

**MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING
May 3, 2025**

The Online Regional Council Meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council took place on May 3, 2025 online via Zoom video conference. The theme was *Upon This Rock*.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

The Canadian Shield Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 9:30 a.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.

Peter Hartmans lit the Christ Candle, and Nancy gave an acknowledgement of the land and read the safe space statement.

Welcome to Chaplain, Parliamentarian, CSRC Staff

Nancy welcomed The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada to the meeting.

The Chair made a number of introductions, including the chaplain Rev. Shawn Redden, the parliamentarian Rev. Bill Steadman, the Equity Advocate Rev. Rob Smith, and the online scrutineer for the meeting, Diane Matheson-Jimenez. Peter Hartmans introduced the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils staff team.

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/Steven Loweth

CS RCM 2025-05-03-01

That the following 2025 Online Meeting Opening Consent Agenda and Procedural Motions be adopted:

- a) **Roll of the Regional Council: that the 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 personnel 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 Chair 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 Chair.
- i) **New Business & Nominations:** that any items of New Business shall be given to the Chair. 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 Chair and the Business & Agenda Committee.**
3. **The Parliamentarian shall be Bill Steadman.**
4. **The Chair will present proposals. The Chair may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The Chair will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the Chair 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 chair, 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 Chair 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."
CARRIED

Opening Worship

A time of worship was led by the Chair, Nancy Ferguson with Steven Loweth, James Ko, Peter Haddow, Helen Smith, and Lawrence Muvunzi sharing the leadership, with music by Faye Moffatt.

Proposals

There were no proposals submitted before the deadline of April 24, 2025.

2026 Draft Budget

Jody Maltby presented the 2026 Draft Budget.

MOTION: Moved by Bill Steadman/John Watson CS RCM 2025-05-03-02
That on the recommendation of the Executive, the Canadian Shield Regional Council approve the 2026 Draft Budget as presented and refer it back to the Executive.
CARRIED
1 Abstention (Peter Hartmans)

Nominations Report

In place of Bill Jones, the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Kathie Smith presented the Nominations Report.

MOTION: Moved by Will Kunder/Crystal Greig CS RCM 2025-05-03-03
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
1 Abstention

Video Greeting from the Moderator

The Canadian Shield Regional Council watched a video greeting from The United Church of Canada's Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.

New Business

There was no new business.

Futuring Conversation – Next 5-10 Years in the CSRC

Chair Nancy shared that at the joint Executive Meeting in Sudbury in September of 2024 with Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils, there were futuring discussions about the next 5-10 years in the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Executive Members were invited to consider two (2) questions:

- What are we doing well as a regional council?
- What do we dream the United Church in Canadian Shield will look like in 5 to 10 years?

Nancy Ferguson and Diane Matheson-Jimenez listened to ministry personnel and lay leaders across the region, and 10 common areas arose from their considerations. Those 10 categories/questions were assigned to relevant Commissions and Resource Teams for their consideration and asked to report back to the Region.

Breakout Groups

The meeting moved into breakout groups to discuss the 2 questions and a recorder added the discussion notes to the main meeting chat to be distributed to the appropriate group for further discussion and follow up.

Commission/Committee/Resource Team Presentations

The Regional Council had the opportunity to hear from Commissions, Committees and Resource Teams to highlight important items from their work since the last Regional Council Meeting in May of 2024.

Commissions/Committees/Resource Team that shared include:

Support to Communities of Faith Commission – Jim Jackson
Pastoral Relations Commission – Stewart Walker
Property Commission – Gordon Roberts

Right Relations Resource Team – Lisa Blais
Affirming Resource Team - Peter Haddow
Mission Support Grants Resource Team - Nancy Rouble (in place of Dave Clarke)
Executive Committee – Nancy Ferguson

Thanking George and Joy Bott

Nancy expressed words of thanks for George and Joy Bott's vision, creativity, and witness for creating the United in Worship Program.

United In Worship Update

Melody Duncanson Hales brought an update on the United in Worship program.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Family Time

Rob Smith lead a portion of Family Time covering the following:

- Celebrating Licensed Lay Worship Leaders
- Celebrating Student Ministers
- Celebrating Ordinands
- Celebrating Ministry Personnel in other Denominations
- Celebrating Jubilands
- Honouring Retiree
- In Memoriam

Nancy Ferguson lead a portion of Family Time covering the following:

- Naming the Commission/Committee Chairs and Resource Team Leads, and acknowledging the large number of people who serve on our behalf and thanked them for their time and dedication

Melody Duncanson Hales marked the important transitions in the lives of our rural communities of faith this last year, recognizing congregations that have entered new phases of ministry, some continuing in new spaces, while others being their shared journey to a faithful close.

Announcements

Chair Nancy Ferguson shared announcements and specifically mentioned the Festival of Faith happening in Sudbury on the weekend of May 13-15, 2025.

MOTION by Bill Steadman/Susan Peverley

CS RCM 2025-05-03-04

That the 2025 Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting end time be extended to 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED

100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada

Chair Nancy shared that June 10, 2025 is the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada. On the Sunday prior, many communities of faith across our Region will celebrate in a variety of ways – from joint worship services to shared projects to outdoor BBQs to participating in the Festival of Faith. Thirty-seven (37) communities of faith applied for, and received, a gift of \$100 from the Regional Council to assist in their celebrations. Additionally, The United Church of Canada will be livestreaming, on its YouTube channel, the National Centennial Anniversary Service from Gower Street United Church in Newfoundland at 5:30 p.m. our time.

Good News Stories

Jim Jackson facilitated a time of sharing good news stories across the region.

Theological Reflection

Desire Tiriwepi offered a Theological Reflection from the meeting.

Courtesies

Chair Nancy gave courtesies to Peter Hartmans, the entire staff, and all who helped to put on this meeting.

Blessing and Adjournment

Nancy Ferguson offered a blessing entitled "Seen" from a book by Jan Richardson called *Circle of Grace*. The court sang hymn VU586, "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection" and then Chair Nancy declared the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

DRAFT