

2024

Report Book



**East Central Ontario
Regional Council**

of The United Church of Canada



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Annual General Meeting
April 19-20, 2024

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Preamble

This report book provides a glimpse into the work and life of East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC), for the period beginning at the rise of the spring general meeting (2023) to the present (April 2024).

The first section contains ECORC's Living Mission, the vision of the Assembly of Elders by which it evaluates progress, and a responsive reading adapted from the EOORC statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles.

The second section provides reports from Leadership Teams, General Council Executive and General Council Offices, Forums, Networks, Ministries and Colleges, and includes information relating to a candidate for ordination, retirees, memorials, and anniversaries of Ministry Personnel (retired and active) for years of service within The United Church of Canada.

The third of this report book provides a summary of the decisions taken by the Assembly of Elders and the Regional Council since May 2023. This section also includes the enabling motions which the Regional Councils adheres to while holding its general meetings.

The final section provides a list of Regional Council staff, with task descriptions and contact information.

Living Mission of The East Central Ontario Regional Council

Vision

Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit, we follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.

Mission

Grounded in the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves,
we nurture and engage our Communities of Faith,
including all ministry personnel, members and adherents, staff and lay leadership,
joining our hearts and voices in sacred covenant.
In gratitude for our abundant blessings and in the service of this call,
we pledge to be faithful stewards of our resources
and aspire to be agents of God's love, compassion and justice
on earth as it is in heaven.

Recognizing our churches' participation in historic injustices,
we reach out with particular love and care, as Jesus did,
to those who have been ignored, excluded, condemned, silenced or erased.
We seek to uphold high standards of equity and Affirming,
and to encourage these same standards in our Communities of Faith.

Valuing diversity and differences as gifts,
we support the full participation of all people
in the life and work of our church and in wider society.

We publicly, intentionally and explicitly celebrate and seek justice for people of every age, gender, racialized experience, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical health and ability, economic circumstance or any other diversity.

We promise to walk with, and learn from, Indigenous ministries and Communities of Faith within our church, and to reach out to all Indigenous Peoples.

We support and encourage all Communities of Faith to walk this path with us. As we are called by God to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others and to seek justice, so we are called to respect the deep spirituality of traditional Indigenous teachings of Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

Further acknowledging that cultural prejudices have prevented us from seeing all people as equally worthy of God's love and compassion, we invite Communities of Faith to join our vision of becoming an intercultural church, participating in ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith ministries, partnerships and initiatives in their local communities and in wider society.

As Jesus gathered children in his arms and spoke of their leadership and spiritual gifts, we commit ourselves and our Communities of Faith to nurturing and supporting children, youth and young adults, learning from them and celebrating their presence and participation in everything we do.

Hearing God's call for open hearts and unity in the body of Christ, we commit to uniting the Communities of Faith and individuals in our Region, inviting all to participate in this Vision and Mission.

Recognizing that meaningful communication is essential to unity, we will respect all voices, share information and listen for the Spirit's prompting, that all may be embraced in this work of Love.

Diverse, yet One in Christ, we seek to serve and support our Communities of Faith as they faithfully serve a broken and hurting world.

Nurtured by our heritage and strengthened by God's grace, we witness to the healing power of Christ's love, compassion and justice on earth as it is in heaven.

Vision of The Assembly of Elders by Which We Evaluate Progress Based On:

Guiding Principles

We are accountable to all people of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) in living out our vision and mission in ways that can be measured over time. We will know we are doing so when we can say “yes” to these statements, which are presented by theme rather than by priority or importance:

- All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives.
- Clergy, lay leaders and communities of faith express satisfaction with the support, development opportunities and communication they receive.
- We hold events every year related to outreach and social justice within our region.
- Reports from equity monitors and meeting notes give evidence of a growing awareness of equity standards.
- The number of church buildings in our region that are accessible is increasing.
- The number of Communities of Faith designated as Affirming continues to increase.
- There is evidence that inclusive language is becoming the norm in the life and work of our church throughout our Region, especially inclusive language and images of God in worship.
- We observe increasing use of land acknowledgments and more participation in learning opportunities related to Respectful Relations and Indigenous Justice.
- An increasing number of Communities of Faith, along with ECORC and the Assembly of Elders, are developing plans to increase their environmental stewardship.
- We can document specific actions we have taken to become intercultural.
- Children, youth and young adults are represented on all decision-making bodies.
- 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.
- 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.
- People in all roles and capacities within ECORC are aware of Council decisions and policies, and know where to find the information they need.
- ECORC events take place in a variety of geographic locations within our Region throughout the year.

Responsive Reading adapted from the East Central Ontario Regional Council Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

One: Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit,

All: we follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.

One: Grounded in the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves,

All: we nurture and engage our Communities of Faith, joining our hearts and voices in sacred covenant.

One: In gratitude for our abundant blessings,

All: we pledge to be faithful stewards of our resources

One: Called to be agents of God's love, compassion and justice,

All: we aspire to be faithful servants on earth as it is in heaven.

One: Recognizing our churches' participation in historic injustices, we reach out with particular love and care, as Jesus did,

All: we reach out in love to those who have been ignored, excluded, condemned, silenced or erased.

One: We seek to uphold high standards of equity and Affirming ministry,

All: as individuals and in our Communities of Faith.

One: Valuing diversity and differences as gifts, we support the full participation of all people in the life and work of our church and in wider society.

All: We publicly, intentionally and explicitly celebrate and seek justice for people of every age, gender, racialized experience, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical health and ability, economic circumstance or any other diversity.

One: We promise to walk with, and learn from, Indigenous ministries and Communities of Faith within our church,

All: and to reach out to all Indigenous Peoples and to encourage others to walk this path with us.

One: As we are called by God to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others and to seek justice,

All: so we are called to respect the deep spirituality of traditional Indigenous teachings of Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.

One: Further acknowledging that cultural prejudices have prevented us from seeing all people as equally worthy of God's love and compassion,

All: we strive in our communities of faith to become an intercultural church, participating in ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith ministries, partnerships and initiatives in our local communities and in wider society.

One: As Jesus gathered children in his arms and spoke of their leadership and spiritual gifts,

All: we commit ourselves and our Communities of Faith to nurturing and supporting children, youth and young adults, learning from them and celebrating their presence and participation in everything we do.

One: Hearing God's call for open hearts and unity in the body of Christ, and recognizing that meaningful communication is essential to unity,

All: we will respect all voices, share information and listen for the Spirit's prompting, that all may be embraced in this work of Love.

One: Diverse, yet One in Christ, we seek to serve and support our Communities of Faith as they faithfully serve a broken and hurting world.

All: Nurtured by our heritage and strengthened by God's grace, we witness to the healing power of Christ's love, compassion and justice on earth as it is in heaven.

- From the ECORC Statement of Vision, prepared by Nancy Payne & Patricia Teskey and passed at the ECORC AGM, September 2020

Reports

Assembly of Elders Accountability Report

Greetings in the name of the Risen One!

Join me in singing gratitude and hope as we raise our hallelujahs in Christ's name: the tomb is empty, and new life is our promise in Christ. I hope to hear your singing as we gather in Lindsay on April 19 and 20!

It seems unnecessary to begin this report with a reminder that we have just lived through a year of immense change, deep growing and learning to understand new policies, new staff, new pastoral charge arrangements... but here I am mentioning it anyway, because change has been such a prominent character in our interactions since restructuring in 2019!

As a musician, I can see that change has powerful potential. When I play music with other musicians, we agree to a certain framework within which we can experiment, express ourselves and delight in beautiful harmony. Sometimes that music is even enjoyable to people who are listening! But when someone introduces change, we have to be careful. If we know each other well enough, and trust each other as musicians, we can hold back and listen while the new structure emerges and jump in when we are confident of our place. Those scenarios are ideal and transformative, and the new music becomes much more than just one person's vision — it becomes a spirit-filled exploration of possibilities that draws out courage and excellence in even the most timid among us! Sadly, most of us musicians are mere mortals, and we rely on that framework. If change is to happen, we need it laid out for us ahead of time so we can think about it, and if trust is extended tentatively, we have to understand the beginning and middle and end before we even consider putting bow to string or fingers to the keyboard.

It's hard to build that kind of trust in a committee, when membership shifts each year. It's even harder to do that amongst 200-odd communities of faith who are also busy singing their own songs that must adapt to a whole different set of musicians. But that is our work! Because the song does not belong to us. We sing the melodies inspired by Christ's spirit who calls us to be deeply faithful and bold, but because we are mere mortals, we must do that by laying out the framework, and building trust one note at a time.

So let me tell you about the work of the assembly of elders, and how we are hoping to build a trusting community, while balancing the constant change and pressure of the world around us.

This year the assembly of elders elected a new speaker from among its members (the one writing this report, Rev. Wanda Stride). I have come to this role from another role, that of lead commissioner for General Council 44. Normally those two roles would be separate people, and going forward, we welcome new leaders as we grow into a greater understanding of the work of the assembly of elders. We are continuing the song that began in 2019, the one that Rev. Paul Reed conducted through the online years of Covid 19.

We welcomed our new Executive Minister, the Reverend Éric Hébert-Daly who left his role responsible for French Ministries in the General Council Office to guide our three regional councils through strategic planning, in addition to supporting the important work carried out by the ECORC teams. Under Éric's leadership we are shifting in how we spend our time during monthly meetings.

Our framework doesn't include a lot of literal singing! The Assembly of Elders receives recommendations from the various teams about important work happening. We give final approval to appointments and calls, building sales, amalgamations and so on. We hear about pastoral relations concerns and help discern ways forward. We hear about celebrations and rejoice with pastoral charges as they flourish. We sing our hallelujahs with all of you.

We also lament when we hear of faithful mission embodying the brokenness of this world, as was the case in Belleville this past winter. Bridge Street United's partnership with John Howard Society, offered a daily luncheon for the city's most vulnerable, but like many other communities across North America, fell victim to poison-infused substance and the city declared a state of emergency as up to 17 people were taken to hospital.

We lament the closing of seven Churches within the boundaries of our regional council, some who have decided to share ministry with neighbouring communities of faith, others who can no longer maintain their buildings.

Twenty-three people in our midst joined a pilgrimage to global partner Emmanuel Baptist Church in El Salvador and discovered a deep sense of connection with a community far away. Together, we recognize a new level of lament as we share stories, but also lift up joyful singing that will ring in our hearts for years to come as we remember the ministry shared and friendships made. While participants paid their own way, the trip was made more affordable thanks for the regional council's Doing Mission Together grant and the generosity of our region's UCW.

In the spirit of partnering and working together, we are also looking at a new framework for our song. We are shifting to a body that spends time discerning important ways forward on issues that may not result in a decision, but will help us shape policy down the road. As a result, for instance, at the fall general meeting at Emmanuel United, Odessa we had a lively discussion around changes to the role and understanding of designated lay ministry in the United Church, in response to new decisions by GC44. Our regional council now makes space for DLMS who have retired from active duty to maintain their license to marry by becoming voluntary associate ministers. When the Manual allows, we will also invite those who have retired from active ministry to maintain their membership in the regional council, giving them full voting rights without being a representative from a pastoral charge. This also means, that the chorus of ordered clergy has expanded its membership, inviting DLMS who are in active ministry and who qualify,

to consider ordination. In fact, we will be raising some wild hallelujahs at our April meeting as we ordain Brian Nicholson, DLM.

In our improvisational moments we also discerned a new communications / advocacy approach, and that is one song that is still finding a melody!

As a body that recognizes the values of all peoples' songs, we discerned a strategy to help communities of faith see the importance of the Remit that has been before the church, making space for an autonomous indigenous church. These conversations led to a team of callers who reached out to every pastoral charge that had not yet submitted a vote, reminding them of the importance of voting. The voting rate in our regional council is higher than the national average, and we are delighted to know that Remit 1 passed.

Our orchestra has discerned ways to make sure everyone is heard and valued at our meetings, by introducing an equity score card. This is an online tool created by the equity team, available to every single pastoral charge or regional team to help guide equity support during meetings, and to help evaluate our work at the end.

The framework keeps shifting, and that is ok! Over the year we became intentional about that framework. Our governance model was created in 2019, hoping to provide an organizational structure that recognized fewer volunteers, greater geography, a new way of relating to each other through regional councils instead of presbyteries and conferences... but before we could test the new framework, someone pulled the plug. The pandemic required all of us to sing unaccompanied, in rooms by ourselves, even if we could see our fellow choristers on a screen. Adapting to the reality of a pandemic meant we never had a proper chance to test our new framework. The discernment now is difficult, not knowing what failed because of covid, or what simply did not serve the particular voice of this regional council. You will see before us now, is a possible framework, with adjustments made that could help us to sing with more confidence, building more and more trust that can make our song a surprising and beautiful thing.

I want to introduce the assembly of elders to you now. It has been my honour to work with the following people this past year, and I value each of their gifts, their particular perspective and experience they bring to our choir! Please note that with the resignation of Rev. Lesley Hamilton, the regional council elected Joyce Payne to the assembly of elders at the fall meeting: Stephen Coles, Margaret Curtis, Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Brian James, Patricia Long, Ted Meyers, Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander, Joyce Payne, Rev. Paul Reed, Bill Sheaves, Rev. Lynn Watson Rev. Ned Wells, as well as staff members Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Sharon Hull, Rev. Darren Liepold, Joel Miller, Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley, and Karen Wilson

With the rise of the spring meeting, the terms of Margaret Curtis, Ted Meyers, Rev. Paul Reed and Bill Sheaves come to an end. I personally want to thank each of these people. When we experienced staffing shortages two years ago because of illness, each of these people became invaluable staff resources themselves, ensuring the work of pastoral relations continued, so communities of faith could continue to evolve as the spirit called. I'm not sure what words would be adequate to thank you for that time, and for the constant burden you have carried on all our behalves these past years. What comes to mind is Well done, good and faithful servants. I am grateful that Ted and Bill, who have held significant leadership roles and have been instrumental in making sure our orchestra is functional and continues to make music for the world... I'm grateful that you are able to continue to offer your support and expertise to the Regional Council. And Paul, you offered steady and confident leadership throughout Covid, when many of us were

wary of technology and unsure how we could possibly carry on. On behalf of the entire regional council, if I may be so bold, I want to thank you for the sacrifice of leadership.

As of writing this report, I don't know who our new assembly of elders will be, but each time we add a new voice to the choir, the music changes, the potential shifts, and the road ahead is hard to see! But I trust in the one who conducts this choir of diverse voices and abilities, and I know that there is stunningly inclusive and inspiring music ahead for us all!

As of the rise of this meeting, I am stepping back from my role on the assembly of elders and resigning as commissioner to General Council 44. I know there are powerful leaders among us who will step up, and we will continue to sing a new song unto the Lord!

May you be blessed and inspired by the Lord of Song who leads us to life. Amen.

Rev. Wanda Stride, lead commissioner GC44, speaker, assembly of elders

Executive Minister

Members of the East Central Ontario Regional Council,

I have valued and appreciated the past year of getting to know you and helping to navigate a time of great change in the church as a whole. While we face important challenges, I have been consistently impressed with the ministry I see taking place in this regional council, the dedication to justice, the ways in which you have been (and continue to be) the Body of Christ.

I frequently speak with pride to my colleagues across Canada and to those in the General Council Office of the dedicated work done in this Regional Council around reconciliation (like the incredible project launched in Kingston on donated church land called 'Walking the Path of Peace', and the heroic efforts to contact every pastoral charge to ensure that they voted on the remit, etc.), international partnerships (like with Iglesia Bautista Emanuel in El Salvador, our commitment to fair trade, etc.), the innovative ways this regional council does its governance (a model that other regional councils are looking at for inspiration), the increasing number of Affirming communities in this region, the dynamic strategic plan that was adopted in the fall and is being implemented now... just to name a few!

When I get the chance to visit and preach in churches throughout the region, I am impressed to see the vitality and diversity of ministry that goes on in this part of the world and wish that everyone could see, as I do, the breadth and depth of commitment to answering God's call. While I know that we struggle with closing churches, aging membership and a desperate need for ministry personnel, I am also reminded that the Holy Spirit is blowing through this region with lively scheming. You'd be easily convinced that God is at work, doing something amazing, if you could see all that I have the privilege to see.

We often need to be reminded that the Regional Council is not something apart from congregational life. Our communities of faith are the entry door for those who seek connection with others and with God. The national and regional church do not exist in the absence of our front doors in 2600 locations across Canada and over 200 in this Regional Council alone. The Regional Council exists to be the collective wisdom of each of these communities as we grope our way into a future we do not yet see. We are there

to support one another, guide one another. The Regional Council is not separate from its communities of faith... it is the body that consists of many parts. We are only as healthy as each part. When one part is struggling, we all struggle.

I am so grateful for the many parts that make this body function. We certainly can use more voices and more wisdom from across the region in each of the pieces of work that we do. If you feel called to do a piece of this collective work, please reach out and let us know in which ways you might feel moved by the Spirit.

It is an honour to serve in this role and to have this blessed perspective. It is a joy to work with so many fantastic people every day. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister

ECORC Financial Update 2024

2022 Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for 2022 have been completed and are included below. There were no significant changes for the draft statements previously received.

2023 Draft Financial Statements

The draft financial statements for 2023 follow. There will most likely be slight changes to allocations and some additional charges for invoices paid in 2024 but accrued to 2023. Total income for 2023 was \$841,806 which was primarily transfers from the GCO (General Council Office) for operating expenses, mission support activities and sales of church properties. The income from property sales was allocated to the property funds then transferred to other ministries in accordance with the property sale policies. Operating expenses including salaries and benefits, grants, meetings and travel, archives, etc., totaled \$647,395 resulting in a net revenue of \$194,411. The net revenue for the year after investment returns are added was \$205,118. The excess funds are allocated to the Community of Faith assistance fund to provide grants or loans to communities of faith once that is set up.

A couple of churches were closed as they had run out of operating funds with little hope of covering expenses. The Regional Council is covering the operating costs to keep the buildings heated, insured, etc., until they can be sold or taken over by Kindred Works. These costs will be recovered from the sale proceeds.

Current Year financials vs budget

There are two primary sources of income for the operating and grant expenses of the Regional Council, Assessment Revenue and Mission Support Allocation.

The assessment revenue comes from the yearly assessments charged by the General Council and is used to cover most of the operating costs of the Regional Council including most staff expenses, office rent, semi-annual meetings, covenant support activities, and other administrative expenses. The first quarter (Jan 01 to March 31) transfer income was \$102,910 plus \$32,744 for designated gifts. The budgeted first quarter expenses were \$122,553 while actual expenses were only \$80,964 due to contingency allocations not being required and the new minister not yet hired.

The Mission Support allocation comes from the donations to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church plus designated gifts and property income fund. The allocation for the first quarter was \$45,000 and the amount transferred was \$39,443. There were also designated gifts of \$36,863 and property fund income of \$33,400 for a total income of \$109,706. The expenses are the costs of staff specifically allocated to Mission Support, Mission Support grants, Doing Mission Together grants and Formation, Nurture and Justice team costs. Total expenses to date are \$116,693 resulting in a deficit of \$6,987 primarily due to unbudgeted restricted fund payments.

The Mission Through Property and Finance Team has been working to set up a Community of Faith Assistance fund for some time. The challenge had been keeping the fund and its control on the Regional Council books to the satisfaction of our auditors. The process was re-set when new auditors were brought in but are moving forward again. Erik Mathesen, Executive Officer, Finance, has agreed the GCO is setup to handle such funds and activities and is working to obtain GCO Executive approval.

The Regional Council is currently in a good financial situation and should be able to provide the necessary oversight and assistance as well as some financial support to Communities of Faith.

Respectfully submitted, Brian James, Treasurer

Office of Vocation Report to East Central Ontario Regional Council

Greetings from your Vocational Minister, Rev. Caroline Penhale. Thank you for the invitation to share with East Central Ontario Regional Council information about the ministry of the Office of Vocation in Quebec and East Ontario in 2023.

From January to June of 2023, I shared this role with the Rev. Lillian Roberts. Up until that time, I was focused on our Candidacy Pathway. In this capacity, I served and still serve as the staff resource for the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board as it accompanies applicants and candidates discerning and preparing for ministry. I also connect regularly with candidates and applicants at various stages of their formation for ministry in The United Church of Canada.

In July of 2023, I assumed the full role of Vocational Minister for Quebec and East Ontario, therefore expanding my focus to include all the ministry personnel in terms of oversight and accountability across three regional councils: East Central Ontario Regional Council, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council and Nakonha:ka Regional Council. I work cooperatively with the Pastoral Relations Minister in each region, especially in establishing and monitoring Supervised Ministry Education appointment in each region. I approve the requests of ministry personnel asking to be available for call or appointment, and I provide letters of good standing to ministry personnel when needed. I am also available to candidates and ministry personnel who have questions and could use support, especially in matters related to their vocation or to policies of The United Church of Canada that directly impact ministry personnel and candidates.

The ministry of the Office of Vocation is supported by volunteers from East Central Ontario Regional Council who serve on the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, the Admissions Board, the Board of Vocation and the Response and Remedial Committees. I am humbled and grateful for the work that these board members do for the benefit of all who seek to lead and serve in The United Church of Canada.

2023 was a busy year for the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, which met 8 times either to engage in the administrative work of the board or to interview applicants and candidates. Over the course of these meetings, the Candidacy Board worked very hard to conduct 44 interviews with applicants and candidates across its three regions; 13 of those interviews were with individuals from East Central Ontario Regional Council.

As The United Church of Canada continues to live into its mission of “Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice”, the Office of Vocation continues its important work: to support effective, faithful and accountable ministry formation and leadership.

In the coming year, it is my intention to create more opportunities for applicants and candidates across Quebec and East Ontario to connect with one another so as to share in the joys and challenges of the Candidacy Pathway. To that end, I have begun hosting monthly Zoom calls so that candidates can get to know one another.

Finally, I wish to close with an invitation: please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about matters of accountability and oversight such the interpretation and application of the Workplace Discrimination Harassment and Violence Response Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Response Policy and Procedures; the requirements to remain in good standing, or anything pertaining to a candidate’s journey through the Candidacy Pathway.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister, Quebec and East Ontario

Accountability Report to Regional Councils – Origin: General Council Executive & the General Council Offices

Greetings as you convene for your annual meeting. We pray that it will be a meaningful time of gathering and work as you visualize what it means to be evolving communities characterized by deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We recognize the challenges to our collective ministries as we imagine the sustainability of the ministries of The United Church of Canada and acknowledge the necessity as leaders to be harbingers of hope. We join you in the journey.

The Executive and staff leaders in the church have committed to find ways to enable the ministries of the Communities of Faith. This report highlights four initiatives that will significantly impact our communities.

UCC Protect United

This initiative is by far the largest financial commitment of the strategic plan, with a \$3 million loan funding a captive insurance program aimed at helping participating United Church ministries first reduce and then contain insurance costs. In addition to providing the start-up capital, the national church is also exposed to providing more capital in the event of particularly adverse claims results - especially if they happen in the early years.

The program was rushed into place for December 2022 to provide immediate premium relief, with a rollback of premium increases from 2020 and 2021. This meant premium reductions of 11-27% during a

year when insurance premiums in the industry were going up by 15-30%. Even with a premium rate increase in December 2023, on an apples-to-apples basis, participants paid less for insurance than two years prior.

So far – repeat: so far – the program has been a success financially. Annualized premiums paid for 2021-2022 were \$10.1 million versus \$8.1 million for the first year of the program – a saving of almost \$2 million when adjusted for new business and closures/amalgamations. The interest on the start-up loan is being paid annually. Claims experience has been well within target levels, and with each additional year of reasonable claims experience, the captive insurance arrangement becomes more self-sufficient and the start-up loan potentially repayable.

Despite the very encouraging **initial** financial results, the customer service and administration has been very poor and caused much frustration for participants. Much of this was attributable to rushing the launch of the program to deliver the financial benefit, but our partner's existing systems and staff proved inadequate for the volume of queries that arose. Church-side decisions to deliver more savings also proved challenging administratively. There has been much remedial activity underway, and we expect to achieve proper service capacity by the second quarter of 2024. We will launch greater coverage flexibility and improved communications at the same time.

Everyone is reminded that this initiative will need to run just like a traditional insurance company, with claims administered accordingly. The difference is that we are all in it together to try to reduce risk and claims – and therefore premiums. This captive insurance arrangement exists solely to benefit participants.

Strategic Operational Plan Initiative - Growth

All the Growth Animators are now in place, working actively with regions on their strategies for renewing and creating communities and inviting strong participation in The United Church of Canada. In January and February alone, Growth Animators met with:

- 71 Ministry Personnel
- 37 Governing Bodies (by phone, online or in person)
- 16 Communities of Faiths, and facilitated
- 31 conversations about Growth to some form of regional body.

The focus of these meetings has been visioning; collaboration with other Communities of Faith; exploration of neighbourhood profiles; creation of renewal or growth strategies, and exploring practices of discipleship and invitation. Staff continue to explore and develop possibilities in 40 possible sites for new Communities of Faith amongst migrant, diasporic and Francophone communities; close to 10 of these are sufficiently developed to have leadership contracts to support their continued progress.

Collaborative Ministry Models

There are many different models of collaborative ministries that already exist in the United Church. Work is underway to develop and offer training programs for lay leaders and ministry personnel in collaborative ministries, and those who might be interested, including candidates for ministry.

Faithful Footprints

To date, we have invested almost \$3M in this initiative to assist Communities of Faith in upgrading and renovating their heating/cooling systems and addressing issues of environmental sustainability and cost savings.

Other Updates

Addressing Structural Opportunities: These initiatives are a critical part of the ministry of the leadership team consisting of the Executive and staff leaders. We invite your continued engagement in these areas of work. There are several other initiatives to address some structural opportunities, and responses to emerging issues. We have established working groups to provide additional critical information as we address the challenges of sustainability. We established a Total Compensation Task Group to look at the issues relating to the church's compensation challenges. In keeping with the commitment to evaluating the 2019 structural changes in the church, a Steering Committee has been established to work alongside Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the staff lead for the project. Both groups will be reporting to the 45th General Council in 2025.

In keeping with *The Manual* requirement (D.4.1.6), the Executive has established a working group to review the role of the Moderator. Additionally, the Executive agreed to also include the role of the General Secretary in this review.

The Ministry of Justice: As we continue to live into the commitment to becoming an antiracist denomination, we have introduced a new initiative, *Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Oppression Education for Committees*.

To date, most committees have completed, or will soon be completing, their education sessions. From the feedback so far, we hope to offer similar programs more broadly to other leadership groups in the church. Together with the Indigenous Church, an *Indigenous and racialized youth gathering* is now into its second year. This now-annual gathering is firmly lodged as an emerging youth-oriented community of faith. It focuses on building understanding through mutual learning on experiences of racism and creative responses to antiracism in the United Church.

Finding ways to invite a deeper and a broader engagement in advocacy continues to be a challenge, especially when the church is not of one mind and often is unable to speak together in respectful ways across our differences. There have been two new hires in the General Council Office, a *Government Relations Officer* to help to build our capacity to engage with government as we deepen our advocacy efforts, and a *Program Coordinator, Global Advocacy 2SLGBTQ1A+*. In addition, we have developed a new advocacy tool to enable sign-on as part of any advocacy campaign. The Justice Principles adopted by the 2023 annual meeting of the 44th General Council has provided a framework for our advocacy particularity with the war in Gaza.

Together with the Indigenous Church, the work on justice and reconciliation continues as we attempt to address both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People. Communities of Faith are invited to witness for justice in this area; this includes the Moose Hide Campaign and our *own #SearchTheLandfill* social media campaign regarding the Brady and Prairie Green landfills in Winnipeg.

The Executive invited the *Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF)* in collaboration with the Indigenous Church and the Anti-Racism Common Table to examine the use of the word "mission," given the colonial history of the word and to bring recommendations; these were adopted in November 2023. (The proposal [GS 63 Recommendations re: Mission](#) is found on the [United Church Commons](#).) Following the request of the 44th General Council, a working group was established to engage the church in learning about and countering antisemitism, particularly within our interpretations of Scripture, in

worship, and in Christian education. More information and resources can be found on the [Countering Antisemitism page](#) on the United Church website.

Centennial Celebration: Planning for the United Church centennial is underway. There will be three streams:

1. Commemoration
2. External-focused communication and action plan
3. Fundraising/capital campaign.

June 9, 2024, will be the launch of the centennial year (online and in person) with a worship service at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, a site close to the inaugural gathering at the former Mutual Street Arena. Every month, from June 2024 to June 2025, a key moment will be highlighted on social media to mark and share our history. The date for the Centennial service itself has been set for June 8, 2025. This will be the celebration to which we invite international guests.

The goal of an external-focused campaign is twofold: to introduce the distinctiveness of the United Church to those who have only a broad umbrella definition of “church,” and to reconnect with those who claim United Church identity but have lost connection. The Executive asked The United Church of Canada Foundation to lead a legacy campaign.

Mission and Service: Good news! We are grateful for your continuing support of the collective ministries of the Church. There is good news to report regarding the 2023 Mission and Service results: contributions by congregations, United Church Women (UCW), and special donations all exceeded budget. The totals for these three areas, sitting at \$17,090,056, were slightly over the 2022 actuals of \$17,062,694.

The total for Mission and Service from all areas was \$20,831,564. This compares favourably to the total budget of \$20,225,000, and is close to the 2022 actual amount raised of \$21,132,213. These are preliminary results, and you can expect a final tally and the Mission and Service Accountability Report in June.

Information and updates about the work of the Executive can be found on the [General Council 44 webpage](#).

Nominations Leadership Team

Nominations Team

Rev. Caroline Giesbrecht, Rev. John Young, Stephen Coles, Rev. Svinda Heinrichs, Rev. Wanda Stride (Assembly of Elders rep), Karen Wilson (staff)

Greetings from the Nominations Team.

As everyone in the Region is aware, the majority of the work of the East Central Ontario Regional Council’s ministry is accomplished through the dedication and passion of many volunteers. It is the work of this Team to encourage participation in the ministry of the Region, to seek out those who would like to volunteer, and then to discern how best to deploy the gifts offered.

The rhythm of our work follows this basic timeline:

In early February we meet to evaluate how many new members each Team needs. Then we check-in with the chairs of each of the Teams to ensure we have the correct information and, importantly, to find out from them the particular gifts they are looking for in new members in order to round out the skill-set required to live into their Team's mission most fully.

Nominations were open this year from March 1 to March 15 and, in that time, we received 14 expressions of interest to fill 20 positions. Once the forms were collated, the Team met by Zoom on March 19 to do our work of discernment.

In our discernment process, we consider several factors for each candidate and Team, with the aim of achieving a balance with who is already on the team, what gifts people bring to the role and recognizing a diversity of life experience and geographic location. An important next step is to pray. This time we prayed over each name in silence. Our Team members found the time of silent prayer to be a very powerful experience.

Some comments from this year's process:

- 1) All members of the team expressed concern over the low numbers of applications.
- 2) The team discerned that there is no conflict of interest among the applicants.
- 3) We were curious as to why only men applied for Mission through Property and only women for Faith, Nurture, and Justice.

A wondering: How do we as a Region encourage more people to participate in the ministry of the Region?

A recommendation: We recommend that each chair of each Team plan for their succession.

Motion: After prayerful discernment, the Nomination Team recommend that the East Central Regional Council appoint the following people for a term from 2024-2027:

Moved by Svinda Heinrichs; Seconded by _____

Assembly of Elders

Rev. David King
Dr. Sheila Mae Young
Brian Nicholson

Mission Through Property Team

Jeff Julian
Rev. Isaac Mundy
Ron Trewin

Covenant Support Team

Patti James
Rev. Cheryl McMurray

Formation, Nurture, and Justice Team

Patricia Teskey
Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander
Rev. Wanda Stride

Equity Team

Rev. Nancy Wilson

Nominations Team

Rev. Svinda Heinrichs

Rev. Wanda Stride

Concluding notes:

- 1) The Nominations Team offer our thanks for the leadership and wealth of information given by Ted Meyers over the years, and give thanks that he is willing to remain on this team a year past his term during succession planning.
- 2) We encourage more people to let their names stand for Teams that still have vacancies. Please consider this a nudge for discernment. The Teams needing more members are:
 - a. 1 for the Assembly of Elders;
 - b. 2 for Nominations Team;
 - c. 1 for Faith, Nurture, and Justice Team;
 - d. 3 for Equity Team.
- 3) If you feel yourself called to serve the National Church, nominations to serve as a commissioner to General Council 45 will be open this Spring and will close in September.
- 4) Nominations is also suggesting that the Facilitation Forum plan a regional information night outlining what is required of members and committee members.

The Nominations Team thank all those who have offered their gifts for the ministry of the East Central Regional Council. We particularly thank Mary-Jane Hobden for her work on Nominations. She unfortunately had to step down as chair unexpectedly this winter.

May we continue to live into all that God calls this Region to, knowing that God gives us what we need as we need it.

Respectfully submitted by
Svinda Heinrichs, interim chair

Covenant Support Leadership Team

Overseeing: Retirees Forum, Licensed Lay Worship Forum, Liaisons Forum

Hello everyone and God Bless. I am Bill Sheaves and I am the chair of the Covenant Support Team. Rev. Darren Liepold is our staff associate.

We have primary oversight of the pastoral relations processes as well as assisting in various time of conflict and difficulty in pastoral charges. We meet monthly except for the summer.

One of our main responsibilities is the consideration of every call and appointment in the Region. We review and recommend approval to the Assembly of Elders, who take our recommendations as further evidence of a suitable call for a particular Pastoral charge. In addition, we oversee the work of three forums: Licensed Lay Worship Leader forum (LLWL's), Retirees Forum and the Liaison Forum.

We interact with the LLWL's on both a formal level and informal level. We vote and recommend for appointment the candidates to be licensed. We also bring them together for mutual support and education events.

The Retirees Forum is primarily a body of collegiality and support for retired ministers who hold a vast knowledge and experience over decades together over the past year. It is the body that takes on the region's responsibility to care for and support a retired minister and retirees from other United Church work.

The Retirees Forum is the leadership team for the Retirees Network (composed of all the retired United Church ministry personnel in the East Central Ontario Regional Council). We are part of the ECORC Covenant Support Team. There are about 160 retirees. Our purpose is to provide opportunities for retired ministers to connect with each other for purposes of mutual support, discussion about theology, church issues, or any other topic of interest.

We have had monthly Zoom gatherings (open to all retirees) on topics including United Church Pensions, the Regional structure, joys and challenges of our ministry experience, and sharing personal burdens.

We have a chat group on Facebook through which retirees can address topics which are of joy or concern to them. And we have a list of retired ministers who are available for pulpit supply etc. A list is available through Rev.Caroline Giesbrecht.

Our ministry retirees have a wealth of experience and knowledge (maybe even wisdom!) to share, so if anyone has ideas of how we might be helpful to the church and its communities, please let us know. We can be contacted directly or through Karen Wilson and the ECORC website.

The Liaison Forum, chaired by Steve Coles, provides support and education to the Liaison persons who provide front line support to the pastoral charge during ministry change. The process outlined in Churchhub.ca is the basis for this ongoing work.

Although we continue to meet on ZOOM we are now able to meet in person with Communities of Faith that are having conflict. We hope that the CST can continue to have a deeper interaction, encompassing our Region's commitment to being, affirming and anti-racist Church.

All Calls and appointments are now recorded on ChurchHub. The Pastoral charge approves a call or appointment (usually at a congregational meeting). This decision is then written up on the appropriate form for calls or appointments on ChurchHhub.

Once accepted this form is transmitted to the Minister, who has been selected on the form and based on their request through ChurchHub, to be made available for search. The Minister then must agree and approve their Call.

When the two approvals have been received, this Call or request is then placed for evaluation before the CST and finally the Assembly of Elders where it is approved. The final approval is up to the Region.

ChurchHub will publish via email the approved form of all those who have agreed to the Form. Once this confirmation is received, covenanting services can be planned with the Liaison who has worked with the pastoral charge.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs)

The year 2023 was a very productive year for the LLWLs in the East Central Ontario Region and 2024 is off to a busy start.

There are now 30 approved LLWLs in the Region with two more approved to be tentatively added by June. Twenty-five are presently available for pulpit supply in communities of faith other than their own home church.

There are six members on the LLWL forum (two clergy and four LLWLs), plus Karen Wilson as ECORC staff rep. There have also been some substantial additions to the Forum (and Network ECORC website over the last year with more upcoming. Rev. Cathy Gradante is the Chair and Paul Kneebone is the Secretary. The LLWL forum met six times and plans for at least four times this year. This year we have seen the retirement of the Rev. Cheryl McMurray and she leaves with our sincere thanks.

All LLWLs and individuals presently in the LLWL online course of study are all members of the LLWL network. The in person meetings are a great opportunity to socialize together and share a lovely lunch and conversation.

Thanks to Rev. Darren Liepold for his assistance with this team. We are committed to the well being of the Region.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Sheaves, Chair, Covenant Support Leadership Team

Formation, Nurture and Justice Leadership Team

Since our last report, our Team has had two new members, Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, a third representative from the Assembly of Elders and Darlene Hallett. Unfortunately, Darlene has decided to leave the team after the Annual Meeting, and I will have completed my term and so the team will need to find a new chair.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff, Sharon Hull and Rodney Smith Merkley for their guidance and support. Thanks also extends to those chairing the various forums who make up our team as well as those who serve on the Forums, and various networks. So much of the work of this team is done by these dedicated people.

In addition to the various Forum reports you will see as part of this report, our Team was also instrumental in having the Assembly of Elders support two letters in regard to calling for a ceasefire in Palestine/Israel. One of those letters was sent to Members of Parliament in our Region and the second was sent as a call to action to Communities of Faith. Thanks is extended to Adele Boy for initiating this work.

Indigenous Justice And Respectful Relationship Forum (IJRR)report

Our forum has been fortunate to have Elaine Kellogg as chair for several years now. Elaine is stepping away from this position, and we will miss her leadership. A new addition to our group is Michelle Adams, representing the UCW. She joins Jackie Harper, Sharon Hull, Katlyn Ostrander, Rodney Smith-Merkley, Shelley Knott-Fife, Elaine Kellogg, Mary Anne MacFarlane, Helmut Enns, and Ned Wells on the forum.

Our forum continues to look for ways to support local congregations, provide resources, and also to share information about events not hosted by ECORC, events which can lead to justice and respectful relationships.

Getting out the vote for Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization has been a major focus this year. We are pleased that most communities of faith in ECORC have submitted their vote.

The travelling library is now a reality. In fact, we have 3 travelling libraries. These 3 libraries focus on IJRR. We invite other forums to create libraries as well. Each set of 3 cases contains children's books, novels, resource books and more. The libraries have been in several churches, and one is ready to be relocated to your community!

IJRR has initiated ZOOM "Gatherings for ECORC Communities exploring Right Relations." This is an opportunity to ask questions, share initiatives, and find ways to work together.

Sharon Woodrow would like to host a witness blanket in the Cannington church. See Witnessblanket.ca for an explanation. Sharon is planning to have the display available to schools and churches. The target date is September to October 2025.

All of us on the Indigenous Justice and Respectful Relationship Forum are more than happy to meet with you to assist in any way possible with this work in your local area. We look forward to hearing from you. Submitted by Helmut Enns and Rodney Smith- Merkley

Affirming Forum

We would like to recognize and thank Rev. Elizabeth McDonald for her vision and leadership of the Affirming Forum since its inception in 2019, and to Sharon Woodrow for her tireless efforts as secretary. We will strive to build on the excellent contributions both of these women have given to the work of Affirming.

The Affirming Forum met 9 times in 2023 with 6 members, and staff member Sharon Hull.

Our goal is to provide a safe space for all and encourage folks to not be complacent. We recognize our social climate is changing and in fact is becoming dangerous to many in the 2SLGBTQIA+ and Trans communities.

We sponsored 4 zoom networking gatherings, inviting interested folks from Affirming communities of faith, those in the affirming process and those who might be interested in starting the process. We discussed the implications of the September 20 right wing protests, and how these events might or have been harmful to our communities of faith. We continually share links to resources from Affirm United and Affirming Connections that could be helpful to groups planning discussions, events, etc.

We promoted PI/PIE Day, March 14, offering support and encouragement to have local events happen. We led worship at the Spring Regional Meeting May 5 and 6, with liturgy written by Rev. Michelle Down, a member of the Affirming Forum. Included in this worship was the dedication of a table runner for the region's use. Several regional progressive flags were handed out to representatives from Affirming communities of faith, and these continue to be given to communities who achieve a public Affirming presence.

A presentation regarding pronouns and their importance was given to the Assembly of Elders in October 2023.

As our social climate continues to change, the Affirming Forum is committed to providing safe space for discussion, and physical support at community events. We are committed to growing the network of folks who are passionate about Public, Intentional and Explicit advocacy for all to be treated equally with respect and dignity.

Kimberly Collins and Joyce Payne, Co-Chairs, ECORC Affirming Forum

First Third (children, youth, young adults and their leaders)

- General Council Climate Motivator Summer Interns 2023: A group of 15 Climate Motivators working across the regions on climate justice passion projects in partnership with their community of faith. Ellia and Kara (both from Lindsay) represented the East Central Ontario Regional Council. A special thank you to Patricia Teskey who was their local mentor. It was great to be invited to the zoom meeting to hear about the exciting learnings and projects that were completed. If you get a chance to see them, ask them about their experience last summer.
- We were invited to join a couple zoom webinars for children and youth leaders- each held twice- 1 during the day and 1 in the evening
- Some participation in Big Drum Socials and Orange Shirt Day event
- Curriculum news:
 - One community of faith from each regional council was invited to pilot the new Anti-racism curriculum- I Am A Changemaker. This is now available to purchase at the United church bookstore- UCRD.
 - The GO Project is still offering curriculum and it has moved to the ChurchX platform - go to churchx.ca
 - The United Church anti-racism app has recently been updated the design for our mobile app called AR4YT (Anti-Racism for Youth Training). It's available in both apple and google play. The app was designed by Black youth aged 18-22 who are members of the United Church. The new design provides a better interface for chat. Although the app is youth oriented, it can also be used by adults who want to learn about becoming anti-racist.
- Participation in the monthly check-ins have been low- offered in both the afternoon and evening. I have started to connect by phone to do a personal check in. We may find a better time for more to gather together. There has been good participation in the south west area cluster (see info below) and the leaders (project partners) gather together on zoom.
- **New cluster in the south west area of the RC:**

Community Youth Project- Westminster United Church received government grant money to research and design a children/youth program. Susie Noorlander was hired as the Youth Ministry Initiative Lead and other communities of faith in the area have been invited to partner. Meetings of leaders online and then a survey was sent to children and youth- ages 5-12 and 13-17. Questions- email youthinitiative@westminster-uc.ca

- Please see the newsletter and website for information about these opportunities.
 - 2024 Climate Motivators- Ages 15 to 19 - deadline April 15th
 - Gibimishkaadimin- Ages 14 to 18 – deadline April 30th
 - Ecumenical Young Adult Learning Community- Ages 18 to 25- deadline April 30th
 - Cahoots Festival- May- All ages- Intergenerational event- registration open
 - RendezVous Audacious Hope 2024-(High school youth, young adults and leaders) registration opens April 15th

Upcoming opportunities will be posted in the newsletter and on the website. Please contact me at Shull@united-church.ca if you are interested in connecting.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Hull

Anti-Racism, Interfaith, Intercultural Forum

As the East Central Ontario Regional Council's Anti-Racism, Interfaith Intercultural Forum plans its agenda for 2024, we take this opportunity to inform you of all that has been accomplished since the Region's policy regarding Anti-Racism was approved on April 30, 2022.

RESEARCHED EVIDENCE FROM CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY

Internal survey results from 52 (fifty-two) congregations received, revealed the fact that we have 23 (twenty-three) different languages spoken amongst various members/adherents in our communities of faith. This highlights wider and deeper intercultural legacies in the East Central Regional Council. Regarding areas of support requested by communities of faith, there are written requests in the following categories:

1. Education in Cultural and Religious literacy
2. Information on strategies for making connections with and interacting with our neighbours
3. Training in various formats
4. Resources - general
5. Resources for worship.

