



**“Upon This Rock”
Canadian Shield Regional Council
2025 Online Regional Meeting
May 3, 2025**

RESOURCE BOOK

JOINING THE MEETING ONLINE

JOINING THE MEETING

- **MEETING LINK:** Your meeting 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:** Saturday - sign in to the meeting by 9:10 a.m. (EDT) or earlier. You may arrive early in the waiting room and be admitted at 9:15 a.m. The Call to Order is at 9:30 a.m. You will be muted upon entry and at 9:15 a.m., we ask you to mute your microphone during the meeting.
- **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

- **CHAT:** Open 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 turning on your camera and raising your digital hand (not your real) by clicking the “React” button on the Zoom toolbar at the bottom of your screen and when the menu appears on your screen, click on “Raise Hand”. When you are recognized by the Chair, unmute your microphone to be heard. In the event there is some issue with sound, you may type in the chat box. When you are done speaking, please don’t lower your hand, we will do that for you. After we lower your hand, you may turn off your camera.
- **POINT OF ORDER:** To raise a point of order, raise your virtual hand and type “PT OF ORDER” in the chat so that the Chair 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.
- **VOTE BY POLL:** To vote, we will be voting using the “poll” function. Prior to voting, if you have a question, you will use your virtual hand by clicking the “React” button on the Zoom toolbar at the bottom of your screen and then click on “Raise Hand”. When you are recognized by the Chair, unmute your microphone to be heard and follow the instructions from the Chair. Voting will commence after the motion is read by the Chair and the poll is launched on your screen. You will see the poll question asking if you would like to vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN. Click on your vote and press submit.
- **VOTE BY PHONE:** Voting representatives participating on the phone will vote by pressing *9 when the Chair calls for you to vote by phone and this will raise your hand on screen.
- **RE-OPEN THE CHAT PANEL:** 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 panel. To get this back click “Chat” on the Zoom toolbar (usually at the top of your screen). It will reappear in the centre of your screen but you can move it 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 feature. The second person can add their vote by typing Yes, No or Abstain 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.

As the Regional Chair and Executive Minister gather on the grounds of Emmanuel United Church in Sault Ste Marie, we acknowledge that the land on which they gather 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 Emmanuel United Church is situated on and acknowledge the contributions of the historical Metis Nation of Sault Ste, Marie in the stewardship of this territory. Across the Regional Council, we congregate on lands that have been stewarded by many Indigenous and Metis nations. On this day, we offer gratitude respect to the first inhabitants of the places where we worship and work.

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Proposals

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

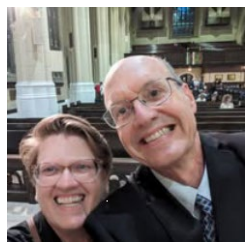


As I write this winter-weary welcome letter for the 2025 Online Annual Meeting set for Saturday, May 3, I rejoice in the appearance of snowdrops in my front garden and mallard ducks assessing possible nesting grounds in my backyard. These are two sure signs of spring in the Sault, and another reminder that the promise of Easter is a certainty we can rely on in the ever-changing landscape of the life of the church.

This year, taking a cue from our sister region, the Executive approved the continuation of the theme that was first launched in 2024. “Upon this Rock” took its inspiration from Jesus’ interaction with Peter as recorded in Matthew 16:18. We put ourselves in the story looking at the etymology of our own names and took delight in considering the unique gifts that Jesus calls each of us to offer to the wider church. This year, as we mark the Centennial of our denomination, I am drawn back to Matthew – this time to 7:24 – where Jesus compares wisdom with the one who built their house on rock. Marking our centennial is both an opportunity to celebrate our past and consider our future upon this rock we call “home”.



But how are we being called to live here now? As we turn our attention to the future, what is God calling us to be upon this rock? Our Growth Animator, Rev. Calin Lau is a great resource to our communities of faith and the region as a whole.



As your Chair, I have been blessed to serve this Region since being installed in November 2023. Highlights include presiding at several celebration of ministry services as well as representing the region, along with our Executive Minister Rev. Peter Hartmans, at the Centennial kick-off service in Toronto. These past 18 months have been filled with regular meetings of the Executive to make decisions on your behalf – faithful decisions that are possible because of the diligent work of our 3

Commissions and our 5 Resource Teams – all the while supported by our dedicated and talented Staff cohort. In preparation for the meeting on May 3, I encourage you to read the Accountability Reports in the Resource Book.

One decision that the Executive made was to extend my term by an additional year. As we continue to find our rhythm as a region and a pattern for our annual meetings, it was clear that the election, installation, and celebration of your Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair respectively should happen at an in-person meeting, and since the Festival of Faith is not a meeting of the region but a joint event with our sister region, this realization led to the necessity to revisit terms.

I look forward to “seeing” our Regional Representatives (lay and ordered) at our upcoming meeting on May 3 as we tackle, together, the work that will rightfully come before us and the opportunities that will be put in our way to faithfully serve Upon this Rock we call “home”.

Blessings,
Rev. Nancy J. Ferguson, Chair

2025 Online Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting
Draft Agenda

	On-site	On-line
Saturday, May 3		
9:15 a.m.	Zoom Refresher with Kathleen	
9:30 a.m.	Gathering Music and Welcome Opening of Regional Meeting Land Acknowledgement, Safe Space Introductions Processes, Holy Manners Practice Vote	
	Opening Procedural Motions	
	Opening Worship	
	Business Session Proposals for Consideration and Vote Draft Budget 2026 - <i>Thank you to Financial Administrator, Janet MacDonald - Retirement</i> Elections/Nominations Slate Approval New Business	
	Video Message from the Moderator	
	Futuring Conversation – Next 5-10 Years	<i>Breakout rooms for discussion</i>
	Updates from Commissions/Committees /Resource Teams	
	Thanks to George and Joy Bott – Online United in Worship Program	
11:15 a.m.	BREAK	
	Family Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating Student Ministers/ LLWLs • Jubilands • Honouring Retiree • In Memoriam • Acknowledgement of Chairs (Commissions) and Team Leads (Resource Teams) • Remembering Closed Churches • 100th Anniversary of the UCC • Good News Stories 	
	Announcements Theological Reflection (Desire Tiriwepi) Closing Prayer Adjournment Music to Send Us Home	

CONSENT AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 2025 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 the Zoom meeting ID 821 5774 0775 when in session; that the Canadian Shield Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service Sunday, June 15, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to take place at Grace Hartmans Amphitheatre in Bell Park, Sudbury, ON.
- 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 May 3-5, 2024 and September 17, 2024 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 Chair has the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed.
- g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2025 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 Chairperson.
- 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 Friday, May 2, 2025.

Procedural

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be 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 voting procedure online shall be using the poll function or *9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the poll function and the second will type Yes or No in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, an online poll will be provided.
8. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Elections, 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* (2025, pp. 191-194), 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" (when in-person and online)
- b) STANDING or RAISING THE HAND or RAISING VOTING CARD (when in-person only)
- c) RAISING A VIRTUAL HAND (when online only)
- d) ANSWERING THE ROLL CALL by "yes" or "no" (when in-person and online)
- e) SECRET BALLOTING (when in-person and online)

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 2025, Section C.4.3 b and c:

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

For meetings of either the regional council or its executive,

- a) if there are fewer than 60 members, at least 1/3 of them must be present;
- 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.

(Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose)

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 Saturday morning to the adjournment on Saturday afternoon at 12:30 p.m.

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

CSRC Growth Animator



Calin Lau has been in the role of Growth Animator (Central and Northern Ontario) since January 1, 2024. Before that, he was a teacher and a preacher in Hong Kong, an independent insurance professional in Canada, and an ordained minister serving a community of faith in the Georgina area just south of Lake Simcoe, Ontario. His additional experience as a facilitator of Racial Justice workshops, a member of the planning/consulting team of the emerging, migrant, and diasporic communities of faith, a member of the steering teams of the Living Presence Ministry and Hong Kong Newcomers welcoming project, a member of the Standards committee of the Office of Vocation, chairperson of the Chinese Association of the United Church of Canada led him to see the importance of supporting the struggling communities of faith and the opportunity to plant new ones. Faith involves risk-taking. It's the passion of Calin to walk with the faith communities in Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils with hope and love, and he wishes to bring insight, passion, optimism, and curiosity to his work to keep the congregations inviting and connected among themselves, as well as with the denominational church.

CHAPLIN



Rev. Shawn Redden

PARLIAMENTARIAN



Rev. 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.



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 de Andrade 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.

**Accounting Assistant/Bookkeeper**

Meranda MacKenzie

mmackenzie@united-church.ca

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

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Meranda supports the financial operations of 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

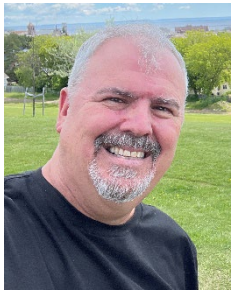
Role: Supports the processes for the discernment and training of ministry personnel, the determination of their fitness/readiness for accreditation, the fulfillment of continuing education standards, and the formal processes for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.



ORDINATIONS AND COMMISSIONING

ORDINATION

Steven Loweth (him/his)



My journey in ministry began as a teenager in my former Anglican congregation, where I worked with youth and was encouraged by my parish priest to consider ministry. I continued to serve in youth leadership, including on the diocesan youth committee, deepening my sense of call.

In 1986, while working in my family's music publishing business, I attended the Centre for Christian Studies, hoping to become a diaconal minister with a focus on youth ministry and justice for refugees. However, the pressures of the family business prevented me from completing my theological studies at that time. Still, my call to ministry never left me, and I remained active in church leadership.

In 2014, after a period of discernment, I entered the Designated Lay Ministry (DLM) program at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. I began serving as a student minister in a wonderful small congregation in Toronto. I completed my studies in early 2019, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was not formally recognized until October 2020.

In 2022, I felt called to move away from my ministry setting in Toronto, which led me to Thunder Bay and Westminster United Church. My husband, Lionel, who is also an ordained minister, and I have fallen in love with the north, where he serves another United Church in the region. We are both grateful for the beauty of this place and for the opportunity to serve in churches where justice and love are at the heart of ministry.

Beyond my congregational ministry, I continue to be active in the wider church and community. I currently serve on the Canadian Shield Region Pastoral Relations Commission and am a commissioner for General Council 2025. I am also committed to advocacy and justice work outside of the church, serving on the board of Thunder Pride, which supports the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario and organizes the annual Pride Parade and Festival.

As I am called to ordination, I look forward to many more years of serving the congregation I love and the wider church, continuing to live out my call to ministry with justice, inclusion, and love at the center.

Pamela Brown (she/hers)



Pam Brown (nee Storozuk) was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. A life long United Church girl, spent her formative years, first at John Wesley, then St. Andrew's UC. Pam's mom was her Explorer leader. Growing up in church, she became a proud Canadian Girl in Training. She loved Sunday evening shenanigans with SAY (St. Andrew's Youth). Pam would also attend Ontario Youth Parliament, a well supported church youth and young adult experience, hosted by the Soo and other United Churches throughout the Province. Pam has a deep fondness for

camping. She frequented Camp McDougall as camper, counsellor, lifeguard, and then returned in recent years as camp chaplain. Camp and Church are in her DNA.

Pam moved to Sudbury to attend post secondary studies in 1985, married James in 1991 and will celebrate 34 years together this June. Mackenzie, their pride and joy, was born in 1993. As a Child and Youth worker, Pam was mostly employed in school age child care programs until transitioning to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services in 1997. There, she spent 15 years licensing Child Care Centres for the Province. From 2012 until her retirement in 2019, Pam managed the North Region Early Years Division of the Ministry of Education. During that time, Pam would attend Copper Cliff UC before really becoming rooted at Trinity United in Lively. Although incredibly blessed to find a rich community of faith in Lively, she could easily proclaim there was nothing like 'going home' to St. Andrew's...to sit in the family's familiar pew with her folks, siblings, and special aunt.

Pam spent, what seemed like ages, resisting a Call to Ministry. Her Minister, Rev. Kathy Dahmer, as well as Rev. Catherine Somerville, affirmed what Pam had been fighting off. Her response, she became an LLWL in 2014. Between occasional preaching and her ongoing work with church life, the Worship Team and the youth at Trinity Lively...she was a goner! Having discerned a call for such a stretch, when she retired from the secular world, there was no looking back. Pam began her studies at the Atlantic School of Theology in June of 2020 and by that same August, was appointed to a solo, partially funded ministry position at Trinity United Church in Capreol, ON. Pam has often said it's the best Apprenticeship-Discipleship gig anyone could ask for. The loving support and encouragement from both Trinity congregations, combined with five years of Summer Distance Student studies, collaborating with professors and fellow students alike has been a dream for Pam. For Pam's retirement, her daughter gave her a framed, homemade card. It sits in plain sight in her home and simply reads, "RE-fired." Pam believes it only took a spark to be set ablaze with her Call to Ordered Ministry. She is stoked to continue on this path she's been destined to travel.

Laura Hutchison (she/hers)



Growing up in the United Church I have memories beginning with my Dad's Settlement Pastoral Charge in Northern Saskatchewan, in Uranium City, Eldorado, and Gunnar Mines. These communities very quickly became family to us. From there, we moved to London, Ontario, and finally to Toronto. Camping at Five Oaks, and interacting with students at Western University and then Covenant College/Centre for Christian Studies introduced me to a world of people who were welcoming and included me in music and more. I'm sure having babysitters like Diane Trollope and Marion Pardy inspired me. I felt drawn into ministry from an early age, but formal ministry, and education wouldn't come until much later.

Ken and I married when I was 19, and so began the years of raising our children and volunteering in the church and community. I am a mother of eight, and grandmother of 16. We started a small school, with several other families; a place where the whole world was our classroom.

In my discernment year, my husband Ken died suddenly, and I made the decision to wait a year and then to enter the Designated Lay Ministry program at St. Andrew's College. The combination

of in person and distance learning, and Supervised Ministry, serving in two pastoral charges was an amazing experience. I am so grateful for the way everyone at Trinity UC (Iroquois Falls) and St. Andrew's UC (Matheson) were active participants in learning with me.

Two years ago, I made the decision to look for work closer to home, and I began to serve at Covenant United Church in Timmins. I enjoy participating in the Timmins Multifaith Council, and other local opportunities. Together, we are learning and growing in discipleship, in justice, and in harmony. I am still and always a firm believer in lifelong learning.

Caitlin Smithers (she/hers)



I'm so excited to be seeing this dream come true, surrounded by so many of the people who have been such an integral part of my ministry journey, and knowing that even the folks who couldn't be here in person, hold a special place in my heart and in my ministry journey.

