



**“Upon This Rock”
Canadian Shield Regional Council
2024 Regional Meeting
May 3-5, 2024**

RESOURCE BOOK

**Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre
229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z2**

JOINING THE MEETING ONLINE

JOINING THE MEETING

- **MEETING LINK:** Your personalized link to the meeting was emailed to you after you registered. There will be a reminder email closer to the meeting that also includes the link. This is the only link that you may use to access the meeting.
- **ARRIVAL TIME:** Friday: sign in to the meeting by 1:00 pm (EDT) or earlier. You may arrive early in the waiting room and be admitted at 1:00 pm. The Call to Order is at 1:30 pm.
Saturday: sign into the meeting by 8:40 am, you will arrive in the waiting room and be admitted at 8:45 am. The Call to Order is 9:00 am. You will be muted upon entry and at 1:25, we ask you to mute your microphone.
- **YOUR NAME:** Check that your name appears correctly in the participant list. The MORE button beside your name allows you to rename yourself. Corresponding and non-voting participants please add a “Z” in front of your name to help with scrutineering.
- **AUDIO:** When you join the meeting, you will be asked about connecting audio. It is easiest to join by computer audio unless your computer does not have speakers. If you have trouble with your audio you may also connect by phone with the number in your invitation. Remember to use the toll-free number for long-distance calls. If you use a cordless phone, please be sure it has enough charge to last the duration of the meeting, and/or charge your phone during the breaks.
- **VIDEO:** For this meeting you will not need to start your own video (webcam) unless you are going to speak. At the beginning of the meeting, it may be nice to “see” everyone, but once the meeting is underway it is best for all video to be off apart from the presenters. For best viewing please change to “Speaker View” and/or “Side by Side” at the top of the video panel of your screen.

PARTICIPATING

- **PARTICIPANTS PANEL AND CHAT:** Open both the Participants Panel and the Chat box on the Zoom toolbar.
- **LISTEN ONLY:** For the majority of this meeting you will likely only need to listen to those presenting.
- **SPEAKING:** Staff will be monitoring the Participants Panel and the Chat box. Please signal your desire to be added to the speaker’s list by raising your digital (not your real) hand by clicking the [blue](#) hand at the bottom of the Participant’s Panel. When you are recognized by the President, unmute your microphone to be heard. In the event there is some issue with sound, you may type in the chat box. Please don’t lower your hand, we will do that for you.
- **POINT OF ORDER:** To raise a point of order raise your hand, and type “PT OF ORDER” in the chat, so that the President can adjust the speakers order accordingly.

VOTING

- **ELIGIBILITY:** Only elected Lay Regional Representatives and Ministry Personnel are eligible to vote. If you are not a voting member, please put an “z” before your name – this way the scrutineers can see the votes more easily.
- **RAISE HAND:** We will be voting using the Raise Hand icon found at the bottom of your Participants Panel to vote, following the instructions from the President. To abstain, type ABSTAIN in the chat.
- **VOTE BY PHONE:** Voting representatives participating on the phone will vote by pressing *9 when the President calls for you to vote by phone and this will raise your hand in the Participants Panel.
- **RE-OPEN THE PARTICIPANT AND CHAT PANELS:** Note: When the host shares their screen (i.e.: with the agenda or a proposal) the program will put you into full screen mode and you will lose the chat and participant panels. To get these back click “Chat” and “Participant” on the Zoom toolbar (usually at the top of your screen). They will reappear in the centre of your screen but you can move them to the side by clicking on the top of the pod and dragging it over.

- **TWO VOTES:** If two people are joined from the same household one person can vote with the Raise Hand button. The second person can add their vote by typing Yes or No in the chat.

CHAT

- **LIMITED** Chat is limited for this meeting to minimize distractions and you are only able to chat with the hosts and co-hosts.

Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre
229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 4Z2

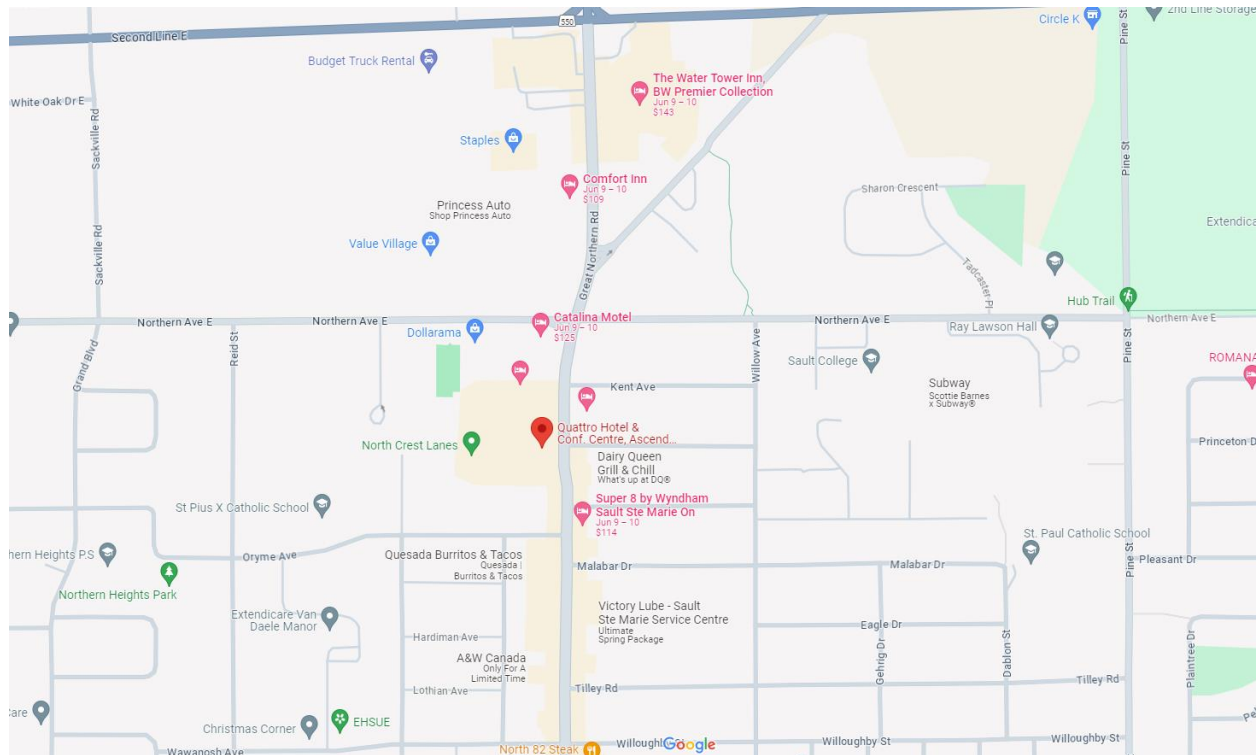
Celebration of Ministries Service:
Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre

Parking:

There is parking available at the hotel.

Accessibility

Our meeting spaces have barrier free access, and accessible elevators and washrooms nearby. All stages and speaking areas are barrier-free. Please indicate any requirements for wheelchair accessible accommodation, handicapped parking, hearing assistance, sign language, large print, dietary needs, or other considerations when registering.



As we gather on the grounds of Quattro Hotel, we acknowledge the land on which we gathers is the traditional land of the Ojibway people; a part of the Robinson Huron treaty of 1850. We honour Obadjiwan (Batchewana First Nation) and Ketegunseebee (Garden River First Nation) as the original caretakers of the land that Quattro is situated on and acknowledge the contributions of the historical Metis Nation of Sault Ste, Marie in the stewardship of this territory; and by doing so give our respect to its first inhabitants.

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Proposals

There were no proposals at the time of the creation of this Resource Book



CANADIAN SHIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada



It was a cold day in November. We were gathered on Zoom for our Regional Council Meeting. And, by the very nature of our timeline, my installation as your new Chair happened just two months before year-end! What an honour it has been these last 6 months to follow in the faithful footsteps of Jim Jackson, Kathie Smith, and Barbara Nott. As we enter our 6th year together as a region, I am also mindful of how important those first five years were. We grew as individuals and faith communities, learned to communicate with one another in healthy ways, and had fun together. And we continue to discover who we are as the Canadian Shield Regional Council and how we relate one to the other.

For anyone who has witnessed a child taking their first steps, it is an intriguing process of wobbles and plops, then surprise and delight. Little did they know that their whole world would expand and shift when their legs discovered the wonder of gravity, and their eyes took in the new horizon. We may be the smallest Region, but when our vision clears, we take in the vast expanse before us and marvel at the rock that continues to shape, inspire, and ground us.

So, in preparation for our meeting May 3-5, I invite you to take the time to read the Accountability Reports. And as you do, give thanks for those who have stepped up to serve in leadership roles in the Region. For the faithful work of the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Support to Communities of Faith Commission, we give thanks. For the creativity and passion of our Resource Teams, we give thanks. For our Staff cohort who answer our many questions and queries, and provide guidance and counsel, we give thanks. And before you utter, "Amen!", turn to the Digest of Actions to read of the diligent work of your Executive since we last met as a full region. Yes, our Region may be small, but our foundation is sure.

When the November Regional Council Meeting zoom call had ended, I went for a stroll in Bellevue Park in Sault Ste. Marie – just minutes from my home – to clear my head and breathe deeply of this place. And carrying with me a mocked-up logo, I was inspired to snap a few pictures. The frozen duck pond, the evening sky ... and I said to myself, "this is Canadian Shield"! I suspect, this was also the very moment that this meeting's theme began to germinate. An idea that was embraced by the Planning Team who, in a relatively short time frame, were able to ensure that our time together would be rich and full, giving us ample opportunity to engage with some amazing guests including our Moderator, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.



We are a people of the rock. We live and work, love and praise on this rock. It provides a firm foundation and a foothold. We are indebted to those who stewarded it long before we arrived, and we are thankful for the opportunity to join in this sacred trust. So let us rejoice together, struggle, learn, and grow together as we gather "**Upon this Rock**". May it be so. Amen.

Rev. Nancy J. Ferguson
Chair, Canadian Shield Regional Council



Upon This Rock



CANADIAN SHIELD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

2024 Regional Meeting
May 3 - 5, 2024
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Online and in-person at Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre
Draft Agenda

	On-site	On-line
Friday May 3		
10:00 a.m.	Optional Morning Excursion Opportunities	
12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens Books and Displays available	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>(on your own)</i>	Lunch <i>(on your own)</i>
1:30 p.m.	Gathering Music and Welcome Opening of Regional Meeting Land Acknowledgement, Safe Space Greetings from City and Chief Holy Manners	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
2:15 p.m.	Opening Motions and Prayer	
2:30 p.m.	Worship	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
3:00 p.m.	Intros and Announcements Nominations Opening/Process	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
3:15 p.m.	Introduction to the Theme	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
3:30 p.m.	Open Session (includes break) Moderator Andrew Richardson Calin Lau	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
5:30 p.m.	Announcements, Bookroom, Grace	

5:30 p.m.	Dinner (<i>on-site by pre-registration</i>)	Dinner (<i>on your own</i>)
7:00 p.m.	Gathering Music Open Session Moderator Announcements Theological Reflection (Moderator) Music to Send Us Home	
Saturday, May 4		
8:45 a.m.	Gathering Music	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
9:10 a.m.	Morning Worship	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
9:30 a.m.	Business Session 1 (includes break) Budget Proposals Regional Reports GC44 Commissioner Report Nominations Reminder	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>) (<i>during small group discussion there will be on-line break out rooms</i>)
11:15 a.m.	Open Session Melody Duncanson Hales Stewardship	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>) (<i>during small group discussion there will be on-line break out rooms</i>)
11:50 a.m.	Announcements, Grace	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (<i>on-site by pre-registration</i>) Close of Nominations and New Business	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)
1:00 p.m.	Gathering Song	
1:05 p.m.	Chair Elect Candidates Speak	
1:15 p.m.	Breakout Sessions: 1. Moderator (Plenary) 2. Andrew Richardson (breakout room) 3. Calin Lau (breakout room) 4. Faithful Footprints (online only)	Breakout Session: Faithful Footprints
2:00 p.m.	Business Session 2 Budget Vote Proposals Vote Announcing Ballots	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)

	Nomination Slate Approval Presentation of New Executive (prayer before each vote) Announcements, Bookroom	
3:10 p.m.	Open Session (includes break) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moderator (3:10-4:05 p.m. in-person, plenary) 2. Andrew Richardson (3:10-4:05 p.m. in-person, breakout room; 4:15-5:15 p.m. in-person, breakout room) 3. Calin Lau (3:10-4:05 p.m. in-person, breakout room; 4:15-5:15 p.m. in-person, breakout room) 4. Five Oaks at Willowgrove (3:10-4:05 p.m. in-person, Willowgrove; 4:15-5:15 p.m. in-person, Willowgrove) 5. Labyrinth with MILC at Willowgrove (3:10-5:15 p.m. in-person, Willowgrove) 6. Stewardship with Melody (3:10-4:05 p.m. online only) 7. Moderator (4:15-5:15 p.m. online only) 	Open Session (includes break) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stewardship with Melody (3-4 p.m. online only) 2. Moderator (4:15-5:15 p.m. online only)
6:00 p.m.	Banquet Dinner (<i>on-site by pre-registration</i>)	Dinner (<i>on your own</i>)
6:30 p.m.	PRC Program & Rev. Rob Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honoring Retirees • In-Memorial of MP • Celebrating Student Ministers/LLWLs/Chair, Team Leads on Commissions/Committees/Resource Teams • Remembering Lay Members • Remembering Churches that have Closed • Theological Reflection (Moderator) • Music to Send Us Home • Announcements 	(<i>participate in online recording</i>)
8:00 p.m.	Celebration of Ministry Service Rehearsal	
Sunday, May 5		
8:45 a.m.	Gathering Music	
9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	

9:10 a.m.	New Business	
9:40 a.m.	Courtesies	
10:30 a.m.	<p>Celebration of Ministry Service Quattro Hotel (Preacher: Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne</p> <p>Covenanting with new Staff and new Executive</p> <p>Benediction, Closing Motions, Blessing</p>	<p>Link: https://youtube.com/live/lb0clVcQ9vc?feature=share</p>

CONSENT AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 2024 FOR ACTION

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 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 (2024 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 numbered tables in the meeting space on the floor of the meeting at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, 229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4Z2 and the Zoom meeting ID [845 1720 6362](#) when in session; that the Canadian Shield Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. to take place at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, 229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4Z2.
- c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda, as printed and circulated, be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Business & Agenda 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 November 25, 2023 be approved as circulated.
- e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
- f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chairperson have 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 (2024 Manual C.1.5).
- h) **Commitments:** that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.
- i) **New Business & Nominations:** that any items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson. New Business items close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Procedural

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1 and the zoom chat box.
2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson and the Business & Agenda Committee.
3. The Parliamentarian shall be William Steadman.

4. The Chairperson will present proposals. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The Chairperson will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the Chairperson discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the proposal, they will invite the presenter to move the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.
5. At the discretion of the chairperson, 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 Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
7. The normal voting procedure, in person, shall be a show of hands using ballot cards, except where a secret ballot is required (ballot sheets will be provided by the Chairperson through the Regional Council office). The normal voting procedure, online, shall be a show of hands using the RAISE HAND icon 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 Raise Hand icon 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, ballot sheets will be provided through the Regional Council website.
8. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Elections, Proposals to Proposals to General Council, Proposals to Regional Council.

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 Workbook, 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?"
2. If any 5 voting members requests it, an item is removed (by courtesy, advance notice would be given to the Executive Minister).
3. 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."

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES (RULES OF DEBATE AND ORDER)

There are four principles that lie behind the rules for Parliamentary Procedure:

- 1) Justice and Courtesy for all.
- 2) Recognition of the will of the majority.
- 3) Protection of the rights of the minority.
- 4) One thing at a time.

In The United Church of Canada, the Procedures, as found in *The Manual* (2024, pp. 191-193), are the basic source of our Procedures and for items not covered, we turn to parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules of Order).

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Voting Methods

Voting can be conducted in a number of ways:

- a) VERBALLY - "aye" or "nay"
- b) STANDING or RAISING THE HAND or RAISING VOTING CARD
- c) ANSWERING THE ROLL CALL by "yes" or "no"
- d) SECRET BALLOTING

Proposals

Proposals are formal requests for specific action within the Court of Regional Council. Normally, we will work in "proposal" mode which provides a greater freedom to edit and improve the suggested action before moving the proposal to a "motion."

Motions

Any delegate may make or second a motion. The motion must be seconded before it is discussed. If a motion is not seconded, it is lost. A discussion of the motion precedes a vote. After the vote, the chairperson declares the motion "carried" or "defeated." There can be only one main motion before the meeting at any time. The chairperson must insist that any discussion be directed strictly to the motion in question. A delegate may not speak twice to the same motion (the mover may speak first and last).

Amendments

An "amendment" to a motion can be made by a delegate. It must be moved and seconded before it is voted on. If not seconded, it is lost. An "amendment" may add words, change words, or strike out words, but must not change the general intent of the motion. A vote is taken first on the "amendment" and if passed, the original motion is changed to include the "amendment." It is discussed and voted on. If the "amendment" is defeated, then a vote is taken on the original motion. An amendment may be made to an "amendment" but a third amendment is out of order.

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

1. Adopting a report and receiving a report as a whole

This motion implies that the court supports the action of the committee or the person and that action is approved. If the report has several recommendations, it is usually desirable to adopt the

recommendations one at a time before "accepting the report as a whole."

2. Receiving a Report

If there is no specific resolution or recommendation that has been made or requested, the report is simply "received."

3. Quorum

The Manual 2024, Section C.4.3 b and c:

a) The regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present.

For meetings of either the regional council or its executive,

b) if there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and

c) there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present.

4. Reconsider

If a group wishes to change a motion that has already been passed, a motion to "reconsider" is in order. Normally, the motion to "reconsider" is in relation to a negative decision made previously. Normally, notice of motion is given that this will be raised at the next meeting (see #10). It is customary to insist on a two-thirds majority on a motion to reconsider.

5. Table

When a recommendation or motion is tabled, all consideration is postponed until sometime in the future. A special motion is required to take the motion from the table.

6. Withdraw a motion

This permits the motion to be "withdrawn." The mover and seconder of the motion must agree to its withdrawal. If either refuse to withdraw, the motion cannot be "withdrawn." Any member may move to withdraw a motion.

7. Point of order

If a Chairperson does not notice an infringement of the meeting rules by someone, a member may rise on a "point of order." the Chairperson will then yield the floor to hear and consider the point made.

8. Question

The Motion to put the Question or the call for the vote immediately, in reality is a motion of closure of debate. It requires a seconder but may not be discussed. A two-thirds majority is needed to pass that motion and if passed, the motion on the floor must be voted upon immediately. Normally, a person who has previously spoken in the debate may not "move the question."

9. Question of Privilege

More accurately called a "point of privilege," such questions have to do with the rights and interests of the assembly as a whole, or of a member personally and arise if, in the course of debate, it appears that those rights or interests are adversely affected. It can be from the simple level, where a member states, "President, I rise on the question of privilege" and the Chair asks them to state their point, and the member states, "I should like to have the windows open" or "I should like to have the last speaker withdraw his comments about Mr. A." The Chair then makes the decision about the point. It requires no seconder, is in order when another has the floor, is not debatable or amendable, and requires no vote unless the Chairperson is challenged in their ruling.

10. Meeting

The meeting refers to the time from the constitution of the meeting on Friday afternoon to the adjournment on Sunday morning at the Celebration of Ministry.



HOLY MANNERS

We strive, in this time of community, to be brave by...

B – being accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence

R – reflecting on and naming our own biases

A – actively listening

V – vocalizing questions that arise from our learning

E – encountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

to be continued.... learning as we go....

*Written by Diane Matheson-Jimenez
for Affirming Network webinar, September 22, 2020*



REV. NANCY FERGUSON
CHAIRPERSON, CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL



After a brief career in administration in the Ontario Government (Environment), Nancy was Ordained in 1996 by London Conference and was settled in Cambrian Presbytery. In 2000, she was called to Waterloo Presbytery, Hamilton Conference, before returning “home” in 2006 to serve Emmanuel United Church, Sault Ste. Marie. For the past 18 years, Nancy has been embracing the joy, wonder, and unique challenge of long-term ministry. While her past involvement has been primarily with the work of Education & Students at both the Presbytery and Conference levels, Nancy had the privilege of serving as Chair of both Cambrian Presbytery and Algoma Presbytery and, in 2006, was invited to serve as Chair of the Advisory Committee for our 39th Moderator, the Very Rev. David Giuliano. When the Canadian Shield Regional Council formed in 2019, Nancy joined the Pastoral Relations Commission and trained as a Liaison. She also served a term on the Affirming Resource Team and continues to serve on the Health, Joy and Excellence Team under the leadership of the Rev. Rob Smith. A strong advocate for continuing education, Nancy has benefited from three sabbaticals all of which involved course work, skills development, and a heaping of rest and renewal. In 2023, she was made a Companion of the (Celtic) School of Earth and Soul.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. CARMEN LANSDOWNE
MODERATOR
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne is the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada (UCC). She is the elected national spiritual leader and public representative of the United Church until 2025. As Moderator, Carmen chairs the governance bodies of the UCC. She also sits on the board of the Vancouver Foundation—one of the largest community foundations in Canada. She has previously held a number of important governance roles with the UCC, including supporting indigenous candidates for ministry.

Prior to serving the national church, Moderator Carmen was the executive director of First United Church Community Ministry Society in Vancouver; She joined First United in February 2017, led an organizational turnaround resulting in increased stability and capacity, and facilitated the redevelopment of their main site. Following her term as Moderator, she will take up a teaching position as Assistant Professor of UCC Studies at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto; she starts teaching in January, 2026.

The Moderator leads with compassion, thoughtfulness, and creativity while maintaining academic interests, church ministry, indigenous ways of being, parenting, and partnering. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, and is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation. She is passionate about creating a life with great stories and amazing adventures with her family

CHAPLAINS



Rev. Lillian Roberts



Rev. Desire Tiriwepi

PARLIAMENTARIAN



William Steadman

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF



Executive Minister

Rev. Peter Hartmans

phartmans@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and spends time in each region.

Role: Peter provides leadership, counsel, and support for the governance and administration in the Regional Councils.

Contact Peter about: Budget and Policy; Media and Public Statements; Regional Joys and Concerns; Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence.



CSRC Team Lead; Minister, Community of Faith Support

Diane Matheson-Jimenez

dmatheson@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Diane provides support for the region by encouraging and connecting communities of faith as they adapt and experiment in changing times.

Contact Diane about: Conflict Resolution, Community Ministries, Congregational Finance, Covenants, Grants, Property, and Transitions - amalgamations, collaboration, closures.



Executive Assistant and Administration

Susan Whitehead

swhitehead@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Works from the Canadian Shield main office in North Bay.

Role: Susan is the Executive Assistant to Peter Hartmans and gives administrative support for the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils.



Pastoral Relations Minister

Rob Smith

rsmith@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Teleworks

Role: Rob encourages and supports ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice, as well as resourcing the Affirming Resource Team.

cont'd ...



Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Melody Duncanson-Hales

mduncanson-hales@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Teleworks from home.

Role: Support for all aspects of community of faith stewardship, including annual giving programs, year-round stewardship, Mission & Service, planned giving, the United Church Foundation and more. Melody also brings her experience to the modules of Called to Be the Church: The Journey, the United Church stewardship program.

Contact Melody about: Called to be the Church: The Journey program; Congregational Giving; Mission & Service; Planned Legacy Giving; Stewardship Education; The United Church Foundation.



Minister, Justice and Faith Formation

Shawn Redden

sredden@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks

Role: Shawn encourages and connects communities of faith with matters of faith and justice and the regional council in youth and young adult ministry and matters of faith formation and liaises with the General Council in this regard.

Contact Shawn about: Camping Ministries; Faith Formation; Guaranteed Income; Homelessness; Poverty; Social and Eco-justice; Worship and Music; Youth and Young Adult Ministry, United Church Women (UCW)



Communications and Administrative Support

Donna Rutz

drutz@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Toronto Office.

Role: Donna provides administrative support to the region as a whole including communications, record-keeping, event planning, office management, and reception.
Contact Donna about: General Inquiries; Community Events; Covenanting Services; Records Management; Regional Communication; Regional Events; Social Media; Updating Contact/Subscription Information; Website.

cont'd ...



Administrative Support

Celio deAndrade Santos, Jr.

cdeandrade@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Guthrie office

Role: Celio provides administrative support to Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils.



Administrative Support

Kathleen Wolfe

kwolfe@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Kathleen provides administrative support to Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils.



Vocational Minister, Ministry Personnel Accountability

Rev. Kellie McComb

kmccomb@united-church.ca

Serves: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Teleworks from home in Paris, Ontario

Role: Supports the processes for the discernment and training of ministry personnel, the determination of their fitness/readiness for accreditation, the fulfillment of continuing education standards, and the formal processes for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.



ORDINATIONS AND COMMISSIONING

ORDINATION

Tracy Davis (she/her)



As I journey towards Ordination within The United Church of Canada, I am grateful for the ways I have been shaped by the nurturing embrace of several communities of faith. Baptized and raised within Emmanuel United Church in North Bay, I learned early on the profound significance of belonging and community found within a spiritual family. The steadfast support of Emmanuel's Youth Group, provided me with strength and solace during difficult teenage years. Despite pursuing a career in social work and starting a family, the call to ministry tugged persistently. Inspired by my parents' service as Staff Associates at St Andrew's-North Bay, I found a beacon of guidance in their example of selfless devotion.

For 15 years, I served the compassionate congregation of St Andrew's, contributing to team ministry and pastoral care, before transitioning to roles in hospital chaplaincy and Long-Term Care. Now, alongside my husband, I find myself once again in team ministry at Emmanuel United, where I am welcomed with open arms and a sense of belonging.

As Ordination approaches, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of my faith community. My heart brims with eagerness as I envision the future of the United Church of Canada, excited to explore new avenues of creativity and openness to the Spirit, allowing us to serve and nurture in innovative and transformative ways.

Helen Smith (she/her)



I was born and raised in Little Rapids Ontario, the daughter of John and Peggy MacLean, with my sister Mary and a brother Peter. Growing up in Little Rapids United Church I always felt welcomed and safe. Surrounded by family and friends I was nurtured and encouraged to discover my faith. Part of my Sunday School years included what was then known as "the New Curriculum" and it left an impact on my understanding of God and God's world. I am married to Ray and we have two adult sons, Douglas and Richard. We have been pleased to welcome daughters-in-law Jammie and Amanda to our family. We are the proud grandparents to Emily, Leah and Macie who make sure life is never boring.

I have been active at Congregational, Presbytery, and Conference levels in many varied roles in The United Church of Canada. I graduated from Algoma University with a B.A. in History and English. I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders program in 1998. In 2004 I began the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program at United Theological College in Montreal and completed that program in 2006. I was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister at London Conference in 2007. As an adult my family and I attended St. Andrew's United Church in Sault Ste Marie. I took a position as a Staff Associate at Willowgrove UC in 1999. In 2009 I accepted an appointment as the minister at East Korah Maxwell United Church and am still serving there.

In my mind, my call to ministry began the day I was baptized and evolved with each new opportunity that presented itself. It has been while serving as a minister that I truly discovered who I was meant to be.

COMMISSIONING

Lisa Blais (she/her)



I am the Faith Formation and Outreach Minister at Trinity United Church in downtown North Bay. I am of Haudenosaunee (Mohawk), French and Scottish descent. I bring my love of community, passion for right relations and my joy for teaching to my work at Trinity and the wider church community. Some of the highlights of my job include the creation of a successful Vacation Bible Camp program, a Children’s Theatre Group, a yearly winter family retreat weekend and an active and vibrant Sunday School and Youth program. I am staff support for many groups and activities that take place at Trinity, including a busy Food Shelf program. I also currently serve as team lead on the Canadian Shield Regional Council’s Right Relations Resource Team.

I moved to North Bay in 2000 to attend Nipissing University to complete my Bachelor of Education. Shortly after graduating I began working at Trinity as a Staff Associate. I continued my education attending the NEOS youth program at Five Oaks, as well as enrolling in the Licenced Lay Worship Leaders Course. I was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister in 2011. I consider myself to be a life long learner and enjoys participating in regular learning events.

I am grateful for the sustaining gift of reciprocity that comes from planting and nurturing the seeds of faith and watching them grow into new ways of being and understanding. I believe that our faith should never stop growing and evolving. I consider it a deep privilege to accompany people as they discover, nurture and develop their faith at all stages of their lives.



RETIREE

Brynn Carson



Brynn Carson has had a very interesting career path that led her to ministry. She began as a teacher and then she felt the call to ministry and spent four years in theology at McGill University and then due to family issues, she left and didn't do her internship year. While pursuing other life pursuits, she still felt a call to ministry and supplied in the Ottawa Valley. When she moved to St. Thomas with new job, she continued to supply in the area around St. Thomas but she grew in her desire to enter ministry in a more intentional way and applied to go into the DLM stream. She applied to various places and then she saw an ad from Porcupine United and this sparked her to apply because she always wanted to be in the north. Since her family was from Timmins and her mother and grandparents were buried in Timmins she applied because they would accept a DLM student. To her great surprise and pleasure after her interview and before she got back down south, they had checked her references and offered the job.

For nine and a half years, Brynn was minister of Porcupine United and enjoyed every minute of her ministry there but due to health issues she was forced to retire. She says if her health had held up she would still be there. Brynn had a very positive ministry in Porcupine and during the pandemic, she phoned every member and adherent every week. She had wonderful mentors throughout her journey with a couple of ministers and a rabbi who she was able to reflect with and gain the strength and knowledge that she needed in her ministerial journey. Some of her happiest moments were being a scout leader over the years and also as a scout chaplain.

Brynn was loved by her congregation in Porcupine and loved them back in return. Her ministry to the youth and others will not be forgotten.



JUBILANDS

The following ministers are celebrating significant anniversaries of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada:

56 years	Robert Jackson Douglas Joblin
55 years	Peter Wyatt Jack White Gailand MacQueen
45 years	Richard Thorne Glen Eagle
41 years	Richard Smith William Jones
40 years	Lillian Roberts
35 years	William Mayoros
26 years	Karen de Jong-Dermann Susan Ivany
25 years	David McLeish Laurie Stevenson Carl Triskle
20 years	Norine St. Jean
15 years	Edith (Lynn) Heeley
5 years	Susan Peverley Ryan Fea



OBITUARIES

The Rev. J. Stewart Bell (March 22, 2024)

Stewart Bell was ordained in 1964 and would have celebrated his 60th anniversary of his Ordination this year. He served at St. Andrew's United Church, Matheson, and then left congregational ministry to accept a position at the then Toronto Conference. Stew returned north to serve as a staff field person in North Bay for Toronto Conference and then in 1975, Manitou Conference was born, where he served as the second Executive Secretary. His work also included constructing the Apology Cairn on the campus of Laurentian University in Sudbury, ON.

He was survived by his wife, Anne and daughters, Sheona, Morag, and Jocelyn, and 6 grandchildren.

Ruby Vaughn (March 4, 2024)

Ruby Vaughn was a life-long member of Echo Bay United Church. As well as singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School and acting as their UCW representative, Ruby also was their lay representative at Algoma Presbytery for many years.

Ruby was predeceased by her husband Cy, and survived by her children Lorna, Anne, Susan, Gerald, the late Jim Vaughn, Heather and Jackie and many grandchildren.

Stuart Taggart (January 15, 2024)

Stewart Taggart was a lay person from Trout Creek, ON. Over the years Stuart was involved with many committees including the CSRC Property Resource Team and as the Elected Regional Lay Representative for Trout Creek United Church. Before that he had been a presbytery lay rep and was on the Manitou Conference Finance Committee.

He was survived by his wife, Elva and children

Rev. Murray Binsted (October 12, 2023)

Murray Binstead was ordained in 1956 and retired in 1994. He served in Matheson (St. Andrew's UC), Cochrane (St. Paul's UC), Haileybury (St. Andrew's UC), and Iroquois Falls (Trinity UC) in Northern Ontario.