ORGANIZATION OF CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

1. Leadership Summit on Inclusivity
2. Leadership Summit on Anti-racism which brought the following written comment from the former Chair of ECORC'S Justice Committee, the Rev. Meggin Hare - "the part of this gathering that spoke more strongly to me was the opportunity to hear from over half a dozen other community leaders, from the realms of business and health and education. I was so gratified to see how the work of anti-racism is being recognized for its importance in such a variety of realms. We are becoming more vocal in naming the issues of racism endemic to our communities; to name our complicity, conscious and unconscious; and to acknowledge the continuing work we need to do"
3. Leadership Summit on Community Conversations
4. Training event on Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions - with Dr. Sheila Wilmot

5. Regional Pentecost celebration of our Anti-Racism Policy
6. Engaging with Black History month in Canada - focused on worship resources which included the visual and performing arts in Canada. Weekly resources were provided for the ECORC newsletter.
7. Black History month - focused on highlighting Accomplished Canadian Leadership profiles.
8. Black History month with a panel of four presenters, followed by discussion
9. Interfaith: Five sessions on World Religions - with Dr. Brian Carwana
10. The Interpretation of Scripture through the lens of Anti-Racism - with Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon
11. Theology/Theologies conference - with Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ball, and ECORC Executive Minister Eric Hebert

INSTITUTIONAL FOCUS

- Meeting with the former Speaker, ECORC Assembly of Elders
- Meeting with the former Regional Personnel Minister
- Meeting with the current Regional Personnel Minister
- Meeting with ECORC'S Liaison Committee
- Meeting with UCC's National Anti-Racism Co-ordinator
- Meeting with UCC's Executive Minister for Theological Education

INNOVATION BY THE FORUM - THE PORTRAIT PROJECT (ongoing process)

The vision is to bring an inclusive recognition of Intercultural and Indigenous leaders who have made significant contributions to the wider Church, as well as working through their own communities of faith. Examples might be The Right Rev. Stan Mackay, Sang Chang--Lee, Rev. Wilbur Howard, and of course, our current Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne. Eleven communities of faith are now hanging portraits of their choice. We invite you to join the growing number of congregations implementing this idea.

The Forum looks forward to working on our strategic vision and plan during 2024. It wishes to thank ECORC Staff persons - Sharon Hull, and Karen Wilson, for their consistent support in moving forward.

Aruna Alexander

Chair of ECORC's Anti-Racism, Interfaith and Intercultural Forum

Fair Trade

- During 2023 Fair Trade Products were present at various UCW and Regional events with 30% of the sales allocated to several Mission and Service Programs as well as a few Outreach Projects within ECOR and EOR.
- I wish to thank those that invited me to attend which gave me the opportunity to make everyone aware of the Mission Work I continue as the Fair-Trade Advocate of our United Church.
- Many events have been booked for 2024. I am looking forward to enjoying your Programs and Friendship.
- Blessings - Marilyn Rodger, Fair Trade Advocate. UCC.
- Aruna Alexander
- Chair of ECORC's Anti-Racism, Interfaith and Intercultural Forum

Networks

A variety of Networks fall under the FNJ Team. Information about these networks can be found on the ECORC website.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Bulloch

Mission Through Property

This past year the Mission Through Property Team and ECORC have been very busy with discussions about the future of church properties of many COF's as they struggle to find options for their survival. Rising operational expenses and declining memberships have forced many to consider their futures. In support of these COF's ECORC has been working with them to consider alternatives to help with escalating expenses. Many of our church buildings require age related capital expenses. New demands by the insurance industry have created expenses for capital improvements and without these improvements insurance coverage may not be provided. Environmental improvements, handicap access and other gov't introduced requirements all contribute to these escalating expenses.

We work with COFs to consider expense reducing options like shared ministries, Group insurance coverages (Director and Officers) through HUB of the United Church of Canada are just a couple of examples. We are always tracking what grants might be available to assist with expenses. We along with Kindred Works, work with COF's to consider whether Development opportunities for their properties might provide a income source for the future. Just a reminder that Kindred Works solutions are not quick fixes and will often take several years to become a reality.

We manage the M&S grant applications along with our own Doing Ministries Together grant applications. If you require more information about what else might be available, please contact us or refer to our website.

We also work with COF's in other areas of support of their needs. Some of these are: lease arrangement's for COF's; capital projects \$50k or greater; emergency repairs; cemetery issues as requested by GBO; operational expenses; insurance challenges

Land Trusts

This past summer Land Trusts were introduced and approved by the authorities which allows Kindred Works and ECORC to hold properties in a trust fund which allows for the collection of significant assets for future uses like housing projects and new Church ministries. When COF's declare that Church properties become surplus to needs as a result of closures, mergers, disbandment's and amalgamations three options are considered;

- Kindred Works is given the first option to hold these assets for the development of housing projects and they assume the property management responsibilities.
- ECORC then has the option to hold these properties for future needs and they take over the property and the property management responsibilities. In both of these options it is assumed that these properties can operate where rentals and third-party usage can generate enough income to offset the expenses. If this isn't possible then.
- The properties are listed for sale and proceeds are distributed as per the current ECORC policies.

Amalgamations or Disbandment's and Sales - Property Disposition

Mentioned here are the current amalgamation's - sales for your information.

- Insgoldby United Church amalgamated with Haliburton United Church Jan 1st 2024 Insgoldby United Church sale closed April 8th 2024.
- Plainsville United Church Amalgamated with Camborne UC of the Cold Springs Pastoral charge Jan 1st 2024. Planning for the Sale of Plainsville UC are currently underway.
- Penial United Church amalgamated with Woodville United Church Penial UC is currently in the process of being sold.
- Zephyr United Church is amalgamating with Sandford United Church effective Nov 1st 2024. Planning for the disposition of Zephyr UC is currently underway.
- St Andrews United Church, Beaverton, amalgamated with Trinity United Church, Cannington as of April 1st 2024. St Andrews United Church will be held by ECOR and property management Service are being provided by TUCC.
- Prince Albert United Church amalgamated with Port Perry United Church. July 1st 2023 The sale of Prince Albert UC is currently underway with a lease to own agreement in place.
- Highland Hills Manse sale . Closes April 18th 2024

Kindred Works and other Development Projects

This past year ECOR approved and or continued to support many Kindred Works projects. There are other projects at various levels of approval, and I mention a few for your information.

- Trinity United Church and Housing Development in Uxbridge. Project is actively seeking final approvals from the various gov't bodies and just received a \$2.75 million grant from Durham Region to build a 105 unit affordable housing facility. A new Church will also be built as part of this overall development. The original church was destroyed by the Tornado of May 2022,
- Dunbarton Fairport United Church developing 13 affordable housing units in Pickering, through a partnership with the United Church and CMHC. AHIP funding in the amount of \$1,950,000 was allocated for this project by Durham Region.
- Sr Stephens United Church Oshawa Housing Development. Disbanded April 30 2023. This project has been submitted to the municipality and is also seeking approvals for their project. KW is providing property management services.
- Bowmanville United Church Development. KW is working on the planning phases with various municipal authorities and have assumed the property management services for the current building.
- Simcoe St United Church, Oshawa, development. KW is currently working the municipal authorities on plans for a housing development.
- There are other projects at the feasibility stage and we continue to get inquiries from churches seeking information about future development opportunities.

ECOR approved the sale of a couple of other development properties for housing projects.

- Trinity United Church, Peterborough
- Mark Street United Church, Peterborough

If you have any interest in joining the Mission Through Property Team so you too can get involved in building options for the future of our Church, please contact us so we can include you in the nominations process for the next year.

Yours respectfully, Ted Meyers, Chair ECOR Mission Through Property Team

Equity



The Equity Team continued to meet via Zoom after the 2023 Spring Meeting, June/September/November (2023) and March (2024). Since the last report the Equity team:

- said farewell and thank you to member Rev. Max Ward and to our Chair, Rev. Phil Wilson;
- celebrated the ordination (last Spring) of two of our members Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander and Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick, and;
- continues to rely on our Communications Support Staff person, Karen Wilson, and offer gratitude for her creativity, awareness and ongoing commitment to this work of Equity as she supports our Team and as she participates in the work of Equity throughout the Regional Council.

Equity members continue to act as “Equity Support Person(s)” or as observers during the Regional Information Sessions and at the 2023 Fall meeting. Equity supports the Facilitation Team and the Assembly of Elders by informing them of any equity concerns shared with them in the various formats: email (ecorcequity11@gmail.com), in-person (Pink shirts at the fall meeting), or private messages during Zoom Virtual info-sessions.

Equity Scorecards have been created for both in person and online gatherings. Each team or forum is encouraged to have a member fill out the scorecards which provide feedback on the physical space, awareness of inclusive language, dietary considerations (if applicable) as well as taking into consideration other factors of accessibility and equity.

Other Equity initiatives include:

- ongoing work on a standard template for PowerPoint presentations.
- working with the Assembly of Elders to develop an online version of “Holy Manners” so that whenever we gather as a body (in person or via Zoom) we remember the way in which we are called to interact with respect, compassion and joy in our encounters.

- communicating to all teams and forums of the common practice that an Equity Support person is to be identified at the start of all meetings and before the meeting concludes, observations be shared with the meeting. If there are any concerns/actions/observations during these meetings, the Equity Support person is encouraged to inform the Team by using their email, ecorcequity11@gmail.com.

In addition to the actions mentioned above, we are committed to continue our personal learning. We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham who led us in a book study of Amy Kenny's book "My Body is not a Prayer Request." Amy's personal experience and stories speak of the need to address disability justice within the church and wider society. She encourages and challenges us to become more aware of how we might create spaces of belonging for all. A smaller group within Equity is developing a book study to be offered to interested parties within our Region. We offer thanks to Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne who offers valuable wisdom and resources for us in the development of this study. Watch for more information on dates and details this of Regional Council book study on "My Body is not a Prayer Request" - an exciting new initiative.

Some links:

- Our YouTube Channel: [Equity and Accessibility Videos ECORC](#)
- Equity Resources: [Equity and Accessibility Resources](#) (here you will find our policies and our role/what we do)
- PowerPoint template and current guidelines: <https://ecorcuccan.ca/powerpoint-template-and-information/>

Current members of Equity:

- Chair – Rotating Position
- Karen Wilson (Staff Support)
- Deb Fortin-Brown
- Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander (Assembly of Elders Rep)
- Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick
- Rev. Nancy Clarke
- Rev. Paul Reed
- Rev. Nancy Wilson
- Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Equity Team, Rev. Nancy Wilson

Additional Reporting

Rural Connect

Rural Connect is an initiative of the United Church of Canada, which aims to partner congregations for interactive, internet enabled worship. The program brings the words "We are not alone" to life.

Originally under the banner of EDGE, the program is now under the Growth and Ministry Development, Organizational Development and Strategy Unit. Rev. Bronwyn Corlette, Rural and New Ministries

Coordinator, is the program connection while the Rev. Randy Boyd continues in his role of hosting weekly support meetings for participating congregations.

The basic outline of the program is the connection of satellite and hub sites for shared worship. A hub is a location that provides the technical leadership for the worship service, having the equipment necessary to connect up to four locations for shared worship. There are two hubs located in ECORC: St. Mark's Cannifton and St. Paul's Bowmanville. Each of the hubs has invested approximately \$45,000 dollars to the installation of equipment for this ministry, and trained members of the community of faith in its operation.

Satellites have an all-in-one box with all the equipment they need. If you can turn on a computer, make a call on a cell phone and adjust the volume on a radio, you have all the technical skills needed to operate a satellite box. There is a cost recovery charge for participating.

All sites can share in worship to degree they wish. Everyone may share announcements, readings, prayers, music, preaching in real time. Over time, congregations build relationships through the sharing of worship.

In the past couple of years, several congregations have trialed the experience with St. Mark's Cannifton and Roslin Thomburg working together for approximately a year.

For further information, please contact

Ryan McNally
St. Mark's Cannifton
pastor@stmarkscannifton.ca

Derek Marcellas
St. Paul's, Bowmanville
office@stpaulsunited.com

United Church Women (UCW)

Since the last ECORC meeting, the regional UCW has seen some significant changes.

The Regional UCW is divided into UCW Areas which match the former presbytery boundaries. There are currently 5 Area UCWs in our region: Lakeridge, Hills & Shores, Kente, Kawartha Highlands and Shining Waters. In 2022 we had 1720 members, the most of any of the 16 UCW regions across Canada. In that year we saw the closing down of Four Winds Presbyterial Area UCW which had tried for a number of years to find people to take on leadership roles. In 2023 was our first full year without our members from the Four Winds Area; however, individuals from that Area continue to serve the broader UCW and several have positions on the regional UCW. In 2023 we had 1250 members.

When women join the UCW in their church, they are broadening their circles and becoming connected as members of their Area, Region and the National UCW. Area UCW executives arrange from 2 to 4 major gatherings each year, promote our mission projects, provide regular communications to local UCWs and assist them with archival work. When a local UCW makes its decision to close, the Area UCW that provides advice and assistance, including a beautiful closing service which members of the presbyterial often attend. Opportunities for amalgamating with other UCWs or individual memberships are also made available. The presbyterial Area presidents all sit on our regional executive which meets in Norwood three times a year.

In September, we moved from the previous name “Bay of Quinte UCW ECOR” to become East Central Ontario Region UCW, a name now on our updated logo. We are an affirming ministry and you will see that rainbow logo and the Affirm logo on all our event announcements

Whenever we gather, the Spirit shines. Thank you to Kente Area for hosting the Annual; to Shining Waters for Quin-Mo-Lac Weekend where we were all “Moved by the Spirit” with drumming, the blanket exercise and presentations/activities on an indigenous theme. Thanks to Nancy Sutherland and Freda Burns, the fall leadership workshop drew in new faces to learn about “Then Let Us Sing.” Shortly after, with great spirit in Kawartha Highlands Area, came Midweek, filled with fellowship and fun as we learned about how to care for creation and backyard birds. UCW events are all self-supporting with participants paying the full cost of the event. In addition, each event raises funds through roll calls or offerings for United Church programs or local charities.

We have ventured into several new paths this year. This is the first year of our Five Year Mission Project to support Indigenous Women, Children and Families through the United Church Healing Fund. Our first Healing Fund project has been a program of the Regina Native Outreach Ministry to provide Welcome Baby bags for indigenous women with a message that they do not walk alone.

We also returned to some roads walked before: supporting Student Candidates for Ministry with gifts from our Bursary Fund; selecting Lyn Miller as our UCW rep on the ECORC Pilgrimage to El Salvador in March 2024. We continue annually to support Old Hay Bay Church, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac and M&S. Across Canada, UCW donations to M&S for 2023 were \$494,217.60.

And we found some new ways to get the work done. With joyful hearts and many hugs, we returned to a full calendar of UCW Gatherings, but kept ZOOM meetings that ease the workload for planning teams and broaden the circle through online book studies. We thank Sharon Hull for leading a training session to support event registrars from each Area to take advantage of on=line registration. Many creative minds provided ideas to ease the load for organizing our September Quin-Mo-Lac Weekend. Going forward we will share the load; each year two Area UCWs will plan program and others look after registration and ‘logistics.’ Willing volunteers showed that this gathering is a highly valued spirit booster for our women!

We have held 5 online book clubs over the last few years, they most recent in February 2024 had 27 registered including a few guests from the Maritimes region, BC, and Florida. The UCW builds and maintains links across the regions. Members of the EOR region to the east have attended both the book clubs and each of the Area Annual meetings held over the six weeks. Five are coming to the upcoming Regional Annual at Courtice on April 23 with the theme: Making a World of Difference.

We thank Karen Wilson for posting notices of our events and creating a UCW section on the ECORC webpage. Still in its early days, you can find UCW items by going to About Us...Ministry Teams...ECOR UCW News and Events. In addition, Helen Cox, our regional UCW Social Media Portfolio lead, takes photos and posts event notices on our Regional UCW facebook page. Take a look, as others have from across Canada, and you will see the light shining in East Central Ontario Region UCW. We are blessed!

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Mound, President, East Central Ontario Region UCW

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry of East Central Ontario Regional Council provides shawls for new and retiring ministers, new staff and pastoral care. This year 9 shawls have been prepared for presentation at the ECORC Spring Meeting and others have been provided for pastoral care throughout the year.

Women from all areas of the region create the shawls. Some are specially made by someone from the recipient's home area, but often we make them with just the general purpose in mind, knitting or crocheting our prayers into the stitches. This year a great number of the shawls were knit by members of both Anglican and Presbyterian churches who join in an ecumenical local knitting circle at Emmanuel United in Foxboro. They use the traditional alternating 3 stitch pattern to weave the Trinity into the shawl.

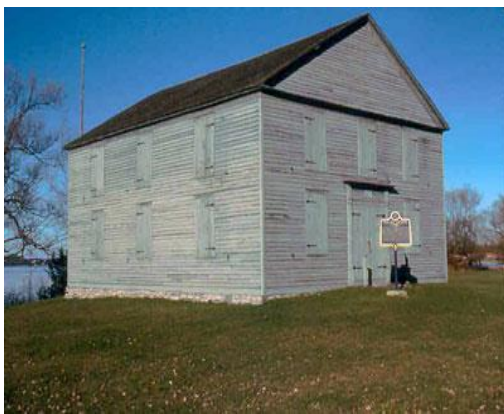
Those who create the shawls or others who are aware of this ministry are honoured to donate the yarn, our time and distribution costs that may arise. Each shawl takes 20 to 30 hours of work. We welcome donations toward the cost of the yarn.

Each Shawl is given with a blessing card from East Central Ontario Regional Council.

May the one who receives this shawl
be wrapped in God's love,
in good times
and in challenging times,
and may the recipient be granted
strength, hope, joy and peace.

We feel blessed to be able to serve ECORC in celebration of milestone occasions and hope that those who receive the shawls will feel blessed by God's presence in their life journey.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Mound, coordinator, ECORC Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Annual Report of Old Hay Bay Church 1792

National Historic Site of Canada
2365 South Shore Road, Napanee, Ontario
March 11, 2024

The church had a busy year.

At our spring meeting (April 17) motions were passed to: replace the roadside fence on the cemetery; to have a new Pilgrimage sign created; and have the 1811 boundary markers repaired/replaced as deemed necessary. Discussions for the Pilgrimage service took place, and the decision was made to not hold a sunset service this year, due to the poor attendance last year.

The Church opened to the public on Saturday, May 20. Volunteer custodians kept the church open daily until late September.

In May, the Board regretfully received two resignations of Board Members. We thank Rev. Phil Wilson for his devotion to the church and his commitment to stay for the summer as custodian coordinator. We thank Jen Welsh-Wilson for her commitment to the financial commitment and the work on the Memorial Garden for long time trustee Kathy Staples.

A July 11th, meeting was held to finalize the Pilgrimage Service and ask Board members to step into the vacancies. We also accepted a new trustee, Brian Windover.

The Board also accepted the quote to repair the plaster and paint the interior of the church. During this work, the custodians stayed on site to speak with visitors, while maintaining safety precautions. This work was completed by the Annual Pilgrimage service. The contractor also provided the Board with directions on how to maintain and care for the stairs, railing, wainscoting and floor boards.

Our two new display and storage cupboard arrived on the first day the painters were removing pews and starting preparations. It was a busy day for custodians and trustees.

In August our Annual Pilgrimage service was held inside (first since 2019) under the direction of Rev. Phil Hobbs. Our guest speaker was, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, who spoke about the importance of the church and its relevance to today.

In September we were one of the stops for the Lennox & Addington Cycling tour. Although not a huge money maker it is a great opportunity to promote the meeting house to the approximately three hundred cyclists that stop and rest.

In our fall meeting we accepted Terri Schuler and John Candlish as new Trustees. The devotion of the custodians and Board of Trustees has been fundamental in getting projects done and the church being open for the summer months.

The cottage and cemetery had minor maintenance done, with planning started for the major upgrades to the cottage in 2024.

The church continues to receive support from local media outlets for all its public events. We use Facebook and our website www.oldhaybaychurch.ca for promotional and learning opportunities. Our publications are available at Books on Main, Bath year-round and at the Loyalist Trading Post, Conway during the spring – fall season. These partnerships have been beneficial in raising funds and promoting the church as a tourist destination. We paid for advertising on line and in the magazine Breakaway.

Our attendance was slightly lower than pre-Covid numbers, but custodians felt the visitors were more interested and stayed for longer visits. The reasons why they visit were varied. They seek information on the religious history and significance of the church, they search for family connections to subscribers, their connection to the drowning victims of 1819, preachers and families in the area, the unique architecture, and some as they are interested in 'churches'. The most common comment is the peace and calm they experience inside the church.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish to thank Rev. Darren Liepold for his support as our Regional Rep, and the grant we receive from the United Church of Canada. We encourage you to visit. On behalf of the Board, please know that we will continue to do our part in protecting and promoting this historic site. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, or if they are of a financial nature, our Treasurer Harvey Nikkel, at clarkleigh04@gmail.com or 613.407.7627.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Farley, Chair of the Board of Trustees, elaine.farley@sympatico.ca, 613.924.7030

Bedford House



A Community Ministry of East Central Ontario Region 11
in partnership with Greenwood United Church Peterborough
supported by Mission & Service Fund, Seeds of Hope Foundation, Doing Mission Together Fund, and
individual donors

Vision:

To create spaces where people of all faiths – and none – might engage in “sacred conversations” and experiments to co-create a community that is ecologically sustainable, socially equitable, and spiritually fulfilling.

In 2015 the United Church of Canada called for proposals to start New Ministries. In Peterborough, Ontario, a tight-knit group of Christian social activists responded with a proposal to start a learning centre for Community Development that was faith-based- they named it the Bedford House Community Ministry.

They asked: How might a small, under-resourced, group of people from a variety of faith streams – and none – make a significant difference in our community?

Lynn & Allan Smith-Reeve, United Church Ministers trained as Community Animators gathered community members to help them grow new relationships among participants from diverse socio-economic classes, race, gender, physical ability, and neuro-diversity.

The outcomes include:

- More than fifty participants in four Bridging Teams that resulted in bonds of trust and friendship who gather now as the **Neighbours Network** (supported by Doing Mission Together grant)
- Core Financial support received from all levels of the United Church

which then leveraged financial support from Foundations and Government sources

- Individual donors who supported each Bridging Team’s core expenses
- Significant relationships built with Peterborough’s social service and faith community network

And in the fall of 2024, we are excited to offer you...