Although I have worked in ministry for a few years now, there have been times in my life when I didn't know if this day would ever come, so, to be able to see it happen, in a community I feel so a part of and so deeply affirmed by, has been an incredible gift. As the Minister at St. Andrew's United Church, in downtown North Bay, I long to share this gift and message to all who have felt they didn't belong, particularly in faith communities, and to let each and every one know that we are all beloved children of God, with our own unique gifts and identities, all beloved and created by God.

I was initially drawn to North Bay by the love and care I have heard about and felt from so many, here at St Andrew's, and I especially admire the advocacy, support, and care with dignity that is offered by the congregation's food bank, Loaves and Fishes. I rarely feel closer to God than when working toward justice, equity and love for all of God's beloved children.

I believe deeply in learning and growth, and I wholeheartedly agree with my Nan that "one of the greatest joys of being alive is to learn." I have participated in a wide variety of learning circles, including right relations with Indigenous peoples; health, pain and trauma; and spiritual discipleship, among many others, in addition to my Master of Divinity, and I intend to continue to take any opportunity to listen and to learn throughout my ministry. And I am so grateful to the community of St. Andrew's United Church, who have embraced this journey of learning and growth with me the last couple years! Thank you!



RETIREE



When I preached my last sermon at St. Stephen's on the Hill in Sudbury on December 29, 2024, I referenced a poem. (And yes, Ted Harrison, you did read that correctly.... I referenced a poem!) The poem spoke about coming to an ending moment, holding the knowledge that your pockets are full, with the nectar of countless evenings and dawns, of numberless autumn and spring nights, the sight of endless fruits and flowers, and the touch of joy and sorrow's light and shade. At that last service, I told the folx that my pockets are filled with memories and stories of a long and good career. I had the chance to do so many amazing things!

I started in Manitou Conference in 1985, coming to the Powassan-Chisholm Pastoral Charge in North Bay Presbytery for a four-month summer internship. There was something about rocks and trees and generous people that made me want to be settled in Manitou. When the settlement chair called, in 1987, to ask me where I would like to be settled, I said "an island", and that is how I got to the Little Current-Sheguiandah-Green Bay Pastoral Charge on Manitoulin Island. After a short stint in Harriston, Bruce County, I returned to Manitou and served at St. Stephen's on the Hill in Sudbury for twelve years. The Personnel Minister at the time, Kay Heuer, was a significant influence in my life, and long talks with her persuaded me to try Intentional Interim Ministry. I worked with three communities of faith in Sudbury Presbytery, and then became Manitou's Personnel Minister until 2014. Returning to pastoral ministry, I shared ministry with both Bill Steadman and Dave LeGrand, and then when Covid came, and the church was struggling to pay two salaries, I returned to St. Stephen's on the Hill and brought my career full circle. 37.5 years is a REALLY LONG TIME! My pockets are filled with friendships, words of encouragement, memories of shared adventures, heartbreak, joy and above all else, gratitude.

Now, I am finding new pockets in the clothes I wear in retirement, not nearly as dressed up these days. These new pockets are being filled with grandson-laughter, choir music, piano lessons, time with Jack, and coffee visits with friends. My retirement plan, such as it is, is to bike and learn to cook and go to the beach and read books I want to read (not books related to next Sunday's sermon). "I am now arranging for the last day; the day God comes to my door. I will bring Him my full pockets."



JUBILANDS

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

65 years	Eduard Prinselaar
50 years	David Silliman
45 years	Hugh Walker Donna Hazlett Gordon Roberts
40 years	Mark Wilson Paul Stemp Linda Stemp
35 years	Joyce Fergus-Moore
30 years	Cornelia (Cory) Vermeer-Cuthbert Linda Marcotte William Kunder
25 years	Theodore Harrison Melody Duncanson-Hales
20 years	Erin Todd
15 years	Kathryn Dahmer Doreen Lankshear-Smith Anna Chikoski
10 years	Sandra Jenkinson
5 years	Whitney Bruno



OBITUARIES

Brynn Carson (December 1, 2024)

Brynn had been a Designated Lay Minister with Porcupine United Church and recently retired. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family, the youth and all those she connected with in her wider community. We celebrate her many ministries with The United Church of Canada.

Beatrice “Bea” Webb (February 8, 2025)

We celebrate Bea's many years of service to The United Church of Canada, remembering her as a mainstay in her home congregation of Porcupine United Church, and acting as their elected Regional Lay Representative in Canadian Shield Regional Council. Bea's unwavering faith and dedication were evident in her time working within Cochrane Presbytery, Spirit Dancing Presbytery, and Canadian Shield Regional Council. In her earlier years, Bea also served as the Camp Director for Camp Lorrain, where she touched the lives of many with her leadership and compassion. Her experiences in camping and youth ministry inspired years of service to come. She played a role in developing networks for mission and advocacy for justice, and was deeply involved in discerning and allocating grants for the presbytery, conference, and regional council. Bea was passionate about connecting faithful stewardship with mission and ministry opportunities, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of serving alongside her.

Bea is survived by her husband Bob, their children and grandchildren.



<p style="text-align: center;">CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING DRAFT MINUTES - May 3-5, 2024</p>

**MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING
May 3-5, 2024**

The Hybrid Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on May 3-5, 2024 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre and via Zoom video conference. The theme was *Upon This Rock*.

FRIDAY, May 3, 2024

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

The Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered in-person and via Zoom video conference at 1:30 p.m. to begin the Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Nancy Ferguson, Chair, welcomed all those participating, introduced herself and the Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

Chair Nancy Ferguson 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.

Bill Steadman lit the Christ Candle, Sylvia Carscadden from the Right Relations Resource Team gave an acknowledgement of the land and Susan Peverley of the Affirming Resource Team read the safe space statement.

Greetings from City Councillor and Chief

Chair Nancy welcomed Sault Ste. Marie City Councillor, Sandra Hollingsworth and asked her to bring greetings from the city of Sault Ste. Marie. She also welcomed Chair Mark McCoy and he brought greetings from the Batchewana First Nation.

Welcome to the Moderator of The UCC

Chair Nancy welcomed The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada to the meeting. Moderator Carmen will be sharing a talk later Friday and will run some workshops on Saturday.

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

Nancy Ferguson led the participants through a test motion and vote.

Opening Consent and Procedural Motions

MOTION by Peter Hartmans / Kathie Smith

CS RCM 2024-05-03/05-01

That the following 2024 Hybrid Meeting Opening Consent Agenda and Procedural Motions be adopted:

- j) **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).
- k) **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.
- l) **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.
- m) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council held November 25, 2023 be approved as circulated.
- n) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
- o) **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.
- p) **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).
- q) **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.
- r) **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

9. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1 and the zoom chat box.
10. Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson and the Business & Agenda Committee.
11. The Parliamentarian shall be William Steadman.
12. 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.

13. 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).
14. Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
15. 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.
16. 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."

CARRIED

Opening Worship

A time of worship was led on the theme “Upon This Rock” by Chair Nancy and the Music and Worship Team with Communion.

Introductions

The Chair made a number of introductions, including the chaplains, the parliamentarian, the equity host, and the scrutineers. Peter Hartmans introduced the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils staff team, the Office of Vocation staff, the Growth Animator, the President of the Shining Waters Regional Council and Chair Nancy introduced the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive and the Financial Administrator for the region.

Nominations Opening/Process

Kathie Smith, the Chair of the RCM Planning Team, shared the Nominations process for the RCM and that the nominations for GC45 Commissioners will remain open until an online recall of the CSRC in September 2024.

Open Session: Moderator Carmen

Moderator Carmen gave a brief description of her Flourishing events. After her description, she asked delegates to imagine a flourishing church – what would it look like to you? The court broke off into table group time (with the online group going into breakout rooms) to discuss flourishing and what it would like to them.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Open Session: Andrew Richardson

Andrew Richardson, from the Office of Vocation, described how The UCC has lived out the Strategic Plan’s Daring Justice, Deep Spirituality, and Bold Discipleship, specifically focusing on Collaborative Leadership. The court broke off into table group time (with the online group going into breakout rooms) to discuss collaborative leadership/ministry, not just in churches. Questions to ponder include: What is your initial reaction? How will collaborative ministry enhance your ministry? What supports are needed? What are the road blocks?

Open Session: Calin Lau

Calin Lau, the Growth Animator for the CSRC, engaged in discussions about growth in the church and how it can be seen from different perspectives. The court broke off into table group time (with the online group going into breakout rooms) to discuss the passion, possibilities, needs, and achievements of each person in the group.

Announcements, Book Room, Greetings from UCW, and Grace

Kathie Smith, Chair of the 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting, offered some announcements. Pat Gilmore gave greetings from the Grand River Bookstore sharing some titles people may be interested in. Dawn Monroe, President of the CSRC UCW, brought greetings to the Regional Meeting. Chair Nancy then offered a grace before dinner.

The meeting took a dinner break.

Open Session: Moderator Carmen

The United Church of Canada Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, had an open session discussion about upon who's rock we are standing and being built on a rock.

Connecting to Music Matters 2024

The 2024 CS Regional Council Meeting connected via Zoom to the 2024 Music Matters event in Thunder Bay.

Announcements

Kathie Smith offered some announcements.

Theological Reflection

Moderator Carmen offered a Theological Reflection after the first day of the meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Nancy Ferguson declared the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on May 4, 2024.

SATURDAY, May 4, 2024

Words of Welcome

Chairperson, Nancy Ferguson, welcomed participants to the second day of the Canadian Shield Regional Council meeting and called the meeting to order.

Morning Worship

Ryan Fea led the meeting in worship.

Financial Budget and Funds Report

Janet MacDonald, the Financial Administrator, presented a brief narrative on the 2024 Draft Budget and then asked that people record their questions and they would be answered later this afternoon.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Commission/Committee/Resource Team Presentations

Support of Communities of Faith Commission – Jim Jackson

Pastoral Relations Commission – Ted Harrison

GC44 Commissioners – Laura Hutchison

Israel/Palestine Conversation - Moderator Carmen

Right Relations Resource Team - Whitney Bruno

Property Resource Team Presentation - Gord Roberts

Affirming Resource Team - Peter Haddow

Mission Support Grants Resource Team - Nancy Rouble

Executive Committee – Nancy Ferguson

Open Session

Melody Duncanson Hales, Community of Faith Stewardship Support, brought greetings from the Philanthropy Unit of the General Council Office. She offered a stewardship presentation called "Good News! Igniting Generosity."

Close of New Business and Nominations, Announcements, and Grace

Kathie Smith announced the close of New Business and Nominations at 12:00 p.m. She also offered some announcements. Melody Duncanson Hales offered a grace before lunch.

The meeting took a lunch break.

Chair-Elect Speeches

The Chair-Elect candidates addressed the court; Bill Jones spoke to the court and Fraser Williamson joined by video.

Breakout Sessions

This breakout time involved 4 sessions – The Moderator, Andrew Richardson, Calin Lau, and Faithful Footprints online with Aleyxa Gates Julien.

Proposals

There were no proposals submitted before the deadline of April 12, 2024.

2025 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Bill Jones and seconded by Bill Steadman CS RCM 2024-05-03/05-02

That on the recommendation of the Executive, the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2024 Draft Budget, as presented.

CARRIED

1 Abstention (Peter Hartmans)

Election of Chair-Elect

Chair Nancy Ferguson explained the process for voting for Chair-Elect, both in-person and online. After the vote was complete, Chair Nancy declared that Bill Jones has been chosen as the next Chair-Elect. Nancy gave thanks to all candidates for allowing their names to stand.

MOTION: Moved by Kathie Smith and seconded by Bill Steadman CS RCM 2024-05-03/05-04

That the ballots from the Chair-Elect vote be destroyed.

CARRIED

Nominations Report

Kathie Smith, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the Nominations Report.

MOTION: Moved by Kathie Smith and seconded by Jim Jackson CS RCM 2024-05-03/05-03

That the Canadian Shield Regional Council elect those listed in the Nominations Slate to serve on the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive, Commissions, Committees and Resource Teams of the Canadian Shield Regional Council for the slated terms, as they apply.

CARRIED

Presentation of New Executive

Chair Nancy asked the members of the new CSRC Executive to stand or wave their hands if online in order to be presented to the court.

Breakout Sessions

There were 2 breakout sessions in the afternoon including: The Moderator, Andrew Richardson, Calin Lau, Five Oaks at Willowgrove, Labyrinth at Willowgrove, Stewardship with Melody (online) and online with the Moderator.

Book Room

Pat Gilmour from Grand River Bookstore spoke about the books available at the book room during the meeting.

Announcements

Kathie Smith as called on for announcements.

Banquet, Service and Theological Reflection

The meeting held a banquet and service starting at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Stewart Walker gave a welcome to everyone. The service celebrated the regional council student ministers, Admissions Ministers, Ministers serving in other institutions; Jubilands; retirees; those who have passed away; and communities of faith that have closed. Moderator Carmen gave a theological reflection. She spoke about 'hush' meaning I hear you, I understand you, I empathize with you. We're all in it together and God is 'in it' with us; God is with us and we are with each other.

The closing benediction was given by Stewart Walker.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. until Sunday morning.

SUNDAY, May 5, 2024

New Business

There was no new business.

Question & Answer Period with the Moderator of The UCC

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne offered a Q & A period for the region to ask questions.

Courtesies and Outgoing Chairperson

Kathie Smith, Chair of the 2024 RCM Planning Team talked about some housekeeping items. Chair, Nancy Ferguson gave her thanks to special guests Calin Lau, our Growth Animator, Andrew Richardson, and the Moderator for engaging with the region at the meeting. Kathie Smith presented a painting to the Moderator, that was created by Michael Raby for the Regional Council Meeting.

On behalf of the Planning Team, Kathie Smith gave courtesies to all who helped to put on this meeting.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez then thanked the Chair of the Planning Team, Kathie Smith and the Planning Team for all their hard work on the meeting.

Peter Hartmans virtually thanked Chair Nancy for her leadership at the meeting. He shared he is looking forward to the online 2025 Fall Regional Council Meeting, where the region will elect our

GC45 Commissioners and then meeting in-person at the joint Shining Waters and Canadian Shield 2025 Festival of Faith in Sudbury June 13-15, 2025.

Adjournment

The Chair, Nancy Ferguson, declared the 2024 Hybrid Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting be adjourned.

Blessing

Nancy Ferguson offered a blessing before the region prepared for the Celebration of Ministry Service.

Celebration of Ministry Service

Canadian Shield Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministry Service at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre.

Rev. Rob Smith, the Canadian Shield Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister, welcomed everyone in-person and online and gave an Acknowledgement of the Land. Rev. Whitney Bruno spoke about the Recognition of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People.

