60,000) has been reduced to \$40,000 if paid before January 18th 2024. If full repayment was not rendered by then, 5% interest on loans \$60,000 will begin. The United Church of Canada has made available loans of \$40,000 at a rate of 5% interest, to enable CEBA loan recipients to pay down the loan before the January 18th deadline.

Nominations Leadership Team

Rev. Mary-Jane Hobden, Chair, highlighted some of the work the Nominations Leadership Team has undertaken, and moved the following motion:

2023-10-28-007_MOTION (Mary-Jane Hobden/Steve Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive and concur with the recommendation of the Nominations Team to appoint Joyce Payne to the Assembly of Elders for the remainder of the three-year term ending at the rise of the spring 2026 meeting. **CARRIED**

Covenant Support Leadership Team

William (Bill) Sheaves, Chair, highlighted some of the work done by the Covenant Support Leadership Team, and emphasized that the regional council needs more Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Liaisons. Bill also shared that these positions receive financial compensation, and that training is available through the regional council's Pastoral Relations Minister (Rev. Darren Liepold).

Formation Nurture & Justice Leadership Team

The PowerPoint Presentation is available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Updates and announcement were provided by the Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum, the *First Third Ministry Forum* (children, youth, young adults and leaders), *Anti- Racism, Interfaith, and Intercultural*

Forum, and the Affirming Forum Affirming Ministries Network.

Stretch Break

A stretch break was had by all for 25 mins.

Gathering Music

Following the stretch break, delegates reassemble to the following gathering music: VU 716 My Life Flows On
MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts

Message from the Moderator

Steve Coles, member of the Assembly of Elders, and person assuming the role of Chair at this point in the meeting (Rev. Wanda Stride had a commitment in the afternoon), introduced The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator to share a message about the Flourishing Project: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project>.

Equity Leadership Team

The PowerPoint Presentation is available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Rev. Phil Wilson, Chair and Karen Wilson, regional council staff message shared highlights of the work the Equity Leadership Team is achieving. Phil also shared condolences for victims of the Lewiston (Maine), shootings on October 25, 2023, resulting in the death of 18 individuals and injuries to 13 others. It was shared that many of the victims had been part of an event raising funds for the local deaf community.

Karen Wilson highlighted a new checklist and score card being created which will help any gathering/meeting become more equitable. Members of the regional council were invited to call upon the Equity Leadership Team at any time for guidance relating to equity matters. <https://ecorcuccan.ca/resources/accessibility/>

Following the presentation, a video was shared of music prepared by the Mennonite Church of Canada, in which there are five interpreters signing the lyrics as the hymn is performed.

Stewardship (10 mins)

The PowerPoint Presentation is available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Rev. Roger Janes, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff, Philanthropy Unit, highlighted the work of stewardship and new resources and programs that are available. CHRUCHx will become the new platform for resources and information of the Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff, Philanthropy Unit. Roger also shared information about the Mission & Service Fund, the Planned Giving program, and the Stewardship Best Practices.

Office of Vocation

PowerPoint Presentation available on the Regional Council website: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/> under *Presentation recordings from our meeting, including Ordination service and LLWL recognition*

Rev. Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister – Candidacy Pathway for East Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka Regional Councils, shared a presentation about Candidacy Pathways and Candidate

Accompaniment. This presentation included explaining the 7 phases of the Candidacy Pathways program (1. Calling Forth 2. Identify: naming a sense of call 3. Accompany: support along the way 4. Equip: Credentialing (education) and Competency (Supervised Ministry Education, field placements) 5. Assess: promise, suitability, readiness 6. -Authorize: as ready for ministry leadership and 7. Celebrate: ordination/commissioning and every achievement and discernment along the way. This presentation's primary focus was on the third phase of Accompaniment.

United Church Women

Cheryl Mound, President of UCW, shared various highlights, including, supporting students through bursaries, providing support to El Salvador, supporting new mothers and babies in Regina, recognizing, and appreciating the work of Trevor White with Camp Quimolac, holding UCW gatherings at Camp Quimolac, hosting book clubs, and continuing to connect with many people.

Equity Support Team's Report

Phil Wilson, Equity Support Team lead, shared how the team used the *Equity Support Person's Virtual Evaluation Form* (scorecard) to prepare its report, and provided a grade for each of the criteria on the form. <https://ecorcuccan.ca/resources/accessibility/>. This meeting was graded average or above average for most criteria, and it was emphasized that more work can always go into making a meeting more equitable.

Closing Motions

(Head Table) (PowerPoint)

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister moved the following motions:

2023-10-28-008_MOTION (Phil Wilson/Eric Hebert-Daly) 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 Annual General Meeting on April 19-20, 2024 at Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay. **CARRIED**

2023-10-28-009_MOTION (Phil Wilson/Eric Hebert-Daly) that the meeting be adjourned following the conclusion of the closing worship and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded. **CARRIED**

Special thanks

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly gave special thanks to the host congregations and volunteers from Emmanuel United Church, Odessa, as well as Debra Park, Tom Reynolds, and Ian Deslauriers for their leadership in music at various times throughout the day.

Closing Worship

Rev. Phil Wilson, Host Minister, and Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister led the closing worship, which included a call to worship, an opening prayer, the singing of hymn VU 382 Breathe on Me Breath of God, the reading of Scripture (Ezekiel 37:1-14), a reflection, the singing of hymn VU 380 She Comes Sailing on the Wind, a closing prayer, and a benediction and blessing written and composed by Ian Deslauriers.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Rev. Wanda Stride
Speaker

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

2023-9

The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Fall General Meeting

October 28, 2023
Emmanuel United Church,
Odessa, Ontario

Appendices

All appendices located at:

<https://ecorcuccan.ca/2023-ecorc-annual-fall-meeting/>

- Appendix A East Central Ontario Regional Council Annual General Meeting of May 5-6, 2023
- Appendix B GS 57 Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of The Church in the 2020s, Part B Designated Lay Ministry
- Appendix C ECORC Strategic Plan
- Appendix D ECORC 2023 Budget Report and 2024 Budget