“Bridging Poverty & Privilege; creating courageous spaces for community to flourish”

An online course delivered on the ChurchX platform

In a series of six workshops, Lynn & Allan Smith-Reeve will share the lessons learned, the practices that worked, the surprises, the stories, and the outcomes of our seven-year journey building community across class lines in a model called Bridging Teams.

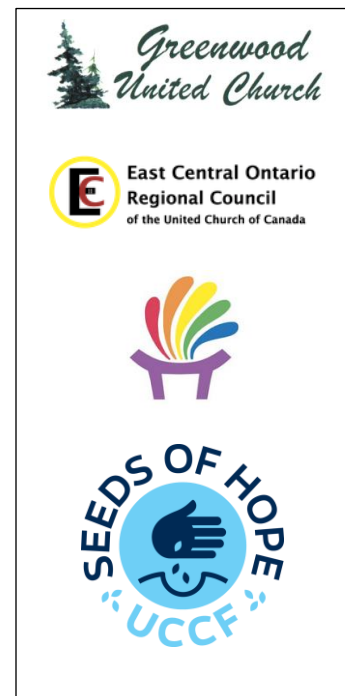
The “Bridging Poverty & Privilege” course features: storytellers from participants offering their lived-experience; the various resources we’ve studied together; and includes discussion questions for reflection - whether you move through the course alone - or with a group.

We’ve been blessed to have been sponsored by all three levels of the united church of Canada.

While our UCC congregations are amazing examples of communities where gifts are received and shared...the business model of churches assumes that members have enough disposable income to contribute to that offering plate passing by every Sunday morning. and therefore, under-resourced people, those without disposable income, don’t really fit in well.

Our work is based on the simple observation that:

- Wealthy people tend to associate with other wealthy people.
- Middle class, well-resourced people tend to socialize with other well-resourced people.
- And, Under-resourced people, working class, precariously employed folks tend to hang with other under-resourced people.



Yet, isn’t the good news of the gospel is that we all belong at the table? Our journey has been an experiment of creating community that is inclusive of folks from all socio-economic classes and walks of life.

In our Bridging Teams experiment, we’ve brought together people from different classes and together we’ve studied what keeps us apart – for instance, the Hidden Rules of Class – and as we’ve studied we’ve found that when we create a courageous – space for people to laugh together, eat together and tell their stories – the spirit shows up, conversations deepen - and sacred moments happen as authentic community grows.

Even though our focus has been socio-economic class differences and systemic causes of poverty, we’ve found intersections in our Bridging Teams with race, gender, physical ability, and neuro-diversity.

In this series of workshops, you’ll learn about Bridging Teams, the model of community-making we’ve engaged in. Our hope is that you’ll discover practices you can use to create courageous spaces in your

context - spaces where “sacred” conversations will deepen the relationships our communities need to thrive.

Our experiment may have begun with high hopes of helping people cross the bridge out of poverty, but along the way...and it’s a long way across that bridge...we’ve realized that the more important (and Jesus-honouring) outcome is “belonging”. It’s really all been about creating the space for relationships of belonging with folks from across spectrums of diversities, to grow and flourish.

Look for our course on the ChurchX platform. We call it **“Bridging Poverty & Privilege; creating courageous spaces for community to flourish”**

Bedfordhouse.ca

Bedfordhouse551@gmail.com

Colleges

Atlantic School of Theology
Annual Report to Ucc Regional Councils
April 2024



Atlantic School of Theology serves Christ’s mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith. We did this in a variety of ways in 2023. With students and alumni in every United Church of Canada Region, we bring together a community with an extensive understanding of the varied needs of the church. The Summer Distance MDiv continues to be the degree with the highest enrollment bringing students together for 6 weeks of intensive learning in the summer and online, synchronous, and asynchronous classes in the fall and winter. In addition to the MDiv degree, we have United Church of Canada Students enrolled in the MA as well as 3 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options.

2023 saw the soft launch of our Bachelor of Theology degree which includes a “Ministry Specialization” stream. We were pleased to welcome 7 students in the fall and anticipate an increase in enrollment in 2024. This degree reduces the barrier for those without an undergraduate degree who feel called to serve the church and want academic excellence at a bachelor's level combined with opportunities for practical experience serving the church. We are excited about the ways this may meet the identified needs of our founding parties. We value our relationship with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards across the country as we seek to respond to the educational needs of the church for shaping effective and faithful leaders.

The Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell concluded his tenure as Academic Dean on the 1st of July and I have taken over the role for the next 3 years. The Presidential search committee concluded their work, and the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance began serving as President on the 1st of August. Like all educational institutions, we face challenges and the road ahead is not always clear, however, there is a spirit of optimism and a sense of renewal within our school community as we chart a path for the future.

It is a joy to work with United Church of Canada students as well as those who support them within the administrative structure of the church and individual communities of faith. We welcome your input as we seek to serve the ever-changing needs of the church.

With the Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Academic Dean, Atlantic School of Theology

St. Andrew's College

Dear friends in Christ,

Warm greetings from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon! As we embark upon the year 2024, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the enduring support and prayers of our beloved community. Reflecting on the challenges we have collectively faced over the past several years we are reminded of the profound truth that we are stronger together.

It is with great joy and gratitude that we share the news of the deepening partnership between St. Andrew's College and our partners within the Saskatoon Theological Union. Through our Covenant of commitment, we continue to chart a path of collaboration and mutual support, transcending individual identities to embrace a shared vision of unity and purpose. While each institution retains its unique character and traditions, our collective endeavours serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the wider community. We hope that our bold ecumenical strides will serve as a catalyst for similar partnerships within our denominational traditions, fostering greater unity and understanding among God's people.

At the heart of our mission lies a commitment to excellence in theological education, and I am thrilled to share the exciting developments in our academic programs. Building upon a foundation of shared values and mutual respect, the faculty of the Saskatoon Theological Union has finalised the renewal of our Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree programmes. These programmes, offered in an intensive format through a trimester model, provide students with the opportunity to pursue their studies without the need for relocation. We take great pride in being the first mainline seminary in Canada to offer such a pathway, emphasising ecumenism and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In addition to our degree programmes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. Our Doctor of Ministry programme continues to thrive, attracting a diverse cohort of students eager to deepen their knowledge and enhance their ministry. Furthermore, even though General Council has decided to discontinue the Designated Lay Ministry programme, we are grateful for the opportunity to support the current DLM students as they complete their studies. The presence of our DMin and DLM directors and students enriches our community, fostering vibrant dialogue and mutual learning.

This past September saw the launch of our Lifelong Learning Pathway—a testament to our commitment to inclusive education and spiritual formation. Developed over the past two years, this innovative programme offers a flexible and personalised approach to theological and spiritual exploration. Whether one is a seasoned pastor seeking continuing education, a lay person committed to furthering their ability to support their own and their faith's community's journey, or a spiritually curious seeker embarking on

a journey of discovery, our certificate programmes provide a space for growth, reflection, and transformation.

As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we are filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation. The challenges of recent years have not weakened our resolve but have instead ignited our imaginations and renewed our sense of purpose. We invite you to join us on this journey of compassion, hope, and justice — to support us, to pray for us, and to walk alongside us as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of theological education in the twenty-first century.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you wish to explore our academic or lifelong learning pathways further. We are here to serve and support you in any way we can. As well, do reach out if you have any questions at all, at principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

If you would like to know more about our academic or lifelong learning pathways, feel free to contact the College Recruitment Ambassador at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

And we would be more than happy to receive your financial support! Contact our College Secretary at collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca for a list of development opportunities and ways to give.

May the Spirit continue to guide and bless us as we walk together in ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis, Principal, St. Andrew's College

Montreal Diocesan Theological College

At Montreal Diocesan Theological College—widely known simply as Dio—we are now in our third year as an ecumenical institution following the integration of the United Theological College beginning in the 2021-2022 Academic Year. Our United Church Studies program remains strong and vibrant. We have a solid number of students at various stages of the candidacy process and are looking forward to welcoming several new ones in the fall. United Church worship is a regular part of our chapel life and we have welcomed several ministers from the Nakonha:ka Region to lead worship over the past year.

As we continue to deepen our integration as an ecumenical institution, we are renewing and expanding our programming. This includes:

- **The Certificate in Bilingual Ministry Program and French for Ministry Intensive.** In May 2023, we hosted the first in-person French for Ministry intensive week since the pandemic, taught by Clara Maranzano. It was a delightful week with an ecumenical student body, many of whom continue to meet online in an advanced discussion group centred on theology for ministry. The French for Ministry intensive is being offered again in May 2024.
- **The Montreal Mission Internship.** This program offers service-learning, vocational discernment, and theological reflection in community over nine weeks in the summer for young people ages 18 to 25. We had a successful offering in summer 2023 with several students from a United Church

background and are looking forward to the 2024 iteration. Applications are being accepted through www.montrealmission.ca. Interns receive a stipend of \$5000 for the program.

- **Online open enrollment courses.** The college routinely offers short (three to six weeks) online courses designed for adult education and lay formation, in both English and French. Our offerings this year have included courses or workshops on preaching, Medical Assistance in Dying, the prophets of the Old Testament, and United Church history and theology. We welcome conversation with people in the Nakonha:ka Region about how we can offer courses that meet the needs of your community of faith.
- **Learning Circle for Admission Ministers.** In May 2023, we offered for the second year in a row a week-long intensive learning circle for admission ministers to the United Church. This was an excellent time of building inter-cultural community, introducing newcomers to the church, and looking to the future of the church with hope. We will be offering a variation of this again in May 2024. It will be a 4-day course taught in French and focused on introducing (or re-introducing) the United Church through the lens of Canada's inter-cultural reality. All are welcome as you don't need to be an admission minister to join.

It is programmatic fruits like these that are the most compelling proof of our success as an integrated college to date. But part of the reason for considering integration was financial realities. While we still have work to do, it is good to report that the integration of our colleges has led to a position of much greater financial stability. We continue to be immensely grateful for the dedicated and faithful financial support of our ministry from so many people.

Just as the church is changing, so are we. After many, many years of faithful service, the Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly will be retiring at the end of May. We are currently searching for her replacement. We are also currently looking at how we can respond to changes in theological education prompted by the end of the Designated Lay Ministry Program, as well as how we can support French-language programs that lead to testamur for ordered ministry.

Our ecumenical Board of Governors is currently engaged in our first strategic planning process as an integrated institution. We see tremendous possibility for our ministry from our base in a multi-cultural and bi- and multi-lingual city to support the United Church of Canada as we move forward at a time of great change to realize the strategic objectives set before the church and be a people of Christ's kingdom of justice and peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Zink (jessezink@montrealdio.ca)
Principal

Emmanuel College



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring season.

I pray that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg and it is my privilege to bring you greetings as Emmanuel's Principal. I hope to see you in person in the near future and share good news of Emmanuel College with you and hear good news of this region's wonderful ministry.

Faculty Compliment, Trauma Informed Pedagogy & Faculty on the Road

Last year, we completed three significant faculty searches, marking historical milestones for the Toronto School of Theology (TST) of which we are a part. Rev. Dr. Glenn McCullough joined as assistant professor through a partnership with Knox, a first in TST's history. Dr. Jenny Bright became Emmanuel's first assistant professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counseling. The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will be appointed as the first assistant professor of United Church of Canada studies at Emmanuel after completing her moderator's role in December 2025. Additionally, Néstor Medina was promoted to associate professor, and Pam McCarroll to full professor, holding the Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Practical Theology.

This academic year, the faculty has engaged training in Trauma Informed Pedagogy (TIP), with monthly discussions involving faculty, staff, and Research Fellows. TIP emerged from student discussions in response to our EDIA stance, "DEAR" (Dignity, Equity Accountability, Responsibility) Declaration, and has been supported by grants from the Wabash Center and the Association of Theological Schools. We plan to host a TST-wide conference in May 2024 to share our insights and impact other theological schools.

The current faculty is keen to go out into different communities of faith to promote Emmanuel and share their scholarship and wisdom. Andrew Aitchison as Admissions Counsellor and Recruitment Coordinator will be a liaison connecting faculty with communities. Please let him know if your communities want to invite our Christian, Muslim or Buddhist faculty. That would be so wonderful.

The Indigenous Healing Garden Project

This project, which aligns beautifully with Victoria University's sustainability strategic framework and Emmanuel's commitment to right relations with Indigenous communities, is currently underway, thanks to an initial grant from the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope. Brook McKillop, the architectural firm, has been commissioned to redesign the courtyard which features the Crucified Woman Sculpture. The proposed designs have received approval from the project's advisory committee in collaboration with the Indigenous Elder circle. We aim to begin construction this summer and anticipate project completion by 2025, as part of the UCC Centennial celebration.

Major Celebrations at Emmanuel College

In the next few years, there are several significant anniversaries we're eagerly looking forward to celebrating! Firstly, in 2024-2025 we'll be commemorating three remarkable milestones: the 10th anniversary of the Buddhist Focus in our Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) program, the 15th anniversary of the Muslim Focus in the MPS program, and the grand 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. In 2025-26 we will celebrate 30 years of the Committee on Asian/North American Asian

Theologies (CANAAT). Then fast forward to 2027-2028, which promises to be another monumental period, marking the 20th anniversary of the Master of Sacred Music Program and the 100th anniversary of Emmanuel College itself. Stay tuned for more information about these celebrations to come.

I envision our celebrations will incorporate multiple fundraising opportunities to establish scholarships, enriching our offerings and supporting marginalized students. Notable progress has already been made in securing scholarships. We proudly unveiled our first named scholarship for Buddhist students in February 2024. Efforts are underway to establish a Korean Scholarship, with an inaugural fundraising dinner held this past fall, and another planned as a music concert commemorating the 100th birth year of the Right Rev. Dr. Sang Chul Lee on October 26, 2024, at Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. Additionally, a special fundraising event is in the works to establish a scholarship for Queer students, scheduled for November 2 for Drag Show paid event, in collaboration with the Drag and Spirituality Summit, to be held at Emmanuel November 1 to 3, 2024.

Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

Our Hybrid Master of Divinity (MDiv) program began this past year which allows for 2 years of a 3-year MDiv can be done online. We hope this will reach more prospective students outside of the Greater Toronto Area. Read this story about two folks who began the Hybrid MDiv this year.

Multi-faith Spiritual Life

Spiritual and religious activities thrive, in person every week, Tuesday and Wednesday. These sessions are led by Buddhist faculty members, guest religious leaders and our dedicated student Spiritual Life Team (SLT), along with students from Christian worship/preaching and Buddhist ritual courses. This SLT is enrolled in a year-long course for credit called "Worship and Ritual Leadership Practicum." Our Wednesday Spiritual Life Gathering continues to be the heartbeat of our week and alternates between Christian Worship and a Multi-faith Gathering. These gatherings are streamed live on YouTube and are open to the public and all are welcome!

Faith Community Partnerships

Over the past year and a half, we've been fortunate to receive community lunch sponsorships from various Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist faith communities. They've joined us at Emmanuel to share food, stories, and teachings about their faith traditions while learning from our students about their interfaith experiences. Addressing food insecurity is crucial today, and providing meals to our students in this manner has been a great blessing. If your church is interested in partnering with Emmanuel, please be in touch!

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. program and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All basic degree domestic full-time students are eligible for our Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first year courses. We also offer all (domestic and international) students who are registered in the Ph. D. program, 100% tuition coverage for four years. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programs, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison, emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). A list of upcoming offerings are found on the Emmanuel College website. For further information about these events please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

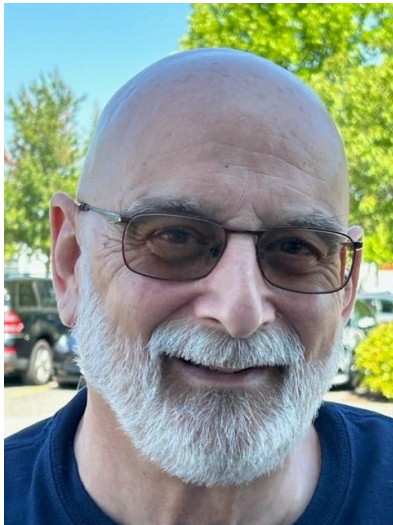
Please follow us on social media:

Facebook: @EmmanuelCollegeofVic / Instagram: @emmanuelcollegetoronto
YouTube: @EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely, Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg, Principal and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching, Emmanuel College

Candidate for Ordination



Brian Nicholson

Picton United Church

It was suggested that I begin this short bio with the words, 'I am...', so: I am a thankful and grateful member of the United Church of Canada. I joined the United Church 30 years ago with these words of invitation from Vancouver Burrard Presbytery Education and Students Committee: 'we do not ask you to stop being who you are, we welcome you to come and share your gifts with us.' Wow! What incredible words of welcome. In the years since then, I have attended VST, worked as a chaplain at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, was Director of Pastoral Care and Social Work at Fairhaven United Church homes in Vancouver & Burnaby, and for the past 20 years have been in pastoral ministry situations in Toronto, Sydney Australia, and now East Central Ontario. I have been married to my partner Darren since 2003 and we have one son, Anthony. So, to end as I began, I am a thankful and grateful member of the United Church of Canada, a disciple of Christ, looking forward to the journey as it unfolds and continues.

Retirees



Rev. Dr. J. David McMaster

I was raised in a Methodist manse in Belfast, N. Ireland. While I spent my teenage years running as far away from the church as possible, the seeds that had been planted germinated and drew me back. It is now hard to believe that my first experiences in Christian ministry began some 45 years ago and that I now have such a lengthy track-record of being either in ministry or the halls of academia. I am thankful for the opportunities I had to pursue Biblical Studies at advanced levels. I am equally thankful for the trust of congregations I have served - the downtown, Fifth Avenue Free Methodist Church in Ottawa; the multi-cultural, Milliken Wesleyan Methodist Church in Markham; the cathedral-esque, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto; and the warm, Eastminster United Church in Belleville. Each congregation received me with open arms and each has a place in my heart. I treasure the memories and the people who have helped so much as we engaged Christ's call together.

While I am now taking a much-needed break, I hope in the future to find opportunities to serve God's Church. In this age of constant change and Artificial Intelligence, it seems to me that the foundational truths of God's word and the relationships formed around it may be even more meaningful.



Rev. G. David King

Ordained in 1990 by Toronto Conference, David's time in ministry has seen him serve numerous communities of faith, and the General Council Office, first in the role of Ministry Personnel Policy Analyst, and subsequently as deployed staff to the Bay of Quinte Conference where he undertook the work of Conference Minister, Personnel Administration & Rural Ministry.

For the last number of years, David has walked alongside 3 congregations as their Intentional Interim Minister.

In addition to his called, appointed, or retained work, David has further served the church as:

- Secretary of Presbytery (Hills & Shores),
- Chair-elect of Presbytery (Hills & Shores),
- Commissioner to the 42nd and 43rd General Councils,
- Nominee for President of Conference (Bay of Quinte),
- a member of 3 Presbytery/Region commissions,
- Chaplain (North Command) of the Toronto Fire Service,
- a member of the Liaison Forum, and,
- a chair of ECORC's Covenant Support Team.

David remains inordinately grateful to God for his family (particularly son Cameron), his colleagues, his friends, those among whom he undertook ministry, and his much beloved mentor – The Late Rev. Rowan Binning.

For what has been... humble regard! For what will be... abundant hope!.



Rev. Elaine Kellogg

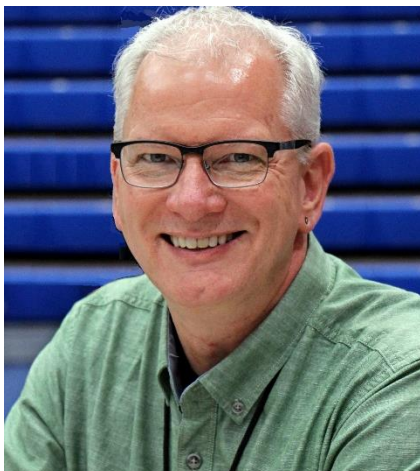
I have spent my whole ministry within the bounds of the Bay of Quinte Conference-East Central Ontario Regional Council, and this is also the area where I grew up, so this is my home.

It has been my great privilege to have served three pastoral charges, and one regional ministry during 31 years of ministry. I served Denbigh-Matawatchan-Schutt Pastoral Charge, East Camden Pastoral Charge (Yarker and Moscow), and Deseronto-Napanee (Grace Church) Pastoral Charge. I also served two years as Northern Pastoral Region Area Minister, a special ministry of the Bay of Quinte Conference which served the small, rural churches north of highway #7.

I am grateful for the excellent ministry education I received from the Centre for Christian Studies, which prepared me well for ministry in uncertain times. I have been very appreciative of the national Diaconal Ministry network, and the connections of that network to the worldwide Diaconal Ministry-Deaconess movement.

There are many challenges in ministry, but also many blessings, and I thank all those individuals and churches who were part of my journey.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”.



Rev. Dr. Larry Doyle

“Surely, God is in this place!” – Help me notice! (Genesis 28:16)

“Love God, Love People, Love One Another – Love, Love, Love” (Mark 12:30-31, John 13:34)

These two phrases have been the cornerstone of my ministry. I discerned them through the rich experiences of serving congregations in Peterborough, Ottawa, New Minas NS, and most profoundly at Faith United in Courtice. I’ve also had the privilege of contributing at the Regional and National levels, culminating in a 7-year stint on General Council Executive, and being the Chair of the organizational team that put together General Council 43 in Oshawa

in 2018. I am exceedingly grateful for this journey and all the people who've been part of it. And now I've discerned that it's time for a new season.

Music has always been central in my life. It was my identity as a teen. I studied it in university. It was my vocation as I taught it as a High School Music teacher for 15 years. And music was the way God got my attention and called me to ministry, as eventually I climbed out from behind my guitar and dared to speak of spiritual things. Music has always been a prominent aspect of my ministry, and I feel blessed that I get to sing and play every week in worship. But even with all that music-making in my life it has always been secondary to some other good. I've never made it my sole focus. This is my great epiphany: I feel called to spend this next season of my life being immersed in music. I have a wall of guitars clamouring for my attention, and a deep desire to become the musician I've always aspired to be. If you need me I'll be in my music room!



