

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on January 8, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

PRESENT: Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Stewart Walker, Jim Jackson, Bill Jones, Gordon Roberts, Susan Peverley, Susan Lindquist, Dave LeGrand, Peter Haddow

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

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.

Diane shared an opening worship with Executive members, reflecting about the Jesus the Magi and read from Rachel Held Evans piece entitled, "2016 and the Risk of Birth."

CHECK IN:

Nancy asked Executive to participate in a quick check-in time, focusing on any disruptions that have occurred over 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Nominations piece was removed from the Agenda and will be dealt with at the February 2026 Executive meeting.

MOTION by Bill Jones/Jim Jackson CS EXEC 2026-01-08-01
That the agenda for the meeting be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jim Jackson/Bill Jones CS EXEC 2026-01-08-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive held on December 4, 2025 be approved, as presented.
CARRIED

RECEIVE NOTES FROM JOINT EXECUTIVE MEETING

MOTION by Gord Roberts/Susan Peverley CS EXEC 2026-01-08-03
That the Notes of the meeting of the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Council Executives held on December 4, 2025 be received, as presented.
CARRIED

RECEIVE MINUTES FROM COMMISSIONS

MOTION by Peter Haddow/Susan Peverley CS EXEC 2026-01-08-04

**That the Minutes for the Support to Communities of Faith Commission from November 19, 2025 be received, for information.
CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank You Letter from Camp McDougall

Executive received an email letter from Eric Verbonac of the Camp McDougall Board, thanking the CSRC for forgiving their \$5,000 loan.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shining Waters Regional Council

Susan shared that she sent the signed MOU to the Senior Governance Support Lead at the General Council Office (GCO) and it has been returned signed. Both Executives will review the MOU in 2027.

2026 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (RCM) PLANNING UPDATE

- *RCM Update*

Diane shared that the date for the 2026 CS RCM is from June 5-7, 2026 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. There will be a Ministry Personnel Retreat before the event from Wednesday, June 3 – Friday, June 5, 2026 and Cameron Fraser will be the speaker for the event.

There will not be any ordinations or admissions this year and therefore, there will not be a formal Celebration of Ministry Service on Sunday, June 7, 2026. The Moderator will be coming to the 2026 CS RCM and will be the preacher at that Sunday Service.

The national Black Clergy Network has requested a dedicated space at the RCM for their travelling exhibit entitled, “Here From the Beginning” and will display banners in both French and English for people to engage with.

Diane finally shared that the Chairs and Team Leads of Commissions/Committees/Resource Teams will be asked to make presentations to the Region to highlight the work the teams are involved with.

- *Approval of Theme*

Chair Nancy reviewed the theme topics that were discussed at the last meeting in December 2025.

**MOTION by Gord Roberts/Dave LeGrand CS EXEC 2026-01-07-05
That the theme for the 2026 Canadian Shield Regional Council Meeting be “Hard Places. Holy Ground.”
CARRIED**

- *Appoint Agenda and Business Committee (A & B Ctte)*

MOTION by Peter Haddow/Jim Jackson CS EXEC 2026-01-07-06

That Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive appoint Nancy Ferguson (Chair), Bill Jones (Chair-Elect), Peter Hartmans (EM), Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Staff Lead), Susan Whitehead (Staff Admin Support), and Stewart Walker to the Agenda and Business (A & B) Committee, with the power to add members.
CARRIED

NOMINATIONS – BEVERLEY RUMBLE FOR EXECUTIVE

This agenda item will be dealt with at the February 3, 2026 Executive meeting.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE DOCUMENT UPDATE – SUSAN

Susan shared with Executive members that the current Governance Structure Document is very cumbersome to navigate and that perhaps there may be a way change how the information is presented.

MOTION by Gord Roberts/Peter Haddow CS EXEC 2026-01-07-07
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive direct Susan Whitehead to streamline the Governance Structure Document by isolating the policies for easier access.
CARRIED

GCE SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 14-15, 2025

Executive received and reviewed the General Council Executive Summary from the November 14-15, 2025 meeting and were given the opportunity to ask questions.

SUB-EXECUTIVE POLICY CONVERSATION

The Executive members discussed the possibility of having a Sub-Executive policy for the CSRC.

There was consensus that Executive authorize Susan Whitehead to edit the Shining Waters Regional Council Sub-Executive Policy to reflect the CSRC and to share the policy at the February 2026 Executive meeting for decision.

CAMP MCDUGALL ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT – SHAWN REDDEN

Chair Nancy welcomed staff member Shawn Redden, Minister of Justice and Faith Formation, to the meeting. Shawn shared a presentation on the accreditation site visit to Camp McDougall and indicated that the GCO will forward their Accreditation results to the CSRC when completed, with Diane reporting back to Executive with that final report from GCO. Nancy thanked Shawn for coming to the Executive meeting.

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Diane shared that the Incorporated Ministries of the UCC will receive a letter of correspondence from the Region asking for compliance with submitting information to the Incorporated Ministries of the UCC.

FESTIVAL OF FAITH 2027 CONVERSATION

Executive had an extensive discussion about the future of the Festival of Faith (FoF) and Diane indicated that the decision is time-sensitive for 2027, as there was planning that will

need to begin immediately. She shared that Shining Waters Executive will not be discussing whether they will be participating in the FoF until their February 2026 Executive meeting. Executive members praised the 2025 FoF and particularly enjoyed the fact that it was a joint event with SWRC.

Members discussed issues like the best use of our resources, and the fact that so many people from the far reaches of our region could not attend due to distance. Executive discussed going in a different direction with regards to the FoF and members shared their thoughts and opinions.