Rev. Rob Smith presided with assistance by Liturgists Rev. Erin Todd, Rev. Stewart Walker, Rev. Glen Eagle, and Rev. Laurie Stevenson.

The Scripture readings were from Exodus 17:1-7 and Matthew 16:13-18. The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne delivered the message.

Helen Smith and Tracy Davis were ordained to the order of ministry and Lisa Blais was commissioned to the order of ministry. The ordinations and commission were presided over by Rev. Nancy Ferguson, Rev. Rob Smith, Rev. Kellie McComb (Office of Vocation), and Rev. Todd McDonald (Shining Waters Regional Council Pastoral Relations Minister).

Rob Smith acknowledged Rev. Desire Tiriwepi, whom was admitted into The United Church of Canada at a service in Thunder Bay, ON in October 2024.

There was a covenanting with the new Canadian Shield Regional Council Staff person, Shawn Redden, as well as a covenanting with the new Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive.

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne gave the benediction.

Rev. Nancy Ferguson, the Chair of the region, declared the 2025 Hybrid Canadian Shield Regional Meeting adjourned.

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES – September 17, 2024

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL MEETING September 17, 2024

The Online Fall Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on September 17, 2024 via Zoom video conference.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

The Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 7:00 p.m. to begin the Fall Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Nancy Ferguson, Chair, welcomed all those participating and introduced herself.

Chair Nancy Ferguson 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.

Chair Nancy gave an acknowledgement of the land and shared a safe space statement.

Opening Meditation

Chair Nancy shared an opening meditation with the regional council.

Presentation of the Nominees List for GC45 Commissioners

Rob Smith, the Pastoral Relations Minister for the CSRC, and Bill Jones, the Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the Nominees list for GC45 Commissioners.

Introduction of the Role of GC45 Commissioners

Rob Smith and Bill Jones presented the role of a GC45 Commissioner, followed by the vote from the regional council on GC45 Commissioners to represent the Canadian Shield Regional Council.

MOTION by Susan Siczkar/David LeGrand CS FALL RCM 2024-09-17-01

That the Canadian Shield Regional Council approves the slate of Commissioners and an alternate for the 45th General Council as follows: Commissioners Rev. Bill Jones, Blessing Tiriwepi, Rev. Desire Tiriwepi, Peter Haddow, Laurie Kendall, Steven Loweth, Barbara Nott, Rev. Whitney Bruno, Rev. Joyce Fergus-Moore, Rev. Stewart Walker; and, Alternate Rev. Fraser Williamson.

CARRIED

MOTION by Lionel Ketola/Susan Siczkar

CS FALL RCM 2024-09-17-02

That the electronic poll ballots from the GC45 Commissioner vote be destroyed.

CARRIED

Adjournment

The Chair, Nancy Ferguson, declared the 2024 Fall Online Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting be adjourned.

Blessing

Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister for the CSRC, offered a blessing before the region departed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**DIGEST OF ACTIONS THE
EXECUTIVE
OF CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR
THE PERIOD May 30, 2024 to May 2, 2025**

Decisions made by the Executive May 30, 2024

1. That the minutes of the Pastoral Relations Committee be received from September 26, 2023, for information.
2. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from March 26, 2024 and the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from March 26, 2024 and April 23, 2024 be received, for information.
3. There was consensus that the Peter Hartmans will ask Kathie Smith and Helen Smith (as they were a part of the Planning Team and Local Arrangements for this RCM) for their input on honouraria for guests and volunteers. Peter Hartmans will work with them to draft a policy and will then forward that to the Finance Resource Team.
4. That the CSRC Executive approve the Property Commission Chair and Members Job Descriptions, Terms of Reference, and the Property Commission addition to the Property Policy and Procedures document.
5. That a member of the Property Commission sit on the CSRC Executive and that the Property Commission Minutes be submitted to Executive, for information.
6. That the CSRC Executive create a Governance Document Review Team to include Barb Nott, Bill Steadman, John Watson, Jim Jackson, Susan Whitehead and one other member to be added by the Chair of Executive.
7. There was consensus that Peter Hartmans and Susan Whitehead would draft a policy for the use of the CSRC logo and report back at the September 5, 2024 meeting.
8. That the 2025 Canadian Shield Online Regional Council Meeting be on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

Decisions made by the Executive June 25, 2024

9. That the CSRC Executive adopt the Nominations Committee recommended Nominations and Election Process for Commissioners to General Council.
10. That the CSRC Executive approve the Nominations Committee recommendation that the Pastoral Relations Commission membership be increased from 9 to 10 members, plus the Chair and Secretary.
11. That the CSRC Executive approve the election of Peter Haddow to the Support to Communities of Faith Commission, John Watson to the Pastoral Relations Commission, and Jack Page to the Property Commission.
12. That the budget for the 2025 Festival of Faith be \$30,000 for the Canadian Shield Regional Council's portion of the joint event with SWRC (50% percent of the total cost of \$60,000).
13. That the CSRC Executive direct Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans, to commence with the hiring of a full-time accounting assistant to help with the transition in preparation for when Janet MacDonald leaves her position on June 30, 2025.

Decisions made by the Executive September 25, 2024

14. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from May 21, 2024, June 24, 2024, and July 18, 2024 be received, for information.
15. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from May 28, 2024, June 25, 2024, and August 7, 2024 be received, for information.
16. That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from June 13, 2024 and August 22, 2024 be received, for information.
17. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following actions:
 St. Paul's United Church Non-Profit Housing Corporation (Thunder Bay, ON)
 ... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the St. Paul's United Church Non-Profit Housing Corporation 2024-2025 Board of Directors
 Lynne Curran
 Laurie Forbes
 Gail Henderson
 Linda Hietanen
 Terry Hietanen
 Don Macdougall
 Doreen Macdougall
 Bert Rowson
 Ray Quinn

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 18, 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. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws is fast approaching and there are two Incorporated Ministries that the Region has not received updated by-laws to approve. Camp McDougall Inc. is working on its by-laws and an update has been requested from Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated (Camp Duncan), but has not been received yet.

18. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council forward the correspondence letter from St. Paul's United Church – Thunder Bay dated July 20, 2024 re: One Order Ministry to the General Council Office.
19. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (CSRC) Executive accept the request from Living Skies Regional Council (LSRC) that the CSRC be the receiving body for a Workplace, Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Response Policy complaint, acting on behalf of Living Skies Regional Council. (1 Abstention – Peter Hartmans)
20. That Peter Hartmans, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, and Stewart Walker provide administrative support for the complaint from Living Skies Regional Council. (2 Abstentions – Peter Hartmans and Stewart Walker)
21. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive elect Mastard Sakala to serve on the Canadian Shield Nominations Committee as the Executive representative. (1 Abstention – Mastard Sakala)

Decisions made by the Executive November 7, 2024

22. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from September 18, 2024 be received, for information.
23. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from September 18, 2024 be received, for information.
24. That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from September 18, 2024 be received, for information.

25. There was consensus to send a request to the Grants Committee to propose a process of distribution for these funds (\$2,000 from GCO for the 100th Anniversary) that can support watch parties around the region, in lieu of sending the Chair to Newfoundland on June 10th, 2025.

Decisions made by the Executive December 5, 2024

26. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from October 16, 2024 and the CSRC Property Commission from October 31, 2024 be received, for information.
27. There was consensus that Peter Hartmans will share the Nuclear Free North letter with the CSRC SJNOR reps and forward their recommendations back to the CSRC Executive.
28. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the 2025 CSRC Budget, as presented.
29. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive accept the 2023 Audited Statements.
30. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive authorize Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister) and Nancy Ferguson (Chair of CSRC Executive) to sign the Statement of Financial Position on behalf of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. (1 Abstention – Peter Hartmans)
31. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the addition of Meranda MacKenzie and Jody Maltby as signing authorities for the Canadian Shield Regional Council, effective December 5, 2024.
32. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the CSRC Logo Policy.

Decisions made by the Executive February 6, 2025

33. That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from November 21, 2024 and December 13, 2024 be received, for information.
34. 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.
35. 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.
36. That Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant to the Executive Minister, join the confidential in-camera session to take notes, if needed.
37. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive move out of in-camera.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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.

41. That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council appoint Laurie Stevenson to the CSRC Nominations Committee.
42. That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the Honouraria Policy, as presented.
43. That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the Regional Council Meeting Location Policy, as presented.
44. That the Executive of the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the CSRC Logo Policy, as presented.
45. 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.

Decisions made by the Executive March 6, 2025

46. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from November 20, 2024 and December 4, 2024 be received, for information.
47. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following action(s):

- a) Camp McDougall Inc.

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Bylaw No. 1 as approved by the members on October 8, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Camp McDougall Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp McDougall Inc. 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Sherrill Dewar
 Rayna Evoy
 Sylvia Hanniman
 Debbie Kirby
 Mary A. Laundrie
 Amy Lawson
 Brian Lawson
 Anita Mitchell
 Steven Mullins
 Nick Sinclair
 Lauren Towell
 Eric Verbonac

These are based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of October 8, 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.

This is the first annual meeting held since 2021. Board members, Regional Council and General Council staff have spent many hours getting this camp up to date with the IM and Duty of Care Policies of The United Church of Canada. Camp McDougall is now in compliance.

- b) 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 2025-2026 Board of Directors

James E. Bidnall
A. Ernest Epp
Dave Hammond
Linda Hammond
Gerhardt F. Jansekovich
Lori Jansekovich
Shane Judge
Steve Kranyak
Ross McCubbin
Ken Moffatt
Kathy Neill
Richard Paterson
David White

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting minutes of February 16, 2025, the 2025 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. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has passed and updated by-laws have been received by all incorporated ministries. Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated (Camp Duncan) is working on its by-laws but they were not ready for the Annual Meeting.

48. That the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the request for \$1,000 in support of SJNORC for the 2025 year.
49. That the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council forward the proposal “A Call for Full Inclusion and Pastoral Support for Individuals Accessing MAID Under Tract Two” to the General Council with concurrence.

Decisions made by the Executive April 3, 2025

1. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from October 29, 2024 and the Property Commission from January 23, 2025 and February 27, 2025 be received, for information.
2. That the CSRC Executive request the Nuclear-Free North working group to draft a statement regarding the We the Nuclear-Free North resolution and return it back to the CSRC Executive for approval.
3. That the CSRC Executive approve the CS Executive Accountability Report to the 2025 Regional Council Meeting Workbook.
4. That the CSRC Executive approve the present Chair’s term be extended by one year (2026) to allow the incoming Chair installation to occur at an in-person Regional Council Meeting. (1 Abstention – Bill Jones)
5. That Nancy Ferguson be named an GC45 Alternate Commissioner.

Decisions made by the Executive May 1, 2025

50. That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith Commission from February 19, 2025 and March 5, 2025 be received, for information.
51. That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from March 27, 2025, be received, for information.

52. That the Minutes of the CSRC Pastoral Relations Commission from February 25, 2025 and March 25, 2025, be received, for information.
53. That after review by the CSRC Finance Resource Team, the CSRC Executive recommends the 2026 Draft Budget to the 2025 Online Canadian Shield Regional Council meeting May 3, 2025, for review.
54. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation of the Nominations Committee to appoint Sarah Drouin and Allister Cruthers to the Mission Support and Grants Resource Team.
55. That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive Meeting on May 1, 2025 be adjourned.



ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Regional Council:

Our regional meeting theme for this year is “Upon This Rock.” This Regional meeting is a wonderful opportunity to gather online across our regional council to connect, to pray, worship, and update each other. We join together as United Church to celebrate our Ministry together as communities of faith, seeking encouragement from each other as we share the gospel and most of all, worship and giving thanks!

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 our expression of the Gospel in many new and creative ways. As we move through 2025, we raise up for you our regional council, local communities of faith, the UCC and our Country as we face new concerns south of the boarder, especially communities living near the boarder like Sault Ste. Marie and folks concerned with Tariffs and the impact on employment.

Connecting within our Regional Council:

Although this past year many of our communities of faith, outreach ministries, and camps have struggled with figuring out our new normal, we have continued a ministry of caring and support and we have continued 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, hybrid worship, and gathering for meetings virtually. Hybrid worship is a new and creative offering, which was limited across the regional council five years ago and now has become routine.

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 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, Committees, Resource Teams, networks/clusters, and informal gatherings UCC folks and community members. In 2024/25, the Executive spent a significant amount of time considering our Ministry now and, in the future, including participation in a joint retreat with the SWRC Executive in fall of 2024. One of the primary foci to come out of the retreat is supporting communities of faith in the next 5 to 10 years and beyond! Questions were asked like how do we support Communities of Faith and Ministry personnel and how do we as a regional council, support each other? The Executive continues this work, in partnership with the UCC.

A newer resource for connecting regularly is the “Lets Connect Lay Leader Resources” work of the regional council. CSRC offers *Lets Connect* events several time a year with a variety of foci. The website offers recorded copies of events as a resource. See <https://canadianshieldrc.ca/communities-of-faith/lets-connect-lay-leader-resources/>.

The Executive always celebrates volunteers within the regional council and have organized a number of connecting events between communities of faith, Ministry Personnel both locally and across the regional council. One network, which meets several times a year, is MILC - Manitou Intentional Learning Community. As shared on their website, “Manitou Intentional Learning Community creates and sustains opportunities in learning... The Community has its physical and

administrative home at St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury Ontario. It recognizes and lives a broadly local and global commitment to transformational learning for all members of the United Church and its partners and friends." Please check out their website:

<https://www.manitoulearningcommunity.com/>

Festival of Faith 2025:

In June 2025, both the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council will join together, mutually planning a joint Festival of Faith for June 13-15, 2025 in Sudbury, Ontario. The Executive receives regular updates from the Planning Team and is grateful for their work and planning this big event.

For more details see: <https://canadianshieldrc.ca/about/festival-of-faith-2025/>

Work of the Regional Executive:

Our Regional Council Executive meets monthly (with the exception of the summer) and does the work of the regional council when our region is not meeting (The Manual 2025 - C.3.1.1). Often the Executive has a very full agenda which includes oversight of the regional Commissions, regional finances, regional policy, the annual regional council meeting, emerging work, and the Executive Minister and staff. Key leadership in the Regional Council continues through the regional council Commissions and Resource Teams. The Executive partners with the Property Commission, Support to Communities of Faith Commission, and the Pastoral Relations Commission, along with a number of invaluable Resource Teams, who support specific work the regional council including Right Relations, Affirming, Finance, Youth and Affirm, along with a number of working groups.

The Draft 2025 Budget will be presented at our Regional Council Meeting. We are grateful for the faithful work of the Finance Team and the folks who prepare our budget and support our regional finances, both volunteers and staff.

