

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Council of Elders
Tuesday, April 7, 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
Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly	Member, Executive Minister
Ian Finlay	Member
Brian James	Member, Financial Administration
Patti James	Member
Rev. David King	Member
Ted Meyers	Member
Rev. Brian Nicholson	Member
Rev. Kaitlyn Ostrander	Member
Joyce Payne	Member, Speaker-Elect
Sheila-Mae Young	Member
Susan Garrod-Schuster	Corresponding Member, Acting Pastoral Relations Minister
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

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Michelle Brotherton	Member
Rev. David Moore	Member, General Council 45 Leading Commissioner

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 revised mandates (Covenant Support Leadership Team, Liaison Forum)
- Decide on renovation threshold
- Discerning Dunbarton-Fairport review
- Discerning accessibility issues related to fonts

Land Acknowledgement and Opening Devotion – Joyce Payne acknowledged the regional council's affirming ministry, and led the land acknowledgement, placing emphasis on the Church's continued commitment to living out its apology to First Peoples. Joyce read Scripture: Philippians 2:1-2 (The Message) and shared a reflection on the gift of spiritual friends.

Time for sharing – All are invited to share

Appointment of an Equity Support Person for this Meeting

2026-04-07-001 MOTION (T. Meyers/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders appoint Rev. Brian Nicholson 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://ecorcuccan.ca/resources/accessibility/>

Agenda

2026-04-07-002 MOTION (S-M Young/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders accept the agenda as amended:

1. Additions of document under 3d: 2026-04-01 ECOR-MTPF-Digital vote-Hope UC, Norland;
2. Amendment to item f in the consent packet;
3. Addition of item i in consent packet;
4. Addition of First Thirds Ministry update.

CARRIED**Incoming Correspondence**

- a) February 26, 2026, Bi Ying Lam, Community Development Council Durham, re Refugee/Asylum Resettlement Option (*for information*);
- b) March 9, 2026, Ron Ewart, Executive Director, TUCC, re Request for Information Table & Time on the Bi-Regional Meeting Agenda June 26 & 27 (*for information*);
- c) March 18, 2026, copied on memo from Patti James, Chair Covenant Support Leadership Team and Sue Petterson, Chair, Liaison Forum, to ECORC Vision Keepers, re comprehensive strategy to meeting ministry needs within the bounds of East Central Ontario Regional Council (*for information*);
- d) March 10, 2026, Rev. Catherine Christie, Chair, United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN), re Request for Networking Funding from Region Councils for UCRMN – 2026 (*for action under consent packet*);
- e) March 12, 2026, copied on letter from Cathy Hamilton and Cynthia Reynolds, Co-Chairs, Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, to Mark Sturman, re readiness for ordination (*for information*);
- f) March 31, 2026, copied on letter from Cathy Hamilton and Cynthia Reynolds, Co-Chairs, Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, to Matthew Coulthard, re Candidacy Board interview (*for information*);
- g) April 1, 2026, Bruce Glass, re Patricia Teskey and Cambridge Street United Church (*for information*).

Outgoing Correspondence

- h) March 3, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, responding to Bruce Glass' correspondence of February 25, 2026, re Patricia Teskey and Cambridge Street United Church (*for information*);
- i) March 4, 2026, Rev. Darren Liepold, Congregational Support Minister, to Don Real, Ian Hartford, NECM team, re Northumberland East Collaborative Ministry (*for information*);
- j) March 30, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Mike Bishop, Trustee - Trinity United Church - Cannington On, re Official Extract regarding the amalgamation of St. Andrew's United Church (Beaverton) & Trinity United Church (Cannington) (*for information*);
- k) April 1, 2026, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Church Council of Cambridge Street United Church, re Patricia Teskey and Cambridge Street United Church (*for information*).

1. Consent Packet**2026-04-07-003 MOTION** (I. Finlay/S-M Young) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders

- a) approve the minutes of March 3, 2026 as circulated;
- b) approve the minutes of special meeting of March 24, 2026 as circulated;
- c) receive into these minutes the results of email poll held on April 2, 2026:

2026-04-02-001 MOTION (S-M Young/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to authorize the trustees to list for sale the Blackstock United Church (PT LT 11 CON 5 CARTWRIGHT, AS IN N35184, CA3865; SCUGOG. PIN 267620018 and PT LT 11, CON 5 CARTWRIGHT; SCUGOG. PIN 267620104) for \$525,000.

2026-04-02-002 MOTION (S-M Young/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to authorize the trustees to sell Stockdale United Church (Pt Lot 26 E/S Mill St. PL90 in the Township of Murray as in MU12165 except PT2 39R8455 & PT1 38R2822, Quinte West) for \$275,000 to 1142729 Ontario Ltd, Stan Morrow, Officer, effective May 29, 2026.

- d) receive for information the minutes of the Covenant Support Leadership Team for meetings held on March 17, 2026;
- e) receive and approve the *Revised Liaison Forum Mandate* as annexed to these minutes;
- f) receive for information the minutes of the Ministry Through Property & Finance Leadership Team (MTPF) regular meeting held on March 18, 2026, email poll held on March 27, 2026 and email poll held on April 1, 2026;
- g) approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to change the name of Frankford-Batawa Pastoral Charge to Frankford-Batawa-Stockdale Pastoral Charge effective Feb. 23, 2026;
- h) approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to fund the United Church Rural Ministry Network, the requested \$500, from the ECORC Network Fund;
- i) approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to have the regional council transfer emergent loan funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Hope United Church as requested by the Trustees to be repaid from the proceeds of the property disposition, either rental, sale or conversion to other uses.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising

- a) **Vision Keepers** – Joyce Payne, Steve Coles, Rev. David King – meeting tomorrow. Have received a request from the Covenant Support Leadership Team (*see correspondence c*)
- **Strategic Plan** – Joyce Payne and Rev. Darren Liepold met to discuss the Strat Plan and will present update to the Visions Keepers at its meeting tomorrow. There is an information session on the Strat Plan on the April 28th at 7 PM
 - **Toward 2035** – Strengthening invitation, evangelism, how to equip sharing the message of the Church. *The Things We Tell Ourselves* content may be available in the future as learning tools. It was also suggested to make use of the AI summaries. The question was raised about learning more about the demographics for given neighbourhoods around Churches, it was suggested to contact Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, who can help connect people with these resources.

b) **Updates From Prior Decisions**

- i) **Cambridge Street United Church Appeal** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

2026-04-07-004 MOTION (J. Payne/ P. James) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders move into camera. **CARRIED**

- ii) **Dunbarton-Fairport United Church Congregational Review** – Ted Meyers

- See *Dunbarton-Fairport United Church Congregation Review Report*

2026-04-07-005 MOTION (P. James/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders move out of camera. **CARRIED**

2026-04-07-006 MOTION (P. James/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders receive the Dunbarton-Fairport United Church Congregation Review Report. **CARRIED**

Gratitude was extended to those who served in preparations of this report.

2026-04-07-007 MOTION (P. James/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders establish a commission at Dunbarton-Fairport United Church to implement the recommendations of the review report and name the following people to serve on said commission until June 1, 2027: Rev. Brian Nicholson, Ted Meyers and a third person to be determined. **CARRIED**

2026-04-07-008 MOTION (T. Meyer/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders provide support to and direct Dunbarton-Fairport United Church to pursue conflict resolution in response to the review report. Costs for conflict resolution to be shared between the regional council and congregation (50/50). **CARRIED**

- iii) **Emmanuel United Church (Peterborough)** – Steve Coles, Sheila-Mae Young. The Commission remains active, as the position of Chair of council remains vacant (but soon to be filled). Work continues to sort out financials. The Church manse will be sold shortly.

3. Business**a) Dates of future meetings:**

- May 1st – 2nd 2026, Annual General Meeting – Sidney Westminster United Church, Belleville
- May 1st 2026, Celebration of Ministry Service – Sidney 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

- See *May 1-2, 2026 AGM draft agenda* as **Appendix A**

1. Retirees Lunch

2026-04-07-009 MOTION (S-M. Young/J. Payne) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders fund a retirees' lunch on the Thursday prior to the annual general meeting (June 30th). Moreover, the regional council fund a retirees' luncheon up to two times per year.

c) Covenant Support Leadership Team (CST) – Patti James

- See FYI East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026 (in consent packet) as **Appendix B¹**
- See FYI *Revised Liaisons Mandate* (in consent packet) as **Appendix B²**

1. Revised Covenant Support Leadership Team Mandate

- See FYI *Revised Covenant Support Leadership Team* as **Appendix B³**

2026-04-07-010 MOTION (P. James/K. Ostrander) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of the Covenant Support Leadership Team to grant the Covenant Support Leadership Team Commission Powers to Exercise oversight of LLWLs by(1) providing directly, or with a LLWL Forum, training for LLWLs; (2) conducting annual evaluations; (3) approving annually the licensing and relicensing of LLWLs (Manual I.1.11.5).
CARRIED

2026-04-07-011 MOTION (P. James/B. Nicholson) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders concur with the recommendation of the Covenant Support Leadership Team to approve the Revised Covenant Support Leadership Team Mandate as annexed to these minutes.
CARRIED

Gratitude was extended to Patti James and the entire Covenant Support Leadership Team for all the work undertaken to update and revise the mandates.