He was survived by his wife, Marion and children Karen, Kevin, Heather, and David and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rev. Dawn Vaneyk (September 19, 2023)

Dawn Vaneyk was ordained in 1984 and would have celebrated her 40th anniversary this year. She served three pastoral charges on Manitoulin Island during her settlement and then moved to St. Peter's United Church for the rest of her career.

She was survived by her husband, Tim Lehman, and their son, Isaac.

Rev. Diane Trollope (July 5, 2023)

One of the first graduates of Center for Christian Studies, Diane Trollope celebrated 50 years of commissioned ministry in 2020. She served with Humbercrest United Church (Toronto), Calvary United Church (London), Naramata Centre, Kamloops-Okanagan Presbytery, Loring Pastoral Charge (Port Loring and Golden Valley) before retiring to Sudbury, where she was a beloved member of St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury Presbytery, Manitou Conference and later, Canadian Shield Regional Council. From CSRC's beginning, Diane served faithfully as chair of the regional Grants Team.

Diane was survived by her brother Brian, the late Robert Trollope, as well as nieces.

Violet Bradbury (June 22, 2023)

Violet Bradbury was a lay member from Timmins, ON. She was a congregational representative to Cochrane Presbytery and Toronto Conference. She was the Local Arrangements Chairperson for the first meeting of Manitou Conference in Timmins and for the 25th Annual Meeting as well as many other conference or Neighbours Praising God events over the years. She went to the first meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council as a visitor, because she wanted to see the journey through.

Violet was survived by her wife, Rev. Dale Young.

Robert "Bob" Gardner (March 3, 2023)

Robert Gardner became a Minister in The United Church of Canada in 1977 and then served as a Chaplain for many years in the Canadian Armed Forces. After retiring from the Forces, he served again as a Minister in various communities in Ontario. He first landed in Manitou Conference in 1996 serving at St. Paul's United Church in New Liskeard until 2001 and then returned to Manitou in 2004 to serve at Holy Trinity United Church in Elliot Lake for 13 years. When he retired in 2017, he moved back out to Nova Scotia where he was born.

He was survived by his wife, Reta and son David.

Joan Van Every (February 8, 2023)

Joan Van Every served at St. Andrew's United Church in Meldrum Bay (Manitoulin Island) as a long-time lay representative to Sudbury Presbytery and Manitou Conference and was active with the UCW.

Joan was predeceased by her husband Dale, children Cheryl, Scott, and Lynn, as well as 6 grandchildren.

Rev. Beverley Hill (January 1, 2023)

Beverley Hill was ordained in 1972. She served in several conferences including Alberta Northwest Conference and Bay of Quinte Conference until she retired in 1995 and then she moved north to Richard's Landing on St. Joseph's Island in the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

Beverley was survived by her brother Richard and her nieces and nephews.

William “Bill” Rowe (December 25, 2022)

William Rowe was a lay member from Sudbury, ON. Bill served as the Chair of Council for St. Mark's United Church in Sudbury for many years and was one of their lay reps to the Canadian Shield Regional Council. He was also on the Huntington University Board and on the Manitou Conference Finance Committee.

He was survived by his wife, Roberta and children Marc and Jordie, and 3 grandchildren.

Rev. Linda Saffrey (August 1, 2022)

Linda Saffrey was ordained in 1992. She served at many pastoral charges including Onaping Falls in Levack, Burks Falls, Blackstock-Nestleton in Blackstock, and St. Mark's in Sudbury as well as various pastoral charges in the greater Toronto area. She retired in 2017.

Linda was survived by her husband, Eric and her children Kevin and Keirra, and 2 grandchildren.

Rev. Bruce M. Thomson (July 18, 2022)

Bruce Thomson was ordained in 1987 and served the three-point charge covering Burk's Falls, Katrine and Magnetawan, Ontario until 1991. He then practiced law in Bracebridge, Ontario. He recently retired and moved to Nova Scotia.

Bruce was survived by his wife, Antionette and children John, James, Alexander, Allison, and Mary.



**DIGEST OF ACTIONS THE
EXECUTIVE
OF CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR
THE PERIOD November 2, 2023 to April 25, 2024**

Decisions made by the Executive November 2, 2023

1. That the minutes of the Pastoral Relations Committee be received from September 26, 2023, for information.
2. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from June 26, 2023, July 27, 2023, September 13, 2023 and September 26, 2023 be received, for information.
3. There was consensus that the CSRC Executive will join the SWRC Executive in Sudbury, ON at Villa Loyola on September 24-26, 2024 for the Joint Executives Meeting.
4. There was consensus that Executive will review the draft Budget prior to the 2023 CS RCM via email, with the Executive Minister drafting an email to the Financial Administrator, Janet MacDonald, asking to have it ready before the November 25, 2023 CS RCM.

Decisions made by the Executive December 2, 2023

5. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from October 31, 2023 be received, for information.
6. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from October 24, 2023 be received, for information.
7. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following actions:

Camp McDougall Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp McDougall Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Denise Berg
Sherrill Dewar
Kevin Harrison
Kenny Hermiston
Debbie Kirby
Sharon Lane
Mary A. Laundrie
Rhea McAdam
Steven Mullins
Nancy Rouble
Cleo Walker

This is based on the draft Annual Meeting minutes of June 6, 2021, the 2021 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

*N.B. During follow up with this IM, it was discovered that no D&O policy was issued for the term December 1, 2020 to September 7, 2021 as the Hub office never received the D&O application due to the changes in leadership on the Camp's board. This has been corrected and D&O coverage was reinstated September 7, 2021 and on.

*N.B. This IM continues to struggle with submission of required documentation and Regional Council staff are following up.

8. There was consensus that a letter be drafted on behalf of the CSRC Executive from Peter and Nancy, indicating that the letter from Kathy Dahmer was received and has now been referred to the Pastoral Relations Commission for a more specific response to her concerns.
9. That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2024 Budget with a total revenue of \$654,000 and total expenses of the same amount, as presented.

Decisions made by the Executive February 1, 2024

10. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from November 28, 2023 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from November 28, 2023 be received, for information.
11. That the CSRC Executive receive the 2022 CSRC Audited Financial Statements.
12. That the signing officers for all Bank Accounts at the Bank of Montreal and BMO Nesbitt Burns for the Canadian Shield Regional Council be Susan Whitehead, Janet MacDonald, Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Kathleen Smith, effective February 1, 2024.
13. That the CSRC Executive approve the theme entitled "Upon This Rock" for the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting to be held May 3-5, 2024.
14. That the CSRC Executive direct the 2024 CS RCM Planning Team to explore the possibility of charging an amount of money per delegate to help offset the cost of meals and for the planning team to report their recommendation back to the March 7, 2024 CSRC Executive meeting.
15. That in light of the current fiscal reality of Camp McDougall Inc., that the CSRC Executive direct the Camp McDougall Board to suspend operations for the 2024 camping season.

Decisions made by the Executive March 7, 2024

16. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from November 28, 2023 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from November 28, 2023 be received, for information.
17. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from January 23, 2024 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from January 30, 2024 be received, for information.
18. The CSRC Executive votes to remove the motion #CS Exec 2024-02-01-08 from the February 1, 2024 Minutes, as the Regional Council, through its Executive, does not have the authority to direct an Incorporated Ministry to take an action.
19. That the CSRC Executive approve the 2022 CSRC Audited Financial Statements.

20. That the CSRC Executive approve the 2024 Regional Council Meeting (RCM) Planning Team's recommendation to charge RCM delegates \$40 to help offset the cost of meals for the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting.
21. That the CSRC Executive set the deadline of April 12, 2024 for the Canadian Shield Regional Council and GC45 Proposals reviewed at the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting.
22. There was consensus from the CSRC Executive that Peter inform the Moderator that we cannot move the date of the 2025 Festival of Faith (FoF) and that the Moderator's Flourishing Event can happen the day/s before the 2025 FoF.

Decisions made by the Executive March 7, 2024

23. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from January 23, 2024 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from January 30, 2024 be received, for information.
24. The CSRC Executive votes to remove the motion #CS Exec 2024-02-01-08 from the February 1, 2024 Minutes, as the Regional Council, through its Executive, does not have the authority to direct an Incorporated Ministry to take an action.
25. That the CSRC Executive approve the 2022 CSRC Audited Financial Statements.
26. That the CSRC Executive approve the 2024 Regional Council Meeting (RCM) Planning Team's recommendation to charge RCM delegates \$40 to help offset the cost of meals for the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting.
27. That the CSRC Executive set the deadline of April 12, 2024 for the Canadian Shield Regional Council and GC45 Proposals reviewed at the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting.
28. There was consensus from the CSRC Executive that Peter inform the Moderator that we cannot move the date of the 2025 Festival of Faith (FoF) and that the Moderator's Flourishing Event can happen the day/s before the 2025 FoF.

Decisions made by the Executive April 25, 2024

29. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from February 27, 2024 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from February 27, 2024 be received, for information.
30. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following actions:

Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated o/a Camp Duncan

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated 2024-2025 Board of Directors

James E. Bidnall
 A. Ernest Epp
 Laurie Forbes
 Dave Hammond
 Linda Hammond
 Gerhardt F. Jansekovich
 Lori Jansekovich
 Faye Larsen

William Lynch
**Patricia McDonald
Ross McCubbin
Ken Moffatt
Richard Paterson

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of February 11, 2024, draft board Meeting minutes of April 2, 2024, the 2024 board member approval form, contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

*N.B. During follow up with this IM, concerns were raised by National Service staff to Regional Council staff. Regional Council staff are working with this IM and can provide further information.

**N.B. Since the annual meeting Patricia McDonald has resigned.

31. That the CSRC Executive receive Janet MacDonald's letter of resignation, effective June 30th, 2025, with extreme gratitude for all her work.
32. That the CSRC Executive authorizes the establishment of a Property Commission, effective April 25, 2024, and that the current Property Resource Team be transitioned into that role, with the terms of reference to be approved at the next Executive meeting on May 30th, 2024.
33. The after review by the CSRC Finance Resource Team, the CSRC Executive recommends the 2025 Draft Budget to the 2024 Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, ON May 3-5, 2024.
34. Upon the recommendation of the CSRC Nominations Committee, that the election of the General Council 45 Commissioners be held at an electronic recall of the CSRC by September 30th, 2024.
35. That the CSRC Executive authorize the closure of the CSRC Thunder Bay Office, effective July 31, 2024.



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Regional Council:

Our regional meeting theme for this year is “Upon this Rock”. This Regional Council Meeting (RCM) is a wonderful opportunity to gather together in-person and online across our Regional Council. We join together as United Church to celebrate our Ministry together as communities of faith to seek encouragement from each other, as we share the gospel and most of all, to worship and give thanks! As a regional council, as communities of faith, as outreach ministry, we have returned to a more normal routine following lockdowns. Returning to a new normal has been slow for many communities of faith with the disruption of the pandemic challenging the foundation of many within our regional council. We hold each other in prayer.

As a region, as community, as individuals, we give thanks as we continue to be on a journey together; we celebrate the resilience of our churches; “Upon this Rock” in every way and the expression of the Gospel in many new and creative ways.

Connecting within our Regional Council:

Although this past year many of our communities of faith, outreach ministries, and camps have struggled figuring out our new normal, we have continued a ministry of caring and support in new and creative ways. Volunteers, music leaders, ministry personnel, camp staff, outreach staff, and congregational support staff have all worked tirelessly. Many communities of faith continue to offer ministry through online worship and gather for meetings virtually – a new and creative offering which was limited across the regional council, pre-pandemic.

As a northern regional council, distance remains a barrier to meeting in-person. The region’s primary tool for connecting continues to be online gatherings, for both Ministry Personnel and Lay Leaders for support, updates, and education. Our website/newsletter “Bedrock” continues to be a key tool for communication within our regional council. Many local and a few regional networks and local groups have also met to connect, learn, challenge, listen, and work together. The Executive also celebrates the significant work of the regional council Commissions, Teams and networks/clusters and informal gatherings of UCC folks and community members.

The regional council met together online in November, to honour our mutual ministry together and complete our administrative duties for the year.

Festival of Faith:

This past year, Spring 2023, the regional council (and many guests from outside the Region) were invited to gather together in mutual ministry at the Festival of Faith in North Bay. This was the first time we gathered together in North Bay and offered an opportunity for folks across the region to join together as community to listen, learn, laugh, cry, and grow together in our mutual ministry. We put aside our administrative ministry, and as a regional council planned a gathering together focusing on fellowship and learning from across the region and including guests from across Ontario and Canada.

New in 2025, both the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council will join together, mutually planning another joint Festival of Faith for June 7-9, 2025 in Sudbury Ontario. More details are to come! See our regional council website for

updates, following our spring RCM. We will not be meeting together in-person as a regional council, for our administration role in 2025, but rather online.

Work of the Regional Executive

Our Executive meets monthly (with the exception of the summer) and does the work of the regional council when our region is not meeting (C.3.1.1). Often, the Executive has a very full agenda which includes oversight of the regional commissions, regional finances, regional policy, regional meeting, emerging work, and the Executive Minister and staff.

The draft 2025 budget will be presented at our Regional Council Meeting (RCM). This past year's spending reflects an unusual year following Covid travel restrictions. Staff travel was up in 2023, as staff re-connect in-person.

Monthly Work of the Regional Council Executive:

If you are interested in a detailed account and overview of the work of the regional council Executive, please see the Digest of Actions, which will be received for information at our regional council meeting. The digest offers an itemized account of the regional council Executive since our last RCM. It also gives you an idea of the monthly variety and work of our Executive. We have also added a link to our webpage which offers a close look at our finances, including audited statements as they are completed by the auditors, in one location.

Working towards Right Relations, Anti-Racism and Equity

The United Church of Canada is working towards becoming an anti-racist institution. For the United Church, it means encouraging the General Council Office, regional council offices, communities of faith, and even Canadian society to pause and reflect. The United Church has allocated staffing and resources for both General Council staff, regional staff and Ministry personnel. The United Church is offering training, learning opportunities, and discussion groups as part of a strategy of becoming an anti-racist Church. Practically, the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council staff have joined together for reflecting, learning, re-learning history, theological reflection, and discussion working towards becoming an anti-racist Church and also working towards right relationship.

Both regional councils have encouraged equity conversations at the Executive level, commission and committee levels of the church. The regional council continues to lift up our commitment to equity across our work. We are beginning to live into our new pattern of equity being named by each commission. We continue to work and celebrate the Canadian Shield Regional Council as an Affirming regional council and support community of faith conversations too!

Staffing:

In 2023/2024, we saw more transition of staff in our regional council. Rachael Howes transitioned into retirement at the end of May 2023. Jeffery Dale finished his work at the regional council and transitioned to local community of faith ministry in 2023. We have deeply appreciated their work with the regional council and they will be missed. We welcomed Shawn Redden as Justice and Faith Formation Minister, sredden@united-church.ca, who works part-time for the regional council. Melody Duncanson-Hales also has shifted part of her work to General Council, working 50 percent for the regional council.

In 2023/2024 we started a more intentional transition to shared staff between regional councils. Rob Smith transitioned from full time in CSRC to part-time, now supporting

Ministry personnel in Shining Waters Regional Council. All four administrative staff (Susan Whitehead, Donna Rutz, Kathleen Jones, and Celio de Andrade Santos Jr.) have now officially transitioned to serving both regional councils to increase our support to program staff, with Susan Whitehead serving as the Executive Minister's Executive Administrative Assistant.

We continue to deeply appreciate working with Diane, Rob, Melody, Shawn, Celio, Donna, Susan, Kathleen and Peter. We are blessed with incredible staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year. Thank you! We are also grateful for our Past Chair Barb Nott and current Chair Nancy Ferguson, who have provided attentive leadership throughout this year. Thank you!

UCC Strategic Plan:

2023 marks the start and implementation of The United Church of Canada Strategic Plan (2023-2025). We welcome Calin Lau (clau@united-church.ca 1-800-268-3781 ex. 2047), General Council Growth Animator, supporting the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils.