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 (RCM). 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 last meeting. 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. Minutes are also posted on our website.

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 and communities of faith, and even Canadian society to pause and reflect. The United Church is offering training, learning opportunities and discussion groups as part of a strategy of becoming an anti-racist Church. The United Church offers a wide variety of resources, video's, workshops and printed materials to support our work. See <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism>

Both regional councils have encouraged equity conversations at the Executive level, and the Commission and Committee levels of the church. The regional council continues to lift up our commitment to equity across our work.

We also continue to work and celebrate the Canadian Shield Regional Council as a Affirming Regional Council and support community of faith conversations too!

Regional Council Staffing update and Staffing Support Through the General Council Office:

In 2024/2025, we saw more transition of staff in our regional council. Jeffery Dale finished his work at the regional council in 2023 and transitioned to local community of faith ministry. We have deeply appreciated his work with the regional council and he 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. Janet MacDonald, who has provided financial administrative support and leadership to the regional council since 2019, will transition into Retirement in June 2025. We wish her well and we are so very grateful for her work through reorganization and normalizing our financial operation. Meranda MacKenzie, accounting assistant/bookkeeper, has been hired fulltime for CSRC/SWRC, to work with Janet as she transitions into retirement. Meranda works part-time for CSRC and can be reach at mmackenzie@united-church.ca . Jody Maltby, Minister, Finance and Property/Staff lead SWRC, has move some of her work time from SWRC to CSRC and is providing key leadership and support to the finance team and the regional council, focusing on the regional budget.

In 2023/2024 we started a more intentional transition to shared staff between both regional councils. Rob Smith transitioned from full time in CSRC, to part-time, now also supporting Ministry Personnel in Shining Waters Regional Council. All four administrative staff now officially serve both regional councils (Donna Rutz, Kathleen Wolfe, Celio de Andrade Santos Jr. as admin support and Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant to the Executive Minister) to increase our support to program staff, as we work with less program staff for the regional council. To learn more about our staff see: <https://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/staff/>

We continue to deeply appreciate working with Diane, Rob, Melody, Shawn, Celio, Donna, Susan, Kathleen, Meranda, Jody, Janet, 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 Knot and Chair-Elect Bill Jones, and current Chair, Nancy Ferguson, who have provided attentive leadership throughout this year. Thank you!

Office of Vocation and Support of Ministry Personnel:

We continue to be well served by the Office of Vocation, its many volunteers, and staff. The staff person who supports the Canadian Shield Regional Council through the office of Vocation is Kellie McComb, Vocational Minister kmccomb@united-church.ca . Kelly's contact information is on the Canadian Shield Website. We express gratitude for Kelly's work.

Community of Faith Stewardship Support:

While Melody Duncanson-Hales serves part-time as CSRC staff, the General Council also supports Stewardship learning, growth conversations through the work of Melody, for the General Council office in CSRC. For questions about stewardship, email Melody at: MDuncanson-Hales@united-church.ca . We are grateful for Melody's work, experience and inspiration.

United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministry:

In partnership with the General Council, its staff and regional council staff, the Executive provides primary oversite to our United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries. In Canadian Shield, we support both Camping and housing Incorporated Ministry. We give thanks for the many hours folks offer supporting Incorporated Ministry as volunteers. This important ministry is an invaluable extension of the Regional Council.

United Church of Canada Foundation:

In partnership with the regional council and the Executive, The United Church of Canada Foundation supports the work of The United Church of Canada, its regions and communities of

faith. The role of the UCC Foundation is to help you make powerful, meaningful gifts to the ministries and causes that are most important to you, helping them grow into the future. The UCC Foundation also can provide investment opportunities for congregations that have at least \$50,000 in Reserve Funds. The Foundation also offers grants. For more information on the UCC Foundation, please see: <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/about-the-foundation/>

UCC Strategic Plan:

2025 marks the end of the first chapter of the implementation of The United Church of Canada Strategic Plan (2023-2025). The United Church of Canada Executive is currently working on a draft update of the Strategic Plan called Towards 2035 and the regional council Executive has offered feedback to the draft. We look forward to discussing this with the regional council at a future townhall meeting. General Council 45 will review and consider the draft updated Strategic Plan in August of 2025.

We are grateful for the work of Calin Lau, General Council Growth Animator, supporting the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council. clau@united-church.ca , 1-800-268-3781 ex. 2047

Sharing the introduction of the 2023 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; please see The United Church of Canada website for the most up-to-date details.

100 Years!

In 2025, we prepare for the 100th year celebration of The United Church of Canada with an online/in-person service, hosted by The United Church of Canada. Some communities of faith are

planning “watch” events across the regional council. The regional council is also providing \$100 grants to support communities of faith who request the grant in their planning and preparation for this time of reflection, confession, and celebration.

The Centennial Theme is:

Deep Spirituality

The words of Jesus’ prayer that the disciples be one (John 17:21)

Bold Discipleship

The belief that what unites us is stronger than our differences

Daring Justice

The desire to live out the gospel call to love and justice in Canada and around the world”

For more information see: <https://united-church.ca/100years>

Thanks:

We give thanks for the work of the regional council, outreach ministry, and 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 2025 and beyond.

With Gratitude and Prayer - The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive:

Nancy Ferguson – Chair, CSRC Executive

Peter Hartmans – Executive Minister, CSRC and SWRC

Bill Jones – Chair-Elect, CSRC Executive

Jim Jackson

Laurie Stevenson

Bill Steadman

Lionel Ketola

Susan Lindquist

Dave LeGrand

Susan Peverley

Stewart Walker

Gord Roberts

Diane Matheson-Jimenez – CSRC Staff Lead

Susan Whitehead – Administrative Support

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

When my predecessor, John Watson, wrote his report last year he spoke about passing the tiller of the ship to another. As a former merchant seaman, the nautical reference resonated with me, the ship has long been a metaphor for the church. While a small boat can be handled by a single person, a ship requires a crew to operate smoothly. We are blessed in Canadian Shield to have an excellent ‘crew’ in the Pastoral Relations Commission. The work of the commission is primarily about employment relationships—calls, appointments, retirements, changes in call or appointment and vetting calls and appointments for compliance with denominational policy. In addition to these

employment issues, we are also responsible for licensing LLWLs and sacraments elders, and appointing pastoral charge supervisors.

The bulk of the report you will find below is a digest of actions we have undertaken over the past year. It was compiled by our staff support person the Rev. Rob Smith with assistance from our commission secretary Karen Gooch, and I thank them both for the great work they have done over the past year supporting the work of the Commission. I would also like to thank Rev. Todd MacDonald and Rev. Dale Hildebrandt who filled in as primary staff support while Rob was on sabbatical.

The Pastoral Relations ministry of the Region is an activity in which all members of the commission participate together. I cannot do my work apart from them and we can't do our work without all of you the representatives to Canadian Shield Regional Council. I would like to thank all who have given of their time to enable our ministry together: my colleagues on the Commission; those who have served as Pastoral Relations Liaisons and Pastoral Charge supervisors; our Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and the team who supports them; and our Sacraments Elders. Finally, I would like to thank our staff who are always there to assist me and the Commission as we do our work: Peter Hartmans, Rob Smith, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Melody Duncanson-Hales, Calin Lau, Shawn Redden, Jody Maltby, Susan Whitehead, Celio de Andrade Santos Jr., Donna Rutz, Kathleen Jones and Meranda Mackenzie. It has been a privilege to work with all of you this past year.

Submitted in Christ's name,

The Rev. Stewart Walker, Chair, Pastoral Relations Commission, Canadian Shield Regional Council

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

Pastoral Relations Activity Since the Last Regional Council Meeting in May 2024

2024

1. **St. Stephen's on the Hill, Sudbury, ON** – accepted the request for a change of pastoral relations from the Rev. Catherine Somerville effective December 31, 2024 due to retirement.
2. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – we relicensed the following LLWLs Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich and Lorna Corzine effective July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2027.
3. **Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa, ON** – renewed the Sacraments Elder license of Lorna Chiupka until June 30, 2025.
4. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, Chapleau, ON** – renewed the Sacraments elder license of Susan Lindquist until June 30, 2025
5. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, Chapleau, ON** – renewed the Sacraments elder license of Tim Cecile until June 30, 2025
6. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, Capreol, ON** – approved the re-appointment of Pam Brown (Candidate) part time (20 hours) until August 31, 2025.

7. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Massey, ON** – renewed the Sacraments Elder license of May Cameron until June 30, 2025.
8. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – we relicensed the following LLWLs; Cyndy Raby, George Bott, Vivian Hall, and John McDonald until June 30, 2027.
9. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge Sudbury, ON** – accepted the request to change pastoral relations from the Rev. David Legrand (OM) effective October 6, 2024.
10. **Magnetawan Shared Ministry, Magnetawan, ON** – accepted the request to change of pastoral relations from the Rev. Sylvia Poetschke (OM – ELCC) effective October 15, 2024.
11. **The Rev. Lawrence Muvunzi (OM)** was admitted into The United Church of Canada.
12. **Trinity Manitoulin Pastoral Charge, Mindemoya, ON** – renewed the appointment of Kim Inglis (Candidate) part time (20 hours) until June 30, 2025.
13. **Onaping Falls Pastoral Charge, Levak, ON** - approved the provisional appointment of Diane Tait (Ordinand) effective September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2028.
14. **The Rev. Diane Tait** – approved the ordination of Diane Tait on September 29, 2024 at Trinity, Lively, ON.
15. **Burks Falls Pastoral Charge, Burks Falls, ON** – approved the call of the Rev. Linda Newnham (OM) effective September 1, 2024.
16. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – approved the re-appointment of the Rev. David Zub (part-time – 12 hours) until January 31, 2025.
17. **St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, New Liskeard, ON** – approved the request to re-license Eleanor Katona and Bev Foley as sacraments elders.
18. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – re-licensed the following LLWLs Lorna Chiupka, Cathy Bright, Shannon Duffus-Edmond, Wanda Wilding, Marie Rinne and Roger West.
19. **St. Paul's-Emmanuel Community Pastoral Charge, Englehart, ON** – approved the re-appointment of the Rev. Elaine Lush (OM – retired) (part-time 20 hours) until December 31, 2025.
20. **St. James in the Valley Pastoral Charge, Val Therese, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. David Legrand (part time 14 hours) from November 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
21. **St. Mark's Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON** – approved the appointment of the Rev. Kathryn Dahmer (OM) (part-time 20 hours) effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.
22. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON** – approved the short-term appointment of the Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte (OM – retired) (full-time) effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.
23. **Trinity Pastoral Charge, Lively, ON and St. Stephen's on the Hill Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON** – approved shared ministry Personnel Agreement with the Rev. James Ko (OM) effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028.

2025

24. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – we relicensed the following people until June 30, 2027: Joy Bott, Robert Cosbey and Diana Hannaford-Wilcox.
25. **St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Sault Ste. Marie, ON** – approved the re-appointment of the Rev. David Zub (part-time 12 hours) effective February 1, 2025 until May 31, 2025
26. **St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Temiscaming, QC** – re-appointed Glenda Woodbury as Sacraments elder until June 30, 2026.
27. **Broadway Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON** – re-appointed Lori Jansekovich as their sacraments elder until June 30, 2026.

28. **St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Cochrane, ON** – re-appointed Christine Mitchell-Kydd as their sacraments elder until June 30, 2026.
29. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders** – we relicensed the following people from the North Bay area until June 30, 2028: Linda Clarke, Rob Farris, Peter Haddow, Elizabeth Henderson, Brenda McLay, Jennifer Moorlag, Frances Morris, Aaron Palmer, Linda Sarginson and John Sheridan.

Pastoral Relations Liaisons

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

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

This year we said goodbye to Mercedes Hughes. We give thanks for her faithful service as a pastoral relations liaison.

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 always looking for new liaisons. If you are interested, please let Rob know.

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. **Harmony, Thunder Bay, ON** – liaison is Jan Venton – currently discerning future ministry needs.
4. **Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa, ON** – liaison is Joy Galloway – currently searching for a part-time minister.
5. **Loring Pastoral Charge, Loring, ON** – liaison is Catherine Somerville – currently searching for a part-time minister
6. **Magnetawan Shared Ministry, Magnetawan, ON** – liaison is Catherine Somerville – currently searching for a full-time minister.
7. **Kapuskasing Pastoral Charge, Kapuskasing, ON** – liaison is Joy Galloway – currently searching for a part-time minister.
8. **St. Andrew's, North Bay, ON** – liaison is Catherine Somerville – currently in the process of discerning a provisional call.
9. **Trinity, Capreol, ON** – liaison is Mardi Mumford – currently discerning a provisional call.

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 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.

This year we have had a number of changes and a few of our longer-term supervisors have decided it is time to step back. We give thanks to the faithful service of Rick Thorne, Will Kunder, Aaron Palmer and Erwin Thompson. As a result, we have a number of pastoral charges who are currently without a supervisor. We are trying to discern what pastoral charge supervision looks like in a post ministry personnel context.

1. All People's Pastoral Charge, Sudbury, ON – Barbara Nott
2. Broadway Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON – Shane Judge
3. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Capreol, ON – student minister – Lynda Todd
4. Carmichael Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON – Sandra Jenkinson
5. Central Algoma Church Community, Bruce Mines, ON – Stewart Walker
6. Chapleau Pastoral Charge, Chapleau, ON – Susan Lindquist
7. Cochrane: St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Cochrane, ON – Bill Jones
8. Coniston: St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge, Coniston, ON – Stewart Walker
9. Echo Bay Pastoral Charge, Echo Bay, ON, - Bruce McLeish
10. Espanola Pastoral Charge, Espanola, ON – Whitney Bruno
11. Goulais River Pastoral Charge, Goulais River, ON – Laurie Stevenson
12. Harmony Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON – Steven Loweth
13. Hearst: St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Pastoral Charge – Bill Jones
14. Iroquois Falls Pastoral Charge, Iroquois Falls, ON – Diane Matheson-Jimenez
15. Kapuskasing Community Church Pastoral Charge, Kapuskasing, ON – Laura Hutchinson
16. Katrine Pastoral Charge, Katrine, ON – Fraser Williamson
17. Kirkland Lake Pastoral Charge, Kirkland Lake, ON – Elaine Lush
18. Loring Pastoral Charge, Loring, ON – John Sheridan
19. Marathon: St. John's Pastoral Charge, Marathon, ON – Jim Jackson
20. Massey Pastoral Charge, Massey, ON – Brian Bigelow
21. Matheson Pastoral Charge, Matheson – Elaine Lush
22. Mattawa-Rutherglen Pastoral Charge, Mattawa, ON – vacant
23. Mount Joy Pastoral Charge, Timmins, ON – Rob Galloway
24. Nipigon Pastoral Charge, Nipigon, ON – John Watson
25. Nipissing-Restoule Pastoral Charge, Nipissing, ON – Fraser Williamson
26. Phelps Pastoral Charge, Redbridge, ON – Ron Holotuk
27. Pinegrove Pastoral Charge, Rosslyn, ON – Christina Stricker
28. St. Andrews Pastoral Charge, North Bay, ON – Kathie Smith
29. St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, New Liskeard, ON – Peter Haddow
30. Sturgeon Falls Pastoral Charge, Sturgeon Falls, ON – Gordon Roberts
31. St. Paul's Pastoral Charge, Temiscaming, QC – Lillian Roberts
32. Thessalon Pastoral Charge, Thessalon, ON – Jane Graham
33. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Thunder Bay, ON – Christina Stricker
34. Trinity Pastoral Charge, Manitoulin, ON – Melody Duncanson-Hales
35. Val D'Or Pastoral Charge, Val D'Or, QC – Elaine Lush
36. Wawa Pastoral Charge, Wawa ON – Helen Smith

Sacraments Elders

Licensed Until June 30, 2026

1. Maxine Dale – St. Andrew's, Coniston, ON
2. Glenda Woodbury – St. Paul's, Temiscaming, QC
3. Lori Jansekovich – Broadway, Thunder Bay, ON
4. Christine Mitchell-Kydd – St. Paul's, Cochrane, ON

Licensed Until June 30, 2025

(Please fill out the on-line form if you wish these folks to continue as your sacraments elders.)