Rev. Lynn Smith-Reeve

After years of living in poverty, caring for my late husband, educating my kids at home, and being as involved as possible in my church, a great life shift began for me in 2010 and by 2012, I found myself in a new relationship and embarked on the path to become a Diaconal minister in the United Church of Canada. What a journey!

Circles of amazing folks supported me (part of the processes of both the Centre for Christian Studies and the Candidacy Pathway). In these circles, I realized the journey for me was not just into paid accountable ministry, but into navigating life successfully in middle-class-ville - a world with its own rules and standards.

Those circles inspired Bedford House's Bridging Teams - small groups of folks from poverty and from middle-class - each learning from the other what life is really like on "the other side" of the class divide.

I am so very thankful to have made this journey. Along with my work with Bedford House Community Ministry, being a student minister and then the called minister at Bethany Pontypool Pastoral Charge was an unforgettable experience.

My future plans? Complete our online course, Bridging Poverty and Privilege (soon to be available through ChurchX); retire from Bedford House Community Ministry; and of course, spend a lot more time with my life-partner, my children, my grandchildren, and with my honeybees.

Many thanks and so much appreciation to everyone who has been part of this amazing journey.



Rev. Nancy Clarke

I was ordained on May 23, 1987, by London Conference. My first appointment was at Maitland Pastoral Charge, Nova Scotia. Returning to Ontario in 1990 I ministered at: the Wooler-Stockdale Pastoral Charge; the Portland-Elgin Pastoral Charge; Grace United, Sydenham; St. Matthew's United and at Chalmers United both in Kingston. My last call was to Roblin-Enterprise U.C. in Roblin.

I am married to the Venerable Bill Clarke, an Archdeacon, in the Diocese of Ontario. We have two sons Matthew and Daniel, with the former our family has grown with a daughter-in-law Shannon and a grand-daughter Melody.

I have always loved to learn. I completed one course in Clinical Pastoral Care and two in Interim Ministry. I have taken many other workshops and courses on various topics to enhance my ministry. I am amazed at what I have learned and continue to learn about life and faith in over 36 years of ordination. I thank my family for being with me on this adventure. I am grateful to former congregations and all the people whom I have met along the way. Your presence in my faith journey has truly been a blessing. Above all else I thank God for continuing to enrich my life with grace, mercy, and learning. My prayer is that I continue to be a life-long learner in an interesting and blessed retirement.

Memorials



Rev. Elizabeth Praamsa

September 9, 1933-May 27, 2023

Ordained in 1979, Elizabeth served at the following pastoral charges in her years of ministry: Riceville-Pendleton, Queensville (Montreal Ottawa Conference), Highland Road, Castleton-Grafton, Bobcaygeon-Dunsford, Brighton-Trinity St. Andrew's, Smithfield-Carman, Hastings-Roseneath, and Cobourg Trinity.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Elizabeth, 89, on Saturday, May 27th, 2023 in Guelph, Ontario. After a short battle with cancer, she departed peacefully, with her children at her side.

Born on September 9th, 1933 in Castlegore, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Elizabeth Praamsa (née Faulkner) was the daughter of Robert Faulkner and Dorien McAfee. She was a beloved member of the family in which she grew up, which besides her mother and father included her grandmother Elizabeth Jane McAfee, her Uncle Freddie (McAfee), her step-father, Aelfryn Ernest Jones (Ivor) and her brother Robert Henry Faulkner (Harry).

Deeply loved by her family, she is survived by her children Naomi (Franck Portalupi) and Andrew (Barry Praamsa-Townshend) and grandchildren May and Molly Henderson and nieces Lynne Lukas (Mark)

and Anne Faulkner. Over many decades, many are the friends who brought meaning to her days and whose lives she touched in return.

Elizabeth had a strong, adventurous spirit that guided her with her family as they crossed the Atlantic to begin new lives in Canada, first in New Brunswick in 1954 and later in Montreal. She treasured her memories of early years working for a shipping company in New York City as well as out on the prairies in Saskatchewan for her first charge as a student minister. She was a trail blazer as one of the first women in ministry with the United Church of Canada. After she was ordained, she first worked at a two point charge in Riceville and Pendleton in the Ottawa area and then moved on to Queenswood United in Orleans. Her longest service was in Kitchener at Highland Road United followed by time in Bobcaygeon at Trinity United. In retirement, she served at a number of churches in the Cobourg area as an interim pastor.

A small funeral service to celebrate Elizabeth's life will be held on Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 at Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, 252 Dublin St. N., Guelph, Ontario. Friends and family are invited to attend a visitation at 10 o'clock before the service that starts at 11:30am. Interment to follow at Woodland Cemetery, Kitchener. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice Wellington in memory of Elizabeth Praamsma. We thank them for the tremendous care and comfort they brought to her and to us, her family, in these recent days.

We love you, Mom! Rest in peace!

"I wouldn't change any of my life, even the pain-filled parts, for the darkest times were tunnels through immovable mountains to bright new places." —Elizabeth.



Rev. George Lavery

December 15, 1934-June 27, 2023

In over 40 years of ministry George served at Howick in Montreal Ottawa, Waterview in Bermuda, East Camden in Bay of Quinte, Warkworth, Bay of Quinte Conference, General Council, Manitou Staff, Newcastle, Edith Rankin, Gananoque in Montreal Ottawa, and Athens Addison in Montreal Ottawa.

George Hamilton Lavery passed away peacefully on June 27, 2023 in his 89th year, in Kingston ON, surrounded by family and friends. Survived by Mary, his wife of 66 years; his three sons, David, Brian and Roger; and his grandchildren, Nikayla, Grant and Stella.

Predeceased by his parents, Alexander Lavery and Elizabeth Cheeseman; his sisters, Murial Harrison and Phyllis Tucker; and his nephew, Robert Harrison.



Rev. Barry Goodwin

October 19, 1943 – June 18, 2023

Barry was ordained in 1969 and served congregations in the Gaspé, with Kingston Presbytery, Glen Cairns Ottawa, St Matthew's in Kingston, Holloway Street in Belleville, Lansdowne Mallory Town in Ottawa, St. Margaret's in Kingston, Almonte, Renfrew, Perth, Kanata, Pakenham, Southminster and Central Lanark.

It is with profound sadness and love we share with you the peaceful passing of Barry Goodwin at the Ottawa General Hospital on Sunday, June 18, 2023 with the love of family by his side. Barry was the beloved husband and best friend of Thelma, proud and loving father of Debbra and adored Poppa of Jayden.

Barry was predeceased by his Father Sidney, his Mother Mona and Brother Terry. Barry earned his BA at Macdonald College in Montreal in 1966 and graduated from Queens Theological College in 1969. Barry was a United Church Minister for over 40 years and with his leadership preaching skills he was called to share his ministry with many congregations in Quebec and Ontario.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. For those wishing, In Memoriam donations may be made to the Lanark Animal Welfare Society, Canadian Cancer Society or the United Church of Canada.



Rev. E. Lois Wilson

November 11, 1936- July 15, 2023

Lois was ordained in 1990 and served the congregations of Coe Hill-St. Ola, and the Ridge, Buckingham United (In Montreal Ottawa Conference) and Lower Gatineau (in Montreal Ottawa Conference).

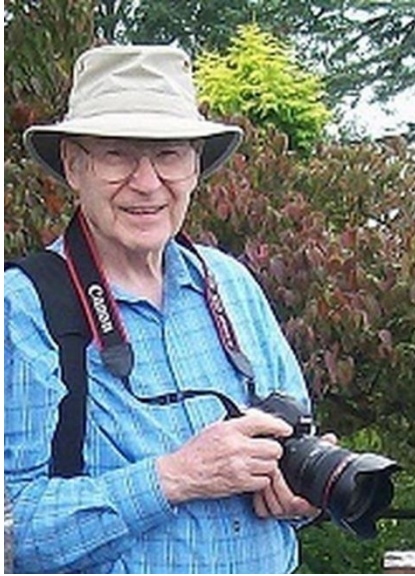
Lois died peacefully on July 15, 2023, at the CHLSD in Masham, Quebec at the age of 86. She was predeceased by her parents Alexander and Mary Wilson (nee McCorkell) and her brother Albert Wilson. Lois is lovingly remembered by her longtime friend Ruth Wiseman and family in British Columbia. Lois was godmother to Kevin, David, Gregory, and Lee-Anne Wiseman. She is also fondly remembered by many cousins on both the Wilson and McCorkell side of the family.

A native of Ottawa Lois has called Alcove Quebec home for more than 40 years. Lois was committed to ministry for over 43 plus years.

She was commissioned as an officer in the Salvation Army in 1959 serving in Kamloops, Vancouver, Aurora, and Toronto. She also served as Chaplain at both the Grace and Civic Hospitals. Lois obtained her Bachelor of Theology from Queens University in 1990 and was ordained in the United Church of Canada in 1991. She served as minister to the Coe Hill-St. Ola-The Ridge Pastoral charge in Central Ontario as well as the Buckingham Pastoral charge from which she retired in 2001. Lois had a multitude of interests including swimming, skiing, gardening, painting and photography. She was however most passionate about music

and researching her family tree. Once she was no longer able to reside at her beloved home in Alcove, Quebec, she moved to the CHLSD in Masham, Quebec where she spent her final years

Special thanks to Rod and Judy McCorkell who provided Lois with immense support during her last years in Alcove and to the staff at the CHLSD in Masham for the care they gave to Lois in her final years. For those of you wishing to do so donations to Des Collines Health Foundation /La Pêche Nursing Home Fund would be appreciated.



Rev. George Lavery

December 15, 1934-June 27, 2023

George was ordained in 1967 and served in Waterview (Maritime Conference), East Camden (Bay of Quinte), Warkworth (Bay of Quinte), as Conference staff in Bay of Quinte and Manitou Conferences, General Council staff, Newcastle (Bay of Quinte) Edith Rankin (Bay of Quinte) Ganonoque (Bay of Quinte) and in Athens Addison (Montreal Ottawa).

George Hamilton Lavery passed away peacefully on June 27, 2023 in his 89th year, in Kingston ON, surrounded by family and friends. Survived by Mary, his wife of 66 years; his three sons, David, Brian and Roger; and his grandchildren, Nikayla, Grant and Stella. Predeceased by his parents, Alexander Lavery and Elizabeth Cheeseman; his sisters, Murial Harrison and Phyllis Tucker; and his nephew, Robert Harrison.



Rev. Don Matheson

1943-August 21, 2023

Don was ordained in 1977 and served at St. James Bond (Toronto) Heritage York (Toronto) St Paul's Brampton (Toronto), Acton Trinity (Toronto), Professor at Queens Theological School, Dunbarton Fairport (then Toronto) Chaplain in Toronto, Dewi St. Welsh (Toronto) Fairbanks (Toronto) St Andrews Bloor Street (Toronto) Humber Valley (Toronto) Sutton West (Toronto) and Bloor Street (Toronto).

After a lengthy struggle with Parkinson's Disease, Don Garfield Matheson died peacefully on Monday, August 21, 2023, at the age of 80, with his beloved wife, Blondina, by his side. Don was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and grew up in the Grayburn community. He was predeceased by his parents, Neil Garfield Matheson and Mary Matheson; and his brother, Dwight. Left to mourn are his sister, Louise (Doug) Ott; Dwight's wife, Marilyn; and sister, Shelley (Dave) Froehlich.

He is lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Don was an avid student throughout his life. During his high school years, he obtained his ARCT in piano performance and teaching. The time Don spent at his grand piano remained dear to his heart and brought him much joy. After moving to Ontario in 1973,

Don was ordained in the United Church of Canada. Don enjoyed a long and varied career in pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, education and administrative positions with the United Church of Canada in Ontario. His ministry was defined by his creativity, music and his generous spirit of love and inclusivity.



Rev. David McKinnell

July 1930-July 30, 2023

David was ordained in 1984 and served congregations in Parkland Presbytery in Saskatchewan, Enniskillen Tyrone, Tabernacle in Belleville, St. John's in Campbellford, and Marmora.

Held in love, David passed away on July 30, 2023. He leaves behind his wife Earla for 33 years and his children Nancy, Don, and Brenda and David who predeceased him and Jonathan (Jenny), stepchildren Matthew (Sharon), Christa (Doug) and Jason.

He was born in July 1930 at Montreal, Quebec and died July 30 at Bowmanville Lakeridge Hospital in his 93rd year.

David was the adoptive son of Margaret and Dean McKinnell now predeceased. He grew up in Montreal as an English child in a French environment. He worked a few different jobs until he joined the Air Force in September of 1951, and retired as Captain in September of 1977.

After leaving the Air Force David entered Toronto University to gain his Bachelor of Divinity. After achieving this he then served in Toronto, Saskatchewan and here at Enniskillen- Tyrone Pastoral Charge. At the time of his death he had served at least 30 or more years as an Ordained Minister.

David was a man of great courage and profound love. He overcame obstacles that many do not even try to acknowledge. He was a man of keen intelligence and a profound thinker. He was always striving to learn more about the world and life.

He has left an indelible footprint upon the world and the lives he touched upon the way.



Rev. Douglas Robert Blair

May 5, 1932-September 9, 2023

Douglas was ordained in 1957 and served at Saguenay St Andrew's and St. John (M&O), Danville Asbestos (M&O), Quinte (Bay of Quinte), Chalk River (M&O), Athens Addison (M&O), and chaplaincy in Montreal.

Doug passed away peacefully on September 9, 2023 at the Ottawa Heart Institute at the age of 91. He was born on May 5, 1932 in Ottawa to Gwendalyn and Robert Blair.

He is survived by his wife Christina and three children Jill Johnson (Wayne), Wendy Langlands (John), Jeff Blair (Paula), and six grandchildren. Doug was brother to Bernard Blair (Helen) but was predeceased by his brother Ralph Blair and sister Margaret Blair.

Graduating with a Master in Theology from McGill University in 1957, Doug was ordained as a United Church Minister and began his outreach to many around him. Beginning his ministry in remote locations in northern Quebec before moving to eastern Ontario then joining the Canadian Forces in 1967 as an Army Chaplain. He served the forces overseas as well as locations spanning from the Maritimes to the Prairies including a UN Peacekeeping tour in Egypt. Upon his retirement from the CF Doug continued his ministry to serve the people of Athens and Addison until his retirement. He continued to provide support, visiting those in need as well as new couples embarking on the journey of matrimony.

Driven by fitness from an early age Doug could always be found near a gym, tennis court or just floating peacefully in the pool at the Brockville YMCA. In keeping with Doug's wishes there will not be a celebration of life service



Rev. Joan Marrs Hughes

March 3, 1931-October 4, 2023

Joan was ordained by the Bay of Quinte Conference in 1991 and served Kingscourt United Church in Kingston before retiring in 1996.

Reverend Joan Hughes passed away peacefully on Wednesday October 4, 2023 at Providence Care Hospital in Kingston Ontario at the age of 92. Although Joan was a proud Canadian, she never lost touch with her Scottish roots. Joan Marrs Baird (parents John and Maggie Baird) was born the youngest of 5 children in Greenock Scotland on March 3, 1931. Predeceased by her first husband William Kerr Galbraith Allan, Joan remarried Victor Augustine Hughes on September 11, 1970 (also deceased).

Joan is remembered by her children: Ken Allan (Tricia), Joanne Allan (Greg), Kitty Kerr (Andy) and Richard Hughes (Lindsay). She is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Joan was a passionate lifelong learner. She was in the inaugural class of the Early Childhood Education program at St Lawrence College. She went on to complete several degrees at Queen's University (BA,

B.Ed and M. Div). At age 60 she realized her dream, when she was appointed as an ordained Minister to Kingscourt United Church where she served the congregation for 5 years.

Joan was a very engaged member of the Kingston community. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Cataraqui Conservation Authority, St. Andrew's Society, the Rideau Trail, food security programs, Elizabeth Fry Society, Hospice and the Syrian Refugee Board. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the staff at Providence Care Hospital for the excellent care that they provided to our mother.



Rev. David Spivey

June 3, 1937-December 1, 2023

David was ordained by the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom before being admitted to the United Church of Canada in 1974. He served in Oshawa presbytery, Newcastle, Trinity Thorold in Toronto Conference, Peterborough Presbytery, Seymour, the General Council Office, Cowansville (Montreal Ottawa), Ashdown (Montreal Ottawa), and Plevna Ompah in the former Bay of Quinte Conference.



Rev. James Moulton

October 24, 1930-December 5, 2023

James was ordained in 1964 and served Sandford-Zephyr, Northminster, Happy Valley (Newfoundland and Labrador), Lakefield and Young's Point, St. Andrew's Peterborough, Westdale, and Forest Grove (Toronto Conference).

Age 93, passed away quietly on December 5, 2023. Jim was born October 24, 1930 in Epworth, Newfoundland, the eldest of three (James, Edward and Audrey) to mother Susan Moulton and father Frederick Moulton.

Jim spent his early years as a fisherman, postal manager and school teacher in Epworth and southern Newfoundland. He left to do his studies at Mount Allison, graduating in 1957. He then completed his studies in Theology at Pine Hill Divinity Hall to become a Minister for the United Church of Canada.

During his years of studies Jim spent a few summers working out west in Weyburn, Saskatchewan where he met his future wife, the late Myrna Mabel Taylor. They were united in holy matrimony May 11, 1959 and were blessed with two children, Heather (Jeffrey) Brooks and Paul (Marie-Josée) Moulton. Jim and Myrna were blessed with four grandchildren; Laura, Thomas, Alexandra and Liam. Jim was thrilled to welcome his great-granddaughter, Mabel to the family in October. He will be missed by his sister Audrey Elliot.

Rev. and Mrs. Moulton spent the early years of marriage in Europe with Jim studying at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, while summering in Germany. They shared many adventures during this time and throughout their marriage sharing their love of travel and discovery together.

After completion of his studies Jim started his Ministry in Goose Bay, Labrador. They then moved to southern Ontario where he ministered in Zephyr, Etobicoke and North York. In 1995, he and Myrna moved to Peterborough where Jim remained active in the ministry for many years, with time spent as a retired Minister at many churches in Peterborough and area.

Jim was a gentle and inquisitive soul with a powerful but understated intellect. He was one of those special people that left an indelible imprint on those he met and he will be missed by many.



Rev. John Gordon Sloan

November 24, 1936-March 8, 2024

John was ordained in 1962 and served in Birtle-Isabella (Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario), Trinity United Church in Cobourg, the Bay of Quinte Staff, Central United Windson (London), Peterborough Presbytery, Tory Hill, Millbrook-Cavan, and Baillieboro-Springville.

Reverend John Gordon Sloan passed away peacefully surrounded by family on March 8th, 2024 in Granite Ridge Retirement Home, Gravenhurst, Ontario. He was born November 24th, 1936, in Orillia, Ontario. The eldest of three children to Gordon (1976) and Dora (2001) Sloan. He was predeceased by his son Malcom "Mackie" (1964), brother Douglas Malcolm Sloan (2012), sister Janet Pritchard (2020), companion Patricia Wood (2020) and wife Eleanor Sloan (Weir) (2012). He is survived by his daughter Mary (Logan), son

Murray (Myra), much-loved grandsons Logan and Tyler. Also by his sister-in-law Sheila Sloan, nephews Todd (Rose) and Tom (Susan), Rob (Jacynthe) and niece Amy (James), ex-wife Katherine Sloan (Wigle) and numerous grand nieces, and nephews.

John grew up and attended school in Gravenhurst. He worked at Sloan's Restaurant throughout High School. He played many sports, was a member of the Boys' Parliament, played in the school bands and sang in various choirs. Spent his summers being a camp counselor where he learned to canoe and enjoy the outdoors.

He attended Western University, where he met and married Katherine Wigle. He attended Emmanuel College in Toronto where Mary was born in Grimsby. The next stop was Phoenix, Arizona for a one year internship and then back to Emmanuel College to be ordained. After that, he and the family were off to Manitoba where Murray and Malcolm were born. The next move was to Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan to work at the Prairie Training Christian Centre. During this time, John and Kathy decided to go in different directions. John moved to Toronto to take a position at the United Church Head Office. He did a sabbatical in St. Louis, Missouri. Returned to Ontario for several interim ministerial church positions around the Peterborough, Ontario area (Cobourg, Millbrook, Ballieboro, Janetville, Cavan). Finally, moving back to his place of origin, Gravenhurst.

Over the 60 years as a minister, John volunteered as the hospital Chaplain in Peterborough and Legion Padre in Millbrook. He took great pride being Santa in numerous Parades. John took up ornamental welding as a hobby, calling his venture “Nail Folks.” He enjoyed the fellowship of people and storytelling with his amazing, detailed memory. Most recently he wrote several short stories about his life experiences including the life of Joseph Scriven. We will miss the stories yet to be written.

His nautical adventures have taken him to Alaska, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic Ocean going as far as Cornerbrook, Newfoundland during his university days.

Special thanks to all the staff at Granite Ridge Retirement Residence in Gravenhurst, Dr. Scott Whynot and Paramed Nurse Thera. Also, thanks to Jackson Creek Retirement Residents’ staff in Peterborough and Dr. Mark Robinson, Millbrook.



Rev. Ruth Muriel Hudgins

December 17, 1930-March 27, 2024

Ruth was commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in 1959. She retired in 1992 and was retained on the role of Belleville Presbytery and Four Winds Presbytery.

Ruth passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 at Village Green Nursing Home in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Clark Simpson. Lovingly remembered by her step children Janice Simpson, LuAnn Simpson, Susan Simpson, late Laurie (Sharon) Simpson and her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is survived by her sister Evelyn Storey and predeceased by her siblings Burton Hudgins, Nina Melkert, Ralph Hudgins and Marion Hudgins. She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews. Ruth was the daughter of the late Percy and Agnes Hudgins.

Milestones/Anniversaries

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Carol Gillard	Ordained Minister	10
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Catherine Gradante	Ordained Minister	15
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J.W. David McMaster	Ordained Minister	15
Jennifer Broomhead	Ordained Minister	15
Joan Hacock	Ordained Minister	15
Leslie Hills	Ordained Minister	15

Louise Sams	Ordained Minister	15
Mary-Margaret Boone	Ordained Minister	15
Michelle Robinson	Ordained Minister	15
Norman Long	Ordained Minister	15
Stevan Spicer	Ordained Minister	15
Wanda Stride	Ordained Minister	15
Catherine Duggan	Ordained Minister	20
Denise Boyd	Designated Lay Minister	20
Donald Green	Ordained Minister	20
Earla McKinnell	Designated Lay Minister	20
H. Grace McBride	Ordained Minister	20
Brian Nicholson	Designated Lay Minister	20
Marybeth Wilson	Ordained Minister	20
Judith Evenden	Ordained Minister	25
Julie Van Haaften	Ordained Minister	25
Kirby Breithaupt	Ordained Minister	25
Lynda Price	Ordained Minister	25
Paul Roth	Ordained Minister	25
Richard Parker	Ordained Minister	25
Thomas Walton	Ordained Minister	25
Ian Robb	Designated Lay Minister	25
Janis Belgium	Ordained Minister	30
Donald Willmer	Ordained Minister	30
Elaine Hall	Ordained Minister	30
Ernest Dyck	Ordained Minister	30
H. Nadine Mahood	Diaconal Minister	30
Janis Belgium	Ordained Minister	30
Kathleen Walton	Ordained Minister	30
Margaret Lonie	Ordained Minister	30
Mary-Jane Hobden	Ordained Minister	30
Sandra Farrow	Ordained Minister	30
Steven Davis	Ordained Minister	30
Bain Milroy	Ordained Minister	35
Donald Genge	Ordained Minister	35
E. Aruna Saroea-Alexander	Ordained Minister	35
H. Christine Frye	Ordained Minister	35
Jeannette Millar	Ordained Minister	35
Marjory MacMartin	Ordained Minister	35
Dr. Nancy Hudson	Ordained Minister	35
William Patterson	Ordained Minister	35
Ann Foster	Ordained Minister	40
Bruce Fraser	Ordained Minister	40
Bryan Ransom	Ordained Minister	40
Clifford Hospital	Ordained Minister	40

Daryl Bell	Ordained Minister	40
Harold Morgan	Ordained Minister	40
Joseph Ramsay	Ordained Minister	40
Lloyd Paul	Ordained Minister	40
Margaret Goodwin	Ordained Minister	40
Miriam Stroud	Ordained Minister	40
Paul Irwin	Ordained Minister	40
Paul Southen	Ordained Minister	40
Philip Hobbs	Ordained Minister	40
Janet Wray	Ordained Minister	45
William Perry	Ordained Minister	45
G. Frederick Jackson	Ordained Minister	50
Robert Root	Ordained Minister	50
Lowell Moyse	Ordained Minister	55
William Patterson	Ordained Minister	55
Eilert Frerichs	Ordained Minister	60
Harold Wilson	Ordained Minister	60
Robert Ball	Ordained Minister	60
William Hendry	Ordained Minister	60
Doreen O'Brien	Diaconal Minister	65
J. Kenneth Noble	Ordained Minister	65
M. Boyce Elliott	Ordained Minister	65
William Fritz	Ordained Minister	65

2023-24 Summary of Actions by Assembly of Elders, General Meetings

May 5-6, 2023 (Spring General Meeting)

2023-05-5-6-001_CONSENT MOTIONS (E. Hebert-Daly/A. Miechkota) 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 General Meeting of October 29, 2022 be accepted as circulated (see *Fall General Meeting of October 29, 2022*; see as **Appendix A**);
3. That the Report Book 2023 be received for information (see *Report Book 2023*; see as **Appendix B**);
4. That the audited 2021 Financial Statements be received (see *2021 Financial Statements*; see as **Appendix C**);
5. That the Equity Monitor Support Team for this meeting consist of Rev. Phil Wilson, Rev. Max Ward, Kaitlyn Ostrander, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rev. Nancy Clarke, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham, Nancy Wilson and Karen Wilson;

6. That the Scrutineers for this meeting be Rev. Phil Wilson, Karen Wilson, (online) and Rev. Ned Wells, William (Bill) Sheaves (in person);
7. That the Discernmentarian/Parliamentarians for this meeting be Steve Coles and Rev. Jean Wilson;
8. That the Chaplain for this meeting Caroline Giesbrecht;
9. 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

Nominations

2023-05-5-6-002 MOTION (Mary-Jane Hobden/S. Heinrich) 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 leadership teams for three-year terms, from the rise of the spring 2023 meeting until the rise of the spring 2026 meeting:

Kaitlyn Ostrander	to the Assembly of Elders
Rev. Lynn Watson	to the Assembly of Elders
Stephen Coles	to the Assembly of Elders
Kevin Fitzpatrick	to the Assembly of Elders
Rev. Stephanie Richmond	to the Covenant Support Team
Rev. Phil Hobbs	to the Covenant Support Team
Randall Scott	to the Covenant Support Team
Paul Kneebone	to the Covenant Support Team

Debra Fortin Brown
Kevin Fitzpatrick

to the Equity Team
to the Equity Team

Adele Boy
Darlene Hallett

to the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team
to the Formation, Nurture and Justice Team

Bruce Hutchinson
Kendall Begbie

to the Mission through Property Team
to the Mission through Property Team

Rev. Dr. John Young

to the Nominations Team

CARRIED

2023-05-5-6-003 MOTION (K. Ostrander/W. Stride) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union**; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

** The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.*

*** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".*

Yes 118; No (none) to Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2023-05-5-6-004 MOTION (P. Wilson/E. 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 Fall General Meeting, on October 28th 2023 at Emmanuel United Church, Odessa, ON. **CARRIED**

2023-05-5-6-005 MOTION (P. Wilson/E. Hebert-Daly) that the meeting be adjourned following the rise of the Celebration of Ministry service, and that the Speaker declares this general meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council duly concluded. **CARRIED**

May 30, 2023

2023-05-30-001 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-002 MOTION (B. James/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of April 28th 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-003 MOTION (M. Curtis/N Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-004 MOTION (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendations from Covenant Support Leadership Team:

Appointments

1. that after confirming eligibility on Church Hub, the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders the re-appointment of The Rev. Bob Root, Retired Supply to the Bobcaygeon Providence Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 (50 % time; all other terms as per the United Church Manual);
2. that after confirming eligibility on Church Hub, the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders the call of The Rev. Mary-Jane Hobden to the Kingsview Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2023 (Salary Category F COL 5; 6 weeks vacation, 10 personal days as needed);
3. that after confirming eligibility on Church Hub, the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders the call of the Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick to the Janetville Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2023 (50% time; all other terms as per the United Church Manual);
4. that upon confirming eligibility on Church Hub, that Covenant Support recommend to the Assembly of Elders the re-appointment of the Rev. Phil Hobbs, retired supply to the Prince Edward South pastoral charge effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 (50% Salary category F COL 3; all other terms as per the United Church Manual);
5. that upon confirming eligibility on Church Hub, that the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders that the Rev. Allan Reeve be re-appointed Ordained Supply to the Greenwood Pastoral Charge effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024;

Pastoral Charge Supervisors

6. that the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders that the Rev. Sharon Campbell Raymont be named the Pastoral Charge Supervisor Coe Hill St Ola and the Ridge community of Faith;
7. that the Covenant Support Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders that Rev. Phil Hobbs be named the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for the Bath Morven Community of Faith;

LLWL

8. that Tana Edwards be recognized as a new Licensed Lay Worship Leader;
9. that Shawn Pearce-Chambers be recognized as a new Licensed Lay Worship Leader;

Retired DLM

10. that Helen Bickle, retired DLM, in light of her continuing service to deaf ministries, be made a Voluntary Associate Minister at Odessa Pastoral Charge and that she be granted a license to perform marriages. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-005 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve and support the request of Kingsview United Church, Oshawa to proceed with the roof replacement project at a cost of \$182,000.00. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-006 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the closing of St Stephen’s UC Oshawa effective April 30, 2023. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-007 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the closing of Mount Pleasant United Church (Municipality of Sterling-Rawdon Ontario) effective January 31st 2019. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-008 MOTION (T. Meyers/B James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the following “Doing Mission Together” grants totaling \$17,950:

- United Community Ministry \$1,000
- Bedford House Community Ministry / Greenwood \$5,000
- Crossroads United Church \$2,000
- St Andrew’s By-The-Lake United Church \$3850
- Women’s Retreat – Kathleen Whyte \$1,100
 - Requested \$3,300. Attendees to request difference
 - from the Leadership Fund (\$2,200)
- Trinity St Andrew’s United Church, Brighton \$5,000

*Note: For the Budget (\$15,000) versus Grants (\$17,950) of \$2,950 we recommend using the COF Emergency Assistance Fund to cover shortfall.

CARRIED (W. Stride abstains)

2023-05-30-009 MOTION (W. Stride/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders name the following two people as members to The Toronto United Church Council: Rev. Allan Reeve and Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander. **CARRIED (K. Ostrander abstains)**

2023-05-30-010 MOTION (L. Watson/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive, with gratitude for her service, the resignation of Rev. Lesley Hamilton from the Assembly of Elders, and refer the newly created vacancy on the Assembly of Elders to the Nomination Leadership Team. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-011 MOTION (L. Watson/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Wanda Stride as Speaker for a one-year term. **CARRIED**

2023-05-30-012 MOTION (B. James/W. Stride) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 11:17 AM. **CARRIED**

June 27, 2023

2023-06-27-001 MOTION (B. James/Ned Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint William (Bill) Sheaves as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-002 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of May 30th 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-003 MOTION (B. Sheaves/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders received into its minutes the email poll of June 2nd 2023:

2023-06-02-001 MOTION (W. Sheaves/) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concurs with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Leadership Team, that upon confirming eligibility on church hub, Rev. Dr. John Young be approved for re-appointment as retired supply, to the Bridge Street Belleville Pastoral charge, 75% time effective July 1, 2023-June 30th 2024 (Salary category F COL 3, adequate admin support all other terms as per The United Church of Canada Manual). CARRIED

CARRIED

2023-06-27-004 MOTION (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as amended (addition: Support for the Kingston congregations) **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-005 MOTION (B. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adopt the terms of reference of the Facilitation Forum as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendations from Covenant Support Leadership Team:

- i) that the restrictions to Rev. David Watson be lifted effective June 30, 2023;
- ii) that Rev. Sharon Campbell-Rayment be appointed as Pastoral Charge Supervisors to Dunsford United Church;
- iii) that Rev. Mary-Jane Hobden be appointed Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Kedron United Church;
- iv) that after confirming eligibility on Church Hub, CST recommends to the Assembly of Elders that the Rev Lynda Hodgins be re-appointed, retired supply to the Harmony Pastoral Charge, effective October 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024 with the following terms: 50% salary and benefits at or above minimum and all other terms as per the United Church manual. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendations from Covenant Support Leadership Team: that the Regional Council pay for travel expenses (driving time and distance travelled) of Pastoral Charge Supervisors instead of Community of Faith paying, effective June 27th 2023. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-008 MOTION (S. Coles/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive the Commission report and concur with the recommendations:

1. Ensure that a Pastoral Charge Supervisor is assigned effective July 1st to allow the faith community to have a resource for guidance and leadership.
2. Allow the faith community to respond to the financial challenges, while utilizing pulpit supply to help replenish their “well” of support for ministry for a period of 4-6 months. During that time, we recommend that the congregation look at alternative forms of ministry that will give them consistency in the pulpit in conjunction with the PC Supervisor. (ie. “shared minister” between Highland Hills & Hope United Churches)
3. Give 6 months written working notice to custodian, Debbie March for her 14 years of service to the congregation as the faith community can no longer sustain this position and will utilize a volunteer team moving forward. (14 hours per week)
4. Give 3 months written working notice to the Treasurer, Susan Sweet-Lebeau for her 5 years of service as the faith community can no longer sustain this position. (20 hours per week)
5. Replace the Chair of the Ministry & Personnel Committee due to a lack of confidence that was expressed by members of the congregation and Board.

When/if there has been a sufficient financial response by the congregation to demonstrate that they are able to sustain ministry, the Commission recommends the following:

7. Provide a FT Intentional Interim Minister for the congregation for a minimum of two years. There is a need for strong central leadership. Someone who can be unbiased and not swayed by the people who exhibit strong controlling interests in the church hierarchy that exists.
8. Hire a PT music director/musician to provide music leadership for worship and for the choir.

All other positions should be volunteer until such time as there is sufficient income to cover these costs. **CARRIED** (*K. Fitzpatrick abstains*)

2023-06-27-009 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to accept and approve the application from Mark Street United Church, IN THE MATTER OF: PART OF LOT 1 W BROWN ST NOW MARK ST PL IA VILLAGE OF ASHBURNHAM DESIGNATED AS PART 1 ON PLAN 45R16886, CITY OF PETERBOROUGH; see Attachment 'A' Final survey to follow, to the East Central Ontario Regional Council for its consent to enter into the completion of the exchange agreement between Mark Street United Church and TVM Group. This approval is conditional upon:

- A satisfactory review of the Exchange Agreement by the legal team of Kindred Works.
- Completion of a conflict of interest signed document by the Mark Street United Church Congregational Board and the Development Committee members sent to the Mission Through Property Leadership Team of the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

AND IN THE MATTER OF: Exchange of Property

1. to the exchange of certain real property, the legal description of which is PART OF LOT 1 W BROWN ST NOW MARK ST PL IA VILLAGE OF ASHBURNHAM DESIGNATED AS PART 1 ON PLAN 45R16886; CITY OF PETERBOROUGH, under PIN# 28134-0055LT with the municipal address to be determined by survey, see Attachment 'A', pursuant to an agreement between the Board of Trustees of Mark Street United Church, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, as Registrant, and TVM Group as the acquirer, final date of exchange to be determined subject to approval by all parties, and subject to Regional Council approval of the terms of which are as follows:

Entering into the exchange agreement which reads for \$2.00 and other good and valuable consideration in exchange for condo units in the proposed TVM development of value equal to the appraised value of the property set at \$2,000,000.00 plus the construction of a new hall as approved by the congregation at no cost to Mark Street United Church, See Attachment 'A'

The exchange agreement will include all standard terms with no Mark Street United Church take-back by way of mortgage and the property is provided AS IS, subject to standard construction practices.

2. The distribution of the net exchange proceeds will be determined through an approved ministry plan developed by Mark Street United Church and approved by the East Central Ontario Regional Council. **CARRIED** (*N. Wells abstains*)

2023-06-27-010 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve and support the Loan Application with United Church of Canada Emergency Fund of \$10,000 by Grace United Church, Peterborough. This request comes from the Commission Team working with Grace United Church and is expected to be repaid by the end of 2023. **CARRIED** (*K. Fitzpatrick abstains*)

2023-06-27-011 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve the lease agreement between St Mathews United Church and the Landlord, 2683125 Ontario Inc a Number company which currently owns the church property which was purchased from St Mathews and leases it back to the COF to continue with their ministry. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-012 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to appoint Elizabeth Cunningham and Ted Meyers as additional trustees (existing trustees are John DeVos, Lorne Bagshaw and Kevin Calhoun) for the Peniel United Church to facilitate and expedite the listing and sale of the church property by Toronto United Church Corporation (TUCC) acting as our Property Management team for the property. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-013 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve the renewal of the lease agreement between St James United Church Peterborough and New Canadian Centre Peterborough. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-014 MOTION (K. Ostrander/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Equity Leadership Team that there is an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter at every Celebration of Ministries service within the regional council. **CARRIED**

2023-06-27-015 MOTION (B. James/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 3:57 PM. **CARRIED**

September 23, 2022

2023-09-05-001 MOTION (B. James/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Paul Reed as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-002 MOTION (S. Coles/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of June 27th 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-003 MOTION (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as amended: additions: 1. correspondence f); 2. motion under section V c). **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-004 MOTION (S. Coles/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the following dates for the Spring General Meeting: 19th and 20th of April 2024 (location: Cambridge Street United Church). **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-005 MOTION (W. Sheaves/P. Reed) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information 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, 2023-June 30, 2024.

First name	Last Name	Community of Faith
Rev. Aruna	Alexander	Picton United Church
Rev. Anne Gowans	Blinn	Bridgenorth United Church
Rev. Mary- Margaret	Boone	Bethany Pontpool Pastoral Charge
Rev. Paul	Currie	Edith Rankin Memorial Pastoral Charge
Rev. Terrence	Deline	Westbrook United Church
Rev. Bruce	Fraser	St-Paul's (Stirling)
Rev. Bill	Fritz	Sandord Zephyr Pastoral Charge
Rev. Susan	Genge	Westminster United Church (Whitby)
Rev. Caroline	Giesbrecht	St. Mark's United Church (Cannifton)
Rev. Katherine	Gregory	Trenton United Church
Rev. Nadene	Grieve-Deslippe	Cooke's-Portsmouth United Church
Rev. Michelle	Hofman	Faith United Church (Courtice)
Rev. Nancy	Lester	Trinity United Church (Cobourg)
Rev. Joanne	MacQuarrie	Bridgenorth United Church
Rev. Paul	McLenaghan	Admaston Pastoral Charge
Rev. Jeanette	Millar	Trinity United Church (Cannington)
Rev. Bain	Milroy	Keene United Church
Rev. Don	Misener	Zion United Church (Kingston)
Rev. David	Moore	Highland Hills
Rev. David	Mundy	Trenton United Church
Rev. Bill	Peacock	Greenwood United Church
Rev. Lynda	Price	Zion United Church (Kingston)

Rev. Joe	Ramsay	Trinity United Church (Napanee)
Rev. Louise	Sams	St. Mark's United Church (Whitby)
Rev. William	Smith	St. Mark's United Church (Cannifton)
Rev. Lynn	Smith-Reeve	Bethel, Emily United Church (Omeme)
Rev. Janet	Stobie	Bridgenorth United Church
Rev. Calvin	Stone	Saint Andrew's Grafton/Castleton
Rev. Hal	Wilson	Rednersville Albury United Church
Rev. Jean	Wilson	Castleton Grafton United Church
Rev. John H.	Young	St. Mark's United Church (Cannifton)

CARRIED

2023-09-05-006 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve the *Certificate A Request from Apsley Pastoral Charge* re the listing and Sale of Trinity United Church, Apsley being the real property at PT LT 33-34 CON1 ANSTRUTHER AS IN E570R132793 EXCEPT PART1 R142084, PT 1,2&3 45R982 NORTH KAWARTHA and municipal address of 80 Burleigh Street, Apsley Ontario, K0L1A0. Distribution of funds from sale after expenses as per Certificate A (set attached appendix) and following the ECOR policy for a COF disbanding are:

1. 10% to INDIGENOUS MINISTRY
2. 10% to GREEN AWAKENING
3. 20% to ECORC COF ASSISTANCE FUND
4. 20% to UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MISSION AND SUPPORT
5. 40% to REQUEST AFTER SALE OF PROPERTY TO BE DISBERSED
6. APSLEY UNION CEMETARY,
7. APSLEY FOOD BANK, COMMUNITY CARE
8. APSLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL MUSIC FUND,
9. CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUSIC FUND, ST GEORGES ANGLICAN
10. APSLEY COMMUNITY CHAPEL CHURCH,
11. ST. ANDREWS- THE RIDGE UNITED CHURCH

The final terms of sale and approval to be carried out by the Mission Through Property Team.

CARRIED

2023-09-05-007 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to the transfer by mutual consent of the Bethel Grove United Church Cemetery to Township of Hamilton located at 7375 Bethel Grove Road, Cobourg, Ontario, K9A4J7. **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-008 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to grant permission to Sydenham Street United Church to upgrade their Performance Hall/Sanctuary Sound Systems at a cost of \$134,734. Funding for this project is already in place. **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-009 MOTION (E. Hebert-Daly/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive the case report from the Regional Council Executive Minister, and approve the recommendations contained therein. **CARRIED**

2023-09-05-010 MOTION (K. Ostrander/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders grant its Regional Executive Minister, Éric Hébert-Daly, a three-month sabbatical from June 3rd 2024 to September 3rd 2024, followed by two weeks of holiday from September 3rd 2024 to September 17th 2024. Furthermore, that the Regional Council will identify existing staff members to fulfill the role of Regional Executive Minister on an interim basis based on their availability throughout the summer during his absence. **CARRIED** (6 in favour, 4 opposed)

2023-09-05-011 MOTION (B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting 3:44 PM. **CARRIED**

October 3, 2023

2023-10-03-001 MOTION (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Ned Wells as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-002 MOTION (S. Coles/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of September 5th 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-003 MOTION (B. James/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive into its minutes the results of an email poll held on September 26, 2023 regarding the sale of Trinity United Church (Apsley Pastoral Charge):

Trinity United Church Sale (Apsley Pastoral Charge)

2023-09-26-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve and accept the sale Offer of \$500,000 from Gord Tucker Cottage Services for the Trinity United Church at PT Lot 33-34 Con 1 Anstruther as in E570 & R132793 Except Pt 1 R142084 Pt 1,2 and 3 45R982, North Kawartha. **CARRIED**

CARRIED

2023-10-03-004 MOTION (K. Fitzpatrick/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-005 MOTION (P. Long/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders direct the Facilitation Forum to enact the policy that ECORC use fair trade coffee or tea during its general meetings and other events. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive and approve the LLWL Handbook and make it policy within the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendations from Covenant Support Team:

a. Liaison

- i. the Covenant Support Team sought direction from the Assembly of Elders regarding Eastminster and Warkworth United Churches not following process. The Assembly of Elders has suggested that it be made clear to these congregations that they are in breach of the covenant with the Regional Council and that formal review is an option. Meetings with these communities will be sought.

b. Appointments

- i. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Nancy Lester be re-appointed as retired supply to the Cold Springs community of faith effective October 1st 2023-September 30th 2024 with the following terms: 50% time, all terms as per the United Church Manual;
- ii. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Stephanie Richmond be called to the Kedron Community of faith effective January 8, 2024 with the following terms: 100% time, all terms as per the United Church Manual.
- iii. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Lyle Horn be re-appointed to the Emmanuel Peterborough Community of Faith effective October 1st 2023-December 31st 2023, Retired Supply 50% time, all items as per the United Church Manual.
- iv. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Bryan Ransom be re-appointed retired supply at the Newcastle Community of faith effective September 1st 2023-February 29, 2024, all terms as per the United Church Manual;
- v. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Richard Parker be re-appointed retired supply to the Columbus community of faith effective October 1st 2023-September 30th 2024 with the following terms, Retired supply 50% time, all terms as per the United Church Manual;
- vi. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, that Michelle Hoffman, Diaconal Minister, be appointed to the Orono-Kirby community of faith effective October 1st 2023-September 30th 2024 with the following terms, United Supply 50% time, all terms as per the United Church Manual;
- vii. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, Kathleen Whyte, student supply, be appointed to the Roslin Thomasburg community of faith with the following terms. Student supply, 75%-time, effective September 1st 2023 – August 31st 2024 all other terms as per the United Church Manual;
- viii. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Sharon Campbell Raymont, United Supply, be appointed to the Cambridge Street Community of Faith effective October 1st 2023-June 30th 2024 with the following terms: United Church Supply Salary full time, all terms as per the United Church Manual;

- ix. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Carol Gillard, retired supply be appointed to the Maple Grove Community of Faith effective September 1st 2023-June 30th 2024 with the following terms: Retired supply Salary, 50% time, all terms as per the United Church Manual;
 - x. after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Rev. Margaret Goodwin, retired supply be appointed to the St. Matthew’s Belleville Community of Faith effective August 1st 2023-December 31st 2023 with the following terms: 25% time, all other terms as per the United Church Manual
- c. **Pastoral Charge Supervisor**
- i. that Jean Wilson be appointed PCS to Dunbarton-Fairport Pastoral Charge

CARRIED

2023-10-03-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive and approve the recommendation from the Covenant Support Leadership Team that Michelle Hoffman, Diaconal Minister, be granted sacramental privileges during her period of employment with the Orono Kirby community of faith. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders recognize and approve the amalgamation of Cardiff United Church and Paudash United Church, on September 19th 2023. The name of the newly amalgamated entity will be Phoenix Rising Pastoral Charge, and operate under the registered charity status held by the Cardiff/Paudash Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-010 MOTION (M.Curtis/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders direct the Covenant Support Team to remove the liaisons from Eastminster and Warkworth United Churches, and direct the Covenant Support Team to provide an assessment of these communities of Faith to the Assembly of Elders. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-011 MOTION (M. Curtis/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information the following names to be added 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, 2023- June 30, 2024.

