

**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 44<sup>th</sup> 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  
03/05-01**

**CS RCM 2024-05-**

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

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council: that the roll of Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:**
  - **All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by**

- Canadian Shield Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);
  - Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);
  - Lay members elected by the Community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);
  - Additional lay members as determined by the Regional Council if necessary, to respect a balance of ministry personal and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the Regional Council (2024 Manual C.1.2.b).
- b) **Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting:** that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be numbered tables in the meeting space on the floor of the meeting at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, 229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4Z2 and the Zoom meeting ID [845 1720 6362](#) when in session; that the Canadian Shield Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. to take place at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, 229 Great Northern Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 4Z2.
  - c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda, as printed and circulated, be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Business & Agenda Chairperson and approved by the Regional Council; or as recommended by the Regional Council itself.
  - d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Canadian Shield Regional Council held November 25, 2023 be approved as circulated.
  - e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
  - f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chairperson have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
  - g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2024 Manual C.1.5).
  - h) **Commitments:** that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.
  - i) **New Business & Nominations:** that any items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson. New Business items close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

## **Procedural**

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1 and the zoom chat box.

2. **Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson and the Business & Agenda Committee.**
3. **The Parliamentarian shall be William Steadman.**
4. **The Chairperson will present proposals. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The Chairperson will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the Chairperson discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the proposal, they will invite the presenter to move the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.**
5. **At the discretion of the chairperson, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).**
6. **Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.**
7. **The normal voting procedure, in person, shall be a show of hands using ballot cards, except where a secret ballot is required (ballot sheets will be provided by the Chairperson through the Regional Council office). The normal voting procedure, online, shall be a show of hands using the RAISE HAND icon found at the bottom of the participants panel or \*9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household one person will vote with the Raise Hand icon and the second will type Yes or No in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, ballot sheets will be provided through the Regional Council website.**
8. **In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Elections, Proposals to Proposals to General Council, Proposals to Regional Council.**

### **Background for Consent Motions**

**Evaluation and experience have shown that the agendas of meetings of the Executive are full and that time for fulsome discernment and discussion of important items is occasionally lacking.**

**A consent agenda is a tool to help the Regional Council focus on what is most important. Proposals which are routine or non-controversial actions or routine changes in policy or procedure are included in the consent agenda. At the meeting, any 5 voting members of the Regional Council may request to move any item(s) from the consent agenda to be placed on the meeting's agenda. By courtesy, advance notice would be given to the Executive Minister. If you have a concern, you are encouraged to contact the Executive Minister in advance as an exchange of information may resolve a question.**

**In a consent agenda you may also find minutes of previous meetings, accountability reports, etc. The list of correspondence to the Executive (if any) is included with the reports to be received for information.**

#### **Process for Removal of an Item from the Consent Motion:**

**The process for acting on the consent agenda in the opening sessions will be as follows:**

**1. Presider/chair: “You have all received the Workbook, with the consent agenda. Do any 5 voting members wish to remove an item from the consent agenda to be placed on the meeting’s agenda?”**

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

**3. Presider/chair: “Without discussion, then, the consent agenda is ready for a vote. Those in favour? Opposed? All items on the consent agenda are adopted.”**

**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 was 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 departed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

### Celebration of Ministries Service

Canadian Shield Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministries 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.