[Sacraments Elder Application Form | Canadian Shield](#)

1. May Cameron – St. Andrew's, Massey
2. Mona Campbell, All People's, Sudbury
3. Tim Cecile – Trinity, Chapleau
4. Marlene Chuipka – All People's, Sudbury
5. Susan Jansson – St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Anglican/United Church, Hearst.
6. Kerttu Ladouceur – St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Anglican/United Church, Hearst
7. Susan Lindquist – Trinity, Chapleau
8. Diane Rust – Mountjoy, Timmins
9. Kathie Smith – St. Andrew's, Sturgeon Falls
10. Judy Tomlin – Hillview, New Liskeard
11. 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 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 (Licensed until June 30, 2027)

1. George Bott
2. Joy Bott
3. Cathy Bright
4. Lorna Chuipka
5. Robert Cosbey
6. Vivian Hall
7. Diane Hannaford-Wilcox
8. John McDonald
9. Cyndy Raby
10. Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich

11. Wanda Wilding

East – North Bay and Area (Licensed until June 30, 2028)

1. Linda Clarke
2. Rob Farris
3. Peter Haddow
4. Elizabeth Henderson
5. Ron Holotok
6. Jennifer Moorlag
7. Brenda McLay
8. Frances Morris
9. Aaron Palmer
10. Linda Sarginson
11. John Sheridan

Central – Sudbury – Licensed until June 30, 2026

1. Gail Cronin
2. Jane Graham
3. David Chuipka
4. Cindy Hebert
5. Marg Hiddleston
6. Ross Macleod
7. Faye Moffatt
8. Brian Mundell
9. Nancy Mundell
10. Judy Sears
11. Dawn Yorke

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.

On October 19, 2024 we offered an on-line workshop on writing prayers and choosing music by Alydia Smith for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders.

The Rev. Kathleen McCallum has been teaching a hybrid LLWL training course. The final in-person session will be held at Villa Loyal in May 2025. Twelve students have participated in the 2-year course. A special thank you to Kathleen for organizing and teaching the course.

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 partnered with Shining Waters regional council in September 2024 to host a in person retreat at Fern Resort in Orillia. Seven of our ministers attended the 3-day event.

We invited the Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson to offer a follow up on-line conversation about the competencies for collaborative ministry. He had led us in a similar conversation at our Ministry Personnel Retreat in May of 2024 at Sault Ste. Marie.

We are in the midst of planning a retreat at Villa Loyola in Sudbury, June 12-13, 2025, just before the Festival of Faith. Our facilitators are Todd and Ruth McDonald. We encourage all ministry personnel active and retired to join us.

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 Soloman 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

PROPERTY COMMISSION

Since our last report to the Regional Council, we have attempted to faithfully walk with the following Communities of Faith, as they have attempted to navigate their ways through the enchanted forest of property related matters.

During that same time, we transitioned from being a Resource Team, reporting to and through the Support to Communities of faith Commission to being our own standalone Commission.

We attempted to walk with the following Communities of Faith on behalf of our Regional Council:

- ✚ Bruce Mines United Church as their property was sold to the Bruce Mines Historical Society
- ✚ Endorsed in principle the development plan for Porcupine United Church
- ✚ Began the ongoing process of selling St. Andrew's United Church in Sault Ste. Marie
- ✚ Approved the sale of St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church, Sudbury to Destiny International Church
- ✚ Approved the sale of St. Andrew's United Church, Schreiber Ontario to ExamProp Training Inc.
- ✚ Approved the sale of St. Mark's United Church, Sudbury to the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (Sudbury Branch)
- ✚ Approved a major renovation plan at Porcupine United Church
- ✚ Requested that the Executive Minister reach out to his colleagues in Nakonha:ka Regional Council (Quebec) to assist/walk with the people at Val D'Or Quebec community concerning their anticipated sale of property
 - This request having been made, we authorized the Finance and Extension Board of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council to act on behalf of the CSRC in this sale. CSRC will cover all related costs.
- ✚ Approved the sale of Central United Church, Sault Ste. Marie to the Metis Nation of Ontario Secretariat
- ✚ Approved the sale of St. Andrew's United Church, Sault Ste. Marie to Frank Shunock in Trust for a company to be incorporated
- ✚ Approved the final sale of Central United Church, Sault Ste. Marie to the Metis Nation of Ontario Secretariat
- ✚ Approved the request of the Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church, Sault Ste. Marie to assign the offer to purchase from Frank Shunock, in Trust for a Company to be incorporated to Isnize Living with a closing date of April 21 , 2025
- ✚ Heard a progress report concerning the proposed sale of certain real property at Emmanuel United Church, Sault Ste. Marie to the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation

Since 2019, and the inception of the Canadian Shield Regional Council, along with its sister regional councils, we have been on an almost constant diet of change. Among the changes I have noticed is that we have gone from talking about a focus on “congregations” to a wider focus on “Communities of Faith.” This has meant that we have had to live with a sometimes-awkward walk towards where

the faith communities have determined that they/we would/could/should go in our shared walk of faith. There is no GPS system for such a journey.

Our thanks to the members of the Commission for faithfully walking this journey/conversation on behalf of the Region

Our thanks to the Commission Team of Kathleen, Diane and Melody for helping us find some of the steppingstones along the way.

Our thanks to the Communities of Faith that have allowed us to be part of their conversations so far, and my thanks to the Communities of Faith who will walk with us along the way yet unexplored.

2025 will mark the centennial for our denomination.

Let's be sure that the rich history so far is but a prequel to what lies ahead.

Submitted by Rev. Gordon Roberts (Team Lead) on behalf of:

Jan Ross (North Bay), Rob Farris (North Bay), Paul McAllister (Thunder Bay) , Laurie Kendall (Thunder Bay) , James Ko (Sudbury), Wayne Jeffkins (Sudbury), and Jack Page(North Bay 2024)

AFFIRMING RESOURCE TEAM

As I am writing this report, I am looking out my window at the snow blowing around. Every so often my window becomes partially covered and it changes my view. It is a far contrast from yesterday. Yesterday it was sunny and I was heading to a rural country church to do pulpit supply thinking "What a beautiful day." Today is still a "Great" day - it just changes how I am moving forward.

To me that's the way it has been for most of us this year. As the Affirming Ministry Resource Team, we set our goals and objectives of what we would like to accomplish but the weather changes and we need to set a new course.

Over the last year there has been a rise in policy changes in regards to 2SLGBTQ+ rights. Especially in regards to trans members of our communities in other parts of the world and sadly in various areas in our own country.

This made us wonder how to we support Ministers and Student Ministers in Affirming Churches as well as those of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities who lead ministry in churches that are not Affirming in the CSRC. We realized there was a need for them to gather in a safe place to have the opportunity to talk. So, in December we had a zoom table gathering that was led by a facilitator. The feedback from this event was good. This laid the groundwork for possible other gatherings facilitated by those who attended, if needed.

In some communities across Canada and even in our own region there has been push back on raising the progressive pride flag during Pride. In fact, in some cases Pride has been cancelled. As an Affirming Resource Team as well as Affirming communities of faith, it is more important now more than ever to be P.I.E. (Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion).

In order to promote why Pride is important, especially in rural Ontario, we held a Zoom gathering

and invited AJ Adams to be our guest speaker. This was open to both CSRC and Shining Waters, churches who were affirming, those who were not, as well as 2SLGBTQ+ and Allies. It was the most attended online event that the Affirming Ministry Resource Team has put on. Obviously from the turn out the subject was very relevant. AJ Adams was amazing. The video is available on the CSRC Affirming Ministry webpage (<https://canadianshielddrc.ca/justice-issues/affirming-ministry/>).

Even with the current climate changes in the world around us there is hope for a brighter tomorrow. Over the last year there have been more interest in communities of faith in the CSRC in becoming affirming. At least the conversation is out there and that is great.

We are grateful for the support of the CSRC, Affirm United, as well as Affirming Connections. More importantly we are grateful to the Affirming Communities of Faith across the region for all the work they do and the lives they change in doing so.

I want to thank all the members of the Affirming Ministry Resource Team in which I am just a small part of as their team lead. They are the ones who make this work so enjoyable and meaningful.

Your CSRC Affirming Ministry Resource Team is:

Peter Haddow – Team Lead

Caitlin Smithers

Charles Bolduc

Harry Stewart

Ryan Fea

Marilyn Schatzler

Susan Peverly

Whitney Bruno

Laura Hutchison

Rob Smith – Regional Resource

Celio De Andrade – Administrative Support

Special thanks to Shawn Redden who filled in for Rob when he was on sabbatical.

Thank you.

Peter Haddow, Team Lead

Affirming Resource Team

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 2024 include:

- 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, the Apology and more for the CSRC website
- Creating and distributing digital and print Minute for Right Relations, Summer Reading Lists, an Indigenous Music Playlist, Christmas Shopping Resource list, and more
- Providing oversight for the Manitou Art Collection paintings in the care of communities of faith in our region
 - In May, at the Regional meeting, we delivered two Manitou Paintings: “*Tobacco Offering*”, by Leland Bell to St. Andrew’s United Church, Massey and “*Lost in Flock*” by the late Stanley Pannamick to Willowgrove United Church, Sault Ste Marie.
 - In March 2025, St Joseph Island Pastoral Charge was awarded as caretakers for “Sharing the Sacred Scroll”
- Providing support for Reconciliation projects such as approving funding to Little Current Pastor Charge to purchase, *The Truth in Truth and Reconciliation* - An Educational Board Game that is an Indigenous-teacher-made educational resource to learn and teach about Truth and Reconciliation

Looking ahead in 2025

The Right Relations Resource Team is working on developing a resource package based around an educational board game that Communities of Faith may borrow to enhance their reconciliation efforts.

We are also looking at hosting an event that will take place at the Manitoulin Island Hotel and Conference Centre this fall.

We are awaiting word from Laurentian University and LUNEC (The Laurentian University Native Education Council) about installing a memorial bench at the Apology Cairn, in honour of Maxine McVey and Art Solomon.

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

Introduction

The CSRC Grant Team is pleased to report the awards made in 2024. We feel blessed that we are able to provide support and assistance to churches and individuals across the region to facilitate such things as outreach initiatives, Pastoral Charge grants, Affirming ministries, modernization, community partnerships, camping, youth events, and individual bursaries.

Our Team

Our Grant Team consists of four individuals, plus our Chair, of various backgrounds from across our region supported by prudent, knowledgeable and tireless staff support from Melody Duncanson-Hales and Diane Matheson-Jimenez.

Our team members during 2024 included:

- Nancy Rouble
- Susan Siczkar
- Christine Paul
- Al Cruthers
- Dave Clarke, Chair

In early 2025, we lost long-time team member, and grants enthusiast, Bea Webb. We give thanks for Bea's life and for her dedicated work alongside the Grants Team!

2024 Grant Summary

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 2024:

Grant Category	Number	Amount
Mission Support Grants	4	\$34,000.00
United Church of Canada Capital Assist Programs Grants and Loans)	9	\$229,915.54
Canadian Shield Regional Council Grants	8	\$17,750.00
Individual Bursaries	5	\$1,900.00
Total	26	\$283,565.54

2024 Grant Awards

2024 Mission and Service Grant Awards: (approved at Regional Council Support to Communities of Faith Commission)

Mission and Service 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.

2024 Canadian Shield RC Mission and Service Grant Budget: \$45,000

Pastoral Charge Grants

	<i>Social Outreach Grants</i>	
	Welcome Friends-Rainbow Camp	\$10,000
	Rainbow Camp (emergent)	15,000
Hearst Shared Ecumenical	\$3,000 Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka	6,000
Total Pastoral Charge Grants: \$3,000		Total Social Outreach Grants \$31,000

Budget for Canadian Shield MSG \$45,000

Total Approved \$34,000

Remainder held for emergent needs \$11,000

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.

- Little Current United Church, \$32,000 in support of heat pump installation.
- Porcupine United Church, \$5,000 Church Modernization Grant and \$98,915.54 Capital Assistance Loan in support of kitchen renovation, environmental and accessibility upgrades.
- Powassan United Church, \$5,000 Church Modernization Grant, in support of roof repairs.
- Goulais River United Church, \$5000 Church Modernization Grant, in support of accessible washroom renovation.
- Trinity United Church (Kirkland Lake), \$5000 Church Modernization Grant and \$45,000 Capital Assistance Loan, in support of roof repairs.
- St. Paul's United Church (Thunder Bay), \$30,000 Capital Assistance Loan in support of stairs and front entrance repair
- 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.

Camping Grants:

- Trinity United Church, North Bay: \$2500 in support of Family Camp
- Hannah Lake Women's Retreat: \$2500

Network and Cluster Grant:

- St. Stephen's on the Hill, Sudbury, \$2500 for "Morning Brews, Future Views" Events

New Outreach Initiatives Grant:

- St. Paul's UC, Thunder Bay \$3000 for "Listen Everywhere" initiative;
- St. Andrew's, Sudbury \$3000 for "Doing Discipleship" discernment.

Mustard Seed Grant:

- St. Stephen's on the Hill, Sudbury \$2000 for partnership engagement.

