

**CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
November 6 & 7, 2020**

The meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on November 6 – November 7, 2020 via Zoom. The theme was *Growing the Connections*.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020**

**EVENING SESSION**

Chair, Kathie Smith, welcomed people to the second meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council. She gave a brief introduction of the evening's events. Susie Henderson gave a brief introduction to the Zoom functions.

The Chair gave an acknowledgement of traditional territories and gave a safe space statement.

The Worship team led the meeting in worship.

Barbara Nott introduced the theme time. The meeting then went into a town hall gathering with break-out sessions to discuss the questions: How are you doing? How are you supporting the vulnerable in your Community of Faith, in your community and beyond? Choose your passion – mission, justice, activism.

Dawn Vaneyk gave a theological reflection to conclude the evening.

Barbara Nott thanked Dawn Vaneyk and Kathie Smith made gave some announcements.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020**

**MORNING SESSION**

Gathering Music

A pre-recorded audio version was played of Bill Steadman's theme hymn, *Growing the Connections*.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and constituting the Council

Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference to begin the annual meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council. Kathie Smith, Chair, welcomed all those participating, introduced herself and Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

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Susie Henderson, staff at Shining Waters Regional Council, gave an orientation to the Zoom tools being used for this meeting.

Chair Kathie Smith constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council.

Lisa Blais, Team Lead of the Right Relations Resource Team gave an Acknowledgement of the Land, which included a video presentation of the Thanksgiving Address of the Haudenosaunee.

Peter Haddow, Team Lead of the Affirming Ministry Resource Team gave a safe space statement.

Chair, Kathie Smith, and Barbara Nott made a number of introductions.

John Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership, General Council, brought greetings from the General Council office.

Barb Nott brought greetings from the meeting planning committee.

Opening motions

**MOTION** by Barb Nott/Christina Stricker that the following enabling motions be adopted...

- a) Roll of the Regional Council: that the roll of Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:
  - All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by the Canadian Shield Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);
  - Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);
  - lay members elected by the community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);
  - additional lay members as determined by the regional council if necessary, to respect a balance of ministry personal and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the Regional Council (2019 Manual C.1.2.b)
  
- b) Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting: that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be the zoom meeting ID 964 1529 6109 (Friday) and the zoom meeting ID 916 8463 6687 (Saturday) and when in session; that the Canadian Shield Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to take place on zoom meeting ID 916 8463 6687.

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- c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda as printed and circulated be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Agenda & Business Chairperson and approved by the Regional Council; or as recommended by the Regional Council itself.
- d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council held May 31 – June 2, 2019 be approved as circulated.
- e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Report Packet be accepted for information.
- f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chair has the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
- g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be: official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings. (2019 Manual C.1.4)
- h) **New Business & Nominations:** that any Nominations for the Regional Council and items of New Business shall be given to the Agenda & Business Committee. Nominations for the Canadian Shield Regional Council close at 6:00 p.m. Friday November 6. Nominations for current vacancies will be forwarded to the Nominations committee. New Business items, referred to Barb Nott, Agenda and Business committee, close at noon on November 7.

Procedural Motions

**MOTION** by Barb Nott/Christina Stricker that,

- 1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be the chat box;
- 2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Agenda & Business Committee;
- 3. The Parliamentarian shall be Lillian Roberts;
- 4. The Chair shall present a Proposal. The Chair will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the Proposal. When the Chair discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the Proposal she/he will invite the presenter to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed;
- 5. At the discretion of the Chair, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per Proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).
- 6. Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Agenda & Business Committee in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
- 7. The normal voting procedure shall be a show of hands using the YES and NO icons found at the bottom of the participants panel or \*9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the Yes/No icons and the second will type YES or NO in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type

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ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, an online poll will be provided.

8. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to General Council, Proposals to Regional Council, Elections.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Nominations

Jim Jackson, Chair of Nominations Committee, introduced the Nominations Report.

**MOTION** by Jim Jackson / Janice Brownlee that the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2020 Nominations Report.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

Finance Presentation

Janice MacDonald, Finance Administrator, presented the 2021 draft Budget.

**MOTION** by Jim Jackson / Barb Nott that the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2021 draft budget.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Affirming Presentation

Peter Haddow, Team Lead of the Affirming Ministry Resource Team presented the proposal, Towards Becoming an Affirming Regional Council. The meeting went into break-out rooms to discuss two questions: Is there something in the Vision Statement that particularly resonates with you? Is there something in the Vision Statement that could be augmented to communicate a stronger message of inclusivity?

Support to Communities of Faith Commission Presentation

Bill Steadman and Ernie Epp highlighted some items from the Commission's report. They also spoke about the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNOR) and introduced the survey going out to all communities of faith in the new year. The meeting went into breakout rooms to reflect on questions that each community of faith will be asked.

Announcements and Grace

Staff were called on for announcements. Peter Hartmans offered a blessing before the lunch break.

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The meeting broke for lunch.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Gathering Music

A pre-recorded audio version was played of Bill Steadman's theme hymn, *Growing the Connections*.

Affirming

**MOTION** by Peter Haddow / Nancy Ferguson that the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the following *Affirming Ministry Statement*:

As an Affirming community, the Canadian Shield Regional Council welcomes, includes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary and two-spirited (LGBTQ+) people in all aspects of the life, work, worship and governance of the church. We believe that all people are children of God; that persons of all ages, races, abilities, theologies, gender identities and sexual orientations are part of our increasingly diverse culture; and we welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of the church.

We aspire for members of the LGBTQ+ community to find the churches and governing bodies in our Regional Council to be safe places to worship and share gifts.

An increasing number of our churches proudly march in Pride Parades each year behind banners proclaiming who we are. Many of our members are also present at community events in support of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Canadian Shield Regional Council is fully supportive of Affirm United as we strive to continue to be supportive and accepting of all with whom we are in relationship. Please visit their website [www.affirmunited.ca](http://www.affirmunited.ca) to learn more.

Our Regional Council acknowledges that God's love is wider and more inclusive than we can imagine, let alone live out, and we commit ourselves to sharing that news with others who may have heard a quite different message about what it means to be church. Because voices of condemnation, exclusion, and hatred are loud and persistent within the church and in society, we declare that it is important to be a public witness and to be a role model for other ministries. As a Regional Council, we will work persistently, and encourage our communities of faith, to be safe, accessible, inclusive, and affirming.

**MOTION**

**CARRIED**

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Workshops

The meeting then participated in a choice of workshops:

- Discipleship of Stewardship in Pandemic Times, with Melody Duncanson-Hales
- End Times: Let's Talk About Death, with Susie Henderson
- Bookroom Presentation, with Pat Gilmore, Grand River Book store

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Courtesies and Announcements

Chair, Kathie Smith thanked those involved in planning and presenting this Canadian Shield Regional Council meeting.

Theological Reflection and Adjournment

Will Kunder offered a theological reflection recalling the story of the creed, the commitment to live with respect in creation, and the connections that were nurtured.

Barb Nott made announcements.

John Young gave a blessing to end the afternoon.

**EVENING SESSION**

Celebration of Ministry Service

The Regional Council meeting concluded with a Celebration of Ministry service. Rev. Rob Smith presided. Rev. Lillian Roberts delivered the theological reflection. The service acknowledged and honoured retirees, ministers marking significant anniversaries and memorials. Kellie McComb presided for the sacrament of communion.

Closing

The Chair offered a benediction and declared the meeting adjourned.

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Kathie Smith, Chair

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Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister