

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Council of Elders
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 – 1 PM

Vision of the Council of Elders by which we evaluate progress based on:

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Stephen Coles	Member, Speaker
Ian Finlay	Member
Rev. Kevin Fitzpatrick	Member
Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly	Member, Executive Minister
Brian James	Member, Financial Administration
Patti James	Member
Rev. David King	Member
Ted Meyers	Member (departed at 2:30 pm)
Rev. David Moore	Member, General Council 45 Leading Commissioner
Rev. Brian Nicholson	Member
Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander	Member
Joyce Payne	Member, Speaker-Elect
Sharon Hull	Corresponding Member, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages
Rev. Darren Liepold	Corresponding Members, Congregational Support Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Executive Assistant to the Regional Council, Recording Secretary
Karen Wilson	Corresponding Member, Communications and Administration Assistant
<u>REGRETS/ABSENT</u>	
Rev. Michelle Brotherton	Member
Sheila-Mae Young	Member

This meeting of (ECORC) East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders will deal with regular business, but will focus on the following key areas:

- Decide on recommendations from the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team
- Decide on board members of the Lakeridge Presbytery Church Extension Council of The United Church of Canada
- Decide on signing authority for the Executive Minister regarding incorporated ministries of the regional council
- Decide on a Voluntary Associate Minister
- Discern proposal for proactive conflict & strategic support retainer

Land Acknowledgement and Opening Devotion – Ted Meyers led the land acknowledgment, sharing that he was joining this meeting from the traditional territory of the Mississauga of Scugog Island (governed under Williams Treaty 1923). Ted opened the meeting with a reflection on the gifts we have received from First Nations Peoples and their calls to connection to nature, and led with an opening prayer.

Time for sharing – All were invited to share.

Appointment of an Equity Support Person for this Meeting

2026-02-03-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders appoint Joyce Payne as Equity Support Person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

* The equity score card can be used following this meeting and submitted to the Equity Leadership Team:
<https://ecorcucan.ca/resources/accessibility/>

Minutes of December 2, 2025

2026-02-03-002 MOTION (P. James/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the minutes of December 2, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

Email Polls (December 12, December 21 and January 24)

2026-02-03-003 MOTION (P. James/I. Finlay) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders received into its minutes the results of email polls held on December 12, 2025, December 21, 2025 and January 24, 2026:

2025-12-12-001 MOTION (J. Payne/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to authorize the request of Atherley United Church to hire the company Fusion (\$24,618.18) to remove the mould in the Church at the expense of the regional council with anticipated recovery of that expense upon sale of the property. CARRIED

2025-12-21-001 MOTION (S-M Young/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to authorize the request of Cambridge Street United Church to undertake making the necessary reinforcements to the Sanctuary floor as outlined by Wilcox engineers at a budget of \$150,000 with funds utilized from the community of faith's investments. CARRIED

2026-01-24-001 MOTION (S-M Young/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to authorize the trustees of Sunderland Pastoral Charge-St. James United Church to sell the St. James United Church Property (PT LT 6 CON 7 BROCK AS IN ONT4316 & BK7933; BROCK) to Whiteway Church for \$350,000 as of Jan 29, 2026. CARRIED

CARRIED

Agenda

2026-02-03-004 MOTION (D. King/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition in the consent packet to receive the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team minutes of December 17, 2025;
2. Addition under section IV a) a recommendation from the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to approve amending the Policy Regarding Manse Funds;
3. Addition under section IV b) a recommendation from the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to approve amending the Policy Regarding the Proceeds from the Sale of Church Property;
4. Addition of motion g) within the Consent Packet.

CARRIED

Incoming Correspondence

- a) November 5, 2025, Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Consultant, re proposal for proactive conflict & strategic support retainer (*for action under new business*);
- b) December 4, 2025, copied on a letter from Deborah Watson, Chair, Greenbank United Church, to Harry Li, Executive Office, Finance, The United Church of Canada, re expenses incurred for a furnace project, insulation and green energy audit due to Faithful Footprints Grant program being suspended (*for information*);
- c) December 15, 2025, Janice Meighan, Director, Fundraising and Donor Care, The Toronto United Church Council - TUCC, re TUCC - Letter of Thanks - SELF and Maple Grove UC Legacy (*for information*);
- d) December 29, 2025, Rev. Phil Wilson, Minister, re a visitor to Trinity Elginburg United Church (*for information*);
- e) January 9, 2026, copied on a response letter from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Acting General Secretary, Senior Governance Support Lead, to Deborah Watson, Chair, Greenbank United Church, re expenses incurred for a furnace project, insulation and green energy audit due to Faithful Footprints Grant program being suspended (*for information*);
- f) January 12, 2026, Stephen Collette, Building Audit Manager, Faith & the Common Good, re final steps to receive funds from Faithful Footprints grant approval (*for information*);
- g) January 14, 2026, Patricia Teskey, re request for an update concerning appeals committee decision (*for information*).

Outgoing Correspondence

- h) December 2, 2025, Rev. Darren Liepold, Congregational Support Minister, to Jes Smith, Peggy Abbott, Hilda Suurd, Bedford House, re decision taken by Council of Elders over the recognition of Bedford House as an incorporated ministry of the regional council (*for information*);
- i) January 12, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Harry Li, Executive Office, Finance, The United Church of Canada, re Lochlin UC Modernization and Improvement Grant Application. (*for information*);
- j) January 14, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, responding to Patricia Teskey, re request for an update concerning appeals committee decision (*for information*);
- k) January 26, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, re resolution giving consent to trustees in the sale of St. James United Church (Sunderland) (*for information*).

1. Consent Packet

2026-02-03-005 MOTION (P. James/B. Nicholson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders

- a) receive for information the minutes of the Covenant Support Leadership Team for meetings held on December 16, 2025 and January 20, 2026;
- b) receive for information the minutes of the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team (MTPF) regular meeting held on December 17, 2025 and digital vote held on January 13, 2026;
- c) approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to allow Roslin-Thomasburg Pastoral Charge to make Thomasburg United Church Barrier Free according to details development plans with an estimated cost of \$372,000 to be raised through fund raising;
- d) approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to allow the Trustees of the Bath Morven Cemetery to transfer ownership to the Municipality (Loyalist Township);

e) take the following actions:

1. Lakeridge Presbytery Church Extension Council of The United Church of Canada Pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lakeridge Presbytery Church Extension Council of The United Church of Canada 2025-2026 Board of Directors:

- Sandra Chase
- Alan Garbe
- Nancy Knox
- Bob Martindale
- Karen Smart
- Arthur Smith
- Terry Souch
- Ron Trewin
- Don Willmer

This is based on the draft Annual Meeting of Members Minutes of May 5, 2025, the 2025 board member approval submission, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

**N.B. During follow up with this IM, it was discovered that no D&O policy was held by this corporation. D&O coverage has now been purchased effective December 1, 2025. Staff have asked that the board be notified of this and that it be minuted.*

2. Signing Authority for Executive Minister
Authorize Executive Minister, Éric Hébert-Daly, to have signing authority on incorporated ministries and release documents on behalf of the Regional Council.

- f) acknowledge the following Voluntary Associate Ministers who have been approved by the following pastoral charges for July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026:

<u>Name of Pastoral Charge</u>	<u>Name of Voluntary Associate Minister</u>
Trinity St-Andrews (Brighton)	Rev. Jacqueline Harper

- g) approve the amalgamation of Stockdale United Church with Frankford United Church effective January 25, 2026.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising

- a) **Way Forward/Toward 2035** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly highlighted the following:
 - i) **Clergy Education Program - The Things I didn't Learn in Seminary** – launched and ongoing, Rev. Tori Mullin and Rev. Mary Royal Ducek are leading this program, and it will last into the spring.

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- ii) **Lay Leader Program - The Things We Tell Ourselves** – a detailed syllabus for this program which begins in March was shared with Elders. More information will be posted on the regional council website.
 - iii) **Strategic Plan** – timeframe for the strat plan came to an end in December; next steps will be coming forward from the Visions Keepers.
 - iv) **Toward 2035** – Joyce Payne, Steve Coles, Rev. David King each shared their experience at a national leader gathering. A survey will be circulated throughout the regional council regarding Toward 2035 to learn more about how the information is being received and how to better support communities of faith going forward. It was highlighted that it should be communicated that all the resources surrounding Toward 2035 be engaged by communities of faith (<https://ecorcuccan.ca/towards-2035-resources/>).
- b) **Vision Keepers** – nothing to report at this time, a meeting will take place next week.
 - c) **A Place at the Table Media Campaign** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly share the results coming in thus far from this media campaign, it is not generating as much ‘new traffic’ for communities of faith as had been hoped.
 - d) **Updates From Prior Decisions**
 - i) **Cambridge Street United Church Appeal** – Rev. David King shared that a decision is being compiled and a report will be completed before the end of this month.
 - ii) **Dunbarton-Fairport United Church Congregational Review** – Ted Meyers shared an update and shared that a report will be forthcoming.
 - iii) **Bedford House** – Rev. Darren Liepold shared that Bedford House has not pursued applying for their own charitable number. However, they have decided to work with One City, an umbrella organization that seeks to end poverty and homelessness in Peterborough. They have asked One City to allow Bedford House to be included within their charitable mandate. Sheila-Mae hopes that the Elders will approve a motion today where that as of March 1st we as a region sever our ties with Bedford House and that we will not extend our charitable number to them past this point.

2026-02-03-006 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Ostrander) That East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of Sheila-Mae Young, Regional Council Representative to the Bedford House board, to cease extending the regional council’s charitable number to Bedford House as of March 1st 2026. **CARRIED**

3. Business

I. All Communities of Faith participate in ECORC meetings and initiatives

- a) **Dates of future meetings:**
 - May 1st – 2nd, 2026, Annual General Meeting – Location to be determined (suggested to contact Westminster United Church, Belleville).
 - November 14, 2026 Fall General Meeting – Crossroads United Church, Kingston, ON)
 - April 30th – May 1st 2027, Annual General Meeting – Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay, ON
 - November 13, 2027, Fall General Meeting – Trinity-St. Andrew’s United Church, Brighton,
 - St. Paul’s St. Andrew’s ESM, Bowmanville (Spring, May 5-6, 2028)
 - Potentially Peterborough (Fall, November 18, 2028)

- b) **General Meeting Planning** – Steve Coles shared that the planning group is discerning whether the Celebration of Ministry (COM) should be separated from the General Meeting (potentially two ordinands). There is also a desire to celebrate retirees with a dinner and there is concern that a COM on the Friday evening at the AGM would take away from the dinner. Suggested to hold COM on Saturday morning as part of meeting. It was also suggested to have a retirees lunch instead of dinner.

II. Clergy, lay leaders and communities of faith express satisfaction with the support, development opportunities and communication they receive

III. Those involved in any way with ECORC demonstrate awareness of our Vision and Mission statements, and express a feeling of connection to and commitment to the work of ECORC

IV. People in all roles and capacities within ECORC are aware of Council decisions and policies, and know where to find the information they need

Covenant Support Leadership Team (CST) – Patti James

- See *East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2025* as **Appendix A¹**
- See *East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026* as **Appendix A²**

- a) **Collaborated Ministry** – A request has been made to CST for approve of a governance model for a collaborative ministry. A recommendation will come to the council of elders soon.