2. ECORC Congregational Governance Handbook

- See FYI *Draft Governance Handbook for Congregations* as **Appendix B⁴**

2026-04-07-012 MOTION (P. James/I. Finlay) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of the Covenant Support Leadership Team to amend the *ECORC Congregational Governance Handbook* as follows:

- i. that Ministry Personnel serve as the Chair of the governing body only in the event that the position becomes vacant unexpectedly. In that case, the Ministry Personnel, if willing and if elected by the Congregation, shall chair the governing body for only a short period of time (approximately three months) to allow time for the congregation to elect a new chair of its governing body. If the Ministry Personnel is unable or unwilling for whatever reason to serve in that capacity and no member of the congregation will serve in the position, then ECOR Congregational Support Minister shall be notified.
- ii. that decisions made by the governing body or its executive may not be overturned by the Congregation. The governing body may not overturn decisions made by its executive.

d) **Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team (MTPF)**

- See FYI 2026-03-18 *ECOR-MTPF-minutes draft* as **Appendix C¹** (in consent packet)
- See FYI 2026-03-27 *ECOR-MTPF-Blackstock UC consent to list- Digital vote* as **Appendix C²** (in consent packet)
- See FYI 2026-03-27 *ECOR-MTPF-Digital vote-Stockdale* as **Appendix C³** (in consent packet)
- See FYI 2026-04-01 *ECOR-MTPF-Digital vote-Hope UC, Norland* as **Appendix C⁴** (in consent packet)

1. **Renovation Threshold**

2026-04-07-013 MOTION (S-M Young/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders approve the recommendation of the Ministry Through Property and Finance Leadership Team to Change Policy to increase the Renovation Threshold for Community of Faith development requests from \$50,000 to \$70,000. **CARRIED**

- e) **(YAYA Program) Collective Embrace for Impact** – <https://united-church.ca/events/collective-2026-embrace-impact> – Sharon Hull, Minister for Spiritual Nurture, Respectful Relationships and Justice with All Ages, shared information about this event and how it is currently being subsidized. In June, the Council of Elders will concretely devise a subsidizing plan. It was suggested that any and all United Church of Canada youth wanting to attend be fully subsidized with funds of the regional council.

- f) **Regional Council Review of First Third Ministry** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly proposed a person be engaged to work on a First Thirds programming review (this work would be done for remuneration). A work proposal would be forthcoming to finalize the details.

2026-04-07-014 MOTION (J. Payne/T. Meyers) That the East Central Ontario Regional Council of Elders empower the Executive Minister to proceed with a tri-regional analysis of first third ministry programming (in conjunction with Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka regional councils). **CARRIED**

4. **New Business**

- a) **Accessibility & Equity (Use of Fonts)** – Joyce Payne highlighted that font choice has an impact for readers and as a test, this version of the agenda and the minutes have been changed from Times

New Roman to Calibri. Karen Wilson will bring the issue of font choice to the Equity Forum to see if they would be willing to consider a font that could be chosen as 'the' equitable font for the regional council. It was suggested that a recommendation be brought back to the June Council of Elders meeting.

Equity Monitor Report – Rev. Brian Nicholson highlighted using the raise hand option when voting. It was reminded to self announce before speaking.

Steve Coles shared that his term as Speaker comes to an end at the rise of the annual general meeting and thanked all the members and staff for their support during his tenure.

Closing Prayer – Joyce Payne closed the meeting in prayer.

The Speaker declares that all the business having come before this meeting of the Council of Elders was duly concluded at 3:55 PM.

Next Meeting Dates: - Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 (10am – 3pm) In-Person
(Edith-Rankin Memorial United Church, Kingston)

Steve Coles
Speaker

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
Executive Minister

ECORC Council of Elders - Participation Roster

	Opening worship/Land ack/closing prayer	Equity Monitor Roles
June 2, 2026 (in-person)	Kaitlyn Ostrander	Michelle Brotherton

Appendices

Appendix A	May 1-2, 2026 AGM Draft Agenda	Pages 8-9
Appendix B ¹	East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026	Pages 10-14
Appendix B ²	Revised Liaison Forum Mandate	Page 15
Appendix B ³	Revised Covenant Support Leadership Team Mandate	Pages 16-19
Appendix B ⁴	Draft Governance Handbook for Congregations	Pages 20-49
Appendix C ¹	2026-03-18 ECOR-MTPF-minutes draft	Pages 50-55
Appendix C ²	2026-03-27 ECOR-MTPF-Blackstock UC consent to list- Digital vote	Page 56
Appendix C ³	2026-03-27 ECOR-MTPF-Digital vote-Stockdale	Pages 57-58
Appendix C ⁴	2026-04-01 ECOR-MTPF-Digital vote-Hope UC, Norland	Pages 59-60

Appendix A

May 1-2, 2026 AGM Draft Agenda

ECORC DRAFT Spring Annual Meeting Agenda for May 1st and 2nd, 2026 (subject to change as needed)

Friday, May 1st**8:30am – Doors open for registration and social time**

9:15am – Gathering Music

9:30am – 12:00pm - Meeting begins in the sanctuary to include the following:

- Acknowledgment of the Land
- Welcoming and Word of Constitution
- Opening Worship
- Opening Motions
- Retiree Video
- Nominations Report and Election

12:30-1:30pm – Lunch in the dining hall with Gathering music at 1:20pm

1:30-3:00pm – Afternoon session begins in the Sanctuary to include the following presentations:

- Financial Report
- Team Reports
- Mission and Service
- Retiree Videos
- Nominations Report (only if needed)

3:00-3:25pm – Nutrition break as well as Gathering Music and movement

3:25-4:30pm – Reconvene for the following reports:

- Retiree Video
- Presentations
- Presentation of Ordinands

4:30-4:45pm – Break before dinner**4:45-6:30 – Dinner and Retiree's Celebration**

Friday's session concludes

7:00pm – Celebration of Ministries with Communion

Saturday, May 2nd**8:30am - Doors open for registration and social time**

9:00-10:20am – Meeting begins in the sanctuary to include the following:

- Gathering Worship
- Memorials and Closing Buildings/Amalgamations
- General Council Office Representatives: Japhet Ndhlovu and Diane Bosman
- Announcements
- Team Reports

10:20-10:30am – Nutrition Break with play time/movement

10:30-11:30am – Keynote Speaker: Growth Animator, Rev. Tori Mullen - Toward 2035

11:30am-1:00pm – Lunch in the dining hall with Gathering music and movement at 12:30 for those who want to join

1:00-2:45pm – Afternoon session begins in the Sanctuary to include the following:

- Keynote Speaker - Rev. Darren Liepold - Strategic Plan Update
- Keynote Speakers - Vision Keepers - Update

2:45-3:00pm – Nutrition break

3:00-4:30 – Reconvene for the following:

- Last presentations/wrap up
- Closing devotional
- Equity Report
- Closing Motions and closing song

4:30pm – Meeting Concludes

Appendix B¹**East Central Ontario Regional Council Covenant Support Team**Minutes March 17, 2026

The Covenant Support Team met by Zoom on Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 2:30pm.

Not Present: Brad Ford, David King (Corresponding Members)

Regrets: Stephanie Richmond

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

Corresponding Members: Caroline Giesbrecht, Svinda Heinrichs, Sue Pettersone

Representing the Region: Susan Garrod-Schuster

Patti James welcomed everyone. Freda Burns gave a Land Acknowledgment.

A personal check-in followed. Anne Meredith opened with story and prayer.

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 Paul Kneebone that the February 2026 minutes be approved with the amendment that Freda Burns had sent her regrets. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes (Review of Action Item Update)

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Freda Burns that the Covenant Support Team **forward the Action Memorandum and Supplement to the Vision Keepers**. Carried.

The Covenant Support Mandate document indicates that the Liaison Forum must bring liaison placements to the Covenant Support team for approval. A motion for a search to begin would also come to Covenant Support from the Liaison Forum.

Churches wanting to explore other types of ministry once there has been a change in pastoral relations are to be in touch with Darren Liepold. Following that connection, a decision would be made to declare a vacancy or to explore other options, such as some form of collaborative ministry. Patti James and Sue Pettersone will work on creating a flow chart to depict the process.

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Paul Kneebone that **these Covenant Support Mandate changes be sent on to the Council of Elders for approval**. Carried.

Paul Kneebone will be writing revisions to the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Guide for this Region. The policy portions will be identified and will be put into the ECORC Governance Document.

The Council of Elders returned the Northeast Cumberland Collaborative Ministry (NECM) Policies and Procedures document for some revision and additions. The Rev. Darren Liepold, Regional Congregational Support Minister, and Paul Cook, Liaison will continue to work with the NECM executive to make the required revisions.

Congregational Support

It was moved by Anne Meredith and seconded by Sharon Goulding that Sandra Farrow be approved as the **pastoral charge supervisor for Trinity United, Uxbridge**. Carried.

The following work is being undertaken as part of Collaborative Ministry:

- February 25 -Peterborough Gathering (2nd Gathering)
- March 3 – Kingston (5th Gathering)
- March 10 – Northeast Section of Region (2nd Gathering)
- March 17 – Bancroft, Tweed, Roslin-Thomasburg, Queensborough, and White Lake area (5th meeting)
- presentations in Uxbridge and northwest area of the Region upcoming

REPORTS

Mission through Property

Brechin United has voted to disband as of June 26, 2026.

Hope United Church, Norland is working on a three-year revitalization goal with renewed ministry ideas including a thrift shop. A matching grant has been given.

Liaison Forum

It was moved by Cheryl McMurphy and seconded by Freda Burns that the **following names be approved as liaisons:** Sue Pettersone, Randy Scott, Bruce Fraser, Sharon Goulding, Tom Smart, Brian James, Jean Wilson, Steve Spicer, Mark Arnill, Jean Brown, and Paul Cook. Carried.

Patti James is exploring the possibility of an in-person meeting with the Covenant Support team and the Liaison Forum for mutual support, possibly at the semi-annual meeting on May 1 or 2.

The Vision Keepers document is to be shared with the Covenant Support Team Forums.

License Lay Worship Leaders

Twenty are registered for the spring professional development day. An annual declaration is required as well as a preaching and professional development log. Fred Pillar has been added to the roster.

Retirees

Retirees will meet for a program and lunch on Thursday April 30 at 10:30am in Belleville. They will be finished before set-up begins and are willing to help with set-up.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved by Philip Hobbs and seconded by Freda Burns that the *constitution of Desoronto-Napanee* be approved with the following changes to be incorporated:

- Section 2.0 the minister to be added as a member of the Board
- 5.0 Reference to Conference Annual Meetings be changed to Regional Council meetings
- Change reference to Conference committees to Regional teams.

Carried.

