

**MINUTES** of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on June 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Stewart Walker, Jim Jackson, Bill Jones, Gord Roberts, Laurie Stevenson, Susan Lindquist

**STAFF:** Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Acting Executive Minister), Susan Whitehead (Administrative Support)

**GUESTS:** Shawn Redden (Justice and Faith Formation Minister – CSRC)

**REGRETS:** Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Dave LeGrand, Lionel Ketola, Susan Peverley

Chair Nancy welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION by Jim Jackson/Gord Roberts                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-01**  
**That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as presented.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was one error in the minutes; Dave LeGrand was noted twice as being present.

**MOTION by Bill Jones/Jim Jackson                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-02**  
**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional**  
**Council Executive held on May 1, 2025 be approved, as amended.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS**

**MOTION by Stewart Walker/Laurie Stevenson      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-03**  
**That the Minutes of the CSRC Support to Communities of Faith**  
**Commission from April 23, 2025 be received, for information.**  
**CARRIED**

**MOTION by Gord Roberts/Susan Lindquist              CS EXEC 2025-06-05-04**  
**That the Minutes of the CSRC Property Commission from April 24, 2025**  
**be received, for information.**  
**CARRIED**

#### **OMNIBUS MOTION: INCORPORATED MINISTRIES**

**MOTION by Bill Jones/Gord Roberts                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-05**  
**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council (6) Executive take the following**  
**action(s):**

- a) Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated o/a Camp Duncan**

**... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Constitution and By-Laws as approved by the members on May 4, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Thunder Bay United Church Camps, Incorporated**

***This is based on the draft minutes of Members Virtual Vote of May 4, 2025, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.***

**CARRIED**

Executive is directing Peter and Diane to ask the Incorporated Ministries (IM) department at the General Council Office that future Omnibus motions from the IM regarding constitutions, by-laws or anything related to incorporated ministries, in the form of an Executive Summary, be included in the pre-approval package to this body in order for it to make an informed decision.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

*Letter Received by Harry Oussoren*

**MOTION by Jim Jackson/Laurie Stevenson CS EXEC 2025-06-05-06**

**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive receive the letter, for information, from Harry Oussoren on behalf of the Justice for Palestine Network, dated May 15, 2025 regarding peace in Palestine and Israel.**

**CARRIED**

Diane explained that this is not the official work of this Executive but it is, however, the work of our Justice and Faith Formation Minister. Shawn has sent out correspondence around to the region to encourage communities of faith of our region to consider the materials and how they might engage with them.

## **CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY SERVICE OUTSIDE THE RCM**

There will be a Celebration of Ministry Service outside our Regional Council Meeting (May 3, 2025) on the weekend of the Festival of Faith event.

**MOTION by Gord Roberts/Stewart Walker CS EXEC 2025-06-05-07**

**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the Celebration of Ministry Service celebrating Ordinands in our region on Sunday, May 15, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in Sudbury, ON.**

**CARRIED**

## **5-10 YEAR CAUCUS REMINDER**

After conferring with Executive, Ministry Personnel, and Lay Leaders, we have come up with 10 overarching themes with questions that were sent out to the Commissions, Committees, and Resource Teams for feedback. The Support to Communities of Faith Commission stated in their minutes that they had discussions about it; the Property Commission Chair informed Executive that they will have discussed it and will be forwarding some information to Executive in the fall; the Pastoral Relations Commission Chair informed Executive that it has discussed and will forward their information in the fall. Executive will need to send a message out to all Commissions, Committees and Resource Teams asking for some specific feedback for September.

### **REMOVE JANET MACDONALD AS SIGNING AUTHORITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2025**

Janet will be retiring from her position with the region as of June 30, 2025. Executive will send a note to Janet to thank her for all her work, with gratitude from Executive.

**MOTION by Gord Roberts/Bill Jones                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-08**  
**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive approve the removal of Janet MacDonald as a signing officer on all financial accounts, including all accounts with BMO (Bank of Montreal) and BMO Nesbitt Burns, effective June 30, 2025, due to her retirement and extend Executive's deep gratitude for her faithful and diligent service.**  
**CARRIED**

### **ACKNOWLEDGE NEW EXECUTIVE – BILL STEADMAN**

Noting that Bill Steadman has completed his term effective the last Regional Council Meeting in May 2025, Executive would like to extend their deep gratitude for his wisdom, guidance, and faithful service to the Executive and the region.

### **NOMINATIONS E-VOTE MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION**

Bill Jones shared that the CSRC Nominations Committee passed an e-vote motion on May 27, 2025:

*That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Nominations Committee Recommend Peter Haddow to The CSRC Executive.*

**MOTION by Bill Jones/Susan Lindquist                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-09**  
**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive name Peter Haddow to the CSRC Executive, upon the recommendation from the CSRC Nominations Committee.**  
**CARRIED**

### **NUCLEAR WASTE CONVERSATION**

Executive welcomed Shawn Redden to the meeting where she discussed the Nuclear Free North letter received by Garry Kenny back in November 2024, where he asked the region to sign on a resolution against the development in Northern Ontario. A working group was established including our regional representatives to the Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils, along with representatives from the Right Relations Resource Team and this group has met several times. Shawn gave an update of this working group to Executive.

**MOTION by Laurie Stevenson/Jim Jackson                      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-10**  
**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive respond to the letter received by Garry Kenny and “We the Nuclear Free North” on November 11, 2024, using the text of the draft letter provided by Shawn Redden (CSRC Justice and Faith Formation Minister) and the working group, and gives thanks for the working group’s thoughtful consultation and grounding in “Principles-Based Justice.”**  
**CARRIED**

### **JUSTICE NETWORKING**

Diane shared that justice networking within our region is a conversation that needs to continue. Shawn is working at organically growing networks just by keeping an ear to the ground about what justice work is happening and helps folks to make connections with one another. This is a work in progress and will continue.

### **TOWARDS 2035 CONVERSATION CONTINUED**

There will be a joint town hall with CSRC and SWRC that will be held on June 17, 2025 to discuss Towards 2035. The intention is to have anyone who has an interest in Towards 2035 to attend to discuss and to get clear information to as many people as we can.

### **FESTIVAL OF FAITH UPDATE**

Susan updated Executive about the Festival of Faith (FoF) and shared that there are 180 participants. 15 extra people applied for the day passes. The planning team is feeling really good going into the event and are excited about people coming to Sudbury. The Celebration of Ministry Service is all planned and people in the region are planning to come even if they do not attend the FoF. John Bell is ready to travel from Scotland; the Uganda Martyrs UC choir is ready to attend.

### **100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCC**

Diane shared the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video that Nancy and Celio created for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that was shared with the wider church. In addition to the national celebration in Newfoundland, there are all kinds of local celebrations that are happening.

With regards to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary granting opportunity that the Executive offered of \$100 per community of faith (CoF) that applied (monies which came from the GCO's offer of \$2,000 for the President/Chair to travel to Newfoundland), there were 44 of 86 CoFs that applied. Diane has asked that they send in pictures and stories of how they celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup>.

### **HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY UPDATE**

Nancy shared that Peter met with Dr. Kevin McCormick on March 31, 2025 and that conversations would be ongoing. Diane shared that meeting did happen and that during that time, Peter shared the idea of involving a chaplain in the life and work of Huntington University. We will wait for a response from Kevin.

### **EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT (APPENDIX A)**

Diane shared Peter's Executive Minister Report with Executive.

**MOTION by Jim Jackson/Susan Lindquist      CS EXEC 2025-06-05-11**  
**That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive receive the**  
**Executive Minister Report.**  
**CARRIED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

### **CLOSING**

Nancy gave a closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

## **APPENDIX A Executive Ministers Report June 2025**

### **GC 45:**

Major preparation continues for General Council 45 starting in the new year, with an in-person meeting August 7-12. Note the following dates for GC 45:

Sunday, June 22, 2025 (online) 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. ET: Opening of General Council

Saturday, June 28, 2025 (online) 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET: Learning and discussion  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m. ET: Learning and discussion

August 7-11, 2025 (in person and online)

General Council worship, business, election and installation of the 45th Moderator

### **Moderator Nominations, General Council 45 (As of May 29, 2025):**

Currently we have 5 candidates for Moderator. The deadline for nominations is June 22 at Midnight. Please pray for the Moderator nominee's as they discern with the Church and encourage/pray for folks who are still considering submitting a nomination.

- **Rev. Dr. Samuel V. Dansokho (he/him)**

Ordained Minister, nominated by Nakonha:ka Regional Council

- **Rev. Dr. John Pentland (he/him)**

Ordained Minister, nominated by Chinook Winds Regional Council

- **Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, CM (she/her)**

Ordained Minister, nominated by Shining Waters Regional Council

- **Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath (she/her)**

Ordained Minister, nominated by Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

- **Rev. Sungmin Jung (he/him)**

Ordained Minister, nominated by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

For More information please see: <https://generalcouncil.ca/councils/general-council-45/moderator-nominees-gc45>

### **100th Anniversary June 8th 2025**

The June 2025 UCC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is taking place in Newfoundland on Sunday June 8th. Chair Nancy, in partnership with Celio De Andrade, has created a video to bring greetings to The United Church of Canada from the Canadian Shield Regional Council. Many regional events are happening throughout the CSRC and we have been encouraging folks to include on the 100th Anniversary website. See link to event map: [https://united-church.ca/events?event\\_type=All&focus=308](https://united-church.ca/events?event_type=All&focus=308) Please consider adding your event to the map!

### **June 10th, 2025: National Listening event**

As part of the Centennial, The United Church of Canada invites you to a special collective listening event on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. This unique initiative is an opportunity to simply listen without judgment or advice, fostering genuine connection in our communities.

Ministers are invited to set up a "welcome table" outside their church building on June 10, with a sign inviting people to sit and talk. This dedicated space offers the gift of pure listening.

While you can participate anytime that day, we encourage a synchronized moment of collective listening across Canada:

3:30 pm NT, 3:00 pm AT, 2:00 pm ET, 1:00 pm CT, 12:00 pm MT, 11:00 am PT

This shared time allows us to experience the power of listening together, knowing we're all engaging in this meaningful act. See below video for more information:

<https://united-church.ca/events/intentional-listening-centenary-campaign>

### **Huntington University**

Dr. Kevin McCormick had requested a meeting with me for Monday, March 31, 2025. Conversations will continue regarding local regional council partnership with Huntington University. I also chatted with the General Council about the possibility of considering funding for a Chaplaincy, they are open to the idea. Conversations will continue both regionally, with UCC and eventually, Huntington.

### **Festival of Faith**

Planning continues for our CSRC and SWRC Festival of Faith in 2025. Over 160 folks have registered. The planning team have also created day passes, so local folks can attend for part of the event. John Bell will be providing key leadership for the Festival of Faith and will also include a number of workshops and key leadership from within the United Church too. The Moderator will be attending the Festival of Faith as well. <https://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/festival-of-faith-2025/> There is also a pre-Clergy event has been planned for CSRC folks, before the Festival of Faith.

### **Toward 2035**

The United Church of Canada is currently working on an update for its strategic planned called Towards 2035. A draft version of the report will be circulated publicly very soon. We are planning a joint Townhall Meeting for the evening of June 17, 2025 to present and get feedback for the material before General Council 45. A joint regional planning team will prepare for the event and our hope is that the Commissioners hear the feedback. One major advantage of hosting a joint townhall is that both regional GC45 Commissioners can hear feedback from both Regions. The joint townhall also affords the opportunity to hear similar themes and struggles. Leaving it to the planning team, my sense is the event will have an opportunity for CSRC and SWRC to connect as separate regional councils too.