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

Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team (MTPF)

- See *MTPF minutes of December 17, 2025* as **Appendix B¹**
- See *MTPF Digital Vote minutes of January 13, 2026* as **Appendix B²**
- See *Policy Regarding Manse Funds* as **Appendix B³**
- See *Policy Regarding the Proceeds from the Sale of Church Property* as **Appendix B⁴**

a) **Policy Regarding Manse Funds**

2026-02-03-007 MOTION (K. Ostrander/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to amend the Policy Regarding Manse Funds to include a statement that based on the offered amount of the property, if the offered amount is equal or greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. If the offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. This policy has an effective date of June 30th 2026. **CARRIED**

2026-02-03-008 MOTION (K. Ostrander/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders reconsider the motion:

2026-02-03-007 MOTION That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of the Mission Through Property & Finance Leadership Team to amend the Policy Regarding Manse Funds to include a statement that based on the offered amount of the property, if the offered amount is equal or greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the

Indigenous Ministries. If the offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. This policy has an effective date of June 30th 2026

CARRIED

2026-02-03-009 MOTION (K. Ostrander/K. Fitzpatrick) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders recommend the following policies at its next general meeting (May 1-2, 2026):

1. *Policy Regarding Manse Funds*
to amend the Policy Regarding Manse Funds to include a statement that based on the offered amount of the property, if the offered amount is equal or greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. If the offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. This policy has an effective date of June 30th 2026.
2. *Policy Regarding the Proceeds from the Sale of Church Property*
to amend the Policy Regarding the Proceeds from the Sale of Church Property to include a statement under NOT Disbanding: (amalgamation) that with the sale 10% be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. Disbanding: That the Policy be amended to include a statement that disbursement will be: 30% Indigenous Ministries / 20% Communities of Faith / Suggested Disbursements: 20% M&S / 20% ECORC / 10% TUCC.

CARRIED

- VI. ECORC events take place in a variety of geographic locations within our Region throughout the year*
- VII. We hold events every year related to outreach and social justice within our Regional Council*
- VIII. We observe increasing use of land acknowledgments and more participation in learning opportunities related to Respectful Relations and Indigenous Justice*
- IX. Children, youth and young adults are represented on all decision-making bodies*
- X. There are events planned for and by children, youth and young adults every year. A significant number of these events provide children, youth and young adults with leadership opportunities*
- XI. There is evidence that inclusive language is becoming the norm in the life and work of our church throughout our Regional Council, especially inclusive language and images of God in worship*
- XII. Reports from equity monitors and meeting notes give evidence of a growing awareness of equity standards*
- XIII. The number of Communities of Faith designated as Affirming continues to increase*
- XIV. An increasing number of Communities of Faith, along with ECORC and the Council of Elders, are developing plans to increase their environmental stewardship*
- XV. We can document specific actions we have taken to become intercultural*

New Business –

- a) **(Discernment) Proposal for Proactive Conflict & Strategic Support Retainer** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly provided context for this proposal.
- See correspondence a) November 5, 2025, Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Consultant, re proposal for proactive conflict & strategic support retainer

2026-02-03-010 MOTION (D. King/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders authorize the Executive Minister to respond with appreciation to Rev. Dr. Richard Bott's proposal for proactive conflict & strategic support retainer and consider his services in the future on an as-needed basis.
CARRIED

Equity Monitor Report – Joyce Payne highlighted that the meeting worked well without any equity concerns needing to be raised.

Special Mention – Thanksgivings were offered for Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander, who passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Darren Liepold shared the prayer entitled “God’s Tapestry”.

The Speaker declares that all the business having come before this meeting of the Council of Elders was duly concluded at 3:16 PM.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 (1pm – 4pm) Zoom
- Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 (1pm – 4pm) Zoom
- Tuesday, May 5th, 2026 (1pm – 4pm) Zoom
- Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 (10am – 4pm) In-Person

Steve Coles
Speaker

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
Executive Minister

ECORC Council of Elders - Participation Roster

	Opening worship/Land ack/closing prayer	Equity Monitor Roles
<i>March 3, 2026</i>	Sheila-Mae Young	David Moore
<i>April 7, 2026</i>	Joyce Payne	Brian Nicholson
<i>May 5, 2026</i>	Kaitlyn Ostrander	Kevin Fitzpatrick
<i>June 2, 2026 (in-person)</i>	Kevin Fitzpatrick	Michelle Brotherton

Appendices

Appendix A ¹	East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2025	Pages 10-14
Appendix A ²	East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026	Pages 15-19
Appendix B ¹	MTPF minutes of December 17, 2025	Pages 20-24
Appendix B ²	MTPF Digital Vote minutes of January 13, 2026	Pages 25-26
Appendix B ³	Policy Regarding Manse Funds	Pages 27-28
Appendix B ⁴	Policy Regarding the Proceeds from the Sale of Church	Pages 29-30

Appendix A¹**East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes**
December 16, 2025

A meeting of the Covenant Support Team was held by Zoom on Tuesday December 16, 2025 at 2:30pm.

Present: Voting Members: Freda Burns, Philip Hobbs, Patti James(chairperson), Paul Kneebone, Cheryl McMurray, Anne Meredith (scribe), Brian Nicholson, Stephanie Richmond, Randy Scott

Corresponding Members: Brad Ford, Caroline Giesbrecht, Svinda Heinrichs, Sue Pettersone

Representing the Region: Darren Liepold

Not Present: Voting Members: Don Misener

Regrets: Voting: Sharon Goulding; Non Voting: David King

Patti James welcomed everyone and a Land Acknowledgment was offered by Cheryl McMurray. A personal check-in was conducted after which Paul Kneebone shared some readings and a prayer.

It was moved by Philip Hobbs and seconded by Brian Nicholson that the agenda be adopted. Carried.

Business Aring from the Minutes: Action Items reviewed as follows.

It was moved by Freda Burns and seconded by Randy Scott that the Covenant Support Team acknowledge the receipt of the letter from Stockdale United Church and approve their desire to amalgamate with Frankford United Church by January 31, 2026. Carried.

Cheryl McMurray was advised that pastoral charge supervision eligibility did not require a Boundaries Course update or a police check.

Sue Pettersone and Patti James are still working on the list of Liaisons working with communities of faith.

The Commission at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church has almost completed its work but the official report still needs to be sent to the Council of Elders.

St. Paul's Warkworth and Roseneath – Hastings are still working on their cooperation agreement for collaborative ministry.