ECORC Congregational Governance Handbook

Patti James has double-checked all The Manual references to be sure they are correct with The Manual 2026 edition and will make some typographical and other minor corrections

It was moved by Anne Meredith and seconded by Brian Nicholson that the Council of Elders **approve the revised Congregational Governance Handbook** and the following policy motions:

1. It is the policy of the ECORC that Ministry Personnel serve as the Chair of the governing body only in the event that the position becomes vacant unexpectedly. In that case, the Ministry Personnel, if willing and if elected by the Congregation, shall chair the governing body for only a short period of time (approximately three months) to allow time for the congregation to elect a new chair of its governing body. If the Ministry Personnel is unable or unwilling for whatever reason to serve in that capacity and no member of the congregation will serve in the position, then ECOR Congregational Support Minister shall be notified.
2. East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) policy is that decisions made by the governing body or its executive may not be overturned by the Congregation. The governing body may not overturn decisions made by its executive.

It is noted that if Council of Elders does not pass or if it amends either of these two motions, the Congregational Governance Handbook should be returned to Covenant Support for appropriate revision.

Pastoral Relations Motions

It was moved by Cheryl McMurray and seconded by Randy Scott that, the Covenant Support Team approve the **reappointment of the Rev. Robert Root** to Bobcaygeon-Providence Pastoral Charge, Bobcaygeon part-time at 20 hours a week, from July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2027, with all conditions having been met. Carried.

It was moved by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Don Misner that, the Covenant Support Team approve the **appointment of the Rev. Susan Paterson** to Trinity Pastoral Charge, Madoc part-time at 20 hours a week, from February 2, 2026, until January 31, 2027, with all conditions having been met. Carried.

The meetings adjourned at 3:58pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 2:30pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Anne Meredith

Covenant Support Team Action Items Open as of 2026-03-17 Status			
#		Due	Closed
20	Assigned to: Patti James, Sue Pettersone Action: 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. Status: Draft Memorandum and Supplement presented to CST for approval March 17. Approved w/o change. Closed.	2026-01-20	✓
23	Assigned to: Patti James Action: Reword the remainder of the Covenant Support Team mandate to reflect the current practices of the Covenant Support Team. Status: Comments have been incorporated but discussion to Covenant deferred to March meeting to give Patti and Susan Pettersone, Chair of Liaison Forum time to compare the suggested revisions to the Liaison Forum mandate and ensure they agree with each other and with policy. Presented to CST and approved to forward to Council of Elders for incorporation 17 March 2026. Closed.	2026-02-17	✓
24	Assigned to: Patti James & Sue Pettersone Action: Reword the Covenant Support mandate and the Liaison Forum mandate to be consistent with each other and to reflect current policy and practice. Presented and approved 17 March 2026. Closed.	2026-03-17	✓
25	Assigned to: All Covenant Support Team Members Action: Review the draft ECORC Congregational Governance Model Handbook and be prepared to present any recommended changes to the Council of Elders by June at the latest. Presented and approved to forward to Council of Elders 17 March 2026. Closed.	2026-03-17	✓
26	Assigned to: Paul Kneebone Action: Arrange a time to review and revise the LLWL Forum portions of the ECORC Governance with the Chair of Covenant Support. Status: Initial meeting and discussion on March 11. Additional revisions in process. April 21 is target date for submission.	2026-03-17	

Covenant Support Team Action Items Open as of 2026-03-17 Status			
#		Due	Closed
27	Assigned to: Patti James/Anne Meredith Action: Forward the Covenant Support Team comments on the Northeast Cumberland Collaborative Ministry (NECM) Draft Policies and Procedures Manual to the ECORC Council of Elders.	2026-02-20	✓
28	Assigned to: Patti James/Anne Meredith Action: Forward the Sabbatical Financial Grant of the St. Paul's, Stirling Pastoral Charge to the ECORC Council of Elders, recommending approval.	2026-02-20	✓
29	Assigned to: Patti James Action: Forward Memorandum and Supplement to Vision Keepers. (Larry Doyle) and to the Forums of the the CST. Both docs sent to Larry Doyle, Eric Hebert-Daly, Joel Miller, and Chairs of Forums 18 March 2026.	2026-03-25	✓
30	Assigned to: Patti James Action: Forward Memorandum and Supplement to Council of Elders for information. Forwarded 18 Mar 2026	2026-03-25	✓
31	Assigned to: Anne Meredith Action: Forward Revised Covenant Support Mandate and Liaison Forum Mandate (Current pages 24-28) to Council of Elders for approval. Forwarded March 19, 2026. Closed	2026-03-25	✓
32	Assigned to: Anne Meredith Action: Forward the ECORC Congregational Governance Model Handbook and motions to Council of Elders for approval. Forwarded March 19, 2025. Closed	2026-03-25	✓
33	Assigned to: Patti James Action: Forward Grace United Church/Desoronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge Constitution with Covenant Support changes and approval included to Darren Liepold, Congregational Support Minister. Status: Forwarded on March 17 with one part of change not included. The required information had already been included, but had been overlooked. Closed.	2026-03-20	✓
35	Assigned to: Patti James and Sue Pettersone Action: Prepare a draft flow chart and narrative depicting the process of "Declaration of Vacancy" in this Region.	2026-06-16	

Appendix B²

Governance Document for the East Central Ontario East Central Ontario Regional Council of The United Church of Canada — May 2025

The Liaison Forum

FORUM: Liaison Forum	Date Approved:
	Review date: March 11 and 17, 2026
Purpose: To provide terms of reference for the Liaison Forum	

Liaison Forum Narrative

The Liaison Forum is made up of individuals who have been trained by the ECORC Pastoral Relations Minister and appointed by the Covenant Support Team (CST) to assist the CST in carrying out their responsibilities. The Liaison Forum may include lay and ordered individuals. Liaisons work with Communities of Faith (CoFs) from developing their profiles to covenanting with a new minister.

The Liaison Forum gives the members the chance to discuss their work in CoFs, share best practices and discern readiness of profiles for publication.

Note: Pastoral Relations Policy and guidelines for Liaisons is an expansion of Section I. Pastoral Relations in The Manual.

Purpose

To assist the CST in providing support to the CoFs within the bounds of the Region by touching base with the CoFs at the times defined in the Regional Council Liaisons Resource document and guidelines established by the CST.

Membership

The Liaison Forum shall consist of all those approved by the CST to serve as Liaison Officers of the East Central Ontario Regional Council and the Pastoral Relations Minister.

Meetings

The Liaison Forum shall meet monthly or at the call of the Pastoral Relations Minister.

Duties

- i. Review and make recommendations to the CST for posting CoF profiles, having ensured that the CoF Profile is complete and the position description is accurate.
- ii. Support the search process when a CoF seeks to call a member of the order of ministry or appoint a designated lay minister to fill a position that has been approved by the East Central Ontario Regional Council.
- iii. Review and recommend to the CST requests for calls and appointments having ensured that process is complete, the position description met and all requirements met or exceeded.
- iv. Attend all interviews as part of the Search team.
- v. Attend the congregational meeting to receive the recommendations of the Search Team.
- vi. Represent the Region at covenanting services.

Appendix B³**Covenant Support Team**

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Covenant Support Team	Date Approved:
	Review date: March 17, 2026
Purpose: To provide terms of reference for the Covenant Support Team.	

Commission Powers**The Covenant Support Team is granted the following Commission Powers:**

1. 2024-04-19-20-006_MOTION (P. Reed/K Ostrander) that the East Central Ontario Regional Council approve that:
 1. the Covenant Support Team is granted Commission powers for specific matters, namely,
 - a. **The appointment of Liaison Officers**
 - b. *The appointment of Pastoral Charge Supervisors*
 - c. *The approval of a vacancy and the initializing of a search when the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge have not changed.*
 - d. *Approval of a Call when it matches the terms set out by the approved Search. These powers do not extend to any circumstance that emerges from conflict, uncertainty or deviates from precedent. CARRIED*
2. *Licensed lay Worship Leaders:*
Exercise oversight of LLWLs by(1) providing directly, or with a LLWL Forum, training for LLWLs; (2) conducting annual evaluations; (3) approving annually the licensing and relicensing of LLWLs (Manual I.1.11.5)

(Motion to come before Council of Elders April 7, 2026)

Purpose

The Covenant Support Team is a Leadership Team that supports and nurtures the relationships between the East Central Ontario Regional Council and Communities of Faith, Ministry Personnel (Active, Retained, and Retired), and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. The Covenant Support Team supports and nurtures the covenant relationships within the Regional Council.

Membership

The Covenant Support Leadership Team shall consist of 12 elected voting members as recommended by the Nominations Team following recruitment and discernment practices. The members serve a three-year term with an annual rotation of 1/3 of the members.

The Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister and the Regional Council Congregational Support Minister are Ex officio members of the Leadership Team.

The Office of Vocation Minister, The Regional Council Executive Minister, Council of Elder appointments, and Chairs of the Forums may serve as corresponding members.

Role of Members

Members of the Team make decisions and recommendations upholding the overall vision and mandate as given by the East Central Ontario Regional Council and reflected in polity and policy. Team Members are expected to prepare for meetings of the Team and participate fully in the deliberations of the Team.

Members may expect to be given specific assignments for completion such as assignment to work with a Forum.

When representing a Forum or presenting a report the Team member should voluntarily limit participation to the nature of a corresponding member to avoid the perception of bias.

Role of Corresponding Members

Corresponding members provide a specific and contextual knowledge and level of awareness that is important to the deliberations of the Team. Corresponding members shall make sure the elected members have the information they need to discern a course of action. Corresponding members do not vote. They do, however, contribute to all discussion topics where they may have specific knowledge and/or expertise..

Corresponding members also have the responsibility to ensure that the body they represent is informed of the work and decisions of the Leadership Team.

Meetings

The Covenant Support Team shall convene every other month and/or as required. The meetings may be in person, telephone conference call or web based.

Quorum

Quorum shall be a majority of the people currently serving.

Chairperson

The Leadership Team shall select from among the elected membership the Team Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary. The names of the individuals to be reported annually to the Council of Elders and the Nomination Team. The Chairperson shall not serve more than two consecutive years. The three-year term of an elected member may be extended by one year if serving as the Chairperson.

The Chairperson and the Secretary shall be responsible for reporting Team activities and actions to the Council of Elders monthly as required. They shall attend Council Elder meetings upon request of the Council of Elders.

Vacancies

A member of the Team unable to fulfill their term may resign. A member failing to fulfill the responsibilities may be removed from the position by a 2/3 majority decision of the remaining members.

Vacancies are filled by the Nominations Team during an annual election cycle.

To provide continuity of task, or for the purpose of securing a chairperson, the Team may request of the Nominations Team to extend the membership of a member by one year.

Forums

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. 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. 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 are authorized to undertake necessary steps to complete the assigned activities and may be authorized to make certain decisions on behalf of the Leadership Team. Forums shall report to the Leadership Team regularly.

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 after the spring meeting of the Region a full listing of their current membership and their contact information and a request for approval

of new members who have been properly trained and wish to be named as Liaisons. Forums will regularly advise the CST of any resignations from the Forum and requests for approval of new members.

Authority as a Commission

The Leadership Team may be appointed by the Regional Council as a Commission for designated matters of a routine nature that are supported by policy and precedence. Commission powers shall be noted in the Mandate printed in italics with the date granted.

Duties

The Covenant Support Team shall have responsibility for the completion of the mandated duties, making decisions as authorized and recommendations to the Council of Elders as required. The responsibilities shall include:

- Oversight of
 - Communities of Faith and Pastoral Charges;
 - Ministry Personnel, active, retained, and retired;
 - Pastoral Relationships;
 - License lay Worship Leaders;
- Establishment of Forums and the oversight of same, including approval of members and Chairpersons;

The Covenant Support Team is accountable to the Council of Elders for all activities and decisions (with exception of those for which it is empowered to operate as a commission); and shall report annually to the East Central Ontario Regional Council.

Mandate

The mandated duties of the Covenant Support Team include:

Communities of Faith and Pastoral Charges

- Supporting and encouraging healthy communities of faith;
- Encouraging congregation in the exercise of Stewardship and Visioning;
- Ensuring Community of Faith compliance with the policies and polity of the United Church and reviewing any relevant records;
- Exercising oversight of communities of faith by:
 - ensuring that Communities of Faith have a current and accurate Community of Faith Profile;
 - providing support to emerging new ministries;
 - providing support, advice, and services to communities of faith in human resource matters;
 - providing ongoing leadership training for ministry personnel and lay people [The Manual C.2.2];
 - providing Pastoral Charge Supervision as required by:
 - ◆ assisting staff in recruiting and training Pastoral Charge Supervisors; and
 - ◆ assigning Pastoral Charge Supervisors to Pastoral Charges without a minister or during sabbaticals;
- Proposing recommended actions to the Council of Elders
 - Of Communities of Faith in extraordinary circumstances where the Community of Faith is unable to or refuses to meet its responsibilities or acts outside of denominational policies;
 - Of the appointment of Interim Ministers;
 - Of the creation of proposed "congregational designated minister" position;
 - Of proposed amalgamations, realignments, and disbanding of communities of faith [The Manual C.2.1];
 - Of concerns regarding the well-being of a community of faith, pastoral charge, or pastoral relationship.

Ministry Personnel.

- Encouraging and supporting ministry personnel by
 - Providing measures to sustain health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice;
 - assisting with informal conflict resolution processes as required;
 - celebrating the life occasions and accomplishments of ministry personnel;
 - Providing directly or with a Retirees Forum the support of ministry personnel approaching retirement and maintaining a relationship with pensioners;
 - Proposing recommended action to the Council of Elders;
 - ✓ for the granting of a license to administer the sacraments to diaconal ministers, designated lay ministers, people who retired while serving as designated lay ministers, and sacrament elders;
 - ✓ Whenever there is concern for the well-being of the pastoral relationship or ministry personnel.

Pastoral Relations:

- Oversee changes in Pastoral Relationship;
 - When there is no change in the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge; and
 - When the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge have changed.
- **Declaration of a Vacancy**
The declaration of a vacancy when the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge have changed is different than the one in which there is no change in the needs of the Community of Faith/Pastoral Charge. The two processes are described in the accompanying procedures document, "Declaration of Vacancy in the East Central Ontario Region."
- **Initiation of a Search**
 - Once a declaration of a vacancy has been made, direct the Liaison Forum to guide the community of faith in the process of search;
 - Receive for approval recommendations from the Liaisons Forum regarding the Community of Faith Profiles.
 - Approve calls and appointments when they are consistent with the declared vacancy.
 - Recommend action to the Council of Elders when the result of the Search differs from the declared vacancy.
 - Represent the Region in a Covenanting Service with ministry personnel and Communities of Faith.
- **Inform the Council of Elders of the ending or continuing of appointments.**

Appendix B⁴



EAST CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL CONGREGATIONAL GOVERNANCE MODELS

A Handbook for Congregations

April 2026

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East Central Ontario Region (ECOR) Governance Handbook for Congregations and Pastoral Charges

Introduction

Welcome to your East Central Ontario Region's (ECOR) Handbook for governance of communities of faith that are Congregations or Pastoral Charges. This handbook is meant to assist you in designing a model for governance for your congregation and/or pastoral charge that fits your evolving realities, your slate of volunteers and your ministry goals. All references to **The Manual** are to **The Manual 2026**.

***The Manual** requires a congregation or pastoral charge to have a governing body. It must decide on a governance model for the congregation charge, elect members of the governing body, and seek regional council approval. (**The Manual** B.7.1)*

Governance and Governance Structures

It is important to understand how governance helps organizations move toward living out their ministry goals. The Manual, Section B.2.1.7 states simply and clearly, "The governance structure must free people to live out their commitment to God and to each other." Research has shown that organizations with a weakly or poorly defined and poorly communicated and/or understood governance structure suffer from distrust, anxiety, and lack of vision. Any decision made is challenged, motives are questioned, distrust runs rampant (often underground), people feel their voices aren't heard, anxiety rules. Organizations that have a clearly defined and understood structure easily make decisions that support their defining vision. Having a well-defined structure does not eliminate all the issues arising in human interactions but does provides a framework in which to work through them.

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Some of the primary challenges for governing bodies of congregations are the following:

1. lack of clarity of Purpose/Aim and vision;
2. inherited structure that no longer works, burning out volunteers;
3. lack of clarity of the structure;
4. lack of clarity of roles;
5. poor communication;
6. self-interest or interest in a represented group;
7. Personal agendas (this can be purely personal or also is seen when people on the "Board" represent a certain ministry group and therefore push the agenda for recognition or funds.)
8. lack of effectively integrating governing body members and chairs of committees; and
9. Lack of understanding of the community context, which includes the history of the congregation, its present makeup, but most importantly the neighbourhood in which the church finds itself witnessing.

Healthy governance can exist only when there are both healthy leaders and a willingness to be governed.

Two critical areas of governance are strategic and operational.

Strategic is reflecting upon the purpose, vision, and goals for the Community of Faith (CoF)/Pastoral Charge along with creating the mandates for all the committees, including the governing body itself, and assigning a budget to the mandated work. It is about direction setting and goal setting and looking at the interests of the whole, not representing individual needs or desires of a single committee.

Operational is the realm of ensuring the work gets completed and ensuring the mandates are being followed and budgets are respected.

Whatever governance structure is in place should ensure both strategic and operational functions are in place and work together. The governing body does not need to approve the work or new endeavours of the committee/team. Rather, the governing body would regularly monitor the work to make sure the committees/teams are within the mandate and budget approved for them. This governing body helps to determine the "how" and is guided by the question of "how will we achieve our purpose within the limits of the resources at our disposal".

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Requirements

Structural Requirements

CoF's may find that in designing its structure, it is helpful to look at the minimum requirements.

The Manual Section B.7.2.1 requires the governing body structure to:

- a. fulfill all the responsibilities of a governing body defined in the by-laws of **The Manual** (See Appendix A.);
- b. fulfill the membership and other requirements for a governing body in the by-laws of The Manual;
- c. be approved by the congregation or pastoral charge; and
- d. be approved by the regional council.

Governing Body Membership

- a. Ministry Personnel (OM, DM, DLM) or PCS: has all the rights and privileges as any member of the governing body (B7.6.B) They can Chair and (unless chairing) make motions and vote.. It is the policy of ECOR that Ministry Personnel serve as the Chair of the governing body only in the event that the position becomes vacant unexpectedly. In that case, the Ministry Personnel, if willing, should chair the governing body for only a short period of time (approximately three months) to allow time for the congregation to elect a new chair of its governing body. If the Ministry Personnel is unable or unwilling for whatever reason to serve in that capacity, then ECORC should be contacted.
- b. Chair – Elected by the congregation (B.7.6.1): has all the rights and privileges as any member of the governing body. They can make motions, and vote (usually to break a tie).
- c. Secretary – (B.7.6.2.a)) The governing body is responsible for electing a secretary. This person must be a member of the governing body
- d. Treasurer – (B.7.6.3.a)) The governing body is responsible for electing
 - i. a treasurer for the pastoral charge. This person must be a member of the governing body; and

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Meeting of the Council of Elders

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- ii. a treasurer for the Mission & Service fund and other funds for the mission of the wider church.

The same person may serve as treasurer of both.

- e. Members of the Governing Body (B.7.1.b)

Annual Meeting Requirements

Let's begin by clarifying the needs of the Annual Meetings since the roles are often confused with the governing body. Required at annual meetings are:

- a. Chair – elected by congregation
- b. Secretary - elected by the congregation
- c. Ministry Personnel or a representative from the Regional Council (new as of GC 44)

The Chair of the Annual Meeting (sometimes referred to as the Chair of the Congregation) and the Secretary are elected by congregation and serve the full year. The same person may be elected as the chair of the governing body, but there is no requirement that the same person fill the two positions

Governing Body Requirements

A practice of some CoF's is for the congregation to elect the Secretary and Treasurer of the Governing Body; however, The Manual requirement is that the Governing Body elect its Secretary and Treasurer and Mission & Service Treasurer. (B.7.6.2 a and B.76.3a &b)

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

Appendix A identifies the responsibilities of the governing body as listed in **The Manual 2026**. This listing is provided in a checklist form to aid in ensuring the governance structure meets all requirements of **The Manual**.

Organization of the Governing Body and Its Executive

A congregation or pastoral charge may establish an **executive** of the governing body. The executive must fulfill the responsibilities that the governing body assigns to it. (B.7.5.1) East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) policy is that decisions made by the governing body or its executive may not be overturned by the Congregation. The governing body may not overturn decisions made by its executive.