Affirming Ministries

- Little Current United Church, \$1500 in support of Manitoulin Pride book give-away

Health, Joy and Excellence for Ministry Personnel

- Black Clergy Network, \$750 in support of national gathering

Individual Bursaries:

- 2 Education for Ministry bursaries for \$500 each;
- 1 Health, Joy and Excellence bursary for \$500
- 1 Camper bursary for \$290
- 1 Camper bursary for \$110

Impact

Through these grants, we've been able to support numerous initiatives throughout our region, strengthening our church communities and extending our ministry reach. Each grant represents a story of faith in action, embodying the recipients' commitment to our United Church.

Looking Forward

Late in 2024, Canadian Shield received \$20 000 to be given away in grants for initiatives that promote sustainability and growth. More information about applying for this grant money will be made available throughout the Regional Council in Spring 2025. Further funds may be available in Autumn of 2025. For more information, please speak with Melody Duncanson-Hales or Diane Matheson-Jimenez.

As we continue our work in 2025, we remain committed to stewarding these resources responsibly and supporting meaningful ministry throughout the Canadian Shield Region. We welcome grant applications and are grateful for the opportunity to support the important work of our churches and ministry personnel.

Respectfully submitted,
On behalf of the CSRC Grant Team
Dave Clarke, Chair

SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCILS

The Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils was created to provide a shared voice and a collective presence for the United Church of Canada concerning socio-economic issues impacting the people of Ontario. 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 had long met in person at Church House twice a year. COVID forced the Network to meet by ZOOM in 2020, and meetings continued to be held that way through the summer of 2024.

Members of the Network met by ZOOM on January 24, 2024, to plan the work for the year. The Canadian Shield Regional Council was represented by Dr. Ernie Epp, who served again as Recorder. There was discussion about having the fall meeting take place in person at Church House. There was also discussion about the Fishbowl style of discussion, which the Rev. Thérèse Samuel suggested. The most important matter of business was to establish the amount of levy on the Regional Councils to support the work of the Network and to make the annual grant to ISARC. The assessment was set at the traditional \$1,000 for each Regional Council, and the annual grant of \$5,000 was made to ISARC.

Members of the Network met again by ZOOM on June 12, 2024, and surveyed the social justice work in each of the Regions. The reports showed that a great deal of work was taking place and that novel means were being used, including microgrants by the Shining Waters Regional Council to draw young people into social justice work. The southern Regional Councils—Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways, and Antler River Watershed—used the Fishbowl style of discussion of a couple of questions quite successfully at their joint meeting. His report for the Canadian Shield Regional Council gave Dr. Epp an opportunity to mention the Guaranteed Livable Income Network, inspired by the Very Rev. Lois Wilson some years ago, which has been meeting monthly by ZOOM from coast to coast.

The ISARC Religious Leaders Forum took place on November 20, 2024, at Queen's Park. The leading speakers were senior barrister Jeff Schlemmer, who manages the Community Legal Clinic of York Region; Alexi White, Director of Systems Change at the Maytree Foundation; and Dr. Joe Mihevc, Adjunct Professor of Ethics at the University of Toronto and a long-time Toronto City Councillor. The speakers focused on the plight of marginalized communities in Ontario, in the aftermath of COVID-19. The pandemic had exposed and worsened the challenges of homelessness, precarious housing, and Inadequate social assistance. The Ford Government's response to the crisis has been little more than minimal increases in support, leaving hundreds of thousands of Ontarians without stable housing or hope for the future. Dr. Epp and Mr. Stephen Calverley, in Toronto to attend the meeting of the Social Justice Network the next day, found these powerful presentations.

The Social Justice Network held its second main meeting of the year in person at Church House on November 21, 2024, for the first time since 2019. And it was a fine gathering from the various Regional Councils, with no fewer than thirteen representatives gathered in person or by ZOOM. The representatives from the Canadian Shield Regional Council were Dr. Epp, Mr. Stephen Calverly, and the Rev. David LeGrand, who better represented Canadian Shield Regional Council. In the absence of Chair Charles Barrett, Dr. Epp was asked to preside over the discussion. Mr.

Calverley spoke to the challenges of the vast region, which were once part of three Conferences and whose Council has limited staff. He recognized the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Shawn Redden to serve both Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils. Planning for the new year included Living into Right Relations activities. Dr. Epp mentioned the Manitou Intentional Learning Community (MILC). The Rev. Mr. LeGrand expanded on the Right Relations work from his experience in Sudbury, including the work of MILC, which brings some fifty people together. He recognized the challenges of geography and the importance of Regional Council staff on Right Relations and Affirming Ministry work.

The Rev. Dr. Redden looked ahead to a town hall meeting about the end of January to address the importance of rural churches being able to fly the Affirm United flag and accept clergy who are 2SLGBTQ. There would be a listening opportunity in December on Affirming Ministries. A petition from the Nuclear Free North group, opposing storage of nuclear waste in Northern Ontario, had come to the Regional Council Executive and would need to be addressed in the New Year. Dr. Epp added some comments on community groups in Thunder Bay, including the Injured Workers Support Group which is launching a book, *Who Killed Sir William?* co-authored by Thunder Bay resident and injured worker Steve Mantis. The book challenges administration of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, which has degraded the system established back in 1914 as the Workmen's Compensation Board.

There was a good deal of discussion of the reorganization of the United Church of Canada in 2019, which led to the loss of program staff at Church House and the creation of Regional Councils which rarely resemble the former Conferences. Canadian Shield Regional Council may well represent the greatest change, incorporating as it does Manitou Conference and its presbyteries with Algoma Presbytery of London Conference and the eastern end of Cambrian Presbytery of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference. Vast distances and sparse population are the inevitable result. And the geographical challenges were exacerbated by COVID in 2020-21, which kept people apart and from which the Regional Council is only gradually recovering.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernie Epp

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (GCE) SUMMARY – MARCH 2025

This is the latest GCE Summary available at the following link, as well as more GCE and GC44 information: <https://generalcouncil.ca/news>

The 44th General Council Executive (GCE) met in person in London, Ontario, on March 6-9, 2025, for the final planned meeting of the triennium. Each day, the GCE began by committing to [Equity Aspirations](#) (About Anti-Racism webpage > Downloads).

Over the two-and-a-half days, the Executive dealt with a number of proposals directly as well as receiving reports and proposals that will go to the 45th General Council in August.

On Friday, Rev. Michelle Owens, White Oaks Pastoral Charge in London, ON, and co-chair, Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF), led the theological reflection and worship, which was based on 1 Timothy 2: 3-8. On Saturday, the Moderator reflected on Joel 2: 28-29, inviting GCE members and staff to discuss their visions and dreams for the church in small groups. The Moderator also invited everyone to watch and sing [Roots and Wings](#) by Linnea Good.

The [2024 Operational Plan Report](#) was received, indicating good or excellent progress in Quarter Four on all the pillars of the strategic plan. The report outlines a growing need to intensify and increase support to communities of faith (CoFs) through effective coordination across the General Council Office and with regional councils. The goal is for supports to be familiar, highly beneficial, and easily accessible by communities of faith.

General Council Executive decisions, and reports, as related to key strategic plan objectives, included the following:

Growth

GS 131 Funding Vision 2035

A recent research project comparing the statistics from 1992 and 2023 and projecting out to 2035 has given validation to anecdotal experience of decline, while identifying areas of growth and garnering important new insights. The data demonstrates the urgent need for intervention—analysis, vision, and strategy—to enable a different and better future to emerge Toward 2035. The Executive directed the General Secretary to work with regional councils to articulate a strategy and implementation plan, as well as develop an engagement plan for a church-wide conversation. GCE authorized the sale of Pineview Lodge in Whitecourt, AB, which was given to and held in the name of The United Church of Canada, to be used to support initial Vision 2035 initiatives. The Executive will treat the property in line with the region's (Northern Spirit) policies regarding contributions to Indigenous ministries, with the balance going to the Vision 2035 project.

Justice

GCE44 Partner Council Report for March 2025

The [report of the Partner Council](#) of the United Church was received. The Council focuses on [Mutual Radical Accompaniment](#), shifting power, and decolonizing partnerships, and provides essential leadership for global and regional roundtables.

In 2024, the Partner Council engaged in mutually accountable, decolonizing efforts with partners – such as [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) (CFGB) Nature Plus project with the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCCCK) – through a global consultation via Zoom. The consultation explored innovative mission practices to transform the world toward justice, peace, and healing of creation, and provided a platform for diverse perspectives.

The Roundtable also facilitated partner participation in COP29 and supported reciprocity, respect, and transparency. The [ACT Alliance](#) General Assembly recently requested The United Church of Canada's accompaniment to deepen the decolonizing partnership.

GS 133 Designating Orange Shirt Sunday

Many United Church communities of faith already observe Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 30), also known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, but it has not been designated as a "Special Sunday" in The United Church of Canada. The GCE approved [a proposal](#) to make the Sunday before September 30 an official observance.

GS 132 Funding for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

The GCE earmarked a contribution from the United Church reserves to add to a collaborative donation to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation from the Anglican, Presbyterian, and United churches.

GS 134 Updated Apology for United Church Participation in Residential Institutions

A proposal related to an updated apology was discussed. The GCE agreed to form a task group to review the ongoing commitments and work of reconciliation that have emerged since the 1986 and 1998 Apologies from the United Church, exploring necessary actions including but not limited to an updated apology. The proposal confirms that consultations with Indigenous communities must be in ways that are trauma-informed, collaborative, respectful of nation-to-nation relationships, with caretaker communities and rooted in a theology of care and reparative justice.

Leadership

Moderator's accountability report

The Moderator submitted a short [report](#), noting she is in the process of preparing a more comprehensive one for GC45. She summarized her term, including the various facets of the Flourishing Initiative. In a key reflection, the Moderator observed that while she visited almost all the provinces and territories during her term, she missed some of the more extended listening opportunities in regions which can provide deeper understanding and context for regional ministries.

General Secretary's accountability report

The General Secretary's [report](#) highlighted the extensive ongoing work of the General Council. Reflecting on the moment, he spoke about the importance of making data-driven decisions and how data helps us challenge well held, but sometimes unfounded, perceptions. There are limits to the data we have. However, we need to seek information, to ask for it and then use it to guide us so we address real problems instead of perceived problems.

He also addressed the risks that the church is facing and urged the Executive to continue to engage in intentional conversations about risk. "It is critical for the church that we, as management and governors, are intentional about using a risk-management framework for our work and decision-making," he wrote in his report.

Board of Vocation accountability report

Rev. Norm Seli, chair of the Board of Vocation, joined the Executive online on Saturday. Based on the [report](#), a robust conversation ensued about current needs of ministry personnel.

BOV 01 Additional Mandatory Training for Ministry Personnel

The Executive agreed to take no action on GC43 (2018) proposals regarding [additional mandatory training](#) for ministry personnel on mental health, anti-homophobia/anti-transphobia, and the KAIROS Blanket Exercise (regarding Indigenous justice) because of the current work of the Standards for Accreditation Committee to develop new learning opportunities and continuing education standards related to these areas.

GS 141 Working Group on Ministry Leadership

The GCE approved a proposal to establish a working group on Ministry Leadership to map the leadership needs of the church to 2035 and make recommendations about any changes to policy and practice to the 2026 annual General Council meeting.

GS 128 Amendment to SECTION B.7.3.1 Membership of The Governing Body - Expanding Membership in Special Circumstances

After discussion regarding *conflict of interest* policies, the relevant manual section was [revised](#) to better address the exceptional circumstances of family members of employees or ministry personnel serving on governing bodies of communities of faith.

Several other small technical changes to the *Manual* were approved by consent:

- **GS 129 Amendment to Section J.6.7**
- **GS 130 Amendment to Sections H.3.6, H.5.2.1 and H.5.2.2**

NOM 16 Recommendations for Appointment

The GCE [approved](#) the extension of the appointment of Jacques Tremblay to the Pension Plan Advisory Committee to January 2026.

National Indigenous Council

The General Council Executive discussed the circumstances related to the General Secretary's dissolution of the National Indigenous Council (NIC) and the reconvening of the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering (NISG), which met November 29-December 1, 2024. The GCE concurred with the conclusion of the General Secretary and the reconvening of the NISG at its meeting in November (GOV04). The GCE owns that it did not have appropriate governance policies in place to clarify the scope of the roles and authority of the Office of the General Secretary and directs the governance committee to develop a policy on delegation of authority and management limitations. The GCE respects the trust of the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in the National Elders Council to find a good way forward.

Common Good

Celebrating the impact of Mission and Service support

Three guests joined the meeting on Saturday. Rev. Joshua Lawrence of First St. Andrew's United Church in London, a member of the Antler River Watershed's Discipleship and Justice Commission, noted that the Commission had requests amounting to \$300k for Mission and Service grants but could only disperse \$150k. Regional staff help connect unsuccessful applicants with other resources or grants. He introduced two guests whose excellent work was supported by Mission and Service:

- Nancy Howard (East London United Community Outreach), a community outreach worker serving low-income families in east London, and
- Christina Lindsay, family minister at First St. Andrew's United, who interprets using American Sign Language, and coordinates activities for children and youth; 60+ children and youth attend programs so far this year.

GOV 07 Use of *In Camera* Sessions

The Executive approved a number of [recommendations](#) around GCE's and the Sub-Executive's use of *in camera* sessions, quorum, motions to move *in camera*, and noting *in camera* sessions in the minutes. The Executive will also ask the *Manual* Committee to provide guidance on the use of *in camera* sessions for the other councils of the church.

GS 143: Benefits Plan Benefits Committee Terms of Reference

The Executive [established the committee](#) to provide guidance to the benefit programs. The composition includes members of the Executive and the broader denomination, as well as experts in the field.

GS 144 Approval of Interim Office Location for March 2025

The GCE [approved](#) moving the General Council Office to the Presbyterian Church in Canada office at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, during the period between the termination of the current lease on February 28, 2025, and readiness of the new offices at 300 Bloor Street, Toronto (currently anticipated for fall 2026).

GS140 Terms of Reference for the Kindred Works Investment Advisory Committee

The GCE approved in consent terms of reference for a Kindred Works Investment Advisory Committee tasked with liaising with Kindred Works and receiving regular and detailed reports.

GOV 08 Policy 2.03 Audit Committee and GS 135 Finance Advisory Committee – Update to Terms of Reference

Revisions to [Audit Committee](#) and [Finance Advisory Committee](#) terms of reference also passed in the consent agenda.

General Council 45

The General Council Executive had thorough discussions on a series of topics that will be on the agenda of GC45, often informed by detailed reports. Proposals will come to [General Council](#) either from the General Council Executive or directly from another body, such as the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TICIF). Materials will be finalized for these key areas of work and be available in both official languages when the workbook is released:

- Revised Principles for Justice
- Funding the Strategic Growth Initiatives Proposal
- Total Compensation Task Group Final Report and Recommendations
- Apology to 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities by The United Church of Canada
- Review of the Roles of Moderator and General Secretary Report and Recommendations
- 2025 Statement on the Vocations of the Whole People of God
- Need for a Remit to Change to Basis of Union IV. Regional Councils

Other notes

GS 139 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC)

The Executive agreed to a [proposal](#) to acknowledge the history and partnership of the PCC and take opportunities of upcoming gatherings of both denominations to join in celebration, inviting communities of faith and regional councils to also participate.

GCE members retiring

The terms of several members of the [Executive](#) are ending, including Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho, Rev. Arlyce Schiebout, Rev. Paul D. Walfall, Jane McDonald, Very Rev. Richard Bott (as former Moderator, he will be replaced by Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne), Rev. Mitchell Anderson, Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Rev. Katherine Brittain. We are grateful for their faithfulness in the service of the church.

The General Secretary offered his thanks to these outgoing GCE members for their wisdom and guidance and also shared his deep appreciation for the Moderator.

Because of time constraints, three proposals were referred to the Sub-Executive.

STEWARDSHIP



United Church Foundation to the good people of the Canadian Shield Region.

I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the

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



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 Sault Ste. Marie, or through a phone conversation, town halls, or stewardship learning events. 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 2025 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 and Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. We offer thanks that your compassion continued to flow in the form of Mission and Service gifts that provided valuable assistance.

In 2024 Mission and Service provided funding globally to 68 organizations in 23 countries; approximately \$416 thousand was sent to support the work of our partners and bring aid to those affected. Families and children who are fleeing war in Ukraine and Palestine are provided with food, clothing, shelter, medical supplies and safe housing. Your Christian compassion is making this possible.

In Canada, each of the 16 regions received \$180,000 that they were able to use to provide support to ministries within their areas through grants and programmatic support. Mission and Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Canadian Shield. Community partners like Rainbow Camp and Daisy-Chain Elder Abuse Prevention, 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 2024. 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 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 2025.

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 a few UCW units in the last years the Canadian Shield UCW retains enthusiasm and momentum.



In 2024 the CSUCW did not have any in person gathering but welcomed UCW members to participate in an online business meeting where such business as donations to charity and election of representatives to attend the NUCW meeting in Toronto were discussed. Financial donations were made to the National UCW charity campaign for The Healing Funds, Mission & Service, and support for the Rainbow Camp for Youth located in the Canadian Shield geographical region. We were also able to support women students in the ministry with a small financial donation. Heddys Stevenson from Algoma District and Cecilia Grasser for the Near North Region represented CSUCW at the September 2024 NUCW in Toronto.

We produce an electronic CS UCW Newsletter in the spring and fall providing news from individual UCW groups, regional news and invitations and Synopsys of NUCW news. We also continue the distribution of the NUCW newsletter 'Keeping in Touch'. The newsletters are a welcome connection for all our CS UCW members.

The CS UCW executive is currently has the following positions, a secretary, a treasurer, a representative from Algoma Division, co-representatives from Near North Division, a member from Sudbury, an archivist, and one member-at-large. While we meet most often via Zoom we have held one in person meeting executive meeting in Espanola. Executive meetings are conducted with each member taking a turn serving as chair. Requests to the regional membership for the positions of president, vice present, and a newsletter editor, have not garnered any new volunteers.

We are pleased to announce that while many of our individual UCW units will be Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, the CS UCW will be hosting a regional in person meeting at St. Peter's UC, Sudbury, at the end of May 2025, celebrate the Strength and Honour of the UCW and the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Barbara DeJeet, the president elect of the NUCW, will be our keynote speaker and of course there will be shared worship and camaraderie for all!

Respectively Submitted,
Dawn Monroe - Archivist, CSUCW

EMMANUEL COLLEGE



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I bring greetings to your region as you gather this spring. I hope your time together is both renewing and Spirit-filled. **My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg** and I am honoured to serve as Emmanuel's Principal. I look forward to opportunities to meet many of you in person and to share in the exciting updates from Emmanuel.

Historic Enrolment Growth & Enhanced Student Services

This past academic year, we celebrated the **largest increase in enrolment in recent decades**, culminating in our biggest orientation yet on September 4, 2024. To meet the evolving needs of our growing student population, we've **expanded our student services** through the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) at Victoria University. With the addition of Sean Martin as Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Wellness, and existing 10 staff there, students now benefit from an enriched array of services including counselling, international student support, career advising, gender diversity support, and accessibility services.

Faculty Appointments

We are delighted to share that **Prof. Jenny Bright will be appointed as the inaugural Wutai Shan Venerable Dayi Assistant Professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care** as of July 1, 2025. This endowed position represents the largest gift in Emmanuel's history and is a first-of-its-kind faculty appointment in Canada. Also beginning July 1, **Prof. Mona Tokarek LaFosse will assume the newly established joint position of Assistant Professor of New Testament and Sacred Literature Studies**—a collaborative and continuing appointment between Emmanuel and Victoria Colleges.

In addition, we welcomed **Dr. Amy Panton as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology (part-time)** to support our expanded MPS program. We also congratulate Prof. Nazila Isgandarova on her promotion to Associate Professor following a successful continuing status review.

Nurturing Ministry Project for the 21st Century: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Grant

Thanks to the Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow grant, we've launched the "Nurturing Ministry Project" to explore the evolving needs of Christian ministry within the UCC and beyond. From March to September 2025, our research team will consult with MDiv students, alumni, and ministry leaders across diverse contexts to gather feedback. Insights will inform how we further integrate the arts and social justice into our MDiv program and shape continuing education to better support alumni and lay leaders.

Growing Scholarships & Generous Community Partnerships

We are pleased to report several new and significant scholarships supporting our diverse student body:

- The Ching Kwok Temple Endowed Scholarship for Buddhist Studies was launched in October 2024.
- The Sang Chul Lee Endowed Scholarship supports students focused on Korean peace and Minjung theology.
- A new Music Scholarship endowed will benefit Master of Sacred Music students.
- The Lawson Scholarship, established through a generous bequest of Elizabeth Lawson from the United Church of Canada Foundation, will support students engaged in Queer studies.
- The Jaffari Community Scholarship provides \$100,000 over five years to students in Muslim focus of MPS and MTS programs.

Indigenous Healing Garden Project

Construction for the Indigenous Healing Garden is progressing well, with a completion celebration anticipated in May 2025 during alumni week. The project not only honours Indigenous spirituality and makes commitment to TRC but also enhances accessibility with the installation of a new ramp at the east entrance to the building.

Anniversary Celebrations & Events

We are entering a season of vibrant celebration:

- In 2025, we celebrate the 10th and 15th anniversaries of our Buddhist and Muslim Foci in the Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) program.
- As part of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, Emmanuel hosted the Drag and Spirituality Summit (Nov 1–3, 2024), and Book launch on Nov 13, 2024 for *Moments in Time: Sermons from the United Church of Canada 1910–2020* co-authored by Principal Kim-Cragg and Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer.
- In January 2025, we cohost an International Conference on Trauma-Informed Interreligious Pedagogy with St. Michael's College.
- In March 2025, we welcomed the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America Conference (BSCENA).
- May 12, 2025 will mark the climax of our celebrations with a banquet at Burwash Hall on Alumni day during the convocation week.
- A fundraising concert for the MSMus Music Scholarship will conclude our anniversary events on June 13, 2025, at Trinity St. Paul's United Church.

Financial Support

Emmanuel College offers strong financial support, including **100% tuition for domestic full-time MDiv students** in the UCC candidacy pathway through the John W. Billes Fund. Incoming domestic full-time students also receive 50% tuition coverage in their first year through the Entering Theological Education grant. For details on financial aid for all programs, contact Andrew Aitchison at 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 Andrew Aitchison: 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,



The Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg

Principal and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE

Dear Canadian Shield Regional Council Siblings in Christ,

This update from St. Andrew's College highlights a new initiative amidst developments in our broader world. As we navigate these transformative times, we remain committed to our mission, as we boldly state on our website's main page, of providing *theological education that embodies compassion, hope, & justice!*

Historical Context

St. Andrew's College, established in 1912, is rooted in the prairies. Over the years, we have continually adapted to change, from the impacts of the First World War to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our strategic journey and academic redesign efforts emphasize context-based learning and the integration of academic disciplines, ensuring our programmes remain relevant and impactful.

Global Context

The world is currently undergoing substantial changes, challenging many of the norms we once took for granted. As the College and Church are actively deconstructing our complicity in colonization, we are witnessing shifts in geopolitical norms that have provided stability since the Second World War. These changes remind us of historical periods when nationalism and populism posed existential threats. Our faith, however, teaches us a different narrative—one of hope and justice.

College Initiative

In response to these changes, St. Andrew's College is leveraging its rich history to shape a better future. On June 19th, we will launch the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre, a new initiative aimed at fostering critical thinking, community engagement, and a commitment to justice.

Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre

The Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre honours Drs. Edmund H. Oliver and Lydia E. Gruchy, two pivotal figures in our college's history. Dr. Oliver, our first Principal, was a progressive leader deeply involved in social reform and community service. He was a staunch advocate and supporter of the union of our founding denominations. Dr. Gruchy, the first woman ordained to the ministry

of The United Church of Canada, is a symbol of gender equality and social justice. As our United Church of Canada celebrates its 100th anniversary, we are emboldened by how their legacies have profoundly shaped our institution and continue to inspire our mission.

The Learning Centre will create a student-centred learning environment that encourages exploration in theological studies, social justice, and leadership. It will serve also as a hub for learners, whether faith-based or spiritually curious, to explore ongoing educational opportunities through various pathways in theological studies, social justice and how to offer compassionate leadership in a chaotic world. We believe such pursuits will allow people to develop a deeper understanding of their own spiritual exploration and its application in the modern world.

Call to Action

Friends in Canadian Shield Regional Council, we invite you to join us in this transformative endeavour to support the Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre to ensure we continue to be able to share the Good News in innovative and relevant ways [<https://standrews.ca/donate/donate-now/>]. Your contribution to the Gruchy Fund will help us create a space that honours the legacies of Drs. Oliver and Gruchy and fosters a new generation of leaders committed to justice and community service.

In Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

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 2024. 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 4 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options. The newest Diploma, approved by the AST Senate in October, offers a specialization in Intergenerational Faith Formation.

The Bachelor of Theology degree, which includes a "Ministry Specialization" stream, is proving popular with UCC students. 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. Students who complete the degree and all the requirements for Testamur can be approved for SME as the final requirement for ordination. 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.

Our President, the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance works closely with the other heads of UCC colleges and schools as we seek to find ways of sharing ideas and resources. It was a joy to host them in Halifax this past year.

AST has just begun a two-year self-study as part of our accreditation process with the Association

of Theological Schools.

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,

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

UNITED CHURCH RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

The United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN) is a national network, that connects electronically to share stories and news of rural communities across Canada (and around the world), by networking with leaders of rural communities of faith – lay and clergy. UCRMN received a one-time start up grant of \$5,000 from United Church Foundation in 2020. UCRMN is a charitable organization that receipts donations from Regional Councils, Congregations or interested people. At UCRMN.ca, there is a link for online donations, or information to email an e-Transfer, or how to mail a donation by cheque. UCRMN asks all Regional Councils (or tri-Region groupings) to put UCRMN in their annual budgets, as 70% of United Church congregations across the country are in rural or small towns, therefore a relevant cost to each Regional Council.

Our primary ways of connecting with people are e-Newsletters (10 times a year), quarterly Zoom workshops and the ongoing presence of our website, <https://ucrmn.ca>, online. Peter Chynoweth of Cochrane, AB, has been our Web Minder since October 2022.

The e-Newsletters are always available for sharing worship ideas and hopeful stories from rural congregations. Regularly, there is excellent tech advice and challenges from Martin Dawson in PEI and from Peter Chynoweth in Cochrane, AB, who write the regular ‘Tech Corner’. In addition, the e-Newsletters publicize events happening throughout the Church which are of interest to rural folks, advertising from Regions and committees like Affirming Connections, Curiosity Cohort, etc. Rural Routes Through the Holy conference held in the Maritimes for a number of years receives good coverage through the UCRMN newsletter and website as Catherine Smith is a partner of the UCRMN Board. Chinook Winds has also held rural ministry conferences publicized by UCRMN. If other Regional Councils would like to connect with the rural constituency, let us know – editor@ucrmn.ca. We invite all rural congregations to connect through registering to receive e-newsletter through the website (ucrmn.ca).

Our Zoom workshops this year covered “Lifelong Learning (facilitated by St. Andrew’s College, Feb. 24, 2024), “Social Media for the Rural Church (facilitated by the United Church Digital Team, April 18), “Rural Church Check in” (an invitation to share concerns and events throughout the country, Sept. 19), “LLWL Check in” (a conversation with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, which proved so welcome and valuable a networking and such rich conversation that we held a second

and a third get-together in Jan. and March), “How is Your Rural Church Celebrating the 100th Anniversary (facilitated by Bronwyn Corlett, Feb. 20) and coming up in May (15th), “Hands On – How to Save your Computer” (led by Martin Dawson and Peter Chynoweth). These workshops are advertised in the e-Newsletters and registration is done through Eventbrite, offered free of charge. Reports on a number of the workshops that were held are found on the UCRMN website.

UCRMN folks ran the Canadian portion of the International Rural Churches Association (IRCA) 24-hour Global Prayer event that took place on March 10, 2025. A section of the day was about UCRMN specifically, and highlighted our Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, as well as Collaborative Ministries, and then Catherine Smith, a UCRMN member from the Atlantic Region, was the host of ‘Canada East’, and Robin Haensel, a retired Alliance pastor and member of CiRCLe M at the Saskatoon Theological Union, hosted ‘Canada West’. You can check them out on the IRCA website (<https://irca.online/24-hour-prayer-zoom> - the Americas).

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.

UCRMN always is looking for members to serve on the Board, as e-Newsletter Editor, Workshop Coordinator, or on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Christie - President, UCRMN (Abbey, SK)



FINANCE RESOURCE TEAM

The primary work of the CSRC Finance Resource Team is to assist with the preparation of the annual budget. The committee met on April 10th and recommended the 2026 draft budget to the Executive. Pending the approval of the Executive at their May meeting, the draft budget will be presented for approval at the regional meeting. As it is still quite early in the year, the budget will remain as a draft budget until later in the fall when the General Council Executive has finalized the Assessment Grants, Mission Support Grants and Salary Grants along with the cost-of-living increase for staff. Once these numbers are determined, the Finance Resource Team will review the draft budget and make a final recommendation to the Executive for approval.