Action Item 21 (Letter to Vision Keepers) is planned to be completed by the time of our January meeting.

Reports

Svinda Heinrichs reported for Ministry Through Property that their ongoing work continues. Her good news was that the healthy attendance at Cambridge St United in Lindsay means that the floor must be renewed.

Sue Pettersone reported for the Liaison Forum. The ongoing site list will be available next month.

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Anne Meredith that Brian James be appointed as pastoral charge supervisor for Young's Point United Church. Carried.

Paul Kneebone reported for the licensed Lay Worship Leaders Forum to say there are 21 LLWLs, 2 retirees, and 7 students. In the spring there will be a professional development day.

New Business

The Bath- Morvan Pastoral Charge has contracted pulpit supply from within their pastoral charge for 2026. Adolphustown-Conway coverage will be discussed next month. A Congregational Designated Minister position must be approved by Council of Elders and has a very specific defined process for classification. This is different from pulpit supply from within the charge.

Pastoral Relations Motions:

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the VAM appointment of Jackie Harper to Trinity St. Andrew's, Brighton, ON. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Li (Patricia) Armstrong to Sandford-Zephyr Pastoral Charge, part-time at 20 hours a week, from January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026, with all conditions having been met. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Rev. Dr. William Smith at St. Mark's Cannifton for 3/8's time, (15 hours a week). All conditions having been met. This appointment shall be from January 1st, 2026, to February 28, 2026. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young at St. Mark's Cannifton for 3/8's time, (15 hours a week). All conditions having been met. This appointment shall be from January 1st, 2026, to February 28, 2026. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Rev. Dr. John Young at St. Mark's Cannifton for 3/4's time, (30 hours a week). All conditions having been met. This appointment shall be from March 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2026. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Lyle Horn to Lakefield United Pastoral Charge, part-time at 20 hours a week, from January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026, with all conditions having been met. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve Linda Marcotte as short term supply to St. Andrew's By-the-Lake Community of Faith from January 12, 2026 – April 12, 2026. Carried.

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Freda Burns that the minutes of the November 2025 meeting be approved. Carried.

Toronto United Church Council, who are requesting to make an information presentation to the Covenant Support Team, will be invited to the June meeting.

The next meeting is January 20, 2026. Thirty minutes will be designated for Mandate review.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Meredith

Covenant Support Team Action Item Tracking - Open Action Items				
Action	Assigned to	Status	Due Date	Completed
6. Provide pastoral care and pulpit supply plan for sabbatical for Cheryl McMurray.	St Paul's Stirling	Need to appoint PCS.	2025-11-18	
9. Review current and suggested revisions to Covenant Support and Liaison Forum mandates for discussion at October meeting.	Covenant Support Team Members	Discussion begun at November meeting; will continue at January meeting.	2025-10-21	
10. Provide Pastoral Charge Supervision List to Patti James	Darren Liepold	There doesn't seem to be a list nor a defined set	2025-09-23	✓

Covenant Support Team Action Item Tracking - Open Action Items				
Action	Assigned to	Status	Due Date	Completed
		of parameters for appointment.		
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-09-16</i>				
Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Due Date	Completed
14. Distribute Liaison spreadsheet to CS for review and discussion of its use and maintenance.	Sue Pettersone	Sue and Patti will continue working and provide updates to CST.	2025-11-18	
15. Provide information on Listening Team to CS.	Patti James	Eric will provide info to Patti. Is actually a Commission. They have finished their consultation and are preparing their report (12/16/25). Per Darren Liepold	2025-11-18	✓
16. Provide more detailed plan for proposed Collaborative Ministry, one that meets UCC and ECORC policies.	Trinity Hastings and Rosneath	Susan Garod-Schuster volunteered to work with Paul Cook and CoFs.	Not assigned.	
20. Schedule review of UCC & ECORC re Retired Supply Calls and Appointments	Patti James	Unless CS wants to develop a policy and submit it, there is no need..New action item assigned as of November 18.	2026 01-20	✓
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-10-21</i>				

Covenant Support Team Action Item Tracking – Open Action Items				
Action	Assigned to	Status	Due Date	Complete
21. Create a letter to be sent to the Vision Keepers asking for a proposed approach to meeting ministry personnel needs for communities of faith in various circumstances such as having abandoned their search, are choosing to use ministry personnel from other denominations, use of LLWLs and CDMs, etc. The proposal would address the oversight of congregational designated ministers if the approach would include having them serve in a CoF that is without an appointed or called minister.	Patti James, Sue Pettersone, Brian Nicholson		2026-01-20	
22. Developing a formal proposal for the Council of Elders regarding retired supply appointments. (sustained by planned reappointments or as short-term appointments). It was noted that this work will take place after Christmas!	Brian Nicholson, Cheryl McMurray		2026-01-20	
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-11-18</i>				
23. Provide Googledocs link for Ministry through Property to Paul Kneebone and Sue Pettersone	Svinda Heinrichs		2025-12-23	
24. Provide invitation to Daniel Reed for TUCC presentation to Covenant Support for June 16 meeting	Patti James	Invitation sent 2025-12-16	2025-12-23	✓
25. Advise Susan of Covenanting Service issue at Bridge Street.	Patti James	E-mail sent 2025-12*16	2025-12-17	✓
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-12-16</i>				

Appendix A²**The Covenant Support Team met by Zoom on Tuesday January 20, 2026 at 2:30pm.**

Present: *Voting Members:* Patti James(chairperson), Paul Kneebone, Cheryl McMurray, Anne Meredith (scribe), Don Misener, Brian Nicholson, Stephanie Richmond

Corresponding Members: Caroline Giesbrecht

Representing the Region: Darren Liepold

Regrets: *Voting:* Freda Burns, Sharon Goulding, Svinda Heinrichs, Philip Hobbs; Randy Scott; **Non-Voting:** Brad Ford, David King, Sue Pettersone, Susan Garrod-Schuster

Patti James welcomed everyone and gave a Land Acknowledgment. A poem and prayer were offered by Stephanie Richmond. A personal check-in followed.

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Brian Nicholson that the agenda be adopted. Carried.

It was moved by Anne Meredith and seconded by Stephanie Richmond that the December 2025 minutes be approved. Carried.

Business Arising**Covenant Support Team Mandate Review.**

Quorum be changed to read: a majority of the people currently serving.

Forums: Re-word as follows:

The Covenant Support Team may establish Forums of knowledge and expertise to undertake directed work in order to provide assistance to the Covenant Support Team in fulfilling its responsibilities. Forums may consist of one or more individuals and be short term or permanent. It is the responsibility of the Leadership Team to determine the Terms of Reference of the Forums; to assist in the recruitment of members; and, in conjunction with the Pastoral Relations Minister, ensure adequate training is provided to the members of the forums.

Forums will select their chair and/or secretary and provide those names and their contact information to the chair of the Covenant Support Team. Forums will report annually the names both of members who have resigned or have become inactive to the Covenant Support Team and of new persons who have been properly trained and wish to be named as Liaisons and will regularly advise the CST of any changes in membership. Forums are authorised to undertake necessary steps to complete the assigned activities and may be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Leadership Team. Forums shall report to the Leadership Team regularly.

Duties: Be changed from: “The Team shall have responsibility for the establishment of Forums and the oversight of same; The Team shall appoint Chairpersons of the Forums. The Covenant Support Team shall have a Liaison Forum and is encouraged at minimum a Retirees Forum and an LLWL Forum;”

to

The Team shall have responsibility for the establishment of Forums and the oversight of same. As a minimum, the Covenant Support Team shall have a Liaison Forum and a Licensed Lay Leadership (LLWL) Forum and is encouraged to establish a Retirees Forum.

With regards to our understanding of the “Ensuring Community of Faith compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church and reviewing any relevant records” the thought was that we might be able to do that by reviewing the annual congregational self-assessment (Gizmo); however it was decided that only matters needing review - not the entire document- would be brought to Covenant Support. It was suggested Council of Elders request the Visioning Team send an email to East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) representatives in each community of faith requesting them to emphasize the importance of its completion and submission.

Continuing with the Mandate: on p.28 under “Duties”, Patti James will re-word the document to reflect the current practices of the Covenant Support Team and the Liaison Forum and to ensure the Liaison Forum mandate and the Covenant Support mandate are consistent with each other. The Covenant Support Team (CST) will continue to provide oversight for the Liaison Forum but not be responsible for appointing liaisons or their chairperson. Patti James will also amend the Liaison Forum mandate document to make the language consistent with that of the Covenant Support Team.

Patti James has made some further format and editorial changes.

Brian Nicholson reported that Bridge Street United has been asked to set up a celebration of Covenant with their new minister and the Region and is awaiting a response.

Reports

Pastoral Charge Supervision

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Cheryl McMurray that Rev. David Clinker be appointed Pastoral Charge Supervisor (PSC) for Columbus United Church effective 1 February 2026. Carried.

It was moved by Paul Kneebone and seconded by Anne Meredith to appoint Jeanette Millar as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for United Community Ministry. Carried.

It was moved by Anne Meredith and seconded by Brian Nicholson to appoint Rev. Wanda Stride as Pastoral Charge Supervisor for St. Paul's United Church, Stirling from May 17, 2026 through September 8, 2026 during Rev. Cheryl McMurray's sabbatical and vacation. Carried.

Brain Nicholson took the Chair for the following two motions.

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Don Misener that Patti James be appointed Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Hastings-Roseneath Pastoral Charge effective immediately. Carried.

It was moved by Paul Kneebone and seconded by Don Misener that the Buckhorn Pastoral Charge Governance Handbook be approved. Carried.

It was noted that **Trinity United Uxbridge** will need a PCS starting April 2, 2026 upon the retirement of the current minister. Karen Croxall. **Burnt River** will need someone to attend their Annual Meeting in the spring.

Pastoral Relations Motions

The following email vote was received. It was moved by Stephanie Richmond and seconded by Cheryl McMurray that, the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Stevan Spicer to Wooler Pastoral Charge from January 1, 2026 to June 30th, 2026 at 20 hours a week with all conditions having been met. Carried.

The paperwork for Rev. Bill Smith at St. Mark's Community of Faith Cannifton has had the paperwork corrected from \$12,000.00 for the continuing education allowance to \$1,200.00.

The Profile there has been completed.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Paul Kneebone that the Covenant Support Team approve the appointment of Svinda Heinrichs to Bancroft Pastoral Charge, part-time at 16 hours a week, from January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2026, with all conditions having been met. Carried.

It has been requested that the CST minutes be sent to the Office of Vocation (OV).

Motions pertinent to the OV, including including those approved by e-mail and received, will be extracted and sent by the secretary monthly.

Stockdale /Trenton update – Frankford United Church voted agreeing to the amalgamation. The decommissioning of the Stockdale church will be held January 25, 2026. The property is to be sold.

Ministry Through Property

Darren reported that St. James -Vroomington were granted permission to sell their cemetery to an interested Anglican church.

Roslin-Thomasburg was given permission to make accessibility renovations and are pursuing grants.

Bath-Morven trusteeship of their cemetery was turned over to the local municipality.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

Paul Kneebone reported that in early April there will be a continuing education event. There are seven students and a waiting list for the two-year programme.

It was noted that for the next meeting, Sharon Goulding will provide the Land Acknowledgement and Philip Hobbs the short devotion and prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

The next meeting will be held on February 17, 2026 at 2:30pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meredith

Covenant Support Team				
Action Item Tracking - Open Action Items				
2025-01-20				
Action	Assigned to	Status	Due Date	Completed
6. Provide pastoral care and pulpit supply plan for sabbatical for Cheryl McMurray.	St Paul's Stirling	Need to appoint PCS. Wanda Stride appointed.	2025- 11-18	✓
9. Review current and suggested revisions to Covenant Support and Liaison Forum mandates for discussion at October meeting.	Covenant Support Team Members	1 st time through complete. Patti will review wording with those of forums and will change wording in all to be consistent..	2025-10-21	✓
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-09-16</i>				
Action	Assigned to	Comments/Status	Due Date	Completed
14. Provide more detailed plan for proposed Collaborative Ministry, one that meets UCC and ECORC policies.	Trinity Hastings and Rosneath	Susan Garod-Schuster volunteered to work with Paul Cook and CoFs. Responsibility is now Darren Liepold rather than Susan.	Not assigned.	
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-10-21</i>				
Action	Assigned to	Status	Due Date	Complete
21. Create a letter to be sent to the Vision Keepers asking for a proposed approach to meeting ministry personnel needs for communities of faith in various circumstances such as having abandoned their search, are choosing to use ministry personnel from other	Patti James, Sue Pettersone, Brian Nicholson	Patti and Sue will prepare a letter to bring to Covenant Support in February.	2026-02-17	

denominations, use of LLWLs and CDMs, etc. The proposal would address the oversight of congregational designated ministers if the approach would include having them serve in a CoF that is without an appointed or called minister.				
22. Developing a formal proposal for the Council of Elders regarding retired supply appointments. (sustained by planned reappointments or as short-term appointments). It was noted that this work will take place after Christmas!	Brian Nicholson, Cheryl McMurray	Proposal has been drafter. Brian and Cheryl will bring to Covenant Support in February.	2026-02-17	
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-11-18</i>				
23. Provide Googledocs link for Ministry through Property to Paul Kneebone and Sue Petersone	Svinda Heinrichs		2025-12-23	✓
24. Provide invitation to Daniel Reed for TUCC presentation to Covenant Support for June 16 meeting	Patti James	Invitation sent 2025-12-16	2025-12-23	✓
25. Advise Susan of Covenanting Service issue at Bridge Street.	Patti James	E-mail sent 2025-12*16	2025-12-17	✓
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2025-12-16</i>				
26. Reword the remainder of the Covenant Support Team mandate to reflect the current practices of the Covenant Support Team.			2025-02-17	
27. Reword the Covenant Support Team mandate and the Liaison Forum mandate are consistent with each other and reflect current practice.	Patti James		2025-02-17	
<i>Above Actions from Covenant Support Meeting of 2026-01-20</i>				

Appendix B¹

ECORC
MINISTRY THROUGH PROPERTY & FINANC
DECEMBER 17, 2025
Zoom
2:30-4:30pm

PRESENT: Svinda Heinrichs, Chair; Brian James, Treasurer; Jeff Jullian-regrets; Ken Begbie; Arthur Smith; Paul Brinkley; Isaac Munday-regrets
 Support Staff: Darren Liepold
 Cof E rep: Sheila-Mae Young, recording secretary; Michelle Brotherton-regrets

QUORUM CONFIRMED

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	ACTION/MEMBER ACCOUNTABLE
A	Opening prayer, Land Acknowledgement, Sharing	Opening prayer by the Rev. Svinda Heinrichs. Quorum declared by Chair Land Acknowledgement-shared Sharing by all.	
B	Review of previous minutes	Minutes: 251119 regular zoom And Digital Minutes of 251210	MOTION: approve 251015 regular zoom minutes and the Digital minutes of 251210 as circulated (B. James/P. Brinkley) <i>CARRIED</i>
C	Conflict of Interest		Chair ongoing item
REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS			
D 1	Update ECOR Cof E meeting Dec 2, 2025	1. our Nov 19 Motions were approved. 2. A digital vote was held Dec 11 concerning our recommendation about the Atherley UC Mould remediation and was carried 3. A spreadsheet with all the properties will be sent out to all MTPF team	Chair will send link to the Properties spreadsheet to all members
E1	Congregational Activities Updates Blackstock-Nestleton PC	Many emails were exchanged with the chair and B. James and this Cof F leadership Procedures are guiding them with their property issues.	Ongoing for 2026 The Chair has composed a SOP for members & will present to Feb meeting of MTPF

ECORC
MINISTRY THROUGH PROPERTY & FINANC
DECEMBER 17, 2025
Zoom
2:30-4:30pm

	<p>Whitney Union Cemetery Board (South Algonquin)</p> <p>Port Hope UC</p> <p>Cambridge St UC</p>	<p>Beginning process of selling/transferring cemetery and church to the cemetery board – in communication with the BAO A lawyer needs to be contacted to find out if the cemetery board can own property (what are the legal requirements)</p> <p>The Cof F Cemetery board , municipality and BOA are all in contact to transfer this cemetery property</p> <p>Despite KW not pursuing a plan outlined by this C of F for expansion and rental accommodations, the Cof F is still looking into it .</p> <p>Proposed renovations were detailed in 2 phases A necessary reinforcement of the Sanctuary floor as noted by Wilcox engineers to instal I-beams in lower hall to support Sanctuary floor above to a live load of 100lgs/sq.ft. 2nd phase at later date for inclusion of stage for concerts. Rationale expanding congregation with average of 170 this month and a surge of 500 for various events. The lowest bid is \$90,950 but the Coff is budgeting \$150,000 from their investments.</p>	<p>Lawyer Heather has been consulted awaiting information</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>MOTION: approve the request of Cambridge St. UC and recommend to ECORC that a necessary reinforcement of the Sanctuary floor be undertaking at a budget of \$150,000 with funds utilized from the Cof F investments. (B. James/A. Smith) <i>CARRIED</i></p>
OTHER BUSINESS			

ECORC
MINISTRY THROUGH PROPERTY & FINANC
DECEMBER 17, 2025
Zoom
2:30-4:30pm

F1	Cemetery policy	Deferred in absence of I. Mundy	ongoing
F2	General Council 45 discernment of UCC property sales for Indigenous Ministry	<p>ECORC did request a recommendation from MTPF before its discussion of the matter. The Sec provided documents for Church property sales as well as Manse sales with various options.</p> <p>The discussion of sale of church property where amalgamation has taken place will continue as it is presently constructed. It was felt that the amalgamating CofF would need all the funds allowed to continue as a new stronger Cof F.</p> <p>The discussion of sale of disbanded church property requested that a more strategic overview be considered for this type of sale. Presently 60% of the disbursement of funds are designated by ECORC and 40% the former Cof F is allowed to make disbursement recommendations. After much discussion, the consensus was:</p> <p>30% Indigenous Ministries 20% Cof F suggested disbursements 20% M&S 20% ECORC 10% TUCC</p> <p>Manse: Again much discussion occurred. Presently 10% of the Offered Sale price is disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. To seek balance of rural and urban manse properties (estimated 15 in ECOR) a graduated percentage was agreed.</p> <p>Based on the Offered amount of the property, if the Offered amount is equal or</p>	<p>MOTION: MTPF team recommends to ECORC, The Policy regarding Manse Funds be amended to include a statement that Based on the Offered amount of the property, if the Offered amount is equal or greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries.</p> <p>If the Offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. (B.James/P. Brinkley)</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION: MTPF team recommends to ECORC, the Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Church Property be continued to include a statement under NOT Disbanding (amalgamation) that with the sale 10% be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries.</p> <p>Disbanding That the Policy be amended to include a statement that disbursement will be:</p>

ECORC
MINISTRY THROUGH PROPERTY & FINANC
DECEMBER 17, 2025
Zoom
2:30-4:30pm

		greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries. If the Offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries.	30% Indigenous Ministries 20 C of F suggested disbursements 20% M&S 20% ECORC 10 TUCC (K. Begbie/A.Smith) <i>CARRIED</i> Secretary will provide the documents with the track changes to the MTPF and ECORC		
F6	Indigenous Justice & Respectful Relations Meeting	A wider policy & Justice issue: We were wondering if when a property is being sold, is there any conversation or involvement from local Indigenous communities during the sale of property. Example of Scugog UC offering the property to the local Mississauga of Scugog Island Nation. No specific policy	Ongoing for Feb 2026		
G	Closing prayer	The Rev. D Liepold			
H	Adjournment		MOTION: to adjourn at 4:30 pm consensus		
SIGNATURES: Chair: Svinda Heinrichs Recording Sec: S-M. Young					
NEXT MEETING					
Date	3rd Wed Feb 2026 No Jan 2026 mtg	Time	2:30pm	Location	Zoom invites to be sent

Appendix B²**Digital vote ECORC MTPF NOTES**
January 13, 2026

PRESENT: Svinda Heinrichs, chair; Brian James*, Treasurer; Paul Binkley*; Isaac Mundy*;
Jeff Julian, Arthur Smith*; Ken Begbie*
Darren Liepold, ECOR support
S-M. Young (Gidney) COE rep; recording secretary

- Indicated members voted in support

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FURTHER ACTION/NOTES/BACKGROUND	ACTION/MOTION FOR COE/COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS			
1	Rosin-Thomasburgh PC	-Request to have the proposed Barrier Free Development plans with the estimated cost of \$372,000 be approved for the Thomasburgh UC, so that fund raising opportunities can be sought. All the draft plans have been included in the request x drawings.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC the request from Rosin-Thomasburgh PC to make Thomasburgh UC Barrier Free according to details development plans with an estimated cost of \$372,000 to be raised through fund raising. (B.James/P.Binkley) <i>CARRIED</i>
2	Bath Morven cemetery	Bath Morven Cemetery Trustees request the transfer of ownership to the Municipality who have agreed to accept the transfer.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC the request from the Trustees of the Beth Moren Cemetery to transfer ownership to the Municipality. (P.Binkley/B. James) <i>CARRIED</i>
3	Sunderland PC-St. James UC	With the appropriate paperwork completed, St. James UC PT LT 6 CON 7 BROCK AS IN ONT4316 & BK7933; BROCK is ready to be sold to the Whiteway Church. The property includes a cemetery and the Whiteway Church has approval from the BOA to oversee this cemetery. The property has had the appropriate 3 quotes. The sale has been established	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC, the request from Sunderland PC-St. James UC to sell the St. James Property PT LT 6 CON 7 BROCK AS IN ONT4316

		<p>without Real Estate through lawyers at a price of \$350,000 on Jan. 29 2026. St James UC is part of the Sunderland PC through amalgamation. The appropriate Certification of Trustees asking Consent of Regional Council with the understanding that 30% of the net proceeds will be retained by RECORC and the remaining 70% will be used by the amalgamated Sunderland PC to support its ministry.</p>	<p>& BK 7933; BROCK to Whiteway Church for \$350,000 as of Jan 29, 2026. (P. Brinkley/B. James)</p>		
<p>SIGNATURES: Chair: Svinda Heinrichs Recording Sec: S-M. Young</p>					
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>					
Date	Feb, 2026	Time		Location	Zoom invites to be sent

Appendix B³**Property & Finance MANSE FUNDS POLICY**

This policy outlines the restrictions on use of Manse Funds held by communities of faith.

Date of Approval: Aug 28, 2019

Date of review by Property & Finance Committee: **Aug 21, 2019**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

All property of communities of faith are held in trust for the United Church of Canada by the trustees. This includes land, buildings, funds and investments and any other kind of property. The Trustees must comply with the United Church of Canada's requirements for Boards of Trustees in matters related to communities of faith property. A manse is such a property, but the Regional Council is responsible for making decisions on requests from communities of faith relating to the purchase or sale of a manse and for the use of proceeds arising from the sale of a manse property. The Regional Council will respect existing arrangements made with Presbyteries that are supported by motions, and that permission to use funds (through existing agreements) must be addressed to the Regional Council Assembly of Elders and not to Presbyteries or Conference.

With the recommendation from UCC through the GC 45, the disbursement of Net Funds has been revised.