First name	Last Name	Community of Faith
Rev. Kathryn	Toivan	Rural Faith Pastoral Charge
Rev. Svinda	Heinrichs	Bethel-St. Andrew’s of Maynooth-
(DLM) Ruth	Wood	Madawaska Pastoral Charge
Rev. David	Watson	St. Andrew’s By-The-Lake United Church
Rev. Darren	Liebold	Gooderham United Church
Rev. David	Jones	Picton United Church
Rev. Dan	Yourkevich	Pickering Village United Church
(DLM) Helen	Bickle	Westminster United Church
		Odessa Pastoral Charge

CARRIED

2023-10-03-012 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request from New Hope United Church to use up to \$100,000 of their investments funds over the next year for the completed (\$30,000) and planned improvements (\$70,000) to New Hope United Church. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-013 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to approve the abandonment of the Violet Cemetery operated by Emmanuel UC – Odessa at PT LT 14 CON 5 Ernestown (as in WE1862; Loyalist) and transfer to the Loyalist Township.

2023-10-03-014 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to allocate the 2024 Mission Support Grants as follows:

○ Greenwood Beford House	\$20,000
○ Old Hay Bay Church	\$6,000
○ Camp Quin Mo Lac	\$37,000
○ Places for People	\$1,500
○ Quinte Health Chaplaincy	\$5,000
○ Five Oaks	\$5,000
○ Lakefield UC Outreach Ministries	
▪ PA Day Programs & Meals	\$2,500
▪ Hockey Camp Holistic Program	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$82,000

CARRIED

2023-10-03-015 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to use the ECOR Emergency Fund to top up any shortfall between GC allocation and ECOR need to a maximum of \$60,000 for the 2024 year only. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-016 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation from the Mission Through Property Team to adopt the budget for 2024 for the ECOR as presented, concurring with the General Council cost of living salary increase of 2%, and recommend to the 2024 budget to the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-017 MOTION (K. Fitzpatrick/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders make Sharon Woodrow, Joyce Payne, Mary-Margaret Boone and Judy Amsbury corresponding members for the purposes of this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-018 MOTION (S. Coles/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders acknowledges its appreciation to members of the Affirm Forum, after presenting concerns for safety of individuals, and that the Assembly of Elders commit to sharing these concerns over the safety of 2SLGBTQIA+ community throughout the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-019 MOTION (K. Ostrander/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team to open nominations to fill the one remaining vacancy on the Assembly of Elders. **CARRIED**

2023-10-03-020 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adjourn this meeting at 4:18 PM. **CARRIED**

October 28, 2023 (Fall General Meeting)

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

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)

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).

2023-10-28-005_MOTION (Brian James/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council receive the 2023 year to date and 2022 financial reports summaries. **CARRIED**

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

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**

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**

November 7, 2023

2023-11-07-001 MOTION (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Paul Reed as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-002 MOTION (S. Coles/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of October 3rd 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-003 MOTION (K. Ostrander/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive into its minutes the results of an email poll held on October 20, 2023 regarding the Exchange Agreement between Mark Street United Church (Peterborough) and TVM Mark Street Inc:

2023-10-20-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to support and approve the Exchange Agreement between Mark Street United Church and TVM Mark Street Inc. **CARRIED**

CARRIED

2023-11-07-004 MOTION (K. Fitzpatrick/P. Reed) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as amended: Additional reporting From Formation Nurture and Justice. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-005 MOTION (P. Reed/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders add Steve Coles to be part of the Governance Handbook review working group. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-006 MOTION (P. Long/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Team to amend the Licensed Lay Worship Leader Forum policy as stated below:

(One): That the maximum number of worship services that can be led at any given Faith Community in a year be changed from 10 (ten) to 12 (twelve).

(Two): That the number of interviews held with each Licensed Lay Worship Leader be changed from once every 2 (two) years to once every 3 (three) year.

CARRIED.

2023-11-07-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Team that, after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, to appoint Rev. Tom Holmes, retired supply, to the Smithfield-Carmen Pastoral Charge, half-time effective October 15, 2023-June 30, 2024, all terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Team that, after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, to appoint Rev. Sandra Farrow, United Supply, to the Goodwood Community of Faith, half-time, effective November 1, 2023-October 31, 2024, all terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Team that, after having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, to appoint Rev. Sandra Farrow, United Supply, to Claremont Community of Faith, half-time, effective November 1, 2023-October 31, 2024, all terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the following recommendation from Covenant Support Team to approve the sabbatical of the Rev. Marilyn Zehr from the Maynooth Community of Faith from May 13th 2024-September 15th 2024. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-011 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders require that the minimum communication allowance be enough to support ministry personnel costs for communication plans for telephone and internet at a value not less than \$1200 per year for both full-time and part-time calls and appointments, effective Nov. 7, 2023 (only affects calls and appointments going forward). **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-012 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders to rescind the review for Eastminster United Church. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-013 MOTION (M. Curtis/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders disband the Carlow Pastoral Charge Commission with thanks to members serving on the Commission. **CARRIED** (B. James abstains)

2023-11-07-014 MOTION (B. James/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information the following names to be added 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, 2023- June 30, 2024.

First name	Last Name	Community of Faith
Anne	Hepburn	Dunsford Pastoral Charge
(DLM) Judy	MacGillivroy	Cooke's-Portsmouth United Church
(DLM) Walter	Mayhew	St. Matthew's (Belleville)

CARRIED

2023-11-07-015 MOTION (K. Ostrander/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the appointment of Heather Keachie of Gardiner Roberts LLP as legal representation for the Sale of Peniel United Church, and authorize Eric Hebert-Daly and Ted Meyers to sign the retainer letter on behalf of the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-016 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the appointment of Heather Keachie of Gardiner Roberts LLP as legal representation for all of its property transactions. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-017 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the transfer by mutual consent of the St. Paul's United Church Cemetery (CM-01358), Lake St. Peter, Ontario to the Municipality of Hastings Highlands (org. 3276156). **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-018 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve and support the Blackstock Nestleton Pastoral Charge request to use \$50,000 of their investment fund (\$250,000 from sale of Manse) for the ongoing operational expenses while they discern their future Ministry. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-019 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve and support the ECORC payment (effective until June 2024), for the ongoing operational expenses (fuel, insurance, and Hydro) of the Ingoldsby United Church, COF of the Haliburton Pastoral Charge (Ingoldsby, Lochlin and Haliburton United Churches) while they discern their future Ministry on whether to disband or amalgamate. These expenses would be recovered from the sale of the Church property surplus to needs. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-020 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the Declaration of Trust Agreement between East Central Ontario Regional Council and Kindred Works/UPRC, and authorize the Regional Council Executive Minister to sign said agreement. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-021 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive the audited 2022 Financial Statements. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-022 MOTION (P. Long /K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the distribution of letters received by the Formation, Nurture and Justice Leadership Team to Communities of Faith and the requisite politicians, in regards to a call for peace and understanding in the middle east. **CARRIED**

2023-11-07-023 MOTION (L. Watson/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders agree to cancel its meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024 and to reconvene with the scheduled date of February 6, 2024. **CARRIED**

December 5, 2023

2023-12-05-001 MOTION (L. Watson/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Margaret Curtis as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-002 MOTION (B. James/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of November 7th 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-003 MOTION (Margaret Curtis/Ted Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders amend motion number 3 of the Fall General meeting (held on October 28th 2023) to read "...grant corresponding 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**

2023-12-05-004 MOTION (S. Coles/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-005 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Bradley Ford, retired supply, be appointed to the Rednersville-Albury Community of Faith 60%-time effective January 1st 2024-December 31st 2024, with terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Svinda Heinrichs, United Supply, be appointed to the Bancroft Community of Faith 40%-time effective October 1st 2023-June 30th 2024, with terms as per the United Church manual. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Nancy Knox, Retired Supply, be reappointed to the Ebenezer Community of Faith, 80%-time effective January 1st 2024-December 31st 2024, with terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, of Rev. Stevan Spicer, Retired Supply, be reappointed to the Wooler Community of Faith, 50%-time effective January 1st 2024-December 31st 2024, with terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Rev. Wanda Stride as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Carlow Community of Faith effective immediately. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Victoria Moulton, Retired Designated Lay Minister as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Calvary Kingston Community of Faith effective immediately. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-011 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Rev Cathy Duggan, as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to Wellington United Church, effective January 1st 2024. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-012 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to support the request of the Rev. David McMaster to retire effective February 1st 2024. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-013 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to support the request of the Rev. David King to retire effective February 1st 2024.**CARRIED**

2023-12-05-014 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that Rev. Wanda Stride be granted a sabbatical from May 1st 2024-July 31st 2024. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-015 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that Doug Ferris at Eldad Hampton Pastoral Charge be granted sacramental privileges. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-016 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to approve the new governance model proposed by New Hope United Church (the document will be amended to remove the names that had been included in brackets. As well, the Regional Rep will be listed as the contact person.). **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-017 MOTION (/) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receives for information the following name to be added 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, 2023- June 30, 2024

First name	Last Name	Community of Faith
Ian	Robb	Trinity St. Andrews (Brighton)
Edwin	McCaig	Selby Pastoral Charge
Patricia (Patsy)	Henry	Selby Pastoral Charge

CARRIED

2023-12-05-018 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the *Certificate A Request from Trustees of the Gooderham United Church of the Tory Hill Pastoral Charge* for the listing/sale of the Gooderham United Church being the real property at, Pt Lot 27, Conc 5, Glamorgan, N&E of Pt 1, Plan 19R5773 &W of Pt 1, Plan 19R652 and Municipal address at 10744 County Road 503. Distribution of funds from sale after expenses as per Certificate A (set attached appendix) and following the ECOR policy for a COF amalgamating forming the new Cardiff-Paudash (Phoenix Rising) Pastoral Charge. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-019 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve Stained Glass Window Repairs project at an estimated cost of \$55,000. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-0120 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request from the congregations of Plainville United Church and Camborne United Church of the Cold Springs Pastoral Charge to amalgamate as of Jan1st 2024. This amalgamation is subject to an approved Ministry Plan by ECORC. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-021 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team that the financial settlement plan for expenses between New Hope United Church and Rev. Lesley Hamilton totaling \$9624.52 be payable by ECOR to New Hope United Church. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-022 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the expenses for the Mission trip to El Salvador 2023/2024 up to \$7,000 with funds coming from the ECOR Emergency Ministry Fund. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-023 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to adopt the “Guidelines to Help COF’s Amalgamate Well” document as a tool to help COF’s who are struggling with their future Ministries directions. See attached for the Document. **CARRIED**

2023-12-05-024 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive and approve the bylaws (and as approved by the members on April 1, 2023) of the Bay of Quinte Conference Camp Corporation (August 30, 1948), effective April 19, 2023. **CARRIED**

February 6, 2024

2024-02-06-001 MOTION (L. Watson/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Ted Meyers as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-002 MOTION (M. Curtis/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of December 5, 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-003 MOTION (T. Meyers/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive into its minutes email polls of December 20, 2023 and February 1, 2024:

a) *Saint Ola United Church*

2023-12-20-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the recommendation from the trustees re the congregation’s 40% distribution of funds from the Sale of the St Ola UC that a sum of \$10,000. be divided evenly between the food bank located in Coe Hill, known as the Tri-Township Community Food Basket and Coe Hill School, the balance to be distributed equally between St. Andrew’s United Church Coe Hill and Zion The Ridge United Church Coe Hill. CARRIED

b) *Simcoe Street United Church and Kindred Works Agreement*

2023-12-20-002 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request from the Simcoe St United Church at 66 Simcoe Street South Oshawa, for approval of the Agreement between Kindred Works Inc. and The Trustees of Simcoe Street Congregation of the United Church of Canada and the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. Furthermore, that the Assembly of Elders request the Regional Executive Minister to sign the agreement. CARRIED

c) *Simcoe Street United Church Successive Ministry Plan*

2023-12-20-003 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request from the Simcoe St United Church to allow the distribution of surplus funds on closing as per the current guidelines for a COF amalgamating with another United Church COF. CARRIED

d) *Gooderham United Church - Offer to Purchase*

2024-02-01-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the Offer to Purchase agreement between Gooderham United Church and Jason Tanner, for the property situated at 10744 County Road 503, Gooderham, Ontario, K0M1R0, for a price \$180,000. CARRIED

CARRIED

2024-02-06-004 MOTION (L. Watson/M. Curtis) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as amended: With the addition of item in section IVii(a)(g) - *Simcoe St/Kingsview (Oshawa) and St. Paul's, Bowmanville - Ecumenical Shared Ministry*. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-005 MOTION (S. Coles/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approve the 2025 general meeting dates:

- May 23rd - 24th, Annual Meeting, Spring, St. Paul's United Church, Bowmanville, ON
- October 25th, Fall Meeting, Location TBD

CARRIED

2024-02-06-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Brian Nicholson, retired designated lay minister be re-appointed to Cambridge Street United Church from January 1st 2024-December 31st 2024, 12 hours per week (pastoral care) with other terms as per the UCC manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Don Green, retired supply, be re-appointed to the Trinity Omemee Community of Faith from September 1st 2023-June 30th 2024, 10 hours per week with terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Douglas Carter, Ordained Supply be called to the Wellington Community of Faith, effective April 15th 2024 full-time, with terms as per the United Church Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Lyle Horn, Retired Supply, be reappointed to the Emmanuel Peterborough Community of Faith effective January 1, 2024-April 15, 2024, part-time, 12 hours a week with terms as per the United Church manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Lesley Hamilton be called to the Emmanuel Peterborough Community of Faith effective April 15th 2024, full-time, with terms that meet or exceed United Church manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-011 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Calvin Stone be appointed to New Hope Community of Faith, 50%-time effective February 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 with terms as per the United Church manual. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-012 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Margaret Curtis as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Sunderland Community of Faith. **CARRIED (M. Curtis abstains)**

2024-02-06-013 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Cheryl McMurray as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-014 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to support the request of Rev. Larry Doyle to retire from the Faith Courtice Community of Faith on June 30th 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-015 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that Rev. Warren Vollmer be granted sabbatical from the Frankford Community of Faith between May 1st 2024-July 31st 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-016 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to approve the amalgamation of Millbrook Cavan and Bailieboro Springville United Churches, to become Harmony United Church (Harmony Pastoral Charge). **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-017 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to approve the shared ministry agreement between Centreville Presbyterian Church and Harmony United Church. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-018 MOTION (S. Coles/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve

the request from the congregations of Ingoldsby United Church and Haliburton United Church of the Haliburton Pastoral Charge to amalgamate as of Jan 1st 2024, and that Brian James and Ted Meyers be appointed as trustees during this transitional period, and that the Ingoldsby United Church be declared surplus to need for the Haliburton Pastoral Charge. This amalgamation is subject to an approved Haliburton Pastoral Charge Ministry Plan by the Assembly of Elders. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-019 MOTION (T. Meyers/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the request from the St. Andrews United Church, Beaverton to close (pending amalgamation) as of March 31st 2024. And that the St. Andrews United Church property be declared surplus to need for the closing congregation, and be put in the Regional Trust Fund, and that Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) be contracted to be the property manager. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-020 MOTION (T. Meyers/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request that the Sandford and Zephyr United Churches amalgamate effective Nov 1st 2024 and that the Zephyr United Church property become surplus to needs of the amalgamation. The Mission Through Property will work with the trustees to determine the best use for the Zephyr United Church property. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-021 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the Lease agreement with Trent Childcare Services, with lease payments of \$27,753 per year plus a 3% increase year. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-022 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the Request by the Unified Board and Trustees of Ingoldsby United Church to list/sell property being the Ingoldsby United Church at 1741 Ingoldsby Road, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0, part of Lot 19, Second concession in the Township of Minden, County of Haliburton, Ontario. The listing price will be \$299,000. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-023 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the distribution of Community of Faith (COF) portion of Assets (40%) as per St Stephen's United Church request of "that our *portion (40%)* of these funds be donated in equal portion to Simcoe Hall, Oshawa, *The Refuge and Gate 316*". **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-024 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the current The Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (IBE) Fund be split into three funds, IBE Scholarship Fund, IBE Pilgrimage Fund and IBE Special Projects fund. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-025 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That funds received from the sale of property or closing of communities of faith, which are allocated to Mission and Service Fund (M&S) be split with half to the current year M&S fund and half to the UCC Foundation as a contribution to the M&S Endowment Fund. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-026 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the distribution of Funds of surplus to need properties and/or Capital assets resulting from Disbanding or Amalgamating/Merging COF's to be

distributed to United Church entities (Indigenous Ministries, M&S, and ECORC funds) be sent to East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) in total for distribution. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-027 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the following student bursaries:

- Mark Sturman
Amount - \$4500 (9 course units @ \$500 per)
- Douglas Ferris
Amount - \$1500 (3 course units @ \$500 per)
- Kathleen A. Whyte
Amount - \$2500 (5 course units @ \$500 per)

CARRIED

2024-02-06-028 MOTION (S. Coles/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders adopt the policy that only networks' contact-information and a one-line description of the network be shared on the Regional Council website, effective immediately. **CARRIED**

2024-02-06-029 MOTION (K. Ostrander/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders name Rev. Svinda Heinrichs as interim Chair of the Nominations Leadership Team. **CARRIED**

March 5, 2023

2024-03-05-001 MOTION (J. Payne/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Rev. Lynn Watson as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-002 MOTION (T. Meyers/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of February 6, 2024 as circulated. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-003 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive into its minutes the email poll of February 16, 2024:

Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation

2024-02-16-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council, the successor organization to Bay of Quinte Conference of The United Church of Canada, concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Leadership Team and consents to the dissolution of Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation as per the Bylaws of Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation. CARRIED

CARRIED

2024-03-05-004 MOTION (N. Wells/W. Sheaves) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as amended: addition of *in camera* H&R question. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-005 MOTION (P. Reed/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive for information the oral report of the Facilitation Forum. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, Rev. Norm Long be appointed as retired supply to the Eastminster Belleville Community of Faith with the following terms; 50% time January 9, 2024-August 31, 2024, with all items according to the UCC Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team that, after confirming eligibility on ChurchHub, that Rev. Karen Smart be called to the Kingsview United Church community of Faith (Oshawa) as the Pastoral Care minister ¼ time, effective April 15, 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Watson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to recognize the retirement of the Rev. Elaine Kellogg, Grace, United Church, Napanee, effective June 30, 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders, due to the ongoing crisis at Hampton United Church, concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint a commission to take over the governance and trustees of Hampton United Church, to find a workable governance structure. The commission will consist of: Steve Coles, Patti James, Tom Smart and Lynn Watson. **CARRIED (N. Wells abstains)**

2024-03-05-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/N. Wells) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to approve the sabbatical of Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley from the Buckhorn Pastoral Charge, effective July 1 to August 11, 2024 and June 30 to August 10, 2025. **CARRIED (B. James abstains)**

2024-03-05-011 MOTION (W. Sheaves/L. Waston) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team to appoint Anne Meredith as pastoral charge supervisor to Centennial-Albert Pastoral Charge, after being relieved as pastoral charge supervisor at Greenbank. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-012 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve Offer to Purchase agreement between Ingoldsby United Church and Zoe Cameron and Usman Sheikh for the Ingoldsby United Church at 1741 Ingoldsby Road, Minden, Ontario, KOM 2K0, part of Lot 19, Second concession in the Township of Minden, County of Haliburton, Ontario for a purchase price of \$330,000 with a \$20,000 deposit, and no conditions with a closing date of April 9th 2024 pending approval by ECORC by end of day Wednesday, March 6th 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-013 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the request by the Highland Hills United Church to sell the manse to Rev Max Ward and Amanda Austin being the real

property with the legal description of which is Lot 52 Plan 172 Anson except the westerly 8 feet, Minden Hills, Haliburton County and the municipal address of which is 6 Winchester Street for a selling price of \$375,000, And that 100% of the net proceeds from the sale be Invested by Highland Hills United Church in an investment to be agreed to by the Mission Through Property Team with the investment income to be used by Highland Hills United Church as per the current Manse policy guidelines. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-014 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve Offer to Purchase agreement between Highland Hills United Church and Rev Max Ward and Amanda Austin being for the real property with the legal description of which is Lot 52 Plan 172 Anson except the westerly 8 feet, Minden Hills, Haliburton County and the municipal address of which is 6 Winchester Street for a purchase price of \$375,000 with a closing date of April 4th 2024 pending approval by ECORC. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-015 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders postpone indefinitely the following motion:

2024-03-05-000 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Mission Through Property Team to approve the Exchange Agreement Amendment between Marck Street United Church with the Developer TVM, s subject to a satisfactory review of Kindred Work's lawyers.