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Required Committees of the Governing Body

The CoF and its governing body may fulfill their responsibilities with the help of committees, task groups, steering, groups, teams, commissions, and other bodies. **The Manual** Section B.7.8 uses the term “committees” to include all of these bodies. This handbook follows that practice.

The CoF is responsible for deciding

- a. the number and size of committees;
- b. qualifications for election to each committee; and
- c. the responsibilities assigned to each committee other than the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

The only mandatory committee is a Ministry and Personnel Committee; however, the CoF must assign the following areas of work to committees or do the work in another way. **B.7.8.6**

- a. **Christian education:** Meeting the faith formation and Christian education needs of the congregation or pastoral charge.
- b. **Manse:**
 - i) Maintaining the manse and equipment; and
 - ii) ensuring the manse is suitable accommodation for the ministry personnel.
- c. **Stewardship:**
 - i) Educating the congregation or pastoral charge on the mission of the United Church, both locally and in the wider church; educating the congregation or pastoral charge on the funds needed for this mission and how they will be used;
 - ii) encouraging commitment and participation from the congregation or pastoral charge in this mission; and
 - iii) reviewing regularly the balance of funds given for local purposes and funds given for the Mission & Service fund.
- d. **Nominations:** Recommending people who are eligible, suitable, and willing to serve in positions in the congregation or pastoral charge.

(Please note that a Board of Trustees is also required and is addressed later in this document.)

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The CoF is responsible for electing the members of the committees. It may also choose the members in any other way that it decides. (***The Manual Section B.7.8.3***).

All **ministry personnel** called or appointed to a pastoral charge are automatically members of all committees of the congregation or pastoral charge, with three exceptions. They may not be members of a Search Committee; the Ministry and Personnel Committee; and a Nominations Committee. **The Manual Section B.7.8.4**)

Accountability

All organizations and groups in the congregation or pastoral charge are accountable to the governing body. (***The Manual, Section B.7.9.1***) The governing body is responsible for approving new organizations and groups in the congregation or pastoral charge. (***The Manual, Section B.7.9.2***)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

All CoF's must have a committee or other body that fulfills the responsibilities of ***The Manual 2024, Section B.7.8.5 a-h***. For ease of reference, this section of **The Manual** is reprinted at Appendix B. Two handbooks available on The UCC website are available to M&P committees: Ministry and Personnel Committees: Policy, Procedures, Practices, and its companion document, Resources for Ministry and Personnel Committees. A companion to with further detail and guidance for M&P Committees.

Ideally, the M&P committee membership is made up of between 3-7 people.

Election of Regional Council Representatives

The community of faith is responsible for electing representatives of the community of faith to the regional council. Representatives must be members of the community of faith. The number of representatives depends on the size of the community of faith: B.2.1.6

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Trustees

The Manual G.3.1 requires every congregation to have a board of Trustees. The Trustees must be appointed at a congregational meeting. (**The Manual** Section G 3.3.1)

There are specific notice requirements for a congregational meeting to appoint trustees. See Community of Faith B.5.4.2 b.

The CoF is responsible for setting the term of office for trustees. (The Manual Section 3.3.5). ECORC recommends all terms of office for trustees be for one year.

Though many CoF's require a Trustee be on its governing body, there is no Manual requirement for such representation. The Trustee Handbook states:

"It is up to the congregation to decide how the board of trustees relates to the congregation's governing body and committees as part of its governance structure." The Trustee Handbook identifies two possible relationships of trustees to the governing body:

- a. Option 1 Have trustee representative on the congregation's governing body as a member with voting rights or a corresponding member.
- b. Option 2 Have a trustee representative on committees, such as the stewards, finance, property, or manse committee "

A third option is to have trustee representation in a combination of Options 1 and 2.

ECORC recommends the third option.

Property Matters

The governing body gives orders and directions to the trustees on property matters. (B.7.4.6)

Trustees must comply with all lawful decisions about congregational property made by the governing body of their congregation and the regional council (G.3.4.2)

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Multi-point Pastoral Charges

The responsibilities are the same for multi-point pastoral charges as for a single congregation. If a pastoral charge has more than one congregation, the congregations and the regional council decide how the responsibilities and governance requirements for the community of faith are divided among the congregations and the pastoral charge as a whole. (B.4.2.)

Some multi-point pastoral charges choose to have separate governing bodies with an additional Pastoral Charge Board assigned responsibility for areas such as worship planning, M&P, and pastoral charge personnel costs.

A pastoral charge with two or more congregations may, in addition to the board of trustees for each congregation, have a board of trustees for the pastoral charge.

The same requirements apply to both types of boards of trustees, with one change. For a pastoral charge board of trustees, the pastoral charge fulfills the responsibilities given to the congregation.

Steps in the Process**Designing and Documenting the Structure**

All models of how congregations make decisions together seek to bring order out of the sometimes chaos that is living in a faith community. What model of congregational governance is appropriate for a congregation at a particular time is determined by the congregation's goals, history, culture, and community. Congregational size also plays an important role, in that the larger a congregation grows, the more pressing its need to have a body focusing on discerning the congregation's identity, culture, vision, and purpose.

A Community of Faith's ministry goals are shaped by its mission statement. Do you know what your mission statement says? If not, do you know where to find it, and when was it adopted?

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Once each member of your governance team has a working copy of your mission statement, ask another question: Is the mission statement still relevant and actionable? *You may find that it needs some tweaking. Remember that your statement of ministry goals is a living document and should be reviewed and adjusted regularly. This is one of the stewardship best practices.*

Work with what you have and put the task of an amended mission statement on a “to-do” list and do it after the governance has been crafted.

Your purpose becomes the standard by which you determine how to govern yourselves and evaluate your ministry.

Appendix C provides several models for CoF’s to consider. They are intended to provide CoF’s a starting point to design a structure that meets their needs and the requirements of **The Manual**.

A critical consideration in each of the Governance Models is that the purpose, vision, and goals for the congregation are clearly defined and are the basis on which decisions about spending and programs are based.

A secondary, but also very important consideration, is that the mandates of committees or teams and the functions of each position (paid or lay) are clearly defined. This can be as extensive as Policy Governance or incorporated into a Constitution that clarifies the mandates of committees/teams or people’s position in a less formal way.

Approving the Governance Structure

Two levels of approval are required: One by the congregation and one by ECORC. You’ve decided on a governance model and the Regional Council has approved it. What do you do next?

Choosing Your Leadership

Choosing your leadership is not so much a matter of “two feet and a heartbeat,” but a seeking of individuals who are passionate about the work and have the gifts, skills and call to participate in a particular facet of congregational life. Be creative in finding ways to appropriately encourage

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those who have or who are willing to obtain needed knowledge and/or skills to contribute to your congregational life. A typical “nominating committee” might be formed. A “jobs fair” might alert people to the need and entice them to offer their skills. A small congregation might have a gathering of its members to have a “heart-to-heart” discussion of how they each can participate in leadership roles. An original play or skit might appeal to some.

Covenanting With the Leadership and One Another

It is important to covenant with those who serve as leaders. This should be done in a worship setting. Part of the covenant with leaders should include an agreement as to how they will handle moments of stress. “Holy Manners” is a document prepared by The United Church of Canada and is included as Appendix D to this document. All communities of faith experience anxiety that show up in several ways: conflict, fear, and bullying to name a few.

Conclusion

The year 2024 marked the last year of the United Church of Canada’s first century. One thing that can be said about this church of ours is that it thrives and changes. If evolution and adaptation is a guarantee of a species chance of survival, then we can look forward to another 100 years of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with each other, with our neighbours and friends, and our nation.

For many, designing and adopting a new governance feels like we are rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, but we often neglect to include that threefold variable into the equation of whether our church will survive into the coming decades. That variable is God – Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life.

In Isaiah 43:18, 19, we are reminded:

“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I’m about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”

Thanks be to God

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Appendix A

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The governing body follows the policies set by the pastoral charge or congregation in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Area of Responsibility	Assigned to	Reports to
Spiritual Matters The community of faith is responsible for setting policies for membership, within denominational guidelines, and receiving and celebrating new members in the community of faith; helping members on their journey as they explore and deepen their faith; and ensuring the proper administration of the sacraments.		
a) admitting people as full members;		
b) removing people as full members;		
c) granting certificates of transfer of membership;		
d) the discipline of members;		
e) the administration of the sacraments;		
f) Christian education;		
g) public worship;		
h) the use of the church building;		
i) pastoral care and visiting; and		
j) outreach in evangelism and social action.		
Financial Matters The governing body has general oversight of the finances of the congregation or pastoral charge, including		
a) fundraising;		
b) disbursement of funds; and		
c) the budget approved by the congregation or pastoral charge.		
It may also authorize borrowing funds for the pastoral charge.		
<i>The governing body's responsibilities and other requirements for finances are set out in Congregational Life G.4.</i>		
Records		
The governing body keeps the following records:		
a) the membership roll of the congregation;		
b) the historic membership roll of the congregation		
c) the record of children and adherents; and		
d) the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials		

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Pastoral Relations Matters	
The governing body deals with pastoral relations matters as directed by the pastoral charge.	<i>"Pastoral relations" matters involve the ministry personnel, and the terms and conditions on which they serve the pastoral charge. These terms are set through a call or appointment</i>
Proposals	The governing body receives, makes decisions on, and transmits proposals to the regional council.
Recommending Members for Ministry Leadership	The governing body recommends suitable members for consideration by the appropriate body as a) licensed lay worship leaders; b) sacraments elders; and c) candidates.
Property Matters	The governing body gives orders and directions to the trustees on property matters.
Representing the Pastoral Charge to Regional Council	The governing body represents the pastoral charge when the pastoral charge has authorized it to communicate with the regional council about a) the pastoral relationship; or b) the amalgamation, realignment, re-forming, or disbanding of the congregation or pastoral charge.
Reporting	The governing body reports to the pastoral charge at least annually on a) the life and work of the pastoral charge; and b) the pastoral charge's financial situation, with details of all income, expenses, assets, and liabilities.
Sharing Reports from the Wider Church	The governing body shares reports it receives on action by the regional council and General Council with the pastoral charge
Completing Statistical Forms	The governing body completes the annual pastoral charge statistical and information forms, and returns them to the General Council Office by the required date.
General	The governing body has general responsibility for leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life and the interests of the congregation or pastoral charge.