Sharing the introduction of the UCC strategic plan (found on the UCC website) it states:

"In partnership with regions and the Indigenous Church, the national ministry will dedicate focus, energy, and resources to revitalizing the church towards a vibrant future. We will renew by strengthening existing communities of faith towards transformation. We will create by encouraging the development and sustainability of 100 new communities of faith, with a particular focus on churches that serve migrant communities. And we will invite by investing in sharing

our unique witness with neighbours across the country and encouraging participation in our ministries, communities, and campaigns. This passion for growth will be enabled by leadership development, supported by denomination wide strengths, fostered by justice campaigns and climate initiatives, and realized alongside Indigenous pathways.

Our priority plan pulls key activities in each of these strategic objectives into service towards dynamic growth. Daring Justice. This is our Call, grounded in our statements of faith, right relations commitment, and core values, but articulated anew for this time. Along with our Call is a Vision to become "a bold, connected, and evolving church" as disciples of Jesus in this place." (The United Church of Canada Strategic plan 2023-2025 document, post on the UCC website)

The strategic plan has much more detail. See [The United Church of Canada website](#) for the most up to date details.

100 Years!

2024 marks the beginning of the 100th year celebration of The United Church of Canada with an online/in-person hybrid service, hosted by The United Church of Canada, at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. Let's give thanks together for our mutual ministry for many years.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Thanks

We give thanks for the work of the regional council, outreach ministry, communities of faith, its many volunteers, Ministry Personnel, music teams, administrative staff, custodians, and

treasurers to name just a few. May God continue to bless our ministry in 2024/2025.

With Gratitude and Prayer,

The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive:

Nancy Ferguson, Chair
Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister
Barbara Nott, Past Chair
Jim Jackson
Helen Smith
Mastard Sakala
Joy Galloway
John Watson
Susan Lindquist
David LeGrand
Stewart Walker
Bill Steadman

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Canadian Shield Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission Report – May 2024

My roll as Chair of The Pastoral Relations Commission of the Canadian Shield Regional Council is coming to an end and it is time to pass the tiller of this ship to another. I am proud to say that, as a region, we are leaders in finding new ways to be the church. This report sets out what we have done since we last reported to you and lists those individuals who have stepped up and taken on responsibility in the governance of the church. Thank you one and all for what you do.

John Watson

Chair – Pastoral Relations Commission

We give thanks for the faithful service of our Pastoral Relations Commission members – John Watson (Chair), Karen Gooch (Secretary), Joy Galloway, Jane Graham, Ted Harrison, Erin Todd, Janet Venton, Stewart Walker, Joy Bott, and Fraser Williamson.

Pastoral Relations Activity Since the Last Regional Council Meeting in September 2022:
2022

1. **St. James in the Valley, Sudbury, ON** – approved the re-appointed David Chuipka (Candidate) part time (20 hours) effective October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024.
2. **First Wesley Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – approved the request for a change of Pastoral Relations from the Rev. Louise Hart (OM).
3. **Harmony Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – approved the call of the Rev. Mastard Sakala effective October 1, 2022.
4. **Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa, ON** – approved the change in the appointment of Minhyuk Hwang (Candidate) from 20 hours to 25 hours effective September 1, 2022 to July

31, 2023.

5. **Copper Cliff Pastoral Charge, Copper Cliff, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. William Steadman (OM – Retired) part-time (16 hours) effective December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2025.

2023

6. **Westminster Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – approved the appointment of Steven Loweth (DLM) full time effective March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026.
7. **First-Wesley Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – approved the call of the Rev. Lionel Ketola (OM) part time (30 hours) effective March 1, 2023.
8. **Willowgrove Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. Glen Eagle (OM – retired) part-time (20 hours) effective February 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.
9. **Espanola Pastoral Charge, Espanola, ON** – approved the Shared Ministry Personal Agreement between St. George’s Anglican Church and Espanola Pastoral Charge effective February 1, 2023.
10. **Blind River Pastoral Charge, Blind River, ON and Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge, Iron Bridge, ON** – approved the collaborative agreement effective May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2026.
11. **Blind River Pastoral Charge, Blind River, ON and Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge, Iron Bridge, ON** – approved the appointment of Laurence Muvunzi (OM – Admissions) full time effective May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2026.
12. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON and Pinegrove Pastoral Charge, Rosalyn, ON** – approved the change of pastoral relations with David Colwell effective February 9, 2023.
13. **Matheson Pastoral Charge, Matheson, ON and Iroquois Falls Pastoral Charge, Iroquois Falls, ON** – approved the change of pastoral relations with Laura Hutchison (DLM) effective June 30, 2023.
14. **Covenant Pastoral Charge, Timmins, ON** – approved the appointment of Laura Hutchison (DLM) part time (20 hours) effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
15. **St. Mark’s Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON** – approved the extension of the appointment of Dian Tate (candidate) effective July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024.
16. **St. Andrew’s Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – approved the change of Pastoral Relations with the Rev. Eun-Joo Park effective July 31, 2023.
17. **St. James in the Valley Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON** – approve the change of Pastoral Relations with David Chuipka (Candidate) effective June 30, 2023.
18. **Approved the licensing of Aaron Palmer as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.**
19. **Approved the admission of the Rev. Byung Yun (James) Ko into the United Church of Canada.**
20. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON** – approved the re-appointment of Lisa Blais (DLM) part time (34 hours) effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
21. **Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa, ON** – approved the change of pastoral relations with Minhyuk Hwang effective July 31, 2023.
22. **Emmanuel Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. William Kunder (OM – Retired) part-time 20 hours effective August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2026.
23. **Emmanuel Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON** – approved the appointment of Tracy Davis (DLM) part-time (15 hours) effective August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2026.
24. **Trinity Manitoulin Pastoral Charge, Mindemoya, ON** – approved the appointment of Kim Inglis (Candidate) part-time (20 hours) effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

25. **St. Stephen's on the Hill, Sudbury, ON** – approved the change of terms of the Rev. Catharine Somerville (OM) to 16 hours effective September 1, 2023.
26. **Approved the creation of a benevolent fund for ministers in need.**
27. **Porcupine Pastoral Charge, Timmins, ON** – approved the change of pastoral relations from Brynn Carson (DLM) effective November 10, 2023
28. **Approved the admission of the Rev. Desire Tiriwepi (OM) to the United Church of Canada effective October 29, 2023.**
29. **Manitowaning-Tehkummah Pastoral Charge, Manitowaning, ON** – approved the call of Susan Peverley (OM) part-time (30 hours) effective October 1, 2023.
30. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON** – approved the appointment of Caitlin Smithers (Candidate) full-time effective September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2025.
31. **Porcupine Pastoral Charge, Timmins, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. Bill Jones (OM – Retired) part-time (20 hours effective September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026.
32. **St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Pastoral Charge, Englehart, ON** – approved the re-appointment of the Rev. Elaine Lush (OM – retired) part-time (20 hours) effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.
33. **Willowgrove Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – re-appointment of the Rev. Glen Eagle (OM – retired) part-time (20 hours) effective December 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
34. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – appointment of the Rev. David Zub (OM – retired) part-time (14 hours effective January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.
35. **Approved David Chuipka as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader effective December 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.**

2024

36. **St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – approved the call of the Rev. Desire Tiriwepi (OM) full time effective February 1, 2024.
37. **Approved the request of the Rev. Lillian Roberts (OM – retired) to be in formal association with Trinity, North Bay, ON**
38. **Thessalon Pastoral Charge, Thessalon, ON** – approved the appointment of Torrin Maag (Candidate) part-time (20 hours) effective March 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
39. **Approved the ordination of Tracy Davis**
40. **Approved the ordination of Helen Smith**
41. **Approved the commissioning of Lisa Blais**
42. **Trinity, North Bay, ON** – approved the provisional call of Lisa Blais (Candidate) part-time (36 hours) effective May 6, 2024
43. **Emmanuel, North Bay, ON** – approved the provisional call of Tracy Davis (Candidate) part time (15 hours) effective May 6, 2024.
44. **East Korah/Maxwell Pastoral Church, Sault Ste. Marie** – approved the provisional call of Helen Smith (Candidate) part-time (20 hours) effective May 6, 2024.

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

The following people serve as Pastoral Relations Liaisons for our region:

Joy Galloway, Mercedes Hughes, Sandra Jenkinson, Mardi Mumford, Catherine Somerville, Jan Venton, Stewart Walker and Fraser Williamson.

This year we said goodbye to Sylvia Carscadden and Karen Brophy. We give thanks for their faithful service as pastoral relations liaisons over the years to the Canadian Shield Regional Council and to Manitu Conference.

Pastoral Relations Liaisons work with communities of faith to help them discern their ministry needs. We are blessed as a region to have such gifted and committed individuals who serve in this way.

If your community of faith is considering looking for a new minister or your current minister has requested a change in pastoral relations then contact our Pastoral Relations Minister, Rob Smith, and a liaison will be appointed to help you with the process.

We are looking for new liaisons. If you are interested, please let Rob know. A joint training with Shining Water for new liaisons is being planned for February 2025.

Current Assignments

1. Trinity, Thunder Bay, ON – liaison is Jan Venton – currently discerning future ministry needs.
2. Pinegrove, Thunder Bay, ON – liaison is Jan Venton – currently discerning future ministry needs.
3. St. John’s Pastoral Charge, Marathon, ON – liaison is Stewart Walker – currently discerning next steps.
4. Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa, ON – liaison is Joy Galloway – currently discerning future ministry needs.
5. Willowgrove Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON – liaison is Stewart Walker – currently searching for a full-time minister
6. St. Andrew’s Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON – liaison is Stewart Walker – still discerning future ministry needs.
7. Central Algoma Churches Community (CACC), Blind River, ON – liaison is Stewart Walker – currently discerning next steps
8. Onaping Falls Pastoral Charge, Levak, ON – liaison is Mardi Mumford – currently discerning next steps
9. Sturgeon Falls Pastoral Charge, Sturgeon Falls, ON – liaison is Sandra Jenkinson – currently discerning next steps
10. Loring Pastoral Charge, Loring, ON – liaison is Catherine Somerville – currently discerning next steps
11. Nipissing-Restoule, Nipissing, ON – liaison is Fraser Williamson – currently discerning next steps
12. St. Paul’s Pastoral Charge, Cochrane, ON – Liaison is Joy Galloway – currently discerning next steps
13. Kapuskasing Pastoral Charge, Kapuskasing, ON – liaison is Joy Galloway – currently discerning their future.

Pastoral Charge Supervisors

When a community of faith does not have a called or appointed ministry personnel The Manual requires that a pastoral charge supervisor be appointed. The Supervisor provides quorum for the meeting of the governing board. Pastoral Charge supervisors are also required when a ministry personnel is a student minister or an admissions minister.

In the Canadian Shield Region, a majority of our pastoral charges are without ministry personnel. We are dependent on pastoral charge supervisors. We are grateful for all those who serve in this way. Thank you. We appreciate your valuable and vital ministry.

We are always needing more people to be a pastoral supervisor. If you are interested and want to know more about this service opportunity, please contact Rob Smith rsmith@united-church.ca

1. All People's Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON – Barbara Nott
2. Blind River Pastoral Charge, Blind River, ON – Admissions Minister - Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert
3. Broadway Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON – Shane Judge
4. Burks Falls Pastoral Charge, Burks Falls, ON – vacant
5. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Capreol, ON – student minister – Lynda Todd
6. Carmichael Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON – Sandra Jenkinson
7. Central Algoma Church Community, Bruce Mines, ON – Stewart Walker
8. Chapleau Pastoral Charge, Chapleau, ON – Susan Lindquist
9. Cochrane: St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Cochrane, ON – Laura Hutchison
10. Coniston: St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Coniston, ON – Stewart Walker
11. Echo Bay Pastoral Charge, Echo Bay, ON, - Bruce McLeish
12. Espanola Pastoral Charge, Espanola, ON – Whitney Bruno
13. Goulais River Pastoral Charge, Goulais River, ON – Laurie Stevenson
14. Hearst: St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Pastoral Charge – Bill Jones
15. Hornepayne: Grace Pastoral Charge, Hornepayne ON – George Bott
16. Iron Bridge Pastoral Charge, Iron Bridge, ON – Admission minister - Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert
17. Kapuskasing Community Church Pastoral Charge, Kapuskasing, ON – Laura Hutchinson
18. Katrine Pastoral Charge, Katrine, ON – Fraser Williamson
19. Kirkland Lake Pastoral Charge, Kirkland Lake, ON – Elaine Lush
20. Loring Pastoral Charge, Loring, ON - vacant
21. Manitouwadge Pastoral Charge, Manitouwadge – Joy Bott
22. Marathon: St. John's Pastoral Charge, Marathon, ON – Jim Jackson
23. Massey Pastoral Charge, Massey, ON – Brian Bigelow
24. Mattawa-Rutherglen Pastoral Charge, Mattawa, ON – Richard Thorne
25. Mount Joy Pastoral Charge, Timmins, ON – Rob Galloway
26. Nipigon Pastoral Charge, Nipigon, ON – John Watson
27. Nipissing-Restoule Pastoral Charge, Nipissing, ON – Fraser Williamson
28. Phelps Pastoral Charge, Redbridge, ON – Ron Holotuk
29. Pinegrove Pastoral Charge, Rosslyn, ON – Christina Stricker
30. Schreiber Pastoral Charge, Scriber, ON – George Bott
31. St. James in the Valley, Sudbury, ON – David LeGrand
32. St. Mark's Pastoral Church, Sudbury, ON – Kathy Dahmer
33. St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, New Liskeard, ON – Peter Haddow
34. Sturgeon Falls Pastoral Charge, Sturgeon Falls, ON – Gordon Roberts
35. St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Temiscaming, QC – Lillian Roberts
36. Thessalon Pastoral Charge, Thessalon, ON – Jane Graham
37. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON – Christina Stricker
38. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Manitoulin, ON – Erwin Thompson
39. Val D'Or Pastoral Charge, Val D'Or, QC – Will Kunder
40. Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa ON – Helen Smith

Sacraments Elders

1. George Bott – St. John's, Marathon

2. May Cameron – St. Andrew’s, Massey
3. Mona Campbell, All People’s, Sudbury
4. Tim Cecile – Trinity, Chapleau
5. Marlene Chuipka – All People’s, Sudbury
6. Stephen Collins – St. John’s Marathon
7. Maxine Dale – St. Andrew’s, Coniston
8. Phyllis Gauvin – Grace, Nipigon
9. Lori Jansekovich – Broadway, Thunder Bay
10. Susan Jansson – St. Matthew’s and St. Paul’s Anglican/United Church, Hearst.
11. Christine Mitchell-Kydd – St. Paul’s, Cochrane
12. Kerttu Ladouceur – St. Matthew’s and St. Paul’s Anglican/United Church, Hearst
13. Susan Lindquist – Trinity, Chapleau
14. June McDougall – Knox, Manitowaning
15. Bonnie Moore – St. Paul’s, New Liskeard
16. Diane Rust – Mountjoy, Timmins
17. Kathie Smith – St. Andrew’s, Sturgeon Falls
18. Judy Tomlin – Hillview, New Liskeard
19. Glenda Woodbury – St. Paul’s, Temiscaming, QC
20. Dawn Yorke - Espanola

A Sacraments Elder is appointed by the community of faith, trained by the region and licenced by the region to offer the sacraments to their community of faith where there are no available ministry personnel. They are licensed for one year and must be renewed annually by action of the community of faith.

We held a Sacraments Elder training in March 2023 facilitated by the Rev. Stewart Walker. We are very grateful for the willingness of these people to serve their community of faith in this way.

