



CANADIAN SHIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



“Tending Our Nets”



2022 Canadian Shield
Regional Council Meeting

Welcome to (everything-you-need-to-know-about) the 2022 Regional Council Meeting!

We are excited to announce that we'll be gathering **in-person** for our 2022 Regional Council Meeting the weekend of September 23-25 at St. Andrew's United Church (111 Larch Street, Sudbury). The site is fully accessible, all music will be projected so no need to pack your hymn book, and a team of Chaplains will be on-site to respond to your needs! For those for whom travel presents an obstacle or health prohibits your ability to join the meeting in-person, a real-time, two-way virtual option will be available. *Please indicate how you will be attending the meeting on the Registration Form.*

What has sustained you since we last met? How have you tended to your needs and the needs of your community of faith? What has kept you grounded and connected? The theme of this year's Regional Council Meeting is **“Tending Our Nets”**. We will offer opportunities through worship, theme speakers, presenters, round table discussions, excursions, informal conversations, and theological reflections to do just that – to consider how we have been tending to our various nets. We'll take time to reconnect, to reacquaint, and to renew.

As your Planning Team, we are excited by the trust you have placed in us and the plans that are taking shape. We are delighted to be welcoming among us special guests General Secretary Rev. Michael Blair, Program Development and Strategy Lead Jennifer Henry from the General Council Office, and Communities of Faith Minister for Equity and Innovation Susie Henderson from Shining Waters Regional Council.

Along with the business of the Council, there will be a presentation by Jennifer Henry on the new United Church Mission Statement: “Deep Spirituality. Bold Discipleship. Daring Justice.”, an exploration of the Lifecycle of Congregations by our own Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales, and a How-To on becoming an Affirming Ministry by Resource Team Lead Peter Haddow. But wait, there's more!

We recognize that while we are excited to meet again in-person but we are tired. We also recognize that the old “normal” of packing in as much as possible would only serve to drain our limited reserves rather than inspire. So this year, we are replacing Workshops with Round Table Discussions facilitated by our special guests. We're also including two “Body Breaks for Every Body” led by Rev. Erin Todd to

provide release, an opportunity to take a guided excursion to the Cairn, to walk the Labyrinth, to relax with art supplies, to shop at the book room, and to browse a variety of displays with lots of helpful information to take home.

We will take time to honour our Retirees and acknowledge anniversary milestones at a Banquet on Saturday evening; and on Sunday morning, we will meet to complete the business of the Council and gather to participate in the Celebration of Ministry Service. Please note that a sample worship service is being prepared for use in your home church for Sunday, September 25 while your ministry personnel is at the meeting. This will give an opportunity to connect communities of faith with the Council and highlight this year's theme.

All meals are offered on-site. *Please note any dietary needs/restrictions on the Registration Form.* Due to limited parking on the Friday, a shuttle bus service will be offered from the Northbury Hotel to St. Andrew's United Church (*see the Accommodations list for more hotels to stay at*). On Saturday and Sunday, we encourage you to carpool. There will be merchandise for order (*see Registration form for ordering your Regional shirt*); and Regional mugs for direct-sale (*cash or cheque only*), that may come in handy if you forget to pack your re-useable beverage bottle! There will be one printed copy of the Report Book at your table. You can also order one in advance for \$10 (*see Registration form*). Better yet ... help us save a tree or two and bring your laptop or tablet to reference it remotely.

As a Regional Representative – be you lay or ministry personnel – your registration fee is covered by the annual assessment. However, if you are not a regional representative, you are welcome to attend the meeting as a paying or non-paying guest where you will may participate in all aspects of the meeting except voting. If you would like meals as a paying guest, the fee will be \$125.00. Everyone must register for the Regional Council Meeting regardless of your role.

If you are Ministry Personnel and are planning to attend the 2022 Ministry Personnel Retreat, watch for emails about the registration package! In the meantime, please register for the meeting. We are so looking forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions about the meeting, please email swhitehead@united-church.ca or call the main Regional Office at 1-833-236-0821, ext. 1. Please be advised that we will be following all the COVID protocols of the meeting site. At the same time, we are also aware that the protocols continue to evolve so you will be updated closer to the meeting date of any changes or restrictions. As always, stay tuned!

Your Annual Meeting Planning Team Members:

Rev. Nancy Ferguson and DLM Helen Smith, Co-Chairs; Rev. Peter Hartmans, Heather Mitchell, Faye Moffatt, Mardi Mumford, Barbara Nott, Susan Whitehead