~~To support the Indigenous Ministries, 20% of the Net Funds from the sale of the Manse will be forwarded to the East Central Ontario Region to be transferred to the UCC for Indigenous Ministries. (increase from 10 to 20%)~~

The Policy regarding Manse Funds be amended to include a statement that Based on the Offered amount of the property, if the Offered amount is equal or greater than \$800,000, 20% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries.

If the Offered amount is less than \$800,000, 10% of the amount will be disbursed to the Indigenous Ministries.

1. Manse Capital Funds and Use of Income. The capital of manse funds shall be invested by the Board of Trustees and the income from investment may be used by communities of faith to fund ministerial compensation. The ECORC Property & Finance Committee will be able to approve a onetime use of income from manse funds to a maximum of \$25,000 provided all other criteria within this policy are met. Requests over \$25,000 will go to the Regional Council for discussion and consideration. If a community of faith returns with a second request for use of income, this will come to the Regional Council for consideration.
2. Other Permitted Uses of Excess Manse Capital Funds & Regional Council Mandated \$150,000 Manse Reserve Fund. The Regional Council will allow greater flexibility with respect to usage of manse capital, subject to the approval of the ECORC Property & Finance Committee, some or all of the manse capital funds held by the Trustees that are in excess of the mandated \$150,000 manse reserve fund, may be used for the following purposes:
 - a. To fund the purchase of ministerial housing,
 - b. For a mortgage for ministerial housing,
 - c. Bridge financing to facilitate the sale of church property, if needed during an amalgamation,
 - d. Capital renovation projects within the community of faith's property, and
 - e. Other major capital projects that may be needed by a community of faith.

Caution: If any capital funds are expended for the purposes as noted in Items a) to e) above, the income from that capital will no longer be available to offset ministerial compensation and the income must then be derived from other sources.
3. Minimum Manse Fund Reserve, \$150,000 The minimum value of the unencumbered manse fund reserve to be held by the Board of Trustees shall not be less than \$150,000 or the net proceeds from the sale of the manse. Where manse fund capital values are currently less than \$150,000, this change in policy will have no effect.

4. Uses of the Mandated \$150,000 Manse Fund Reserve The manse reserve fund shall be retained by the Board of Trustees for potential use, with prior Regional Council approval, for ministerial compensation where a community of faith is not able to fulfill its financial obligations to a minister or for other uses related to the closing/ disbandment of a community of faith, as approved by the Regional Council.

Appendix B⁴

Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property POLICY NAME: Policy regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property
Date Approved: Oct 4, 2019
Revised Nov 26th 2021

Review date:

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify expectations of Communities of Faith regarding the sale of Church Property. **The Manual C.2.6.**

Preamble

This document outlines the **Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council's** policy and best practices regarding the disposition of proceeds from the sale of congregational property and/or Investment and cash assets. It should be noted that properties being considered for sale must first be reviewed by the Mission Through Property of ECORC to assess whether said property might be a candidate for development by the UPRC. (United Property Resource Corporation)

With the recommendation of the UCC through GC 45(2025), to disburse 20% of net funds to the Indigenous Ministries, this Policy is revised.

Policy

Not Disbanding

When a Church is being sold where two or more Communities of Faith are amalgamating, that new entity, in the spirit of the 2035 Vision, will need extra funds.

Plan A would still have the new entity receiving 70% of the Net Disbursements from the sale as is presently.

~~Plan B would have the new entity receiving 70% of the Net Disbursements but the 10% scheduled for the Indigenous Ministry would be increased to 20% in a) then b) and c) would share the remaining 10%.~~

~~Plan C would have the new entity receiving 60% of the Net Disbursements but the 10% scheduled for the Indigenous Ministry would be increased to 20% in a) with b) and c) staying the same.~~

When Congregational property is being sold by a Community of Faith that is **not disbanding**, the following guidelines for the use of net proceeds from the sale:

- a) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry. *This decision is about living into Reconciliation through our Indigenous ministry*
- b) 10% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. - ECORC COF Assistance Fund
- c) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.

d) 70% be retained by the Community of Faith with an approved ministry plan by the Regional Council for the use of the proceeds that is viable for sustaining the COF's ongoing Ministry and Outreach mission as stated in their Mission statement. *Communities of Faith can refer to Covenant Support Leadership and the Mission Through Property Teams*. The Regional Council will normally require that the remaining capital from the sale be protected / invested and that the Community of Faith be limited to drawing up to 5% of the value of the invested capital in any given year to support its operating budget. If the Community of Faith puts before the Regional Council a ministry plan, the Regional Council may allow the Community of Faith to use some or all of the remaining capital from the sale to implement the ministry plan. This may include capital expenses.

Disbanding

For a Disbanding Community of Faith to make its greatest contribution to the Indigenous Ministry, the C of F is requested to direct

Plan A direct 20% of its discretionary funds in e) to the Indigenous Ministry.

Plan B direct 30% of its discretionary funds in e) to the Indigenous Ministry:

When Congregational property is being sold by a Community of Faith that **is disbanding**, the following guidelines apply for the disposition of net proceeds from the sale:

a) 10% be remitted to the United Church of Canada for the on-going support of Indigenous Ministry. *This decision is about living into Reconciliation through our Indigenous ministry.*

b) 10%

to the Toronto United Church Council's Sustainable Energy Loan Fund.

c) 20% be remitted to the Eastern Central Ontario Regional Council to support the Mission Strategy of the Regional Council. – ECORC COF Assistance Fund

d) 20% be remitted to the United Church of Canada Mission and Support for on-going support of the ministry of the wider church.

e) 40% be directed for purposes within The United Church of Canada, as recommend by the Community of Faith, and which is approved by the Regional Council before the disbanding of the Community of Faith. If a Community of Faith disbands without such a plan, it becomes the responsibility of the Regional Council to determine the disposition of the remaining funds.

If the Congregational Property is a Manse please refer to the Manse Sale Policy

Note: Net proceeds means the amount left over after all expenses directly related to the sale of the property have been paid, e.g.: real estate fees, legal fees, cost of surveys and so on.