

SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

Activity Report for the period April 2024 to May 2025

SCFC 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 Resource Teams report regularly at the monthly SCFC meetings.

Reports also come from The United in Worship Project and the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils. During the past year we were informed that the United in Worship Project would no longer be operating out of St John's UC in Marathon. George and Joy Bott will be retiring from the project. Several meetings have occurred with the George and Joy, Melody Duncanson Hale , Jim Jackson and Bronwyn Corlett, Rural Ministry Coordinator, to find a way of keeping this service available. We are optimistic that we are close to a solution.

Calin Lau often participates in our regular meetings and reports on the Growth Animator's work.

Staff report on the activities of local cluster groups in Sudbury and North Bay. Commission members also report on activities related to their local area.

An Ad Hoc group known as the "***Commission Connection***" meet several times a year. Staff Support and two members of the Support to Communities of Faith Commission meet with two members from each of the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Property Commission to discuss common issues and possible solutions.

In May 2024 the Property Commission was created to replace the Property Resource Team which previously was responsible to the SCFC.

The following are highlights of our activities since the last Annual Meeting.

1. March 2025
 - a. Approved a large grant to Camp McDougall on the advice of the Mission Support, Funding & Grant Review Resource Team
2. February 2025

- a. Emmanuel UC Governance Document was sent to a small committee for review and any recommendations for revision.
 - b. Financially supported Val D'or UC with emergency operating funds of \$3,000.00 from the Mustard Seed fund.
 - c. Representatives from the Right relations Resource Team and Laurentian University Native Education Council met to discuss the installation of a Bench at **"the Cairn"** in recognition of the work that Maxine McVey and Art Solomon did to memorialize the **Apology to the First Nations** by the United Church of Canada. The idea was met with enthusiasm and is moving forward.
 - d. Sent out a reminder re Annual Reports, Self Assessments
3. November 2024
 - a. **Milestone Eulogies, for Communities of Faith** that close during the year, was suggested to be done at the Regional Annual meeting.
4. October 2024
 - a. Approved the disbanding of St Andrew's UC Schreiber
 - b. Approved the purchase from Prayer Bench an Adult Based Advent Resource.
5. September 2024
 - a. Annual report reviews – each member of the Commission was asked to review several Annual Reports that were submitted in 2024
6. July 2024
 - a. Approved a fund of \$10,000.00 from the Mustard Seed Fund for a ground penetrating survey of the Fairview United Church Cemetery (Manitoulin Island)
7. May 2024
 - a. A template for reviewing Annual Reports and Self Assessments was created.
8. April 2024
 - a. Property Commission governance document was developed from the Property Resource Team Terms of Reference.

I would like to thank the following Commission members and the staff that meet monthly to deal with decisions in the life of congregations across the CSRC.

Members: Jim Jackson, Desire Tiriwepi, Peter Haddow, Janice Brownlee, Ernie Epp, Crystal Greig, Mardi Mumford, Susan Peverley, Kathy Calverley, Marilyn Schatzler, Bonnie Johnson

Staff Support: Melody Duncanson Hales, Diane Matheson Jimenez, Shawn Redden

Growth Animator: Calin Lau