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

West – Thunder Bay to Sault Ste. Marie

1. **George Bott** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
2. **Joy Bott** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
3. **Cathy Bright** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
4. **Lorna Chuipka** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
5. **Robert Cosbey** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
6. **Vivian Hall** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
7. **Diane Hannaford-Wilcox** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
8. **John McDonald** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
9. **Cyndy Raby** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
10. **Marie Rinnie** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
11. **Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
12. **Nancy Vernon** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
13. **Wanda Wilding** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)

East – North Bay and Area

1. **Karen Brophay** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
2. **Linda Clarke** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
3. **Rob Farris** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)

4. **Peter Haddow** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
5. **Elizabeth Henderson** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
6. **Ron Holotuk**
7. **Jennifer Moorlag** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
8. **Brenda McLay** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
9. **Frances Morris** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
10. **Aaron Palmer** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
11. **Linda Sarginson** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
12. **John Sheridan** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)

Central – Sudbury

1. **Lorna Corzine** (*Licensed until June 30, 2024*)
2. **Jane Graham** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
3. **David Chuipka** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
4. **Shannon Duffus** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
5. **Cindy Hebert** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
6. **Marg Hiddleston** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
7. **Ross Macleod** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
8. **Faye Moffatt** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
9. **Brian Mundell** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
10. **Nancy Mundell** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
11. **Judy Sears** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)
12. **Roger West** (*Licensed until June 30, 2025*)
13. **Dawn Yorke** (*Licensed until June 30, 2026*)

The Canadian Shield Regional Council is very blessed to be served by a group of very gifted Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. We are grateful for all the work that they do each and every Sunday.

We also have an excellent Licensed Lay Worship Leader Resource team who work hard to support our LLWL's. The members of the Resource Team are: Dawn Yorke, Susan Peverley, Janice Frame, Peter Haddow and Jane Graham.

We held a LLWL education event with Kellie McComb about boundaries on February 25, 2023.

We held a LLWL Check-in on Saturday, November 19, 2023.

In the fall of 2023, Kathy McCallum started a hybrid training for licensed lay worship leaders. The course includes both in person and zoom training. There are 12 people enrolled in the course.

We are also very blessed to have within the boundaries of our region the On-line Licensed Lay Worship Leaders training program directed by Joy and George Bott. We give thanks for their ministry not only to our region but to our entire denomination.

Another program that originates within our region but serves our entire denomination is the United in Worship Project which provides worship resources for churches. Check out their website: <https://www.united-in-worship.ca/>

Ministry and Personnel Wellness Team

One of the roles of the Pastoral Relations Minister and of the Pastoral Relations Commission

is to support the “health, joy and excellence” of our ministry personnel. The following ministers serve as the Ministry Wellness Team along with Rob Smith our Pastoral Relations Minister; Ted Harrison, Erin Todd, Nancy Ferguson, Caitlin Smithers, and Kellie McComb the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Council Office of Vocation Minister. They are a great team.

We have continued to offer quarterly zoom gatherings for Ministry Personnel.

- Advent Check-in with Peter Hartmans on December 7, 2022
- January Check-in with Janice MacLean on January 26, 2023
- “Getting to Your Why” with Kellie McComb on May 10, 2023

- Advent and Christmas Check-in with Erin Todd – November 16, 2023
- Preparing for Lent with the Rev. Dr. William Steadman – January 31, 2024.

We also partnered with Shining Waters regional council in November 2023 to host a in person retreat at Fern Resort in Orillia. Our speaker was Rebecca Simon-Peter who spoke about how to rebuild our churches after surviving the pandemic.

We also held a retreat at Willowgrove in Sault Ste. Marie May 2-3, 2024 prior to the Regional Meeting with The Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson on the “Competencies of Collaborative Ministry.”

SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

Activity Report for the period January 2023 to April 2024

- The Commission consists of a chair, a secretary and six to nine (6-9) members.

General Description:

This SCFC is responsible for the resourcing of mission and ministry in the Region. The SCFC is responsible for the Support of Communities of Faith, including clusters, networks and property matters; as well as supporting Communities of Faith in their life and work and articulating their mission and ministry. The work may be carried out in a variety of ways, including by staff, task groups for a limited time period. For a more detailed description, you are referred The Manual 2019, sections C.2.1, .2, .3 and G.1.

Responsibilities:

- Support and encouragement to the development and life of clusters and networks;
- Develop and nurture Covenantal relationships with the Regional Council and other communities of faith;
- Resource and animate collaborative conversations like cooperative ministries, amalgamation, disbanding
- Resource for collaboration around mission (e.g. Joint youth ministry, senior housing, food banks;
- Provide support and advice to Communities of Faith in matters of property, archives, and development of worship resources particularly for lay led congregations
- Develop a strategy for service, support and oversight of Communities of Faith, seeking to strengthen the community to live their mission and ministry
- The work must be reported through the Executive Minister to the Executive of the Regional

Council on a regular basis and to the Regional Council annually

- Five (5) Resource Teams are accountable to the SCFC: Affirming Ministry, Mission Support, Funding and Grant Review, Property, Right Relations, Youth and Young Adult. All of these Resource Teams report regularly to the monthly SCFC meetings

Activity for the period January 2023 to April 2024

- Participated in the position description and hiring of the Growth Animator for CSRC and SWRC – Welcome Calin Lau
- Approved the Covenant between the CSRC and Korah Maxwell UC
- Approved the Ecumenical shared ministry in Espanola – St George Anglican Church and The United Church of Espanola
- Supported the North Bay cluster in their sharing ministry on the 5th Sunday of the month
- Disbanding of Manitouwadge UC and approved sale of building
- Disbanding of Grace UC Hornepayne and approved sale of building
- Approved the sale of St. Stephen’s UC Chelmsford
- Approved sale of Hillview Pioneer UC Temiskaming Shores
- Approved demolition of the building and sale of Sheguiandah property
- Approved the sale and disbanding of Elliot Lake UC
- Approved sale of Trinity UC Iroquois Falls
- Approved Trinity UC Magnetawan Governance Structure
- Ongoing work with Fairview – Tehkummah to sever the cemetery from the building property in order to sell the building.
- Heather Ketchie is a lawyer whose area of expertise is non-profit and charity law. She is well versed in the polity of the United Church of Canada. Heather has consulted widely with CSRC and SWRC Communities of Faith regarding property sales. Heather has been the lawyer of record for a few of our sales within the region.
- With the heaviness of closing Churches, we do have bright moments like funding for the Rainbow Camp and helping other Churches remain a Community of Faith, building or not.
- **Initiated the Mustard Seed project April 2023.** Two Biblical passages came to mind as we considered this project:
 - *“...for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.”*
~Matthew 17:20 and
 - *“I am 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”*
~Isaiah 43:19
- The establishment of a \$100,000 fund earmarked for the SCFC to use. The SCFC would use up to \$25,000 per year; \$5,000 for commission support and \$20,000 in a grant form to facilitate growth and new ways of providing worship
- **“The Commission Connection”** is a mutually established (2023) liaison body with the Pastoral Relations Commission which provides the opportunity to discuss mutual concerns, identify areas where both commissions may or should be involved, provides the SCFC the opportunity to tap input from Pastoral Charge Supervisors and allows the two commissions the opportunity to provide education and support to Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Communities of Faith. In 2023/24 an in-person event for the Thunder Bay cluster with presentations and involvement regarding Pastoral relations and Stewardship. Two Pastoral Charge Supervisor gatherings were held providing the opportunity to discuss issues and solutions that have occurred. A fourth gathering occurred to discuss Time, Treasures and Talent: When What you have feels like not enough. There are plans to

provide the Pastoral Relations and Stewardship events for other cluster areas within the CSRC area in the foreseeable future.

- In April of 2024 the SCFC and the Property Resource Team established a small group with representatives from each body to review the possibility of establishing a Property Commission. This work was undertaken because the existing structure has been very frustrating when dealing with property transactions. By having the decisions for Property transactions within one body the process can be expedited, not delayed.

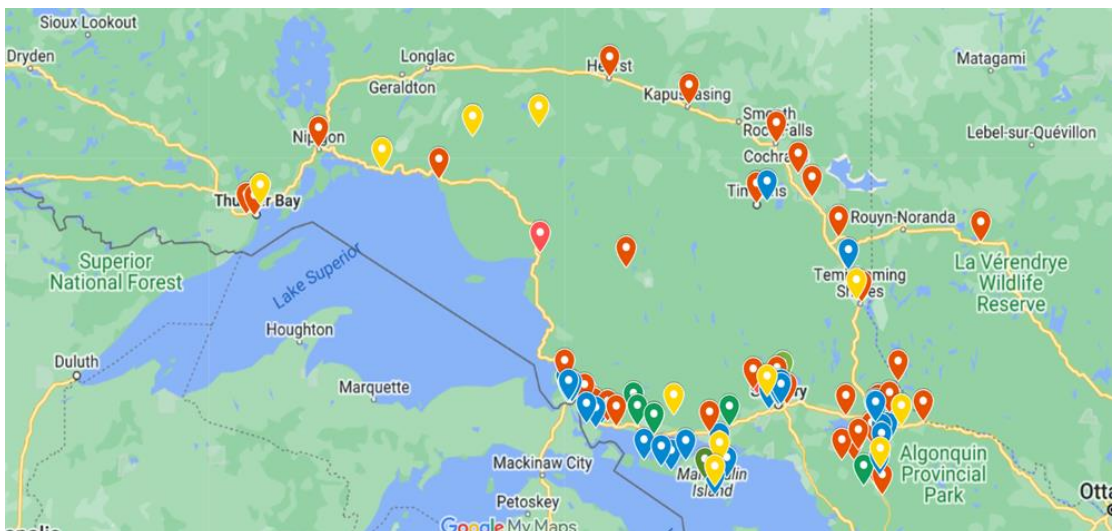
Thanks to all the members of the Support to Communities of Faith Commission; Mardi Mumford, Secretary, Ernie Epp, Susan Peverley, Marilyn Schatzler, Bonnie Johnson, Crystal Grieg, George Bott, Brynn Carson and Peter Haddow. Thanks also to Diane Matheson-Jimenez and Melody Duncanson-Hale who brought their expertise and down-to-earth advice to all our discussions. We also welcomed Calin Lau to our meetings starting in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Jackson, Chair

PROPERTY RESOURCE TEAM

Ancient Egyptians believed that every person has 2 deaths – the first is a physical death and the second occurs the last time the person’s name is spoken. Although it is the mandate of the Property Resource Team to support communities of faith through selling, buying, renovating, and mortgaging properties, we also acknowledge that members of this Team are keepers of the stories of congregations that have ceased to exist since we became a Regional Council. It is a privilege to not simply hold the stories, but share them when and where ever we can.

Included in this report, is a map of Canadian Shield Regional Council. Where you see red markers, these are among our lay-led congregations and congregations in search. Where you see blue markers, these are our communities of faith served by ministry personnel. And where you see yellow markers, these are congregations that have disbanded or amalgamated since 2019. Each of these congregations has a story and it is our shared call to keep those stories alive.



There has been much transition in the last year for the Property Resource Team. With much sadness, we said a few goodbyes.

We remember, with gratitude, the life and work of Stuart Taggart who had been a member of the Property Resource Team since its inception. Stuart's stories will live on through members of the Team who knew and loved him!

Two members of the Property Resource Team - Don Haslam and Jack Page, had to step back from the Team to facilitate moves south to be closer to family. We remember Jack and Don's many contributions with much gratitude!

With joy and gratitude, we welcomed Kathleen Jones as Administrative Support for the Property Resource Team! Kathleen's excellent minutes have been instrumental in our organizational successes!

Like Jacob, a number of our communities of faith have wrestled with God to see what's on the other side. Since our last in person meeting in 2022, the Property Resource Team has supported:

- *Mount Pleasant UC, Rutherglen - property sold, congregation amalgamated to create Mattawa Rutherglen UC
- *Trinity UC, Kirkland Lake - renovations
- *Broadway UC, Thunder Bay - consultation
- *All People's UC, Sudbury - consultation
- *Bruce Mines UC, Bruce Mines – transfer of property
- *Central UC, Sault Ste Marie – listing property for sale
- *Emmanuel UC, Sault Ste Marie - consultation
- *Fairview UC, Tehkummah – building decommissioned
- *Grace UC, Hornepayne – property sold, congregation disbanded
- *Hillview Pioneer Memorial UC, New Liskeard – property sold, congregation disbanded
- *Holy Trinity UC, Elliot Lake – property sold, congregation disbanded
- *Powassan UC, Powassan – consultation on insurance
- *Trinity UC, Iroquois Falls – property sold, congregation continues to worship together
- *Knox UC, Nipissing – consultation
- *St. Stephen's on the Hill UC, Sudbury – consultation
- *Val-d'Or UC, Val-d'Or (Quebec) – consultation
- *St. Andrew's UC, Sault Ste Marie – listing property for sale
- *St. Andrew's UC, Schreiber – listing property for sale
- *Sheguiandah UC, Sheguiandah – property sold, congregation continues to worship together
- *St. Paul's UC, Manitouwadge – property sold, congregation disbanded
- *Trinity UC, Lively – renovations

In the last year, we have learned a great deal. If you may be embarking on a project involving property, here are some of the tips, tricks, and best practices we have learned:

*Before a community of faith is faced with a situation where they may be selling property, it is critical to know who makes up the Board of Trustees. To ensure clarity, it is helpful to name, and re-affirm, Trustees every year at the annual meeting so names are minuted.

*Extra work can be avoided if communities of faith ensure, before engaging in property discussions, that the name on the deed matches the legal name of the church. It is important, too, to know where the deed is.

*Details, like square footage, in real estate listings need to be precise and substantiated. An as is/where is clause in a purchase agreement can protect a community of faith should there be dispute about details of the property.

*It is vital that property sale agreements give suitable time for the community of faith to obtain permission from the Regional Council.

*A community that stewards a cemetery needs to ensure that good cemetery records have been maintained.

*Archival materials are property of the United Church of Canada and must be sent, at the time of congregational disbandment, to the Regional Council Archives. More information on archives can be found here: <https://www.unitedchurcharchives.ca/managing-records/communities-of-faith/what-do-the-archives-want/>

If you have any property questions or concerns, please reach out; we would love to help your community of faith!

The Property Resource Team believes that Canadian Shield Regional Council has been built on deep roots, and strong wings – the best ‘things’ we can leave to future generations.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rev. Gordon Roberts, Chair of the Property Resource Team

PRT Members for 2023-24:

Bill Jones
Jack Page
Jan Ross
Paul McAlister
Don Haslam
Wayne Jeffkins
Gord Roberts

Staff Support:

Melody Duncanson-Hales
Diane Matheson-Jimenez
Kathleen Jones

AFFIRMING RESOURCE TEAM

The theme for this year’s CSRC AGM is “Upon this Rock”. It reminded me of a saying I read a while back it goes “If our house is built upon a rock with the brick and mortar of good works, it

will withstand the storms”.

How appropriate that our Inaugural Regional Council meeting May 2019 happened to be in Sault Ste Marie. Each of us at that time were given a rock to bring back to our Communities of Faith. This year we are back in the Soo standing on the same rock where CSRC began.

I can't help remembering back to when it all started. When the Affirming Ministry Resource Team, first met we talked about the things we would like to do. We made up our goals and objectives and presented them to the CSRC...then there was Covid.

Yet as most of you know that when the waters get rough something wonderful happens to the rock. Over time the waters tend to smooth the rock. All those rough edges go away. We have survived the rough waters.

Once Communities of Faith were able to meet in person there has been more conversations about Affirming. We have seen a steady increase in those who have been attending our Affirming Town Hall meetings. In fact, a recent Zoom meeting had the most participants ever. We are very grateful to all those who attend our Town Hall Meetings and encourage others to join in our conversations. It is through open and honest discussions that barriers are broken down.

We are happy to announce that there are Communities of Faith in our Region that have started the discernment process to become Affirming. There is also one Community of Faith that will be getting their Affirming Designation at the end of May 2024.

Although we have made great strides recently in region there is more work to do. Recently there has been an increase of transphobia as well as protests against the 2SLGBTQ+ community domestically and globally.

We have had several discussions about the increase of “hate” emails etc. with other Affirming Regions, Communities of Faith and Affirming Leaders across Canada. The goal of these meetings is to help set up non-confrontational strategies to help deal with this. I can't help but think “WWJD” ... What would Jesus do? During these times when the sand feels like it is shifting it is so important that members of the 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies can find a safe place. That is why becoming an Affirming is so important.

The CSRC Affirming Ministry Resource Team is collaborating with our counterparts in Shining Waters to exchange ideas and resources to better serve everyone. We can help you start the conversation in your own Community of Faith.