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Appendix B

Responsibilities of the Ministry & Personnel Committee **The Manual B.7.8.5**

All congregations or pastoral charges must have a committee or other body, which may be called the Ministry and Personnel Committee or a different name, with the following responsibilities:

- a) being available for consultation and support for matters involving the pastoral charge staff;
- b) overseeing the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation;
- c) regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all pastoral charge staff;
- d) making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the governing body;
- e) revising position descriptions of pastoral charge staff as needed;
- f) conducting annual performance reviews of the pastoral charge staff;
- g) ensuring pastoral charge staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given; and
- h) maintaining close contact with the regional council Pastoral Relations Committee or equivalent.

There are resources to assist Ministry and Personnel Committees with their responsibilities. See the Ministry and Personnel Committees resources available from the [General Council Office](#).

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L'Église Unie du Canada

East Central Ontario Regional Council
Meeting of the Council of Elders

April 7, 2026
Zoom Teleconferencing

April 2026

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Appendix C

Governance Models

Models of Congregational Governance

Introduction:

The models of governance discussed below are applicable to Communities of Faith that are congregations or pastoral charges. The models are not meant to be prescriptive; many features of these models can be adjusted or modified to fit the distinct character of a local CoF. Communities of Faith may also decide to create a new governance structure different from any of those discussed in this document. However, whether modifying an existing model, or creating an entirely new structure, there are some mandatory elements that must be present. Key mandatory elements include:

- Specifying a governing body for the CoF (the group that has the ultimate authority* for faithful operation of the CoF)
- A Board of Trustees (there is very little scope for modifying the governance for Trustees as specified in *The Manual*, since the role of Trustees is largely defined in *The United Church of Canada Act – 1925*, as passed by Parliament)
- A Ministry and Personnel Committee
- Any other requirements specified in *The Manual*, section B.7

Regardless of what model is adopted, it requires the formal approval of the Regional Council before being implemented.

Recommended Models:

The following four models are 'recommended' in the sense they have been successfully used by various Communities of Faith, and they therefore have a track record of providing a solid basis for organizing the work of a CoF. Of course, each of these models have also been used unsuccessfully, since no model of governance will work well for a CoF without goodwill, a common prayerful purpose, and a firm belief in the mission of the local CoF as part of the United Church of Canada.

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Model 1: Session/Stewards/Official Board

Background: this model may have the longest history in the United Church Canada, with roots going back to the denominations that united to form our church. Despite this long history, many CoF's still find it an effective model.

Applicability: While almost any size of CoF could use this model, it can require more volunteers to staff the groups/committees that make it up than some other models. Also, because of its hierarchical structure, more hours of meetings may be needed. Finally, some of the nomenclature it traditionally uses (eg "Elders", "Stewards") may seem a bit archaic to those who don't appreciate the historic roots of these labels. On the positive side, its structure encourages a focus on spiritual health, pastoral care and worship (that is sometimes lacking in other models). Also, the structure can provide more opportunities for introducing newcomers to the CoF structure, a non-threatening way, by providing more positions with lesser responsibilities (as compared to some other models that have fewer positions, but with each position therefore having more responsibility).

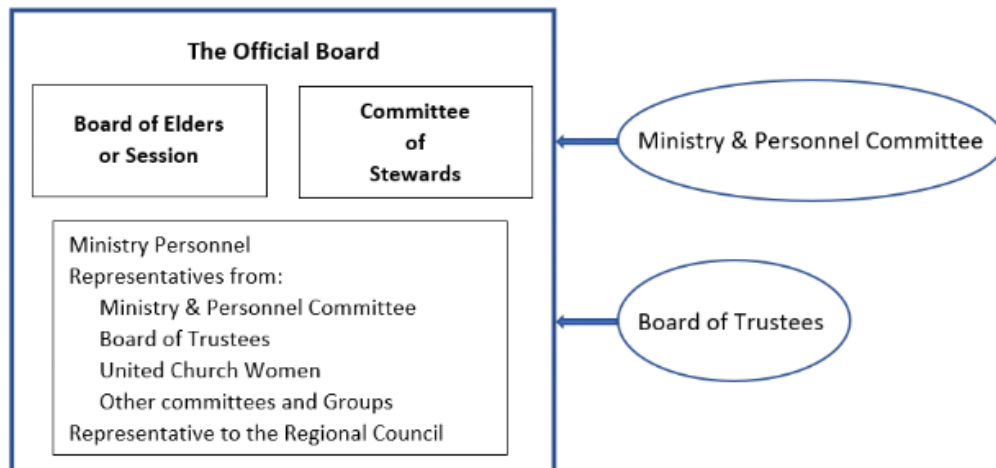
Detailed description: The two primary decision-making groups in this model are:

The Session (also called the Board of Elders)
The Committee of Stewards

Each of these groups meet separately and each has distinct areas of responsibility. In this model, the Session and the Stewards are mandated to meet together on at least a quarterly basis. When they meet jointly (along with other office holders), they are called the Official Board. Every member of the Session and every member of the Committee of Stewards is a member of the Official Board.

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Session/Stewards/Official Board Model

**Board of Elders or Session**

- i) Elected full members of the congregation.
- ii) Number to be determined by constitution approved by congregation.
- iii) Responsible for the “spiritual matters” of the congregation
- iv) Ministry Personnel (OM, DM, DLM) or PCS is part of this group and attendance at meetings is required.

Committee of Stewards

- i) Elected full members of the congregation.
- ii) Number to be determined by constitution approved by congregation.
- iii) Responsible for the “financial matters” of the congregation.
- iv) Ministry Personnel (OM, DM, DLM) or PCS may decide to be part of this group

Official Board

- i) Considered the governing body of the congregation.
- ii) Ministry Personnel (OM, DM, DLM) or PCS is part of this group and attendance at meetings is required.

The Session, or Board of Elders

The Session is responsible for the spiritual leadership of the congregation, including worship, education, pastoral care and outreach. The ministry personnel settled in, or appointed to, a pastoral charge or congregation are members of the Session. A quorum for Session requires attendance of the ministry personnel or, where no minister is settled or appointed, the Pastoral Charge Supervisor or other Regional Representative.

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The members of the Session are known as Elders, regardless of the members' actual ages. They are elected at a Congregational Meeting for their wisdom, caring, spiritual discernment, and other gifts of the Spirit. They are entrusted with leadership among the whole congregation. They must be full members of the United Church of Canada [confirm if still a requirement in current Manual].

The Committee of Stewards

The Committee of Stewards is responsible for the “temporal matters” of the congregation or pastoral charge, in the language of *The Manual*. This includes stewardship development, remuneration of paid church personnel, capital expenditures, property maintenance, and day-to-day administration of finances. The Committee of Stewards elect from among its members a Treasurer. Members of this group are known simply as Stewards.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees have defined responsibilities as found in The Manual, and The Trustees Handbook. They take direction from the Official Board and the Congregational Meeting. One or more representatives from the Trustees are members of the Official Board, in order to ensure good communications and coordination. (Not a Manual Requirement)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

This Committee has responsibilities as defined in The Manual. One or more representatives from this Committee are members of the Official Board.

Other Official Board Members

Other members include all called (settled) or appointed ministry staff, elected representatives from the congregation/pastoral charge to the Regional Council, (not a requirement) and representatives from other groups/committees as decided by the congregation (e.g. historically UCW or other women's groups, AOTS or other men's groups).

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Model 2: Unified Board (or Church Board) Model

Background: The Unified Board model, as its name implies, brings many of the functions of separate committees or boards (as seen in other models) into a single body.

Applicability: This model has the advantage of consolidating most decision making into a single body; there is minimal potential confusion on “who does what” since there is only one primary body (other than the mandatory Board of Trustees and Ministry and Personnel Committee). However, this also means meetings of the Board may be longer than some other models since the scope of responsibility of the Board is wider. This model allows for input on all issues from a wide cross-section of church members, but some Board members may feel they are not making best use of their spiritual gifts since the Board may often be dealing with issues of little interest to those members.

A congregation/pastoral charge can decide to establish additional committees to take on specific roles, but that is not required. This model needs a large enough membership to be able to take on all the roles that would have been done by the Stewards and Session in that model, and also to provide a representative cross section of views among the church members.

Detailed description: The Unified Board model unifies the traditional functions of spiritual leadership and financial management into one Board that also coordinates the work of various task groups or committees. All the members of the Board are known as Elders, and may be assigned a number of families to visit regularly. A treasurer is elected from among the Board members. A quorum for Session requires attendance of the ministry personnel or, where no minister is settled or appointed, the Pastoral Charge Supervisor or other designated Regional Representative.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees have defined responsibilities as found in **The Manual**, and The Trustees Handbook. They take direction from the Unified Board and the Congregational Meeting. One or more representatives from the Trustees are members of the Unified Board (not a requirement) in order to ensure good communications and coordination.

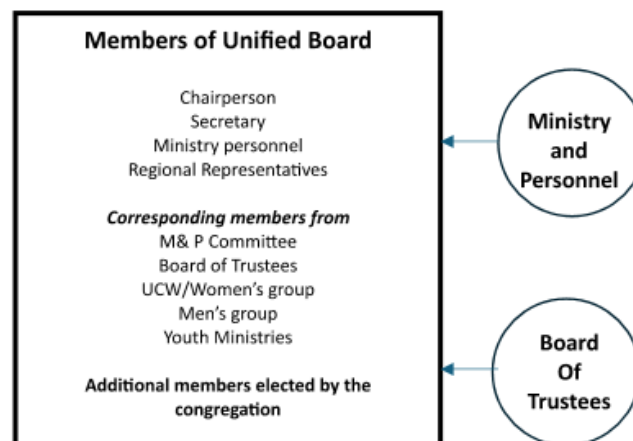
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Ministry and Personnel Committee

This Committee has responsibilities as defined in The Manual. One representative from this Committee are full members of the Unified Board.

Other Unified Board Members

Other members include all called (settled) or appointed ministry staff, elected representatives from the congregation/pastoral charge to the Regional Council and representatives from other groups/committees as decided by the congregation (e.g. *historically* UCW or other women's groups, AOTS or other men's groups).

