

**MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING
November 25, 2023**

The Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on November 25, 2023 via Zoom video conference. The theme was *The Stones Will Shout*.

FRIDAY, May 26, 2023

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

The Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 12:30 p.m. to begin the Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Barbara Nott, Chair, welcomed all those participating, introduced herself and the Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

Chair Barbara Nott 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.

Barbara gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement.

Introductions

The Chair made a number of introductions, including the online and technical hosts, the chaplain, the parliamentarian, the equity host, and the scrutineers. Peter Hartmans introduced the Canadian Shield Regional Council staff team and Barbara introduced the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive.

Barbara Nott led the participants through a test motion and vote.

Opening motions

**MOTION by Peter Hartmans / Nancy Ferguson
That the following enabling motions be adopted,**

CS RCM 2023-11-25-01

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council: that the 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 (2023 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 835 4652 3743 and when in session.**
- 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 meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council held September 23-25, 2022 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.
- g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be: official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings. (2023 Manual C.1.5)
- h) **New Business:** that any items of New Business shall be referred to Barb Nott, of the Agenda & Business Committee. New Business items close at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

Procedural Motions

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 Bill Steadman;
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 RAISE HAND function or *9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the Raise Hand function and the second will type YES or NO in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type 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.

Background for Consent Motions

Evaluation and experience have shown that the agendas of meetings of the Executive are full and that time for fulsome discernment and discussion of important items is occasionally lacking.

A consent agenda is a tool to help the Regional Council focus on what is most important. Proposals which are routine or non-controversial actions or routine changes in policy or procedure are included in the consent agenda. At the meeting, any 5 voting members of the Regional Council may request to move any item(s) from the consent agenda to be placed on the meeting's agenda. By courtesy, advance notice would be given to the Executive Minister. If you have a concern, you are encouraged to contact the Executive Minister in advance as an exchange of information may resolve a question.

In a consent agenda you may also find minutes of previous meetings, accountability reports, etc. The list of correspondence to the Executive (if any) is included with the reports to be received for information.

Process for Removal of an Item from the Consent Motion:

The process for acting on the consent agenda in the opening sessions will be as follows:

1. **Presider/chair: “You have all received the Report Packet, with the consent agenda. Do any 5 voting members wish to remove an item from the consent agenda to be placed on the meeting’s agenda by the Business Table?”**
2. **If any 5 voting members requests it, an item is removed (by courtesy, advance notice would be given to the Executive Minister).**

Presider/chair: “Without discussion, then, the consent agenda is ready for a vote. Those in favour? Opposed? All items on the consent agenda are adopted.”

**Procedural
CARRIED**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave an orientation to how the group will be together during the meeting, and a BRAVE slide was shared.

Opening Worship

A time of worship was led by the Support to Communities of Faith Commission.

Right Relations Resource Team “Grounding Time”

Whitney Bruno, a team member from the Right Relations Resource Team, led the Region in a time of grounding before the remit discussion and vote.

Remit Discussion and Vote

Whitney Bruno, a member of the Right Relations Resource Team, led the region in a grounding time and shared a video from the UC National Spiritual Gathering in July 2023. Melody Duncanson Hales let the region in a question and answer period and then offered a prayer before the remit vote.

MOTION: Moved by Kathie Smith and seconded by Stewart Walker CS RCM 2023-11-25-02 That Canadian Shield Regional Council agrees to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

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

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

*** The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of this document (Remit 1: Study Guide for Category 3 Remit – Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization), under the section heading “Frequently Asked Questions”.*

CARRIED

Proposals

There were no proposals submitted before the deadline of November 1, 2023.