The Affirming Ministry Resource Team is here for you.

Peter Haddow – Team Lead
Caitlin Smithers
Charles Bolduc
Harry Stewart
Marilyn Schatzler
Ryan Fea
Susan Marrier
Susan Peverley

Whitney Bruno

Rob Smith – Regional Resource
Celio De Andrade – Administrative Support

Thank you

RIGHT RELATIONS RESOURCE TEAM

The Canadian Shield Regional Council's Right Relation Resource Team (RRRT) was created following the 2018 General Meeting. The RRRT carries on the work initiated by the Living into Right Relations Home Group and other reconciliation efforts initiated by groups from across our region. The purpose of the Right Relations Resource team is to develop, support and nurture just and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. To achieve this, we endeavour to do the following:

- Actively seek out ways to advocate and support the work of reconciliation throughout our region.
- Educate re: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission "Calls to Action" and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and suggest ways to respond concretely.
- Share truth and endeavour to increase cultural competency about things such as: Canada's and the Church's role in the colonization of Indigenous Peoples; generational impacts of residential schools; systemic racism; restoration of language, culture, spirituality and treaties.
- Encourage the church's presence where and when Indigenous Peoples are seeking justice, celebrating, remembering, mourning, learning, protesting, rallying, praying...and show up!
- Research and share appropriate resources to build capacity, encourage local leadership development, and empower and equip the church to do this work

Key projects that support this work since 2023 include:

- Assisting Communities of Faith in obtaining resources to prepare for voting on the Remit to remove structural barriers to develop and sustain an autonomous indigenous church within the United Church of Canada.
- Maintaining and sharing content on the Right Relations Facebook page, website and email group on the reconciliation efforts locally and in our wider region
- Preparing content (including videos and resource packages) on a variety of topics such as the Manitou Art Collection, Residential Schools, and more for the CSRC website
- Creating and distributing digital and print Minute for Right Relations, Summer Reading Lists, A podcast series on the United Church's role in Residential Schools, an Indigenous Music Playlist, and more
- Preparing and leading a presentation on Land Acknowledgement at the Festival of Faith in June 2023
- Providing oversight for the Manitou Art Collection paintings in the care of communities of faith in our region – In September 2022, the Right Relations Resource Team arranged to re-home an Untitled painting by Leland Bell to Emmanuel United Church, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Right Relations Resource Team Membership Changes

Carol Germa has been a long-time member of the Right Relations Team. Carol was part of the gathering: Living into Right Relations groups covenant at Pinawa, Manitoba in May, 2008 which

led to the formation of the Manitou Conference’s Living into Right Relations Group, the predecessor of the CSRC’s Right Relations Resource Team.

This past year Carol retired from our team. Carol brought wisdom and knowledge to our work. She was generous with her time and talents and often it was easier to “ask Carol” than figure it out for ourselves. Thank you so much Carol for your time and dedication. You shared some of your own journey and helped us realize that we are all learning and growing in our awareness. Your work for Right Relations is most appreciated. We offer our deep gratitude, our love and our heartfelt blessings to Carol!

Linda Ambrose joined our team in 2021. She has been a tremendous asset to our team bringing a willingness to speak boldly with a compassionate heart and with much wisdom. Linda is stepping out of her role as a team member. We offer our gratitude and wish her many blessings.

Memorial Bench

In January, 2022, Maxine McVey, a valued and much-loved member of the Canadian Shield Right Relations Resource Team, passed into Spirit. The CSRC Right Relations team would like to honour that legacy by installing a memorial bench at the site of the Apology Cairn, a sacred space that was so important to Maxine. We are in the process of arranging for the construction and installation of the bench at the site of the Apology Cairn. Look for more information later this spring.

The members of the team are:

Lisa Blais (Team Lead), Whitney Bruno, Sylvia Carscadden, Janie Clayton, Lionel Ketola, Susan Lindquist, Brian Mundell, Melody Duncanson-Hales (Staff Resource)

MISSION SUPPORT AND GRANTS RESOURCE TEAM

The CSRC Grant Team is pleased to report the awards made in 2023. Currently the Grant Team consists of five individuals of various backgrounds from across our region and include staff support from Melody Duncanson Hales and Diane Matheson- Jimenez. We meet nine times during

the year and feel blessed that we are able to provide support and assistance to churches and individuals across the region to facilitate such things as Outreach, Pastoral Charge Grants, Technology Support, Modernization, Community Partnerships, Clusters, Youth Events and Individual Bursaries.

We thank The United Church of Canada and the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive for their support to us for the following awards approved in 2023 –

2023 Mission Support Grant Awards:

(approved at Regional Council Support to Communities of Faith Commission)

Mission Support Grants, funded by generosity to the Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada, are administered and awarded within each region to offer support to communities of faith and outreach ministries of the United Church. The Canadian Shield Regional Grants Team develops contextual criteria, invites applications, reviews information and offers award recommendations to the Support to Community of Faith Commission.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mission Support Grants -	6	\$58,000.00
United Church of Canada Capital Assistance Programs	6	\$19,425.20
Canadian Shield Regional Council Grants	8	\$16,500.00
Individual Bursaries	8	\$2,810.00
Total	<u>28</u>	<u>\$96,735.20</u>

2023 Canadian Shield RC Mission Support Grant Budget: \$60,000

Pastoral Charge Grants

Social Outreach Grants

Goulais River PC:	\$5,000	Camp McDougall:	\$22,500
Val D’Or Shared Ecumenical	\$3,000	Welcome Friends-Rainbow Camp	19,500
Hearst Shared Ecumenical	\$3,000	Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka	5,000
<u>Total Pastoral Charge Grants: \$11,000</u>		<u>Total Social Outreach Grants \$47,000</u>	

Budget for Canadian Shield MSG: \$60,000 total approved requests: -58,000

Remainder held for emergent needs: \$ 2,000

United Church of Canada Capital Assistance Programs

The purpose of the Capital Assistance Fund is to provide financial assistance for the renewal and development of congregations, camps, education centres, community ministries, and chaplaincies. Assistance is available in the form of loans and targeted grants for eligible pastoral charges/congregations and other ministries that would otherwise be unable to undertake or complete these projects. These programs include Technology Support Grants, Church and Manse Modernization Grants, and Capital Assistance Loans. The CSRC Grants team reviews applications and recommends awards from The United Church of Canada.

- Trinity United Church, Lively \$565.20 Technology Support Grant supporting livestreaming equipment.
- St. Andrew’s United Church, 111 Larch Street, Sudbury \$860 Technology Support Grant supporting webinar and virtual meeting technology.
- Mattawa-Rutherglen Pastoral Charge, \$5000 Church Modernization Grant, in support of roof repairs.
- Pinegrove United Church, \$5000 Church Modernization Grant, in support of roof repairs.
- Camp McDougall \$4000 Capital Assistance Grant in support of building and grounds maintenance.
- Camp Duncan \$4000 Capital Assistance Grant in support of building and grounds maintenance.

Canadian Shield Regional Council Grants

A variety of modest grants to support faith communities and individuals in mission, outreach, faith formation, lay leadership development, youth and camping ministries, continuing education and support to networks and clusters are available to members of the Canadian Shield region. The Grants Team sets criteria for these programs, reviews requests and awards funds. If you have a project, a ministry, an event, or continuing education goal that could use financial support, please contact [Melody Duncanson Hales](#) or [Diane Matheson-Jimenez](#), staff support to the Grants Team.

New Outreach Initiatives Grant:

- St. Andrew's UC, Sudbury \$3000 for community engagement;
- St. Paul's UC, Thunder Bay \$3000 for intercultural ministries;
- Trinity UC, Lively \$3000 for community partnership.

Network and Clusters Grant:

- North Bay area United Churches, \$2000 for 'United Together' project;
- Zion United Church, \$400 for Canadian Shield-Shining Waters 'Cross Border' Cluster project;
- St. Andrew's UC, Sudbury \$2000 for partnership engagement.

Youth and Young Adult Event Grant:

- St. Peter's UC, Sudbury \$300 supporting Youth Climate Night event.

Lay Education Event Grant:

- First Wesley UC, Thunder Bay, \$2,800 supporting "Awaken Us" Cantata Event.

Individual Bursaries:

- 2 Right Relations and Intercultural bursaries for \$450 each;
- 2 Education for Ministry bursaries for \$500 each;
- 2 Lay Learning bursaries for \$100 each;
- 1 Youth Learning bursary for \$500;
- 1 Camper bursary for \$210

Dave Clarke, chair

GENERAL COUNCIL 44 COMMISSIONERS

Thank you for trusting us to represent you at the 44th General Council. It was an honour to serve. Let us share a bit about our experience.

We knew joy! Two commissioners rejoiced in our "big tent" of the United Church of Canada. Whitney writes, "My joy in serving as a commissioner for General Council 44 rests in the conversations had. I met people from around the country in the learning sessions and roundtables. I experienced how broad we are theologically, politically, and academically. I met people with experiences I never dreamed of. People were vulnerable with one another, shared, and received."

Susan agrees, “It was wonderful to have the opportunity in small online discussion groups to share our experiences and sometimes different perspectives with people across Canada. It allowed us to learn from each other, and to recognize that we are not alone. Together we are stronger.” Fraser, too, enjoyed meeting everyone, “I was excited to participate as this was my first general council. I made new friends in my small online group.”

We celebrated our partnerships. Susan writes, “It was inspiring to hear from partners at home and abroad of the hope-giving work that they are able to do with the support of the UCC.” Joyce echoes Susan, “It was nice to hear from and talk with a few people I had not met before; I appreciated the inspiring words of some of our global partners, and it was good to have progress made towards the establishment of a self-directed indigenous church within the UCC. “

Peter writes his joy is from “all the conversations between the Elders and the delegates around creating an autonomous national Indigenous organization. Although as I am writing this, I have no idea what the outcome is for Remit #1. It still gives me hope that we as a church are walking in the right direction on the path of reconciliation.”

And yet, we were challenged too. Not from the reading or the time – but from much deeper issues. We were challenged by issues such as the needs of rural communities of faith. Peter writes, “I found that although we did work on what a DLM is and their importance especially in regards to Northern communities of faith. We still need to work on how we can support rural & remote Communities of Faith with no accountable ministry. When we use the word Community of Faith what does it mean...is it the same every where?”

And we were challenged by global issues. Whitney writes, “I was challenged over our response to the requests to address the State of Israel regarding its treatment of Palestinians. Now, a year later, tensions are even higher. Reactions are intensified. A need for Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice was, and is, dire.” Joyce feels similar, “I echo your concern, Whitney, about the very weak response to the petition from CSRC along with four other regional councils concerning the suffering of our Palestinian neighbours living under Israeli occupation. It is very disappointing to have our Church studying principles when urgent action is needed.” The same issue concerned Fraser, “One challenge or learning I had and was that there is so much division on the Israel Palestine issue. Since then, I have been reflecting on the side of the issue that I was not on during the debate. With what has happened since then, I am hoping for peace in this conflict and I am hoping for clarity on the United Church stance on the issue and conflict.”

Lastly, we were challenged by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and how it affects relationships. Susan shares “The online format kept us safe (from Covid) and made it challenging to connect with other commissioners on a more personal level. The shared meals and discussions over the dinner table did not happen.” Joyce agrees, “I have found this rather difficult to write as I want to be truthful and yet respectful of the fact that others may have had a different experience of GC44 than my own... GC44 was in general quite disappointing for me, so I found little joy in it. Holding the GC with over 200 participants online was extremely limiting. Having taken part in three previous General Councils, I really missed the in-person way of meeting. Talking with people face-to-face is a far richer experience, and there is much more opportunity to really learn about and understand various issues, in smaller groups, workshops, and in the plenary gathering.”

But we have hope!

Fraser looks to the future, “Having not experienced an in person General Council I am hoping that

we will return to in person meetings so I can interact with more people than my focus group. Peter dreams, “My hope for the future is that every Community of Faith will be Affirming. We would no longer have to struggle as 2SLGBT+ to feel safe anywhere in the United Church of Canada. Being Affirming should be like breathing we don't think about we just do it because it is who are.”

Whitney writes, “My hope is that GC45 will continue to listen to narratives from the margins, from the disempowered, and from the historically oppressed. I think we are making headway in addressing the church's racism against Indigenous peoples and spiritualities. But we can't slow down now. There is much to do; and dismantling racism from within will continue to be GC45's work.”

Joyce shares, “I live in hope that the Holy Spirit will prod our Church to move beyond nice-sounding but empty words and take the risk of living out our Christian mission without fear of ‘rocking the boat’ or upsetting the status quo.”

Susan summarizes the commissioners’ hope: Our hope is that “The UCC, together with their partners, and armed with bold discipleship, daring justice, and deep spirituality, continues to seek justice for the oppressed.”

May God bless you all in this Easter season of new life, love, and hope; thank you again.

The Canadian Shield Regional Council Commissioners to General Council 44

Whitney L. P. Bruno

Joyce Fergus-Moore

Peter Haddow

Laura Hutchison

Susan Siczkar

Fraser Williamson

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (GCE)

This report is to supplement the following Accountability Report to Regional Councils for the General Council Executive and General Council Office, prepared by the General Secretary. I will offer my impression of the highlights of my first year on the GCE, while trying not to duplicate material in the General Secretary’s report.

The GCE reviewed important issues to be dealt with by the 2023 annual meeting of General Council 44. These included: principles to guide the United Church’s justice work, and proposals to eliminate functional distinctions between Designated Lay Ministers and Ordered Ministers.

The GCE sent a letter to the Prime Minister about the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, in response to requests from partners in the Middle East and the GC44-adopted justice principles.

The GCE dealt with important budget matters. At successive meetings it approved principles to guide preparation of the 2024 budget (including COLA, grant reductions and planned deficit), and approved the 2024 budget based on those principles. It has begun preliminary work on the 2025 budget, exploring what it means to “live within our means” at a time of declining assessment revenue.

The GCE continues to explore Decolonizing Governance, including reducing the use of the word “mission”, given the negative associations with damaging missionary efforts.

The GCE discussed the Pastoral Relations Equity Report, dealing with systemic challenges faced by equity-seeking ministry personnel. Proposals to address the issues revealed by this research are being prepared for future consideration.

The GCE received a report from the Board of Vocation. Most of the discussion focused on the admissions process, and the disappointingly large number of foreign-ordained ministers admitted to ministry in the United Church of Canada who have not been able to find a call or appointment, despite the large number of congregations without a minister.

The GCE has been briefed on plans for General Council 45, which will take place in Calgary August 7-12, 2025. The theme will be *Visions and Dreams* (Acts 2:17). Two online listening and discussion sessions for proposals will be held in June, with listening and discussion for the most challenging proposals to be in person in Calgary during GC45.

David Leyton-Brown

Accountability Report to Regional Councils

Origin: General Council Executive & the General Council Offices

Greetings as you convene for your annual meeting. We pray that it will be a meaningful time of gathering and work as you visualize what it means to be evolving communities characterized by deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. We recognize the challenges to our collective ministries as we imagine the sustainability of the ministries of The United Church of Canada and acknowledge the necessity as leaders to be harbingers of hope. We join you in the journey.

The Executive and staff leaders in the church have committed to find ways to enable the ministries of the Communities of Faith. This report highlights four initiatives that will significantly impact our communities.

UCC Protect United

This initiative is by far the largest financial commitment of the strategic plan, with a \$3 million loan funding a captive insurance program aimed at helping participating United Church ministries first reduce and then contain insurance costs. In addition to providing the start-up capital, the national church is also exposed to providing more capital in the event of particularly adverse claims results - especially if they happen in the early years.

The program was rushed into place for December 2022 to provide immediate premium relief, with a rollback of premium increases from 2020 and 2021. This meant premium reductions of 11-27% during a year when insurance premiums in the industry were going up by 15-30%. Even with a premium rate increase in December 2023, on an apples-to-apples basis, participants paid less for insurance than two years prior.

