

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
October 16, 2021**

The meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on October 16, 2021 via Zoom. The theme was *Learning to Fly Again*.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and constituting the Council

Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference to begin the annual meeting of Canadian Shield Regional Council. The meeting started at 9:30 a.m.

A video of the theme hymn, *Learning to Fly Again*, written by Bill Steadman, was played.

Kathie Smith, Chair, welcomed all those participating. Jody Maltby gave a brief introduction to the Zoom functions.

The Chair constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council. She then lit the Christ candle.

Sylvia Carscadden, of the Right Relations Resource Team, provided an acknowledgement of traditional territories. Peter Haddow, Team Lead of the Affirming Ministry Resource Team, gave a safe space statement.

The Chair made a number of introductions; staff, parliamentarian, chaplain, Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, General Council guests, and the local arrangements team.

The Worship team led the meeting in worship.

Opening motions

MOTION by Stewart Walker / Helen Smith that the following enabling motions be adopted...

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council:** that the Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:
 - All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by the Canadian Shield Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);
 - Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);
 - lay members elected by the Community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);

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-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 (2021 Manual C.1.2.b)

- b) **Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting:** that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be the Zoom meeting ID 931 6858 4167 and when in session; that the Canadian Shield Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to take place on Zoom meeting ID 931 6858 4167.
- c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda as printed and circulated be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Agenda & Business Chairperson and approved by the Regional Council; or as recommended by the Regional Council itself.
- d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council held November 6 and 7, 2020 and June 10, 2021 be approved as circulated.
- e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Report Packet be accepted for information.
- f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chair has the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
- g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be: official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings. (2021 Manual C.1.5)
- h) **New Business:** that any items of New Business shall be referred to Barb Nott, of the Agenda & Business Committee. New Business items close at 11:00 a.m.

Procedural:

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be the chat box;
2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Agenda & Business Committee;
3. The Parliamentarian shall be John Watson;
4. The Chair shall present a Proposal. The Chair will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the Proposal. When the Chair discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the Proposal she/he will invite the presenter to put the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed;
5. At the discretion of the Chair, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per Proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).
6. Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Agenda & Business Committee in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.

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7. The normal voting procedure shall be a show of hands using the YES and NO icons found at the bottom of the participants panel or *9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the Yes/No icons and the second will type YES or NO in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, an online poll will be provided.
8. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to General Council, Proposals to Regional Council, Elections.

MOTION

CARRIED

Finance Presentation

Janet MacDonald, Finance Administrator, presented the 2022 draft Budget.

MOTION by Barbara Nott/Janet Ross that on the recommendation of the Executive, the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2022 Draft Budget.

MOTION

CARRIED

Report Presentations

Right Relations Resource Team:

Guest, Sara Stratton gave a presentation on Relationship with the Indigenous Church. Sara is a Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator with the General Council Office. Her particular focus is helping the non-Indigenous church live up to our apologies and to the commitments we made to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. She gave a primer on the relationship of the United Church with Indigenous people and gave an update on the Calls to the Church. She ended with a question for all to consider, "What are we meant by God to be in this relationship, and how might we do that?"

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Report Presentations cont'd

Pastoral Relations Commission and Support to Communities of Faith Commission:

Mardi Mumford of the PRC/SCFC Working Group went through the Self-Assessment Toolkit and the work on covenanting.

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Proposals

A proposal, *Justice and Peace for Palestine and Israel*, was received at 12:14 p.m. October 15, 2021. The proposal is directed to the 44th General Council. The proposal missed the scheduled Regional Council townhall meeting, designed to discuss proposals in advance of the Regional Council meeting, held on October 7, 2021.

The topic of the proposal is very complicated and requires thought, prayer, study, reflection and conversation. As the proposal was submitted less than 24 hours before the Regional Council meeting, the Regional Council does not have enough time to prepare to discuss this important topic. The deadline for General Council 44 proposals is October 31 (extended to November 15).

MOTION by Barbara Nott / Mardi Mumford that the Canadian Shield Regional Council refer the proposal *Justice and Peace for Palestine and Israel* to the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive for review and consideration for submission to General Council 44.

MOTION

CARRIED

Manitou Art Collection

Lisa Blais, Team Lead of Right Relations Resources Team, gave an introduction to, and acknowledgements of, a video presentation created by Teresa Jones about the Indigenous art known as the Manitou Collection. The video included the history of the collection, named the artists, and how churches can respond.

The video is available for viewing on the Canadian Shield Regional Council website.

Nominations

Jim Jackson, Chair of Nominations Committee, introduced the Nominations Report and presented a slate of officers.

MOTION by Mardi Mumford / Janice Brownlee that the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2021 Nomination Report.

MOTION

CARRIED

Courtesies and Announcements

Chair, Kathie Smith thanked staff, guests from the General Council office, workshop presenters, and those involved in planning and presenting this Canadian Shield Regional Council meeting.

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Barbara Nott made some announcements. Barbara also announced that Huntington University bestowed an Honorary Doctorate on The Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator.

Theological Reflection

The Rt. Rev. Richard Bott gave a theological reflection based on the meeting theme and with a scripture reading from Isaiah

Peter Hartmans offered a blessing and the meeting broke for lunch.

Gathering Music

A recording of *A Fire is Meant for Burning*, VU #578, was played as the meeting returned from lunch.

Chair-Elect, Nancy Ferguson, acknowledged, gave thanks, and outlined how she came to the position of Chair-Elect. She outlined what she brings to the role.

Workshops

The meeting participated in a choice of workshops for an hour:

- M & S Workshop (Melody Duncanson-Hales)
- Grand River Bookstore (Pat Gilmour)
- Technology (Randy Boyd)
- Components of Covenanting (Rob Smith)

The meeting then participated in a second choice of workshops for a second hour:

- Opioid Crisis (Jeffrey Dale – Shining Waters Regional Council staff)
- Social Media and your Church (Summer Students)
- Residential Schools and the UCC (Moderator – Richard Bott and Sara Stratton)

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

EVENING SESSION

Celebration of Ministry Service

The Regional Council meeting concluded with a Celebration of Ministry service. Rev. Nancy Ferguson presided. The service included a celebration of becoming an Affirming regional council. Rita Olink was the guest speaker. Linda Hutchinson brought greetings and congratulations from Affirm United. The service acknowledged and honoured retirees, and ministers marking significant anniversaries, and included a time of In Memoriam.

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Installation / Promises of the new President

Peter Hartmans and Kathie Smith installed Barbara Nott as the new Chair of Canadian Shield Regional Council. Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, offered prayer.

Closing

Incoming Chair, Barbara Nott, offered a benediction and declared the meeting closed.

Kathie Smith, Chair

Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister

