

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on February 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Susan Lindquist, Bill Steadman, Stewart Walker, Jim Jackson, Lionel Ketola, Susan Peverley, Bill Jones, David LeGrand, Gord Roberts, Laurie Stevenson

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead, Diane Matheson-Jimenez

Chair Nancy welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

Nancy honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet and then spoke about the CSRC being a safe space.

Peter opened by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and centered everyone by reading Psalm 121. He then opened the meeting with prayer.

CHECK-IN

Chair Nancy asked Executive members to share as they felt moved, the glimmers of light that they see or have been experiencing.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Several items were added to the agenda including the LSRC Complaint Team results, which will be in-camera, 100 table initiative, adding the new mailing address for financial transactions, and dealing with communities of faith (CoF) in transition under new business.

MOTION by Bill Jones/Bill Steadman CS EXEC 2025-02-06-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Peter Hartmans CS EXEC 2025-10-06-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on December 3, 2024 be approved, as presented.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Gord Roberts/Lionel Ketola CS EXEC 2025-02-06-03
That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from November 21, 2024 and December 13, 2024 be received, for information.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Resignation Letter from Mastard Sakala

Executive received the letter of resignation for the Executive from Mastard Sakala as he gets ready to start his new journey as a staff member of the Shining Waters Regional Council. The Chair sent a thank you letter to Mastard for his time and skills on the Executive.

Letter from LSRC Complaint Team

The is will be addressed later in the agenda.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Follow-up on Joint Executive Meeting Visioning Conversation (Next 5-10 Years)

Nancy circulated a Caucus on Vision/Future Using Appreciative Inquiry that involved Executive, Ministry Personnel, and Lay Leaders and Executive shared their views of the inquiry. Executive received the comments and discussed. Next steps will include:

- Nancy and Diane will then categorize the information (communications, training, SCoFC, PRC, PC, etc.) and will report back to Executive in the future;
- Staff needs the opportunity to engage with the material; need to be able to support the commissions and talk through it first;
- Staff will then have all the information to devise who needs to be at the table for the conversation; for example, have Donna reach out to the commissions to have a task group on communication; have Diane reach out to the Chair of SCoFC to get a task group on issues related to the SCoFC, etc.

Peter will forward the notes to Jennifer Henry from GCO, who works on the Strategic Plan and Towards 2035 after Nancy and Diane have completed their categorization of the notes.

Follow-up on Decision re: Future Chair Installations after 2025

The installation of the next Chair-Elect will be happening at the Festival of Faith in June 2025. The discussion about future installations in non-in-person meeting years will be discussed at a future meeting.

LIVING SKIES REGIONAL COUNCIL (LSRC) UPDATE

Investigator's Report, Supporting Documents (Text Messages), Letter to Executive
Chair Nancy stated that this conversation needs to move in-camera.

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Jim Jackson CS EXEC 2025-02-06-04
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive move in-camera to receive and discuss the report of the Investigator in the Living Skies Regional Council complaint.
CARRIED

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Dave LeGrand CS EXEC 2025-02-06-05
That Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Staff Lead from Canadian Shield Regional Council be added to the in-camera session with the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive.
CARRIED

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Bill Jones CS EXEC 2025-02-06-06
That Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant to the Executive Minister, join the confidential in-camera session to take notes, if needed.
CARRIED

MOTION by Dave LeGrand/Susan Peverley CS EXEC 2025-02-06-07
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive move out of in-camera.
CARRIED

MOTION by Bill Steadman/Lionel Ketola CS EXEC 2025-02-06-08
That the CSRC Executive, the responding body, on the recommendation of the Complaint Review Team, receive the findings of the investigator, John Watson, for CSRC on behalf of LSRC in the report dated Jan. 10, 2025 and accept the findings of a thorough

investigation of the allegations and further agree that there are no probable nor reasonable grounds for The United Church of Canada to proceed with a formal hearing of the complaint and that the CSRC Executive will take no further action.

CARRIED

Nancy thanked the Complaint Review Team for all their time on this complaint and sent prayers to all involved that they may receive the results with grace and that it may lead to some healing.

2025 ONLINE RCM DISCUSSION

Peter shared that the conversation needs to start regarding the 2025 Online RCM and asked Diane to present. Diane shared that the next RCM will be on Saturday, May 3, 2025 and it will be held virtually (online only). She requested that the admin staff at the regional office need to have a draft Agenda for the meeting so they can get started on their background work to ensure that people participate in the meeting.

Diane also inquired whether Executive would like to continue with a theme that stretched over a Chair's 2-year term, as this was something that was done in Shining Waters RC and gave the President a chance to really unpack a topic; it was agreed that this would happen in the future. The 2025 RCM theme would be "Upon This Rock," a continuation of the 2024 theme.

ADDING MERANDA MACDONALD AS SIGNING OFFICER FOR INVESTMENTS AND MOVING FINANCIAL HEADQUARTERS TO THE GUTHRIE OFFICE

Adding Meranda MacDonald as Signing Officer for Investments

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Peter Hartmans **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-09**

That the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council add Meranda MacKenzie, Accounting/Assistant Bookkeeper, as a signing officer to all financial accounts, including all accounts with BMO (Bank of Montreal) and BMO Nesbitt Burns.

CARRIED

Moving Financial Headquarters of CSRC to the Guthrie Office

MOTION by David LeGrand/Lionel Ketola **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-10**

That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council change all financial correspondence from the Canadian Shield Regional Council office at 395 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, ON P1A 2C5 to the Shining Waters Regional Council Guthrie Office at 59 Line 4 North, Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2L0.

CARRIED

CSRC NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Nominations Motion to Approve Members

The CS Nominations Committee sent a recommendation to the Executive:

MOTION by Mastard Sakala/Janice Brownlee

CS NOMS 2024-12-10-03

That the CSRC Nominations Committee recommend that Laurie Kendall be appointed to the Property Commission, that Ruth Kamo be appointed to the Mission Support Resource Team and that Lawrence Muvunzi be appointed to the Finance Resource Team.

CARRIED

Executive discussed the motion from the CS Nominations Committee and passed the following motion.

MOTION by Gord Roberts/Susan Peverley CS EXEC 2025-02-06-11
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the CSRC Nominations Committee recommendation that Laurie Kendall be appointed to the Property Commission, that Ruth Kamo be appointed to the Mission Support Resource Team and that Lawrence Muvunzi be appointed to the Finance Resource Team.
CARRIED

Executive needs to appoint a member from the CSRC Executive to the CSRC Nominations Committee.

MOTION by Bill Steadman/Susan Peverley CS EXEC 2025-02-06-12
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council appoint Laurie Stevenson to the CSRC Nominations Committee.
CARRIED

100TH ANNIVERSARY LETTER – ONE-MINUTE VIDEO CONVERSATION

Peter reminded Executive about the letter from Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa regarding the one-minute video request from the GCO from each regional council for the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Nancy will work with Celio to make the GCO video.

Diane and Melody were tasked with working on the grants request related to the \$2,000 we received from GCO for the 100th Anniversary, to disburse it to each community of faith (CoF) in the region – which works out to \$50 per CoF. Diane asked if Executive would approve of the region topping up that money to make \$100 per CoF for the 100th anniversary, for an approximate total budget of \$6,000, allowing CoF to participate in a way that feels meaningful to them.

Calin Lau, Growth Animator for the UCC, will be sending an email regarding the 100 Tables Initiative, inviting congregations to use the 100th Anniversary as a way to celebrate by having a picnic table on your site and having conversations with your neighbours.

CONFIDENTIAL INTERIM INTERNAL REPORT OF TOWARDS 2035

The United Church of Canada started working on a caveat in November 2024 on the Strategic Plan and is trying to engage with regional councils in advance of a conversation in March 2025 and then again in August at GC45. They have created an interim draft report that is to be circulated to elected people, specifically Executives. Peter indicated that this conversation will be continued at the March 6, 2025 meeting of Executive where members can take some notes and send them back to the GCO.

Before Executive left this conversation, a point was brought up that a member of Executive is still conscious of the fact that there are no representatives on the General Council Executive (GCE) from the CSRC and other regions and are therefore, not directly represented in these conversations. Peter will bring that to the attention of the GCE.