So far – repeat: so far – the program has been a success financially. Annualized premiums paid for 2021-2022 were \$10.1 million versus \$8.1 million for the first year of the program – a saving of almost \$2 million when adjusted for new business and closures/amalgamations. The interest on the

start-up loan is being paid annually. Claims experience has been well within target levels, and with each additional year of reasonable claims experience, the captive insurance arrangement becomes more self-sufficient and the start-up loan potentially repayable.

Despite the very encouraging **initial** financial results, the customer service and administration has been very poor and caused much frustration for participants. Much of this was attributable to rushing the launch of the program to deliver the financial benefit, but our partner's existing systems and staff proved inadequate for the volume of queries that arose. Church-side decisions to deliver more savings also proved challenging administratively. There has been much remedial activity underway, and we expect to achieve proper service capacity by the second quarter of 2024. We will launch greater coverage flexibility and improved communications at the same time.

Everyone is reminded that this initiative will need to run just like a traditional insurance company, with claims administered accordingly. The difference is that we are all in it together to try to reduce risk and claims – and therefore premiums. This captive insurance arrangement exists solely to benefit participants.

Strategic Operational Plan Initiative - Growth

All the Growth Animators are now in place, working actively with regions on their strategies for renewing and creating communities and inviting strong participation in The United Church of Canada. In January and February alone, Growth Animators met with:

- 71 Ministry Personnel
- 37 Governing Bodies (by phone, online or in person)
- 16 Communities of Faiths, and facilitated
- 31 conversations about Growth to some form of regional body.

The focus of these meetings has been visioning; collaboration with other Communities of Faith; exploration of neighbourhood profiles; creation of renewal or growth strategies, and exploring practices of discipleship and invitation. Staff continue to explore and develop possibilities in 40 possible sites for new Communities of Faith amongst migrant, diasporic and Francophone communities; close to 10 of these are sufficiently developed to have leadership contracts to support their continued progress.

Collaborative Ministry Models

There are many different models of collaborative ministries that already exist in the United Church. Work is underway to develop and offer training programs for lay leaders and ministry personnel in collaborative ministries, and those who might be interested, including candidates for ministry.

Faithful Footprints

To date, we have invested almost \$3M in this initiative to assist Communities of Faith in upgrading and renovating their heating/cooling systems and addressing issues of environmental sustainability and cost savings.

Other Updates:

Addressing Structural Opportunities: These initiatives are a critical part of the ministry of the leadership team consisting of the Executive and staff leaders. We invite your continued engagement in these areas of work. There are several other initiatives to address some structural opportunities, and responses to emerging issues. We have established working groups to provide additional critical information as we address the challenges of sustainability. We established a Total Compensation

Task Group to look at the issues relating to the church's compensation challenges. In keeping with the commitment to evaluating the 2019 structural changes in the church, a Steering Committee has been established to work alongside Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, the staff lead for the project. Both groups will be reporting to the 45th General Council in 2025.

In keeping with The Manual requirement (D.4.1.6), the Executive has established a working group to review the role of the Moderator. Additionally, the Executive agreed to also include the role of the General Secretary in this review.

The Ministry of Justice: As we continue to live into the commitment to becoming an antiracist denomination, we have introduced a new initiative, *Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Oppression Education for Committees*.

To date, most committees have completed, or will soon be completing, their education sessions. From the feedback so far, we hope to offer similar programs more broadly to other leadership groups in the church. Together with the Indigenous Church, an *Indigenous and racialized youth gathering* is now into its second year. This now-annual gathering is firmly lodged as an emerging youth-oriented community of faith. It focuses on building understanding through mutual learning on experiences of racism and creative responses to antiracism in the United Church.

Finding ways to invite a deeper and a broader engagement in advocacy continues to be a challenge, especially when the church is not of one mind and often is unable to speak together in respectful ways across our differences. There have been two new hires in the General Council Office, a *Government Relations Officer* to help to build our capacity to engage with government as we deepen our advocacy efforts, and a *Program Coordinator, Global Advocacy 2SLGBTQIA+*. In addition, we have developed a new advocacy tool to enable sign-on as part of any advocacy campaign. The Justice Principles adopted by the 2023 annual meeting of the 44th General Council has provided a framework for our advocacy particularity with the war in Gaza.

Together with the Indigenous Church, the work on justice and reconciliation continues as we attempt to address both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People. Communities of Faith are invited to witness for justice in this area; this includes the Moose Hide Campaign and our own *#SearchTheLandfill* social media campaign regarding the Brady and Prairie Green landfills in Winnipeg.

The Executive invited the *Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee* (TICIF) in collaboration with the *Indigenous Church* and the *Anti-Racism Common Table* to examine the use of the word "mission," given the colonial history of the word and to bring recommendations; these were adopted in November 2023. (The proposal [GS 63 Recommendations re: Mission](#) is found on the [United Church Commons](#).) Following the request of the 44th General Council, a working group was established to engage the church in learning about and countering antisemitism, particularly within our interpretations of Scripture, in worship, and in Christian education. More information and resources can be found on the [Countering Antisemitism page](#) on the United Church website.

Centennial Celebration: Planning for the United Church centennial is underway. There will be three streams:

1. Commemoration
2. External-focused communication and action plan
3. Fundraising/capital campaign.

June 9, 2024, will be the launch of the centennial year (online and in person) with a worship service at Metropolitan United Church, Toronto, a site close to the inaugural gathering at the former Mutual Street Arena. Every month, from June 2024 to June 2025, a key moment will be highlighted on social media to mark and share our history. The date for the Centennial service itself has been set for June 8, 2025. This will be the celebration to which we invite international guests.

The goal of an external-focused campaign is twofold: to introduce the distinctiveness of the United Church to those who have only a broad umbrella definition of “church,” and to reconnect with those who claim United Church identity but have lost connection. The Executive asked The United Church of Canada Foundation to lead a legacy campaign.

Mission and Service: Good news! We are grateful for your continuing support of the collective ministries of the Church. There is good news to report regarding the 2023 Mission and Service results: contributions by congregations, United Church Women (UCW), and special donations all exceeded budget. The totals for these three areas, sitting at \$17,090,056, were slightly over the 2022 actuals of \$17,062,694.

The total for Mission and Service from all areas was \$20,831,564. This compares favourably to the total budget of \$20,225,000, and is close to the 2022 actual amount raised of \$21,132,213. These are preliminary results, and you can expect a final tally and the Mission and Service Accountability Report in June.

Information and updates about the work of the Executive can be found on the [General Council 44 webpage](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGION (SJNOR)

The Social Justice Network of the Ontario Conferences (now Regions) was created to collaborate and provide a collective presence of the United Church of Canada concerning socio-economic issues and concerns which impact Ontarians. The Network supports the work of the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) with which one of its members, the Rev. Susan Eagle, has long been involved. The Network has a tradition of meeting in person at Church House twice a year. However, the COVID pandemic has driven the meetings onto the ZOOM platform.

Members of the Network met by ZOOM on January 24, 2023. The Canadian Shield Regional Council was represented by the Rev. Jeffrey Dale and by Dr. Ernie Epp; the latter served as Recorder. The meeting was quite short and was focused on the grant that the Network has been making for years to support the work of ISARC. (The Network’s financial resources are based on annual contributions by Regional Councils.) After some discussion about the work of ISARC—as well as the Network—for new attendees, a grant of \$5,000 was approved. The Network also resolved to seek a contribution of \$1,000 from each Regional Council.

ISARC hosted its traditional annual gathering at Queen’s Park on November 23, with presentations under the rubric, “Returning to Humanity: Human Rights and Dignity through Income Security and Housing.” The speakers were Tom Cooper, Jeff Schlemmer, and Shannon Down. Rabbi Ryan Leszner offered the opening theological reflection. He serves Darchei Noam Reconstructionist Synagogue in Toronto. Mr. Cooper is the Director of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty

Reduction and co-founder of the Ontario Living Wage Network. Mr. Schlemmer is Executive Director of the Community Legal Clinic of York Region. And Ms. Down is Executive Director of Waterloo Region Community Legal Services.

The Network met again by Zoom on November 29, 2023. Dr. Epp represented the Canadian Shield Regional Council and served as recorder again. Reports were received from the various Regional Councils of Ontario. Dr. Epp's report for the Canadian Shield Regional Council included attendance by ZOOM at a meeting of the Manitou Intentional Learning Community on November 15, 2023. He also noted his participation in the United Church Guaranteed Livable Income Network, which spans the country. And he celebrated the work of Poverty Free Thunder Bay, where he represents the United Church, which had just been awarded a Community Wellness and Safety Award. (Thunder Bay was one of the Basic Income demonstration sites cancelled by the Ford Government soon after it came to power in 2018.) The Network made the customary grant of \$5,000 to ISARC. Members also agreed to meet early in the New Year to consider the Network's covenant, which calls for three representatives from each Region.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernie Epp

STEWARDSHIP



This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [stewardship resources](#)



I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the United Church Foundation to the good people of the Canadian Shield Region.

Over the past year I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a *Called to be the Church: The Journey* program, at the last in person meeting in Sudbury, or through a phone conversation or town halls. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way I would love to connect in 2024 and beyond is through the learning programs, [Called to be the Church: The Journey](#). We currently have 4 course offerings available on [churchX](#) that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, *"I appreciate the leadership, the enthusiasm, the knowledge and the support of the leaders of this course. It was a lot of information, and was presented in a way that was not overwhelming. The recommendations are practical and doable."* You can learn [more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you, 2023 saw \$24 million raised, including Mission and Service givings totalling \$20.8 million as well as bequests and other planned gifts, and funds supporting emergency appeals for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, Turkey and Syria.

Locally, Mission and Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Canadian Shield. Community partners like Rainbow Camp and Daisy-Chain Elder Abuse Prevention, camping ministries at Camp McDougall, and communities of faith like St. Matthew's St. Paul's Shared Ecumenical Ministry in Hearst are just some of the transformative programs supported with your Mission & Service donations in 2023. Thank you!

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are [posted monthly](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service](#). If you want to bring more conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity and Mission & Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter [God's Mission, Our Gifts](#).

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the important work being done by the United Church Foundation. In 2022 the Foundation established [four priority areas](#): Anti-Racism, Reconciliation with Indigenous People, Climate Justice, and Communities of Faith. If your community faith has program ideas or is engaged in work that falls into one of these areas, there may be grants available. Additionally, the United Church Foundation is there to help you invest in the ministries you care about.

Thank you, Canadian Shield Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2024.

In gratitude,
Melody Duncanson-Hales, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for Canadian Shield Region
mduncanson-hales@united-church.ca 705-618-3032 or 1-833-236-0281 Ext. 4

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)



Your CS UCW continues to work within Canadian Shield Region. While we have been witness to the closure of several UCW units in the last few years the Canadian Shield UCW retains enthusiasm and momentum.

We continue to contribute financially to Mission and Service and specific projects chosen from the GIFT catalogue. As well

CS UCW members contribute to the National UCW five-year charity project, The Healing Fund, to help women, girls and families in need of support. Local charities in various communities also benefit from donations of monies and time of the individual UCW Units.

In 2023 the CS UCW put out a request for volunteers for the position of president and vice president. When no nominations were forthcoming the executive was reorganized so that duties of these two vacant positions would be divided amongst the remaining executive members. The chairing of CS UCW executive meetings rotates among the executive members. Dawn Monroe will remain on the executive as past president for one year and then resume her former executive position as CS UCW Archivist.

CS UCW continues to struggle with the geographical size of Canadian Shield Region. As many members begin to age, travelling long distance to meetings is not an option. The in person Annual General Meeting for 2023, which was to be held in Sault St. Marie, was cancelled due to lack of pre-registrations. Hope springs eternal as the CS UCW executive has for 2024 split the AGM into an online Business Meeting with online representatives from each UCW unit are invited to participate on May 1, 2024. The social aspect of the former in person AGM, with guest speakers etc., will be left up to each district, Algoma and Near North, to arrange and invite UCW members. The Near North district will invite the independent units up hwy 11 corridor and in the Sudbury area to participate with their social event. District gatherings will be advertised across CS UCW and on the CS UCW Facebook page so that members from all areas may register to attend any district UCW event. The executive leaves the idea of a full CS UCW gathering for future consideration.

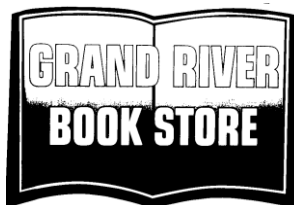


CS UCW continues to send two representatives to the annual National UCW meeting in Toronto in the early fall. News from all UCW units highlighted in the CS UCW newsletter. We also continue the distribution of the NUCW newsletter 'Keeping in Touch'.

Respectfully

Dawn Monroe, Past President
dawnmonroe05@gmail.com

GRAND RIVER BOOKSTORE



Grand River Bookstore continues to be open to serve you. Please call us at 519-442-3366 or 1-888-668-0871. If we do not answer your call immediately, we will return your call as quickly as possible. You can email us for any of your book inquiries at sales@grandriverbooks.com

Please visit our website www.grandriverbooks.ca where we are working to provide resources on contemporary issues (such as anti-racism, aboriginal spirituality, worship, loneliness and loss, and spirituality) for good reading, book study and resource information. If we do not have it here, we will do our best to get what you need.

You can also come and visit us at Five Oaks at 1 Bethel Road, Paris, Ontario and take in this beautiful retreat centre.

Thank you,
Pat Gilmore and Cindy Aniol

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Spring 2024

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring season. I pray that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. **My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg and it is my privilege to bring you greetings as Emmanuel's Principal.** I hope to see you in person in the near future and share good news of Emmanuel College with you and hear good news of this region's wonderful ministry.

Faculty Compliment, Trauma Informed Pedagogy & Faculty on the Road

Last year, we completed three significant faculty searches, marking historical milestones for the Toronto School of Theology (TST) of which we are a part. Rev. Dr. Glenn McCullough joined as assistant professor through a partnership with Knox, a first in TST's history. Dr. Jenny Bright became Emmanuel's first assistant professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counseling. **The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne will be appointed as the first assistant professor of United Church of Canada studies at Emmanuel** after completing her moderator's role in December 2025. Additionally, Néstor Medina was promoted to associate professor, and Pam McCarroll to full professor, holding the Jane and Geoffrey Martin Chair in Practical Theology.

This academic year, the faculty has engaged training in Trauma Informed Pedagogy (TIP), with monthly discussions involving faculty, staff, and Research Fellows. TIP emerged from student discussions in response to our EDIA stance, "DEAR" (Dignity, Equity Accountability, Responsibility) Declaration, and has been supported by grants from the Wabash Center and the Association of Theological Schools. We plan to host a TST-wide conference in May 2024 to share our insights and impact other theological schools.

The current faculty is keen to go out into different communities of faith to promote Emmanuel and share their scholarship and wisdom. Andrew Aitchison as Admissions Counsellor and Recruitment Coordinator will be a liaison connecting faculty with communities. Please let him know if your communities want to invite our Christian, Muslim or Buddhist faculty. That would be so wonderful.

The Indigenous Healing Garden Project

This project, which aligns beautifully with Victoria University's sustainability strategic framework and Emmanuel's commitment to right relations with Indigenous communities, is currently underway, thanks to an initial grant from the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope. Brook McIlroy, the architectural firm, has been commissioned to redesign the courtyard which features the Crucified Woman Sculpture. The proposed designs have received approval from the project's advisory committee in collaboration with the Indigenous Elder circle. We aim to begin construction this summer and anticipate project completion by 2025, as part of the UCC Centennial celebration.

Major Celebrations at Emmanuel College

In the next few years, there are several significant anniversaries we're eagerly looking forward to celebrating! Firstly, in 2024-2025 we'll be commemorating three remarkable milestones: the 10th anniversary of the Buddhist Focus in our Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) program, the 15th anniversary of the Muslim Focus in the MPS program, and the grand 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. In 2025-26 we will celebrate 30 years of the Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies (CANAAT). Then fast forward to 2027-2028, which promises to be another monumental period, marking the 20th anniversary of the Master of Sacred Music Program and the 100th anniversary of Emmanuel College itself. Stay tuned for more information about these celebrations to come.

I envision our celebrations will incorporate multiple fundraising opportunities to establish scholarships, enriching our offerings and supporting marginalized students. Notable progress has already been made in securing scholarships. We proudly unveiled our first named scholarship for Buddhist students in February 2024. Efforts are underway to establish a Korean Scholarship, with an inaugural fundraising dinner held this past fall, and another planned as a music concert commemorating the 100th birth year of the Right Rev. Dr. Sang Chul Lee on October 26, 2024, at Willowdale Emmanuel United Church. Additionally, a special fundraising event is in the works to establish a scholarship for Queer students, scheduled for November 2 for Drag Show paid event, in collaboration with the Drag and Spirituality Summit, to be held at Emmanuel November 1 to 3, 2024.

Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

Our Hybrid Master of Divinity (MDiv) program began this past year which allows for 2 years of a 3-year MDiv can be done online. We hope this will reach more prospective students outside of the Greater Toronto Area. [Read this story](#) about two folks who began the Hybrid MDiv this year.

Multi-faith Spiritual Life

Spiritual and religious activities thrive, in person every week, Tuesday and Wednesday. These sessions are led by Buddhist faculty members, guest religious leaders and our dedicated student Spiritual Life Team (SLT), along with students from Christian worship/preaching and Buddhist ritual courses. This SLT is enrolled in a year-long course for credit called "Worship and Ritual Leadership Practicum." Our Wednesday Spiritual Life Gathering continues to be the heartbeat of our week and alternates between Christian Worship and a Multi-faith Gathering. These gatherings are streamed live on YouTube and are open to the public and all are welcome!

Faith Community Partnerships

Over the past year and a half, we've been fortunate to receive community lunch sponsorships from various Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist faith communities. They've joined us at Emmanuel to

share food, stories, and teachings about their faith traditions while learning from our students about their interfaith experiences. Addressing food insecurity is crucial today, and providing meals to our students in this manner has been a great blessing. If your church is interested in partnering with Emmanuel, please be in touch!

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. program and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada’s candidacy pathway process. All basic degree domestic full-time students are eligible for our **Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first-year courses.** We also offer all (domestic and international) students who are registered in the Ph. D. program, 100% tuition coverage for four years. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programs, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison, emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). A list of upcoming offerings are found on the [Emmanuel College website](#). For further information about these events please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media:

[Facebook:](#) @EmmanuelCollegeofVic

[Instagram:](#) @emmanuelcollegetoronto

[YouTube:](#) @EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg,
Principal, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College

ST. ANDREW’S COLLEGE

Dear friends in Christ,

Warm greetings from St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon! As we embark upon the year 2024, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the enduring support and prayers of our beloved community. Reflecting on the challenges we have collectively faced over the past several years we are reminded of the profound truth that we are stronger *together*.

It is with great joy and gratitude that we share the news of the deepening partnership between St.

Andrew's College and our partners within the Saskatoon Theological Union. Through our Covenant of commitment, we continue to chart a path of collaboration and mutual support, transcending individual identities to embrace a shared vision of unity and purpose. While each institution retains its unique character and traditions, our collective endeavours serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for the wider community. We hope that our bold ecumenical strides will serve as a catalyst for similar partnerships within our denominational traditions, fostering greater unity and understanding among God's people.

At the heart of our mission lies a commitment to excellence in theological education, and I am thrilled to share the exciting developments in our academic programs. Building upon a foundation of shared values and mutual respect, the faculty of the Saskatoon Theological Union has finalised the renewal of our Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degree programmes. These programmes, offered in an intensive format through a trimester model, provide students with the opportunity to pursue their studies without the need for relocation. We take great pride in being the first mainline seminary in Canada to offer such a pathway, emphasising ecumenism and interdisciplinary collaboration.

In addition to our degree programmes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to lifelong learning and professional development. Our Doctor of Ministry programme continues to thrive, attracting a diverse cohort of students eager to deepen their knowledge and enhance their ministry. Furthermore, even though General Council has decided to discontinue the Designated Lay Ministry programme, we are grateful for the opportunity to support the current DLM students as they complete their studies. The presence of our DMin and DLM directors and students enriches our community, fostering vibrant dialogue and mutual learning.

This past September saw the launch of our Lifelong Learning Pathway—a testament to our commitment to inclusive education and spiritual formation. Developed over the past two years, this innovative programme offers a flexible and personalised approach to theological and spiritual exploration. Whether one is a seasoned pastor seeking continuing education, a lay person committed to furthering their ability to support their own and their faith's community's journey, or a spiritually curious seeker embarking on a journey of discovery, our certificate programmes provide a space for growth, reflection, and transformation.

As we stand on the threshold of a new era, we are filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation. The challenges of recent years have not weakened our resolve but have instead ignited our imaginations and renewed our sense of purpose. We invite you to join us on this journey of compassion, hope, and justice—to support us, to pray for us, and to walk alongside us as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of theological education in the twenty-first century.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you wish to explore our academic or lifelong learning pathways further. We are here to serve and support you in any way we can. As well, do reach out if you have any questions at all, at principal.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca. If you would like to know more about our academic or lifelong learning pathways, feel free to contact the College Recruitment Ambassador at shawn.sanfordbeck@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca.

And we would be more than happy to receive your financial support! Contact our College Secretary at collegesecretary.sac@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca for a list of development

opportunities and ways to give.

May the Spirit continue to guide and bless us as we walk together in ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis
Principal, St. Andrew's College

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Atlantic School of Theology serves Christ's mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith. We did this in a variety of ways in 2023. With students and alumni in every United Church of Canada Region, we bring together a community with an extensive understanding of the varied needs of the church. The Summer Distance MDiv continues to be the degree with the highest enrollment bringing students together for 6 weeks of intensive learning in the summer and online, synchronous, and asynchronous classes in the fall and winter. In addition to the MDiv degree, we have United Church of Canada Students enrolled in the MA as well as 3 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options.

2023 saw the soft launch of our Bachelor of Theology degree which includes a "Ministry Specialization" stream. We were pleased to welcome 7 students in the fall and anticipate an increase in enrollment in 2024. This degree reduces the barrier for those without an undergraduate degree who feel called to serve the church and want academic excellence at a bachelor's level combined with opportunities for practical experience serving the church. We are excited about the ways this may meet the identified needs of our founding parties. We value our relationship with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards across the country as we seek to respond to the educational needs of the church for shaping effective and faithful leaders.

The Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell concluded his tenure as Academic Dean on the 1st of July and I have taken over the role for the next 3 years. The Presidential search committee concluded their work, and the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance began serving as President on the 1st of August. Like all educational institutions, we face challenges and the road ahead is not always clear, however, there is a spirit of optimism and a sense of renewal within our school community as we chart a path for the future.

It is a joy to work with United Church of Canada students as well as those who support them within the administrative structure of the church and individual communities of faith. We welcome your input as we seek to serve the ever-changing needs of the church.

With the Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Susan MacAlpine-Gillis

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Academic Dean
Atlantic School of Theology

UNITED CHURCH RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

UNITED CHURCH RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

<https://ucrmn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ucrmn-banner402x-3-768x354.jpg>

2024 REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

The United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN) is a national network, that connects electronically sharing stories and news of rural communities across Canada (and around the world), by networking with lay and clergy leaders of rural communities of faith. Find us on website ucrmn.ca.

Let me walk with you through some of the resources on the UCRMN website. Peter Chynoweth (Cochrane, AB) is the web minder. The 'Network' connection includes a partner Atlantic Canada network called Rural Roots Through the Holy which has sponsored conferences in the Maritimes for 3 years. In the Prairies is highlighted the ecumenical Centre for Rural Community Leadership and Ministry (CiRCLe M) which has connections to Saskatoon Theological Union. CiRCLe M is hosting a conference, Experiencing the Rural Culture of the Alberta Foothills, June 18-21.

Then there are 'Resources'. I would like to recommend to all 'Tech Resources'. Martin Dawson, from Cornwall, PEI, and web minder Peter Chynoweth write thoughtfully, with humour and matters of ethical consideration of computers. They discuss the use of inexpensive software, like the free Jitsi meet instead of Zoom, refurbishing old and tired computers using open-source software – in short, 'tech for scarce budgets' with an eye to keeping our tech out of landfills.

Next comes practical and helpful information on Collaborative Ministry, ways for congregations and communities of faith to work in partnership with others.

Then there are interviews that Martin hosts: With Peter on Open Software as an Ethical Alternative; with George Bott on Rural Connect; with Catherine Smith on her views of rural ministry and initiatives in the Maritimes; with Catherine Christie and Eric Skillings on the founding and workings of UCRMN. (These interviews are also found on Short-Wave Radio stations, a huge love of Martin's).

The next area is Workshops, with information about the quarterly Zoom workshops that UCRMN has hosted through the years. During this Regional Council year, 2023-24, workshops have been: on April 18 - Social Media in the Rural Church, facilitated by United Church Digital Team, Cara Czech, Stephen Fetter and Aaron Gallogos; Feb. 15 – Life Long Learning facilitated by St. Andrew's College staff, Dr. Bernon Lee and Shawn Sanford Beck; Nov. 16 – Pastoral Care to the Rural Church, led by Kathy Douglas of Antler River Watershed; Sept. 21 – further discussions on Collaborative Ministry; June 22 - Radically Welcoming and Rural, the opportunities of Diversity in the Rural Church.

Then there is ENews, with an archive of all the past ENews, from 2020 to 2024. We print 9 editions of UCRMN ENews during the year. Events happening throughout the Church are publicized, advertising from regions and committees, the regular column on Tech Advice, a regular column from Joyce Sasse's Gleanings of a Prairie Pastor, reports from Conferences, and most importantly, stories from congregations of community action and ministries. We love to have stories shared. If you have something to tell, send an article (about 300 to 500 words) to editor@UCRMN.ca.

There are over 400 members of UCRMN across the country and in most Regional Councils. As a Network, UCRMN asks for financial support from each Regional Council. We thank those who have given support from their Networking funds. Our suggestion is \$300 from each RC - UCRMN wishes to support all the Regional Councils in their rural ministries. (70% of United Church congregations across the country are in rural or small towns, therefore a relevant cost to each Regional Council.)

UCRMN members are taking part in the "Rural Townhall" by Edge Network for Ministry Development, to hear peoples' thoughts about what is going on in rural churches, and how rural ministries can be supported.

We are a grassroots initiative for Rural Ministry in the United Church of Canada. Our goal is to connect the many Rural Ministry initiatives across Canada.

Respectfully submitted by UCRMN Board:

Catherine Christie, President UCRMN, Abbey, SK, Living Skies RC

Eric Skillings, Secretary/Treasurer UCRMN, Merlin, ON, Antler River Watershed RC

Shelley Roberts, Vice President UCRMN, Lanark ON, Eastern Ontario Outaouais RC

Donna Mann, Officer UCRMN, Elora ON, Western Ontario Waterways RC

Yvonne Terry, Officer UCRMN, Milestone SK, Living Skies RC



Canadian Shield Regional Council 2025 Draft Budget

CSRC - Draft Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Draft Budget	1st quarter 2024
Income					
National Grants					
Assessment	325,000	325,000	325,000	300,000	
M&S Grant	240,000	240,000	180,000	180,000	
Other	47,876	9,375			
Salary	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000	
	711,876	673,375	604,000	579,000	
HST recovered	2,688	17,129			
Investment Income	- 48,363	81,794	25,000	90,000	39,116
Miscellaneous	25	4,734			
Festival of Faith		11,531		5,000	
Regional Meeting	2,494				2,349
Youth income	5,000	28,858			
Pastoral Relations Income	16,820	15,886		15,000	2,070
Sale of Property/Residual Accounts	16,345	289,707	35,000		201,628
Total Income	706,885	1,123,014	664,000	689,000	245,163
Expenses					
Archives					
Bookstore Support	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Clusters and Networks		925			
Committees	1,000		1,000		
Congregational Support	5,100				
Corporation Overview	2,000	2,300	3,000	2,500	
Executive	552	7,938	5,000	8,000	
Festival of Faith		33,659		18,000	
Finance	16,412	24,948	17,500	17,500	1,183
Grants	55,000	58,000	55,000	55,000	
Legal Fees	1,741	668	10,000	5,000	
Reserve Fund	125,000				
Miscellaneous	2,703	2,331	3,700		294
Office Expenses	21,771	31,795	25,000	30,000	3,470
Pastoral Relations	26,013	22,610	15,000	25,000	4,377
Regional Meeting	54,698	300	35,000	17,700	5,402
Retail Sales Taxes	13,386	14,207	1,000	1,000	776
SINOR	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Staff Team					
Cell Phones	2,990	3,101	4,000	4,000	277
Continuing Education	1,504	2,507	7,500	7,500	468
Internet	2,161	2,263	2,000	2,500	153
Moving		4,192	-	-	
Salaries	410,711	436,397	435,000	450,000	
Travel	17,765	26,892	20,000	20,000	2,677
Resources	114	534	2,500	2,500	
	433,084	475,886	471,000	486,500	3,575
SWRC/CSRC Shared Expenses	9,188	10,223	9,000	10,000	344
Youth (CSJ)		28,858			
Youth	7,081	5,419	10,000	10,000	
	777,530	722,867	664,000	689,000	22,221
Income over Expenses	- 70,645	400,147	-	-	222,942
Notes					
Bank Account	763,708				969,866
Investments	1,479,907				1,518,573

Canadian Shield Regional Council 2025 Draft Budget

Designated Funds

31-Dec-23

Affirming Ministries	13,455	
Archives	9,063	
Camping Fund	311,490	
Clusters and Networks	55,984	
Congregational Support	100,000	
General Fund	137,963	
Health Joy and Excellence	213,105	
Lay Education	37,607	
Legal Reserve	25,000	
LLWL Program	41,126	
New Outreach Initiatives	65,683	
Preparing for Ministry	39,111	
Right Relations	103,536	
Youth Programs	67,528	
	<u>1,220,651</u>	<u>1,220,651</u>

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We give thanks to all the folks who serve their community of faith as a regional representative. As well, we give thanks to all members who are currently serving on the various governance bodies and resource teams. Your commitment to serving the region and all the communities of faith within the region is discipleship in action.

We are looking for people who reflect the diversity of the Canadian Shield Regional Council, including but not limited to, cultural and ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, geography and age. We seek people who can offer fresh perspectives and insights; those who bring knowledge and experience from being active in local communities; people who can see the big picture; people who are interested in innovative ministry; people with a keen eye for details.

Are you looking to serve? Nominations can help you get involved. We have several opportunities where you can share your gifts, wisdom and passion as you serve the region. Whether you love administration, policy development, caring for and helping others (communities of faith, youth), or you have a passion for justice and advocacy – checkout the Nominations section of the Canadian Shield Regional Meeting page on the region’s website. You may find a place where your discipleship journey will be enriched.

Most certainly, you will find others who share your passions.

We are encouraging folks to submit their nominations electronically using the following link <https://canadianshieldrc.ca/about/nominations/>. Nominations will remain open until noon on Saturday May 4, 2024. The team is hopeful that most of the nominations will be received prior to the meeting. A laptop will be available at the business and agenda table for nomination submissions should the spirit move folks while attending the meeting.

At the May 3-5, 2024 meeting the region will be electing a Chair Elect from nominations received. We are hoping all nominees for the position will have an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their gifts and hopes for the region with the court.

As The United Church of Canada heads into its 45th General Council, it is time to elect commissioners. If you feel moved to serve the region in this capacity, please visit our website

On behalf of nominations and the entire region we say ‘Thank You’ to those who have served and are moving on to other ministries in their lives and communities. We have been blessed and well served. May God bless you to be God’s hands in your community.

It is in serving that we are transformed; thank you for the opportunity to serve this amazing region.

Peace and Blessings

The Nominations Committee is currently served by:

Barb Nott, St. Stephens on the Hill, Sudbury (Chair)

Kathie Smith, St. Andrew’s United, Sturgeon Falls

Helen Smith, East Korah Maxwell, Sault Ste. Marie

Mardi Mumford, Trinity United, Lively

Janice Brownlee, Trinity United, North Bay

Rob Smith, Pastoral Relations Minister (Staff Advisor)

Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant to Peter Hartmans (Admin Support)

PROPOSALS TO CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

There are no Proposals at this time.