CARRIED

2024-03-05-016 MOTION (W. Sheaves/P. Long) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders move this portion of the meeting in-camera. **CARRIED**

2024-03-05-017 MOTION (J. Payne/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders close the in-camera session. **CARRIED**

April 2, 2024

2024-04-02-001 MOTION (W. Sheaves/ J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders appoint Steve Coles as Equity Monitor for this meeting. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-002 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders approves the Minutes of March 5, 2024, as circulated. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-003 MOTION (P. Reed/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-004 CONSENSUS MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the proposals presented in the Report of the Governance Review and agree to bring them to the annual general meeting in April 2024. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-005 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Leadership Team for the following change in the LLWL Handbook:

That if a faith community cancels its service because of inclement weather, the LLWL does not receive payment regardless of whether material has already been prepared. If the LLWL is unable to lead worship because of illness, hazardous road conditions or for any other reason, but provides a full liturgy that is read by a member of the congregation, the LLWL should be paid in full for the work involved.

CARRIED

2024-04-02-006 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Leadership Team, that having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, to approve the re-appointment of the Rev. Bryan Ransom, retired supply to the Newcastle community of faith with the following terms: March 1st to December 31, 2024 – 50% time, all items according to The United Church of Canada Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-007 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Leadership Team, that having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, to approve the re-appointment of Brian Nicholson, retired supply to the Picton community of faith with the following terms – dates April 19th 2024 – June 30, 2025, 50% time, all items according to The United Church of Canada Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-008 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Team, that having confirmed eligibility on ChurchHub, the Covenant Support Leadership Team recommend to the Assembly of Elders that it approve the call of the Rev. Sharon Campbell Raymont to the Cambridge Street (Lindsay) Community of Faith with the following terms; Start date April 1st 2024, full time, all items according to The United Church of Canada Manual. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-009 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Leadership Team to approve the sabbatical of the Rev. Kevin Derry from the Northminster Peterborough Community of Faith from July 1st 2024 to August 15th 2024 and July 1st 2025 to August 15th 2025 adequate pastoral care and pulpit supply have been for that time. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-010 MOTION (W. Sheaves/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders upon the request of Covenant Support Leadership Team, write a letter to the Fenelon Falls community of faith to tell them to follow United Church polity. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-011 MOTION (W. Sheaves/S. Coles) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Covenant Support Leadership Team to appoint Brian Nicholson be appointed as Pastoral Charge Supervisor to the Rev. Douglas Carter, Ordained Supply, minister to the Wellington Community of Faith, until Rev. Carter completes his admission process within The United Church of Canada. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-012 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the Lease between Hampton United Church and Discovery Church (5454 Old Scugog Road, Hampton, Ontario, L0B 1J0.) **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-013 MOTION (T. Meyers/) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Mission Through Property Leadership Team to grant permission to Emmanuel United Church – Odessa to use from funds from their investments for a capital project to make roof repairs at a cost of \$68,847 plus HST. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-014 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Mission Through Property Leadership Team to approve the amalgamation of St Andrews United Church, Beaverton with Trinity United Church, Cannington effective April 1st 2024.

And that the distribution plan for St Andrews United Church assets (\$183,350) following the current ECOR guidelines for amalgamating COF's be approved.

And that the plan for the remaining balance of the Andy's Bequest (\$39,030) be held by the amalgamating congregation "in Trust" as a separate account to be managed by the Trustees. Be approved. See attached Distribution plan.

CARRIED

2024-04-02-015 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Mission Through Property Leadership Team to recognize that Tory Hill United Church has officially amalgamated with Cardiff Paudash United Church (effective June 5, 2023). **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-016 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders concur with the recommendation of Mission Through Property Leadership Team to that Newtonville Shiloh United Church closed November 28, 2020. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-017 MOTION (T. Meyers/B. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders remove Rev. Rosemary Lambie as signatory for the ECORC UCC Foundation Investments Fund and add Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly as signatory. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-018 MOTION (P. Reed/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders receive with gratitude the expression of interest in the formation of a mini film network and that Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly arrange for an outreach to Aaron Miechkota to assist on moving forward. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-019 CONSENSUS That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders name Rev. Paul Reed, Past-Speaker to Chair this part of the meeting. **CARRIED**

2024-04-02-020 CONSENSUS That the East Central Ontario Regional Council Assembly of Elders restore Rev. Wanda Stride, Speaker to Chair the remainder of the meeting. **CARRIED**

The Rules of Debate and Order

1. Presiding Officer

The function of the Presiding Officer is to preside, with all that that implies. The Presiding Officer should not attempt to control the decision of the Court but may express opinions on any matter before the Court. If the Presiding Officer wishes to introduce a motion or to present a report, the Presiding Officer shall ask another member to preside, and while out of the Chair shall be an ordinary member of the Court and must not assume the chair until the matter is disposed of. The Presiding Officer does not vote except in the event of a tie.

2. Questions of Privilege and Order

(a) A point of order may be raised while a matter is pending or while another member has the floor. When a point of order is raised it must be dealt with by the Presiding Officer without debate. If a member has the floor when a point of order is raised by another member, that member must yield the floor until the Presiding Officer has made a ruling.

(b) Any member of the Court may appeal from a ruling of the Chair, but only at the time when the ruling is made. But where a ruling is a precedent the general question of its correctness may be brought up later when there is no business pending, but cannot then affect the business transacted under the ruling.

(c) When an appeal from a ruling is made, the Presiding Officer should state the point at issue, and may give reasons for the ruling. The Secretary shall then put the question in the following form: "Is the ruling of the Moderator (or such other title by which the Presiding Officer is known) sustained?" If the vote is a tie, the Presiding Officer is sustained. The Secretary shall declare the result.

3. Orders of the Day

(a) When an agenda has been adopted that does not specify the time for its items, such items are considered without time limit, unless the Court decides otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting.

(b) When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the Court decides otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting. (2010)

4. Order of Priority on Motions

(a) To close (2010)

(b) To fix the time to adjourn.

(c) To adjourn.

(d) To take an immediate vote (two-thirds (2/3) vote required).

(e) To limit or extend limits of debate (two-thirds (2/3) vote required).

(f) To postpone definitely.

(g) To commit or refer.

- (h) To amend.
- (i) To postpone indefinitely.
- (j) To deal with main motions.

5. Procedures on Motion

- (a) A member of the Court proposes a motion.
- (b) It is seconded. If there is no seconder, the motion fails.
- (c) When the motion is duly moved and seconded, the Presiding Officer states the motion and declares it open for discussion. If the mover has not already done so, the mover has the right to introduce the discussion.
- (d) A motion is out of order when it conflicts with a resolution previously passed at the same session unless it is a motion to reconsider.
- (e) Without the permission of the Court, no member may speak more than once on any motion or on any amendment thereto.
- (f) The mover of a motion has the right of reply before any vote is taken thereon or on any amendment thereto. Even when the Court has directed that an immediate vote be taken on a motion, the mover still has the right of reply.
- (g) When a motion has two (2) or more clearly defined parts or points of issue, and any two (2) members request that it be divided, a separate vote must be taken on each part.
- (h) Any motion may be withdrawn but only with the consent of its mover and seconder.
- (i) After a motion is under consideration a question of order cannot be raised against it unless the motion is ultra vires.

6. Procedure on Amendments

- (a) Any member except the mover or the seconder of the motion may move a relevant amendment thereto.
- (b) An amendment must be seconded, and if there is no seconder it fails.
- (c) A motion is amended by striking out certain words or clauses, adding certain words or clauses, or striking out all after the word "Resolved" (or the word "that"), and inserting another motion that will dispose of the matter. An amendment that merely negatives a motion before the Court is out of order.
- (d) There may be an amendment to the amendment, provided it has been duly seconded.
- (e) There is no limit to the number of amendments, but at any one time there can be before the Court only the motion, the amendment, and the amendment to the amendment.
- (f) When an amendment is disposed of, other relevant amendments may be proposed.
- (g) The discussion is always on the immediately pending question, and it must be voted on first. When a motion, an amendment, and an amendment to the amendment are before the Court, the two first named are "pending questions" and the last is the "immediately pending question." When the immediately pending question is disposed of, the one above it then becomes the immediately pending question, until the whole matter is disposed of.

(h) When an amendment carries, it is not thereby adopted as the finding of the Court, but only changes the proposition under discussion.

(i) When a motion, an amendment, and an amendment to the amendment are before a Court, three (3) separate votes including “for” and “against” must be taken. The first determines whether the amendment shall be amended, the second determines whether the motion shall be amended, and the third determines whether the motion, in whatever form it is then before the Court, shall be adopted or rejected.

7. Procedure on Voting

(a) A vote is generally taken viva voce or by a show of hands. The Presiding Officer may ask for a standing vote. Upon motion duly passed, the vote shall be taken by ballot. In all actions of Church Courts regarding membership in the Order of Ministry requiring voting procedure, the vote shall be taken by ballot unless waived by unanimous consent; that is, on motion to waive, no dissenting vote is cast. See also sections C.5.7 and D.4.4 of the bylaws.

(b) In the event of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

(c) An affirmative vote on a motion does not validate any motion that is ultra vires of the Court, or that contravenes a decision of a higher Court.

(d) In the conduct of United Church business, voting by proxy or by mail-in ballot is not permitted. Voting by telephone or by email is permitted only when it occurs during a meeting that is held in a manner that allows all of the persons participating to communicate with one another simultaneously and instantaneously. (2010)

8. Procedure on Motion to Reconsider

(a) A motion to reconsider may be made at any time when the floor is vacant; but the actual reconsideration has only the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

(b) A motion to reconsider must be moved by a member who voted with the majority. Any member may second.

(c) If a motion to reconsider is dealt with at the same meeting in which the original motion was adopted, it will fail unless two-thirds (2/3) of those voting are in favour thereof. If a motion to reconsider is dealt with at a subsequent meeting of the Court, a majority of those voting determines the question.

(d) When any motion to reconsider has been duly seconded, all action on the original motion is suspended until the motion to reconsider has been disposed of. No motion to reconsider can be entertained by the Court where action has already been taken under the original motion.

(e) A motion cannot be reconsidered twice unless materially changed on the first reconsideration. If a motion to reconsider has been lost, it cannot be repeated.

(f) A motion to reconsider is debatable only when the motion to be reconsidered is debatable. It cannot be amended, postponed indefinitely, or committed.

9. Motion to Refer

A motion to refer is debatable, but only as to the wisdom and manner of the proposed referral. It requires only a majority of those voting.

10. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely

A motion to postpone indefinitely, when in order, must be put without debate. If the motion is lost, it cannot be repeated or reconsidered. If CARRIED, the motion along with all amendments is removed from debate. At any time, it may be brought back before the Court by motion duly seconded and CARRIED. In such case the question is before the Court in exactly the position it held at the time it was removed from debate. A motion to postpone indefinitely can have no conditions attached to it. If a time is specified, it immediately ceases to be a motion to postpone indefinitely and becomes a motion to postpone definitely and is debatable. (2007)

11. Motion to Take an Immediate Vote

If a motion to take an immediate vote (for which a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required) is CARRIED, the vote shall be taken immediately. The mover of the main motion, however, shall have the right to reply before the vote is taken. If such a motion fails, debate on the main motion shall continue. A motion to take an immediate vote is not debatable.

12. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn is intended to suspend a meeting until another time. A motion to adjourn is in order only if there is already an agreed-upon time and place for resuming the meeting, or if the motion specifies a time and place for resuming the meeting. A motion to adjourn requires a seconder. Only the conditions attached to the motion to adjourn, such as time and place for resuming the meeting, are debatable; the wisdom of adjourning is not debatable. (2010)

13. Closing a Meeting (2010)

(a) A motion to close is intended to terminate a meeting. A new meeting may commence, at a future time, by previous agreement or by call. There can be no conditions attached to a motion to close. A motion to close requires a seconder. A motion to close is not debatable. (2010)

(b) When all the business and purposes of a meeting have been attended to and the Presiding Officer is satisfied that there is no further business before the Court, the Presiding Officer may declare that the meeting is closed, without the need for a motion to close. (2010)

14. Committee of the Whole

(a) Any Court, for greater freedom of discussion, may, on motion duly made, seconded, and CARRIED, move into a Committee of the Whole. Any such motion is neither debatable nor amendable, except only as to the scope of the subject to be discussed. The motion is

not in order if there is a pending motion to adjourn the meeting or to postpone discussion on the subject. (2007)

(b) The first act of the Committee of the Whole is to appoint a chairperson and a secretary. A separate minute of the proceedings is taken. (2007)

(c) The ordinary limitations of debate do not prevail in the Committee of the Whole. The chairperson restates the matter(s) to be considered. Discussion is then opened and is conducted informally. Motions need not be seconded. Unless the resolution creating the Committee of the Whole imposes restrictions, there are no restrictions, within reason, on the number of times a member may speak or on the length of speeches, except that priority is given to a member who has not yet spoken. (2007)

(d) When the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole are concluded, the Committee will dispose of a motion that the Committee rise and report; this motion does not require seconding and is neither debatable nor amendable. When this motion is passed, a report is prepared and submitted to the chairperson of the main meeting, who reconvenes the main meeting. (2007)

(e) A Committee of the Whole can neither adjourn nor terminate; it only can report back to the main meeting. It can, of course, recess briefly to prepare its report. (2007)

15. General

(a) When a member utters language that another member considers offensive, the latter may require that the words be taken down. The speaker is then allowed to proceed. When the speaker yields the floor, the words complained of may be considered and dealt with. Such words may not be privileged.

(b) Members of any Court should at all times therein conduct themselves with dignity, fairness, and understanding. The prime concern should be the good order and welfare of the church.

(c) In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.

Enabling Motions

1. Regional Council Roll:

That the Ministerial Roll of the Regional Council and the non-Ministerial Roll of the Regional Council thus constituted be now taken as read.

2. Other Delegates:

That anyone who has a role to play at the General Meeting of the East Central Ontario Regional Council (e.g. members of the Regional Council Assembly of Elders, Chairs of Leadership Teams and who has not been appointed as a delegate by her/his Community of Faith, be a full delegate with all the privileges of other delegates, and that the youth and young adult representatives from each Community of Faith be full delegates.

3. Corresponding Members:
That the students serving this Regional Council; the candidates for Ordination, Commissioning and re-Admission, those present as invited guests of this Regional Council, staff, resource persons, all who have registered for the Youth and Young Adult Event and other guests recognized by this court, be invited to sit as corresponding members of the Court.
4. Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:
That the minimum number of members for any session of this Regional Council is present (C.4.3, The Manual 2019).
5. Agenda:
That the agenda as printed and circulated, the reports, and the daily Agenda, be adopted as the Agenda for this meeting, subject to such changes as may be approved by this Court.
6. Procedures for Reports:
That the following procedure with respect to reports being presented at the Regional Council be adopted.
 - a. Reports and any attendant recommendations be dealt with in the allotted time.
 - b. If action has not been completed in the allotted time, then the Regional Council may:
 - i. Request that additional time on the Agenda be arranged by the Business Leadership Team
 - ii. Refer the report with its recommendation(s) to the appropriate body or bodies concerned, along with power to issue
 - iii. Refer the report with its recommendation(s) to the Assembly of Elders of the Regional Council for such action as the Assembly of Elders deems appropriate.
7. Meeting of the Assembly of Elders:
That the Assembly of Elders (which is empowered to act on behalf of the Regional Council between the meetings of the Court) be empowered to meet, if necessary, during the sessions of this Regional Council meeting and report those matters which require the approval of this Court.
8. Inclusive Language:
It is recommended that every attempt be made to use inclusive language in all worship, reports, petitions and discussions in this Court.
9. Business Leadership Team:
That the *Business Leadership Team* be members from the Facilitation Team
10. Scrutineers/Stewards:
That the *Scrutineers/Stewards* be members of the tech team.

11. Financial Policy to address requests for unbudgeted expenses:

Policy Regarding Financial Appeals at Annual Meetings

POLICY NAME: Policy regarding Financial Appeals at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council	<i>Date Approved: February 25, 2019</i>
	<i>Review date:</i>
Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify limits of the budget process. The Manual C.2.5.	

Preamble

This document outlines the East Central Ontario Regional Council's policy and best practices regarding requests for funding outside of the approved annual budget at the annual meeting.

Policy

It is the policy of East Central Ontario Regional Council to affirm and uphold the use and function of the Business Committee for matters coming to the floor of the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council.

It is the policy of East Central Ontario Regional Council that any motion committing the East Central Ontario Regional Council to the expenditure of non-budgeted sums of money be required to have a budget attached;

It is the policy of East Central Ontario Regional Council that any motion committing the East Central Ontario Regional Council to non-budgeted expenditures which are presented during the Annual Meeting be automatically referred to the Assembly of Elders who may request input from the Mission through Property Leadership Team first before making the decision;

It is the policy of East Central Ontario Regional Council that in the interests of fairness and justice, requests for funding of projects or groups not covered in the existing financial budgets be subject to conditions and criteria similar to those that are currently expected of requests for Mission Support, and other funds available within the Regional Council.

East Central Ontario Regional Council Staff

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

Executive Minister

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 2776

Email: ehebertdaly@united-church.ca

Eric's focus is to provide leadership, counsel and support for the governance and oversight of the administration of the East Central Ontario Regional Council Conseil, for and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council and régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. He supervises staff, and engages the regional council in the priorities and decisions of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. General Council deployed staff of the Office of Vocation, the Community Capacity Development Officer and the Philanthropy Unit will work in parallel relationships with all three regional councils. He communicates and interprets the decisions and perspectives of the regional councils and the Executives to the General

Council, other regional councils and communities of faith, and fulfills the duties outlined in The Manual (2019) Section C.3.4.

Joel Miller

Executive Assistant to the Regional Council

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6152

Email: jmiller@united-church.ca

Joel's staff responsibilities include daily, high level, ongoing administrative support to the Executive Minister, recording secretary for the Assembly of Elders and Annual General Meetings of each of the three Regional Councils; prepares report books for general meetings, manages wedding licences in Ontario and Quebec: new and temporary applications, transfers from other Regional Councils, annual updates as required provincially, responds to phone, email and in-person enquiries by providing information and referring enquiries to colleagues as appropriate.

Rev. Darren Liepold

Pastoral Relations Minister

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6116

Email: dtimpson@united-church.ca

Darren's staff responsibilities are to assist the East Central Ontario Regional Council to serve, support and provide oversight, and pastoral relations support to the Communities of Faith, and for encouraging and supporting Ministry Personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice.

Sharon Hull

Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6165

Email: shull@united-church.ca

Sharon's focus is to promote/resource/support ECORC priorities around faith formation, ecumenical and inter-faith relationships, regeneration and new ministries, lifelong education, and social justice with all ages and stages. Sharon will animate and support Children and Youth participation in the ECORC Inaugural Meeting. Sharon will support Clusters and Networks for one-time and ongoing gatherings and events within the ECORC and beyond. Sharon is engaged to work 4 days/week which can have flexible hours to allow weekend events. Sharon works from a virtual office.

Rev. Rodney Smith-Merkley

Minister for Respectful Relationship and Indigenous Justice (part-time)

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6164

Email: rsmerkley@united-church.ca

Rodney's focus is to promote/resource/support East Central Ontario Regional Council priorities around Truth and Reconciliation; and support Clusters for one-time and ongoing gatherings and Networks (including the Network formerly known as Dancing the Circle of Right Relations). Rodney is passionate about re-imagining relationships between Indigenous Peoples, Settlers, and the Land. Rodney is engaged to work 1 day/week which can have flexible hours to allow for weekend events

Karen Wilson

Communications and Administrative Support (half-time)

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6146

Email: kwilson@united-church.ca

Karen's primary responsibilities are to be a supporting role as a communication/social media specialist for East Central Ontario Regional Council (11) and expand community engagement and connections, particularly (but not exclusively) through use of the website, various social media platforms and publications. Other responsibilities include offering some administrative support (updating community of faith, leadership teams, cluster and network lists; emails, website, and newsletters, annual meeting preparation).

Rev. Caroline Penhale

Vocational Minister – Candidacy Pathway

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 2009

Email: cpenhale@united-church.ca

Rev. Caroline Penhale will be the Vocational Minister responsible for Candidacy Pathway. She will be the Staff 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.

Caroline is bilingual (French and English) and comes to this work after serving as a university chaplain, life coach, vocational counsellor and mental health advocate and program developer. She has also served as a congregational minister, most recently at the Orleans United Church, Ottawa.

Rev. Tori Mullin

Growth Animator

Email: tmullin@united-church.ca

Schedule a call: <https://calendly.com/talk-tori/30min>

Tori (they/ielle) is the Growth Animator for Eastern Ontario Outaouais, Nakonha:ka, East Central Ontario regional councils. Their work focuses on strengthening invitation to the United Church, renewing communities of faith and helping to create new ministries.

Tim Hackborn

Minister for the Indigenous of Vocation

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 2223

Email: thackborn@united-church.ca

Tim's focus is the Indigenous Spiritual Formation and the oversight and discipline of ministry personnel for the Indigenous Church within all of the Regional Councils.

Martha Pedoniquotte

Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Ontario and Quebec

Tel: 519-373-2860

Email: mpedoniquotte@united-church.ca

Martha is focused in working with the First Nations Communities of East Central Ontario Regional Council, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council and Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

Rev. Roger Janes

Stewardship & Gifts Officer

Tel: 1-800-268-3781 extension 6107

Email: rjanes@united-church.ca

Roger supports churches and individuals in all areas of stewardship whether that be setting and reaching mission and service goals, developing an annual budget or leaving a legacy gift.

Our Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone,
We live in God's world.
We believe in God :
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church
to celebrate God's presence
to live with respect in Creation
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.