**Unified Board Model, called the Church Board**

- One Board with several committees. Every committee member is a member of the Board.
 - Required committees are Ministry & Personnel and Board of Trustees,
- Optional and common committees are Christian Education, Property, Stewardship, Outreach, Pastoral Care, etc.
 - Ministry personnel are available as resources but not as principal facilitators.
- Board meetings involve all committee participants plus representatives from various groups. Each member of a committee also is a board member, and the size of the board increases quickly.

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Model 3. Council structure, called the Church Council

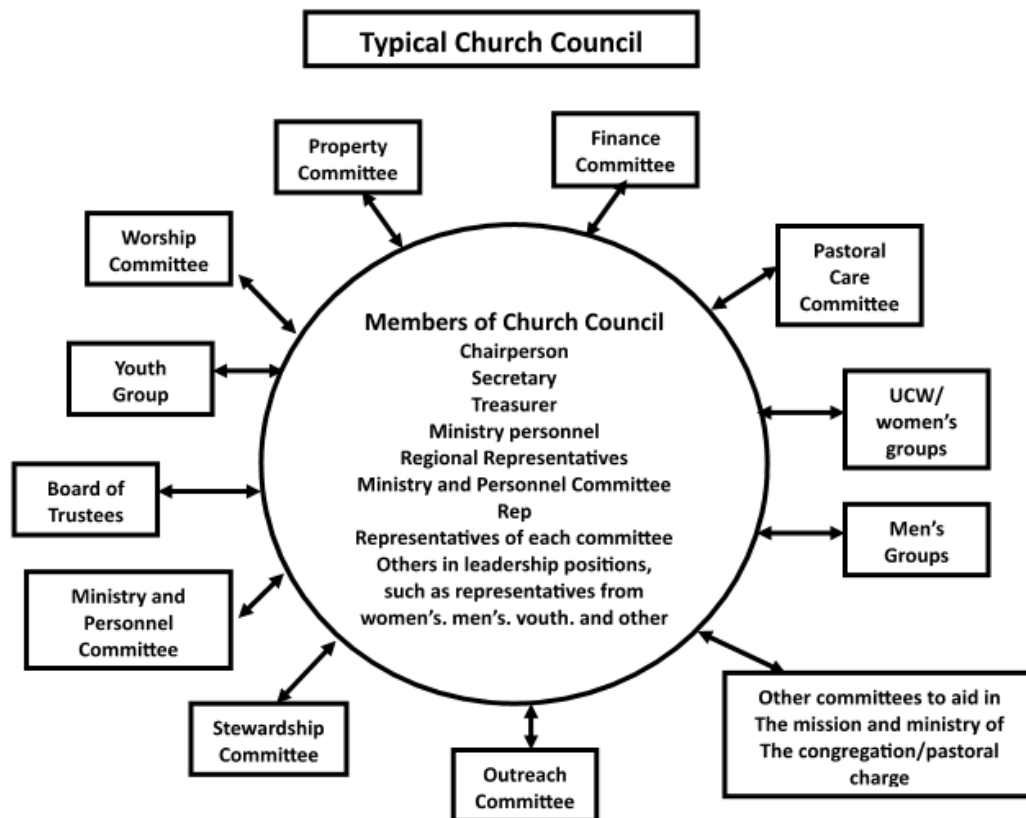
Background: The Church Council model offers a leaner system than the traditional Session/Stewards/Official Board Model (since each Council subcommittee or Board elects just one representative to sit on the Council. It is often used successfully in congregations/pastoral charges with a healthy number of members, and with a degree of comfort dealing with formal processes and procedures.

Applicability: It is seen by some as offering a more modern or business-like approach, since typically there can be less time spent in discussion and decision making, given the smaller number of members. While possibly more efficient, there is the risk that not all voices may be heard when decisions are made, if care isn't taken to solicit input when needed. Also, in some congregations, the absence of a body specifically devoted to spiritual health and care (ie The Session) has created to a perception that such spiritual matters are no longer a primary focus of the governing body.

Detailed Description:

- Committees with members elected by the congregation. Each committee chooses a member to represent their committee on the Church Council or Board;
- The Board acts as a co-ordinating body, as a forum for some decisions, and a place for sharing committee plans and actions;
- The Ministry and Personnel Committee, Regional Representative and Trustees are required.
- All others are optional and typically oriented around specific categories of tasks; and
- Committees are responsible for planning and executing tasks within their mandate under the governance of the Board.

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Model 4: Streamlined Board

Background: This model is usually much smaller than the Unified Board or Church Council. Those who serve on the Board do not have to serve in any particular group, and those who serve with a group or team do not have to attend Board meetings.

Applicability: This model reduces the size of governing body to a very small number of members. In a congregation/pastoral charge with small numbers of members, this may be a desirable and efficient use of members' time and talents. However, it requires a high degree of trust and accountability to work successfully, since considerable power is placed in just a few hands. As a result, there is a need for very clear policy and operational standards for this model to function correctly.

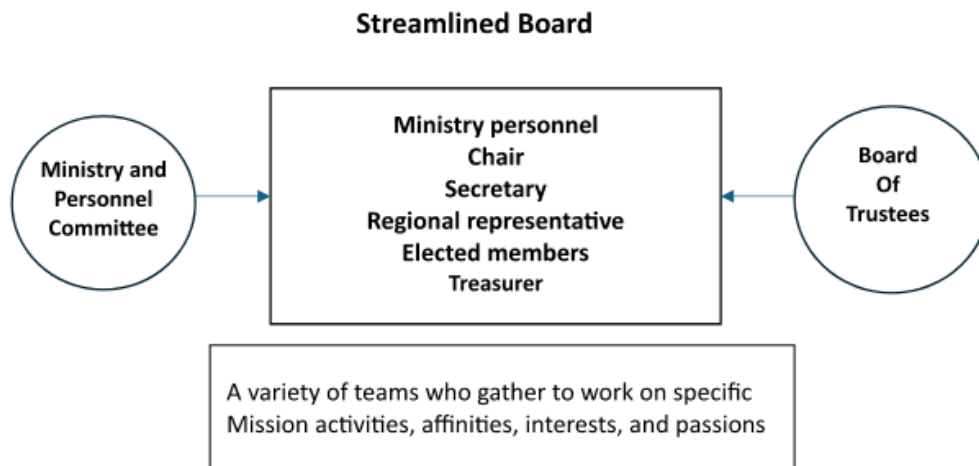
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Detailed Description:

The streamlined Board empowers teams by providing overall directions and boundaries for action while freeing teams to manage their purpose as they see fit. The Streamlined Board discerns purpose, forms policy, develops strategies, deploys leaders, and monitors progress. Staff and participants have freedom, and authority to act guided by the community of faith's purpose and core values and the parameters of each leader's role.

There is a need for very clear policy and operational standards for this model to function correctly.

The Board consists of a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and Regional



Model 5: Connecting Board for Shared Ministry and/or Two-or-More-Point Charges

This coordinating organization is responsible for ministry personnel and other personnel who are responsible for activities for all the communities of faith part of the shared ministry or the charge and the shared finances and appropriate insurance. Therefore, a Ministry and Personnel Committee and Treasuerr (s) are required. There should be a minimum of two members from each community of faith participating in the shared ministry or charge. ECORC recommends that Trustees, (either joint or from each entity) also be part of the Connecting Board. Called or appointed Ministry Personnel are

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required to be part of the Coordinating Board. **Note: How are the Chair and Secretary chosen?**

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Appendix D

Holy Manners



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.

We will

- (keep God at the centre 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;
- (honour 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.

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Appendix E

Acronyms

AOTS		As One That Serves
CoF		Community of Faith
DLM		Designated Lay Minister
DM		Diaconal Minister
ECOR		East Central Ontario Region
ECORC		East Central Ontario Regional Council
M&P		Ministry and Personnel
OM		Ordained Minister
PCS		Pastoral Charge Supervisor
UCW		United Church Women

Appendix C¹

ECORC
MINISTRY THROUGH PROPERTY & FINANCE
March 18, 2026
Zoom
2:30-4:20pm

PRESENT: Svinda Heinrichs, Chair; Brian James, Treasurer; Jeff Jullian; Ken Begbie-regrets;
 Arthur Smith; Paul Binkley-regrets; Isaac Munday-regrets
 Support Staff:
 Cof E rep: Sheila-Mae Young, recording secretary; Michelle Brotherton-regrets
 Guests: Ron Ewart, Daniel Reed, Rafael Torres from TUCC

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	ACTION/MEMBER ACCOUNTABLE
A	Opening prayer, Land Acknowledgement, Sharing	Opening prayer by J. Jullian. Land Acknowledgement-S Heinrichs	
	TUCC presentation	Guests: Ron Ewart ED, Daniel Reed, Rafael Torres	see summary
B	Review of previous minutes Adoption of revised agenda	Minutes: 260218 regular zoom	MOTION: approve 260218 regular zoom minutes (B. James/I.Mundy) <i>CARRIED</i>
C	Conflict of Interest		Chair ongoing item
REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS			
D	Update ECOR Cof E meeting Mar 2, 2026	The Motions from MTPF concerning the Indigenous Ministries and ECORC policy re selling Manses and other Church property has been referred to the Spring Meeting. Other MTPF Motions were approved.	Chair to clarify her responsibility at the upcoming Spring General Meeting presentation of the policy changes
E	Congregational Activities Updates 1.Blackstock-Nestleton PC	Mar 2, 2026 C of E approval for use of Manse funds \$150,000 for a) \$40,00 Funds to cover ongoing expenses including the minister's salary until the time of disbanding, b)\$75,000 to be held in trust for Nestleton Cemetery Board to cover maintenance and/or demolition of property if required and c) \$35,000 for contingencies.	Chair to inform the PC and arrange for Trust agreement Closed