The Finance Resource Team also reviews the financial statements throughout the year, receives a report annually from our Investment Advisor and recommends the audited finance statements to the Executive for approval.

The following are the designated and undesignated funds held by CSRC as of 2024/12/31:

Designated Funds

Affirming Ministries	10,955
Archives	11,376
Camping Fund	309,177
Clusters and Networks	53,262
Mustard Fund (Congregational)	100,000
General Fund	137,963
Health Joy and Excellence	211,880
Lay Education	37,607
Legal Reserve	25,000
LLWL Program	38,352
New Outreach Initiatives	59,683
Preparing for Ministry	38,111
Right Relations	138,168
Youth Programs	67,925
	\$1,239,459

Undesignated Funds	\$1,454,217
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Total Funds	\$2,693,676
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The Finance Resource Team offers thanks and best wishes to Rev. Janet MacDonald, CS Finance Administrator, as she retires at the end of June. Janet has worked closely with the team since the region was formed and her wisdom and guidance has been greatly appreciated. Going forward, the team welcomes the support of our new bookkeeper, Meranda MacKenzie, and Rev. Jody Maltby, Finance Minister, as staff support for the important work of managing our finances.

Members of the Finance Resource Team include Barbara Cunnington (chair), Michael Wesa, Dave Clarke, and Rev. Lawrence Muvunzi.

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL 2026 DRAFT BUDGET

CSRC 2025 Budget	2024 Actual Draft	2024 Budget	2025 Actual/Cash January - March	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Income					
National Grants					
Assessment	325,000	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
M&S Grant	180,000	180,000	-	180,000	180,000
Other	9,375	-	-	-	-
Salary	99,000	99,000	-	99,000	99,000
	613,375	604,000	-	604,000	604,000
HST recovered	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Income	156,284	25,000	-	90,000	90,000
Miscellaneous	11,330	-	-	-	-
Festival of Faith	-	-	-	5,000	-
Regional Meeting	3,301	-	-	-	2,500
Youth Income	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral Relations Income	18,110	-	3,420	15,000	18,000
From Designated Funds	-	-	-	33,853	110,000
Sale of Property/Residual Accounts	171,903	35,000	-	-	38,590
Total Income	974,303	664,000	3,420	747,853	863,090
Expenses					
Archives	-	-	-	-	-
Bookstore Support	1,800	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
Clusters and Networks	350	-	-	-	-
Committees	-	1,000	-	-	500
Congregational Support	-	-	-	-	-
Corporation Overview	2,700	3,000	-	2,500	2,700
Executive	842	5,000	-	8,000	8,000
Festival of Faith	103	-	530	30,000	-
Finance	21,533	17,500	1,804	17,500	12,000
Grants	34,000	55,000	-	55,000	55,000
Legal Fees	259	10,000	-	5,000	5,000
Reserve Fund	18,864	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	(- 74)	3,700	90	-	-
Office Expenses	23,148	25,000	3,866	30,000	30,000
Pastoral Relations	23,449	15,000	6,374	25,000	25,000
Regional Meeting	43,617	35,000	-	5,000	45,000
Retail Sales Taxes (HST)	13,635	1,000	2,103	1,000	1,000
SJNOR	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Staff Team					
Cell Phones	3,455	4,000	1,011	4,000	4,000
Continuing Education	1,167	7,500	-	7,500	5,700
Internet	1,911	2,000	643	2,500	2,000
Moving	3,343	-	-	-	-
Salaries	456,993	435,000	-	509,553	623,390
Travel	12,151	20,000	83	20,000	20,000
Resources	294	2,500	20	2,500	1,000
	479,314	471,000	1,757	546,053	656,090
SWRC/CSRC Shared Expenses	11,587	9,000	-	10,000	10,000
Youth (CSJ)	-	-	-	-	-
Youth	18	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	676,145	664,000	17,523	747,853	863,090
Income over Expenses	298,158	-	(- 14,103)	-	-
					148,590

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL 2026 DRAFT BUDGET CONT'D

CSRC 2025 Budget	2024 Actual Draft	2024 Budget	2025 Actual/Cash January - March	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
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National Grants					
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M&S Grant	180,000	180,000	-	180,000	180,000
Other	9,375	-	-	-	-
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	613,375	604,000	-	604,000	604,000
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Investment Income	156,284	25,000	-	90,000	90,000
Miscellaneous	11,330	-	-	-	-
Festival of Faith	-	-	-	5,000	-
Regional Meeting	3,301	-	-	-	2,500
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Total Income	974,303	664,000	3,420	747,853	863,090
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Bookstore Support	1,800	1,800	-	1,800	1,800
Clusters and Networks	350	-	-	-	-
Committees	-	1,000	-	-	500
Congregational Support	-	-	-	-	-
Corporation Overview	2,700	3,000	-	2,500	2,700
Executive	842	5,000	-	8,000	8,000
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Youth (CSJ)	-	-	-	-	-
Youth	18	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	676,145	664,000	17,523	747,853	863,090
Income over Expenses	298,158	-	(- 14,103)	-	-
					148,590

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, etc.), 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:

(<https://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/nominations/>). 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://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/nominations/>. Nominations will remain open until noon on Saturday May 3, 2024. The team is hopeful that most of the nominations will be received prior to the meeting.

As The United Church of Canada heads into its 45th General Council, we find we need more Alternate Commissioners. We need alternates in case some of our commissioners are unable to attend. Please consider becoming an alternate commissioner so if the need arises, we are able to have a full complement of commissioners GC45. If you feel moved to serve the region in this capacity, please visit our website at: <https://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/general-council-commissioners/>

On behalf of the Nominations Committee 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:

Bill Jones Porcupine United, Porcupine (Chair)

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

Marie Mardi Mumford, Trinity United, Lively

Janice Brownlee, Trinity United, North Bay

Laurie Stevenson, Central United Church, Sault Ste. Marie

Rob Smith, Pastoral Relations Minister (Staff Advisor)

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

The Nominations Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and submitting to the Regional Council, its Executive or the Executive Minister, as appropriate, recommendations for election to the following:

- a) Executive (including Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect and members)
- b) Support to Communities of Faith Commission
- c) Pastoral Relations Commission
- d) Property Commission
- e) Nominations Committee
- f) Finance Resource Team
- g) Mission Support and Grants Resource Team
- h) Right Relations Resource Team
- i) Affirming Resource Team
- j) Youth and Young Adult Resource Team
- k) Commissioners to the 45th General Council

In carrying out this responsibility, the committee:

- reflects theologically on the basis for appointed member participation in the church
- discerns who is equipped to serve
- develops and tests processes for selecting individuals and developing effective groups
- to the best of the committee's ability, strives to meet the region's commitments to its mission, including the equity policy and
 - becoming an intercultural church
 - the full inclusion of people with disabilities
 - developing new and young leadership
 - the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church
 - any future commitments regarding the appointed leadership of the United Church

Members of the Nominations Committee actively seek out and encourage nominations from across the diversity of the church and try to ensure that at least one third of any nominations slate is reserved for diversity appointments.

The Nominations Committee offers thanks to all those completing their term with this regional meeting, to those who have agreed to continue on a Committee, Commission, or Resource Team and to those who have put their name forward to fill a vacancy.

a) Executive (including President, Past President or President-Elect and members)

The primary role of the Executive is to develop and monitor policies that enable the Region to live out its mission.

The Executive consists of the Chair, Chair-Elect or Past Chair and members to a maximum of 12 who are members of The United Church of Canada. One member from the Indigenous community will be named at the Spiritual Gathering.

The Chair is elected at the Regional Council meeting for one year as Chair-Elect, a two-year term as Chair and one year as Past Chair.

Chair

- Nancy Ferguson (ministry personnel) (term as Chair ending 2026)

Chair- Elect

- Bill Jones (ministry personnel) (term ends 2028)

Members

- Stewart Walker (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Jim Jackson (lay person) (second term ending 2027)
- Dave LeGrand (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Susan Peverley (ministry personnel) (first term ending 2027)
- Laurie Stevenson (ministry personnel) (first term ending 2027)
- Lionel Ketola (ministry personnel) (first term ending 2027)
- Susan Lindquist (lay person) first term ending 2027)
- Gordon Roberts (ministry personnel) (first term ending 2027)
- One position available for an Indigenous member named by the Spiritual Gathering on Indigenous Communities

b) Support to Communities of Faith Commission

The Commission:

- sets policy and give direction within their mandate,
- cares for communities of faith and provide resources for collegiality and support amongst communities of faith,
- nurtures new ministries, and
- empowers and resources ministry in the Region. This includes supporting communities of faith in areas such as clusters, networks, visioning, amalgamation, disbanding, and property matters.

Membership is a chair and six to ten members.

- Jim Jackson - Chair (lay member) (first term ending 2025)
- Mardi Mumford – Secretary (lay member) (second term ending 2027)
- Peter Haddow – (lay member) (second term ending 2027)
- Susan Peverley (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Ernie Epp (lay person) (second term ending 2027)
- Crystal Greig (lay person) (second term ending 2027)
- Bonnie Johnson (lay person) (second term ending 2027)
- Marilyn Schatzler (lay person) (second term ending 2026)
- Janice Brownlee (lay person) (first term ending 2027)
- Kathy Calverley (lay person) (first term ending 2027)
- Desire Tiriwepi (ministry personnel) (first term ending 2027)

c) Pastoral Relations Commission

The Commission:

- sets policy and gives direction within their mandate, and
- provides support for ministry personnel throughout their ministry, including equipping, covenanting, pastoral relationships and retirement.

Membership is a chair, a secretary and six to ten members (12 total).

- Stewart Walker - Chair (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Karen Gooch – Secretary (lay person) (second term ending 2027)
- Fraser Williamson – Liaison (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Joy Galloway – Liaison (lay person) (term ending 2025)
- Jan Venton – Liaison (lay person) (term ending 2025)
- Jane Graham (lay person) (term ending 2027)
- John Watson (lay person) (term ending 2027)
- Ted Harrison (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Elaine Lush (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Cyndy Raby (lay person) (term ending 2027)
- Steven Loweth (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Pam Brown (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)

d) Property Commission

The Commission:

- sets policy and gives direction within their mandate, and
- outlines the authority, membership and responsibilities of the Property Commission working with communities of faith on property matters

Membership is a chair and eight to ten members (11 total).

- Gordon Roberts – Chair (ministry personnel) (first term ends 2027)
- Janet Ross (lay person) (first term ends 2027)
- Paul McAlister (lay person) (first term ends 2027)
- Wayne Jeffkins (lay person) (first term ends 2027)
- Rob Farris (lay person) (first term ends 2027)
- James Ko (ministry personnel) (first term ends 2027)
- Laurie Kendall (lay person) (first term ends 2027)

e) Nominations Committee

Membership is six (6) members including at least two, but not more than four, members of the Executive and up to four (4) members not currently serving on the Executive. These must be members of the United Church but not necessarily members of the Regional Council, at least two of whom are lay members and two are ministry personnel (where possible).

- Bill Jones – Chair (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)
- Laurie Stevenson (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Mardi Mumford (lay person) (term ending 2027)
- Janice Brownlee (lay person) (term ending 2027)

- Kathie Smith (lay person) (term ending 2027)

f) Finance Resource Team

The Resource Team:

- supports the Executive Minister in preparation and review of the Annual Budget

Membership is 3-5 members (5 total)

- Dave Clarke (lay member)
- Barbara Cunnington (lay member)
- Michael Wesa (lay member)
- Lawrence Muvunzi (ministry personnel)

g) Mission Support and Grants Resource Team

The Resource Team:

- receives the applications for Mission Support Grants, and applications for funding grant from the communities of faith or other ministries of the Regional Council, and
- makes recommendations to the Support to the Communities of Faith Commission for decision.

Membership is 3-5 members (5 total)

- Dave Clarke (lay member)
- Nancy Rouble (lay member)
- Susan Siczkar (lay member)
- Allister Cruthers (lay member)
- Sarah Drouin (lay member)

h) Right Relations Resource Team

The Resource Team:

- creates an intentional structure through which the Regional Council lives its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and the Calls to the Church

Membership is 8-10 members

- Lisa Blais – team lead (ministry personnel)
- Janie Clayton (lay member)
- Susan Lindquist (lay member)
- Sylvia Carscadden (ministry personnel)
- Brian Mundell (lay member)
- Whitney Bruno (ministry personnel)
- Lionel Ketola (ministry personnel)

i) Affirming Resource Team

The Resource Team:

- To guide the Regional Council through the required, Affirm United process to be recognized as an Affirming Ministry and to hold the Regional Council to the commitments made in that process

Membership is 8-10 members

- Peter Haddow – team lead (lay member)
- Marilyn Schatzler (lay member)

- Whitney Bruno (ministry personnel)
- Ryan Fea (ministry personnel)
- Charles Bolduc (lay member)
- Susan Peverley (ministry personnel)
- Harry Stewart (lay member)
- Caitlin Smithers (ministry personnel)
- Laura Hutchison (ministry personnel)

j) Youth and Young Adult Resource Team

The Resource Team:

- plan for opportunities for youth and young adults within the boundary of the Regional Council to gather and to encourage participation in denominational opportunities while facilitating and supporting existing regional youth activities already active and offering support to youth and young adults working in communities of faith within the region

Membership is 8-10 members

- Christina Boggs (lay member)
- Pam Brown (ministry personnel)
- Diane Tait (ministry personnel)
- Laura Hutchison (ministry personnel)
- Blessing Tiriwepi (lay member)

k) Commissioners to the 45th General Council

The regional council elected 10 commissioners to attend the 45th General Council which will occur August 7 – 12, 2025 in Calgary, Alberta. The regional council Chair will also attend.

The slate of commissioners includes a mix of ministry personnel and lay people, new and experienced commissioners and reflect a broad geographic presence. There will be at least one youth or young adult and also people intentionally selected to reflect diversity not otherwise reflected.

- Bill Jones Chair-Elect (ministry personnel)
- Whitney Bruno (ministry personnel)
- Joyce Fergus-Moore (ministry personnel)
- Peter Haddow (lay member)
- Laurie Kendall (lay member)
- Steven Loweth (ministry personnel)
- Fraser Williamson (ministry personnel)
- Blessing Tiriwepi (lay member)
- Desire Tiriwepi (ministry personnel)
- Stewart Walker (ministry personnel)

Alternates

- Nancy Ferguson (ministry personnel)
- Dave LeGrand (ministry personnel)
- Beverley Rumble (lay member)

PROPOSALS TO CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL

There are no Proposals at this time.