POLICIES UPDATE – HONOURARIA, RCM LOCATION, AND LOGO

Executive reviewed the final Honouraria, RCM Location and Logo policies.

MOTION by Bill Jones/Jim Jackson **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-13**
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the Honouraria Policy, as presented.
CARRIED

MOTION by Stewart Walker/Dave LeGrand **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-14**
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the Regional Council Meeting Location Policy, as presented.
CARRIED

MOTION by Stewart Walker/Dave LeGrand **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-15**
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the CSRC Logo Policy, as presented.
CARRIED

GRANT RESOURCE TEAM PRESENTATION

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Jim Jackson **CS EXEC 2025-02-06-16**
That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the request of the Grants Resource Team to top up the \$2,000 from The United Church of Canada (UCC) to provide \$100 to each communities of faith to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the UCC and the Grants Resource Team will organize the distribution.
CARRIED

EXECUTIVE MINISTERS REPORT (APPENDIX A)

Peter shared his report with Executive.

NEW BUSINESS

Acknowledging Church Closures, Disbanding, and Sales of Property and Transitions

Jim Jackson shared that the CSRC has had quite a number of closures and sales of property in the last several years and the regional council acknowledges this at the RCMs and/or at the Celebration of Ministry Services. Jim is suggesting that perhaps we need to include CoF in transitions to the list of acknowledgments. Sometimes a CoF sells their building and disbands but several people are still celebrating together as church but don't attend the RCMs anymore; we must remember and celebrate them. Chair Nancy asked that the SCoFC and Property Commission have a working team to get a list to the regional office in time for the next RCM.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

- Thursday, March 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **2025 Online Regional Council Meeting** - Saturday, May 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

CLOSING

Nancy shared "Blessing in the Chaos" by Jan Richardson, offered a closing prayer, and then declared the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

**APPENDIX A
Executive Ministers Report
February 2025**

**Executive Minister Report – Canadian Shield Regional Council
February 2025**

Happy New Year! My report is a little briefer, as it reflects the Christmas period.

GC 45:

Major preparation continues for General Council 45 starting in the new year, with an in-person meeting August 7-12, 2025. The regional council offered an orientation time for GC 45 Commissioners on January 21, 2025. The Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Council Commissioners were briefed on upcoming meetings and the work of GC45. For the second half of the meeting, the two regions separated into two regional groups to connect locally. Youth Forum is also in the late planning stages and will send a number of youth to GC45 in Calgary.

100th Anniversary June 8th 2025

The June 2025 UCC 100 celebration will take place on Sunday June 8th in Newfoundland. We have been invited to consider how we use the \$2,000 grant, for the 100th anniversary celebration. Executive Ministers have been invited to attend the service in-person. We have also been invited to produce a one-minute video too.

With the recent decision of the Regional Council Executive to promote regional gatherings to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, the Grants Committee, in partnership with the Support to Communities of Faith Commission, are reaching out to communities of faith within the regional council, to invite folks to apply for small grants to support and promote gatherings of neighbours for 100th anniversary worship “watch parties” in June of 2025. The Grants Committee have discussed the grants and will offer a brief report and recommendation at the February Executive for consideration.

Festival of Faith:

Planning continues for our CSRC and SWRC Festival of Faith in 2025. Hotel space has been booked and the planning team is been working on programming and a draft agenda for the event. John Bell will be providing key leadership for the Festival of Faith! He is a Scottish hymn-writer, a Church of Scotland minister, a broadcaster, a former student activist, and he is a member of the Iona Community. He works throughout the world, lecturing in theological colleges in the UK, Canada and the United States, but is primarily concerned with the renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots level. The festival will also include a number of workshops and key leadership from within the United Church too. Registration for the Festival of Faith will begin in March. The Moderator will also attend the Festival of Faith, 2025 and hopes to provide a flourishing event, in advance of the FoF on June 12, 2025.

Huntington University: We have made some progress with Huntington University! They reached out in the new year. We are in the process of scheduling an in-person or zoom meeting with President Kevin.

Sabbaticals: Rob Smith went on Sabbatical on November 1, 2024 returning February 1, 2025. Dale Hildebrand will provide coverage for Rob for part of his absence and started December 1, 2024 and will end his contract February 18, 2025.