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	2. Emmanuel UC- Rubidge St Manse, Peterborough	Lawyer Heather and the two parties will enter into a Trust agreement to ensure funds are used appropriately. The Motion to sell pending Kindred Works review was approved by Mar 2 C of E. awaiting KW review Mar 19.	ongoing
	3. Sunderland PC	No update. Awaiting sale of St. James with cemetery	ongoing
	4. Stockdale UC	The Motion to sell pending Kindred Works review was approved by Mar 2 C of E. awaiting KW review Mar 19.	ongoing
		During the Frankford United Church Congregational meeting Feb. 23, 2026, a Motion was approved to change the name of the Frankford-Batawa PC be changed to Frankford-Batawa-Stockdale PC	MOTION: to approve and recommend to ECORC C of Elders, effective Feb. 23, 2026 that the Frankford-Batawa PC name be changed to Frankford-Batawa-Stockdale PC. (A.Smith/B.James) <i>CARRIED</i>
	5. Hope UC, Norland	In its March Congregational meeting, a decision was approved to disband effective June 28, 2026. D. Liepold continues to support this CofE. The Rev. Max Ward, 20% time clergy will need to consider the ramifications of this change of Pastoral Relations	Ongoing D, Liepold to support
	7. St. Andrew's UC, L'Amable	No update	Ongoing

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6. Whitney Union Cemetery Board (South Algonquin)	No update	ongoing
8. Lochlin, Minden Hills	Since approval of matching grant has been received no further action needed	closed
9. Northminster UC, Peterborough	With a Federal grant application, the UC is requested to submit a letter of good standing. This is done by Harry Liu, National Office, EM Pension & Finance	FYI
10. Scugog Island UC, closed	Rafael Torres, TUCC property manager detailed the issue with this combination Church and Manse property that is hopefully to be severed with Manse property to be sold to the existing renters and the Church property a land trust for the Mississauga of Scugog. Ted Meyers and the Chief are in communication about the Church property and land trust. Rafael Torres, TUCC is in charge of survey of property for severance with water/septic for any severance properties as well as Archive history to ensure no unknown burial sites. In due time R. Torres will present a budget for the project.	Chair will collaborate with T. Meyers and Chief re Land Trust R. Torres would like to communicate with Chief for any historical knowledge that may be available
11. Port Hope UC	KW reviewed the agreements and were concerned with various items in the Development contracts. EM, D. Liepold and the UC reps met and the concerns were communicated. Some revisions in the plans requested	Ongoing
13. Donbarton-Fairpoint, Pickering	KW is managing but project is on hold. Local Real Estate expressed annoyance with Sale not using local company	FYI
14. St. Mark's Whitby	Multiple emails re how to formulate rental arrangements for their property	Refer to D. Reed and R. Torres at TUCC

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	15. Brooklin UC manse	Want information on how to proceed to sell manse. KW already reviewed and not interested.	ongoing
OTHER BUSINESS			
F1	Cemetery policy		ongoing
F2	Renovation Threshold	During other discussion the present \$50,000 threshold for C of F development request of MTPF was mentioned as needing adjustment. Since the policy defining the renovation threshold has not been adjusted for about 10 years, an adjustment to \$70,000 is recommended.	MOTION: to approve and recommend to ECORC C of Elders, a change in policy to increase the renovation threshold for C of F development requests to \$70,000 (B. James/A. Smith) <i>CARRIED</i>
F3	United Church Rural Ministry Network	This network has requested \$500 funding to support its work. The Network budget line of \$1000 has not been used this budget. It was felt this is a good network to fund.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC C of Elders the United Church Rural Ministry Network request for \$500 to be funded from the Network Fund. (B. James/A. Smith) <i>CARRIED</i>
F4	TUCC Invoice Jul-Dec 2025	This invoice was reviewed by MTPF.	ongoing every 6mo
F5	Vision Keepers	MTPF ensures the nitty/gritty of sales as its usual practice. To look at the wider pictures requires more thought. Chair will try to	ongoing

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	Indigenous Justice & Respectful Relations Meeting Land Trust	compose a statement to be forwarded to the Vision Keepers for review and possible strategy inclusion.			
G	Closing prayer	S. Heinrichs			
H	Adjournment		MOTION: to adjourn at around 4:20pm consensus		
SIGNATURES: Chair: Svinda Heinrichs Recording Sec: S-M. Young					
NEXT MEETING					
Date	Wed April 22 (change as not 3rd Wed)	Time	2:30pm	Location	Zoom invites to be sent

SUMMARY OF TUCC PRESENTATION:

Ron Ewart, ED (will retire June 2026)

Why?

Before 2018 TUCC served Toronto Conference

Then offered services beyond the Toronto area into other Presbyteries and now Regions

ECORC region accounts for 15% of CHURCHx clients, 60% of TUCC Board are outside Toronto area.

TUCC wants to be partners in actions of the core services

Daniel Reed

What?

3 core services

Finance: example Medium to long term investments where funds are invested for at least 5 years without withdrawals for low risk venue, protect principal and about 4% interest

Discerning Mission: example grants with advice added to complete appropriate applications,

Witness Blanket for Trinity, St. Andrew's, Cannington

Property Stewardship: example property management ie Scugog Island UC property

Communication: TUCC newsletter through Karen Wilson, ECORC. MTPF can refer as well directly.

TUCC has a significant website

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Rafael Torres, Property Manager: see comments about Scugog Island UC

DRAFT

Appendix C²**Digital vote ECORC MTPF NOTES**
March 27, 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, M. Brotherton COE rep

- Indicated members voted in support

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FURTHER ACTION/NOTES/BACKGROUND	ACTION/MOTION FOR COE/COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS			
1	Blackstock-Nestleton PC	With the appropriate paperwork completed, Blackstock UC., PT LT 11 CON 5 CARTWRIGHT, AS IN N35184, CA3865; SCUGOG. PIN 267620018 and PT LT 11, CON 5 CARTWRIGHT; SCUGOG. PIN 267620104 is ready to be listed for sale. The property has had the appropriate 3 quotes. The sale has been established without Real Estate through lawyers at a price of \$525,000. The appropriate Certification of Trustees asking Consent of Regional Council with the understanding that 60% of the net proceeds will be retained by ECORC and the remaining 40% will be disbursed among the groups suggested by the congregation. It is anticipated that a local Theatre group will make an offer on the property. TRUSTEES: Don Swain.....donlouiseswain@gmail.com Jim Byers.....jmbyers45@gmail.com Rob Mairs.....rcmairs@gmail.com Certificate Consent to list has been completed.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC, the request from Blackstock-Nestleton PC to list for sale the Blackstock UC PT LT 11 CON 5 CARTWRIGHT, AS IN N35184, CA3865; SCUGOG. PIN 267620018 and PT LT 11, CON 5 CARTWRIGHT; SCUGOG. PIN 267620104 for \$525,000 (A. Smith/K. Begbie) <i>CARRIED</i>
SIGNATURES: Chair: Svinda Heinrichs Recording Sec: S-M. Young			
NEXT MEETING			
Date	April 22, 2026	Time	Location
			Zoom invites to be sent

Appendix C³**Digital vote ECORC MTPF NOTES
MARCH 27, 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, M. Brotherton COE rep

- Indicated members voted in support

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FURTHER ACTION/NOTES/BACKGROUND	ACTION/MOTION FOR COE/COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS			
1	Frankford-Batawa-Stockdale PC	2 offers that do not meet the Commission privilege of within the 20% (asking \$399,999) have been considered by the Trustees. Trustees would like to accept an offer of \$275,000 from a numbered company 1142729 Ontario Ltd. with the owner Stan Morrow, known to them, without conditions. A property inspection was not carried out as suggested by the realtor as the Trustees were convinced that significant need for improvements would have been pointed out. The evaluations from the 3 realtors indicated a range from \$275,000-525,000. Thus the Trustees would like to move on this offer. Condition of ECORC approval ends Apr 7, 2026. Signed Consent from Trustees to sell has been received.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC, the request from Frankford-Batawa-Stockdale PC to sell the Stockdale UC Pt Lot 26 E/S Mill St. PL90 in the Township of Murray as in MU12165 except PT2 39R8455 & PT1 38R2822, Quinte West for \$275,000 to 1142729 Ontario Ltd, Stan Morrow, Officer effective May 29, 2026. (A.Smith/J.Jullian)
2		<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<i>CARRIED</i>
3		Chair – Rev. Warren Vollmer 613-3926542 vollmers@bell.net Secretary – Cheryl Phillips 613-398-7829 douglas.phillips026@gmail.com Marilyn Erwin 613-398-1454 spiderl@lks.net Kirk Canning 613-398-7100 kirkcanning@sympatico.ca Jane Blight 613-921-4107 janeandsteve84@gmail.com	
SIGNATURES:			
Chair: Svinda Heinrichs		Recording Sec: S-M. Young	

NEXT MEETING					
Date	April 22, 2026	Time		Location	Zoom invites to be sent

Appendix C⁴**Digital vote ECORC MTPF NOTES
APRIL 1, 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, M. Brotherton COE rep

- Indicated members voted in support

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	FURTHER ACTION/NOTES/BACKGROUND	ACTION/MOTION FOR COE/COMMISSION
NEW BUSINESS			
1	Hope UC, Norland	Hope UC has agreed to disband July 1, 2026. They are in an emergent situation concerning finances now. The following email information comes from the Rev. Paul Reed. “As you are aware Hope United is facing a fast approaching financial crunch. I am writing on behalf of the Trustees. The Congregation cannot meet its current and outstanding expenses, utilities, insurance and ministry personnel. Additionally the congregation has yet to pay the 2025 and 2026 Assessments. To meet these and other anticipated expenses the congregation needs \$10,000 support and potentially an additional \$5,000. There exists a GIC worth \$6000 but it does not mature until late June. There is an immediate need to avoid late payments. Congregational support has declined since making the decision to close. I am not sure what conversations you have already initiated with the Regional Council and Teams but I hope that you can now convey this situation and need. Additionally, I have been in contact with Compass Early Learning who are interested in exploring the building as a potential Child Care center. We begin the exploration by confirmed appropriate zoning and providing a floor and site plan. Paul ” Treasurer, Brian James has indicated that emergent loans have been processed in the past with hopes of recovery later.	MOTION: approve and recommend to ECORC, the request from Hope UC Trustees to have ECORC transfer emergent loan funds in the amount of \$10,000 to be repaid from the proceeds of the property disposition, either rental, sale or conversion to other uses (B.James/J.Jullian) <i>CARRIED</i>
SIGNATURES:			

Chair: Svinda Heinrichs			Recording Sec: S-M. Young		
NEXT MEETING					
Date	April 22, 2026	Time		Location	Zoom invites to be sent