MOTION by Dave LeGrand/Susan Lindquist CS EXEC 2026-01-08-08
That after extensive discussion, the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive has decided not to enter into a shared Festival of Faith with the Shining Waters Regional Council for 2027 and will notify the Shining Waters Executive of this decision; and will explore the concept of a traveling Festival of Faith to a minimum of five (5) locations within the Canadian Shield Regional Council during 2027.
CARRIED

MOTION by Peter Hadow/Susan Lindquist CS EXEC 2026-01-08-09
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive appoint a Traveling Festival of Faith Conceptualization Group including Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Susan Whitehead, Nancy Ferguson, Stewart Walker, Susan Lindquist, and Dave LeGrand, with the ability to add members if needed, and to report back to Executive in March 2026.
CARRIED

ACTING EXECUTIVE MINISTERS REPORT – VERBAL

Diane shared the Acting Executive Minister Report with Executive.

APRIL'S EXECUTIVE MEETING DATE CHANGE – APRIL 2, 2026 HOLY WEEK

After discussion, Executive members changed the April 2, 2026 Executive Meeting date (which occurs during Holy Week) and will now meet on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom (in place of April's meeting during Holy Week)

Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom (if needed)

2026 RCM June 5-7, 2026 In-Person at Quattro Hotel in SSM

CLOSING

Nancy read from Jeffrey Duncan's book *Shine on Star of Bethlehem* and read a prayer in the section entitled, "God in Unexpected Places" and adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Update on Camp McDougall 2025 Accreditation Visit

Submitted January 8, 2026 by Shawn Redden, Justice & Faith Formation Minister

Accreditation Status

The accreditation visit for Camp McDougall was conducted on July 10, 2025. The team included two volunteers from the Youth and Young Adult Resource Team (Pam Brown and Diane Tait), and Regional Faith Formation Minister (Shawn Redden). The team met with Eric Verbonac (Camp McDougall Board Chair), Lauren Towell (Board member), and the Camp Director.

As part of the process, the team completed a site visit and accreditation report, which was sent to the General Counsel Office (GCO) by the end of July. GCO reviews this report alongside other required documentation, including the Ontario Camping Association (OCA) accreditation, to make a final decision. While the final national UCC accreditation decision has not yet been issued, there are no anticipated concerns, and accreditation approval is expected.

Overall Assessment

The visit took place on the final full day of the first week of camp, a period that included some expected growing pains. Overall, the team was extremely impressed. We commend the Board for its leadership and dedication over the past year. The work they have accomplished in order to re-open and offer a camping season this year is extensive in terms of governance, board recruitment, staff recruitment, and site-work!

Camp Operations and Capacity

During the 2025 season, Camp McDougal served approximately 112 campers, with average weekly attendance of 14–15 campers and a peak of 24–26 campers, which was capacity for staff. Shawn noted there is likely room for modest growth—perhaps 5 plus additional campers per week—before requiring the increased expense of additional staff.

Staffing and Human Resources for 2026

Staff retention prospects are strong. Many staff from the past summer intend to return and have already applied, including two male and two female counselors. As with many camps, the primary staffing challenge is recruiting a waterfront director. The camp currently has nine applications for four open positions and is in the process of interviewing and hiring.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

The team was particularly impressed by the camp's efforts to build community partnerships. One example is a partnership with the culinary arts program at Sault College. Last year, the cook was a co-op or summer placement student from this program and is eager to return. Staff also rotated through kitchen duties, and one counselor now hopes to return as an assistant cook, highlighting leadership development and vocational discovery among young adults.

The culinary partnership is also being expanded to improve local food sourcing, menu quality, and healthier choices.

Indigenous Relationships and Reconciliation

The camp has expressed a desire to build relationships with local Indigenous communities. Shawn plans to connect Eric with Lisa Blais, Chair of the Living Right Relations Resource Team, to support this work in partnership with the region. This is particularly important given that some campers are Indigenous or have Indigenous heritage, and the camp is navigating how to be Christian-centered while being respectful, relational, and accountable in its approach.

Faith Formation

The team was especially impressed with Camp McDougall's faith formation programming, which is now a core focus of United Church camp accreditation. Shawn had earlier connected the board with Pacific Mountain Region, which developed a faith formation curriculum called *Alive* for free use by UCC camps. Camp McDougall adopted this resource and integrated it not only as a standalone module but throughout camp life, including Morning Watch, games, and daily activities. Staff collaborated under the guidance of a board member to embed faith formation holistically.

This approach allows the board to rethink the traditional chaplain role. Rather than relying solely on ordained ministers to lead programming—which is increasingly difficult to staff—the chaplain role could evolve into one of pastoral presence, spiritual support, mentoring staff, and supporting integrated faith formation. This may also make the role more accessible to lay leaders and pastoral caregivers.

Board Governance and Leadership

The board is functioning effectively and is intentionally recruiting members with specific skill sets. Continued attention is needed for succession planning, leadership continuity (including a Vice-Chair role), and long-term legacy planning. Board expertise has already led to measurable improvements. One example is a lawyer on the board who addressed serious records management issues by organizing files, ensuring secure storage, and overseeing shredding of outdated documents—an area that had previously been a significant accreditation concern.

The camp leadership also wants to develop a 3–5-year strategic plan. Shawn plans to connect Chair Eric with Sparrow Lake Camp's Executive Director and Board Chair, who have done strong work in this area and could offer mentoring.

Relationship with Canadian Shield Regional Council

The team noted that the camp website needs to be updated to reference the relationship to the UCC and Canadian Shield Regional Council, and acknowledge regional financial support on their sponsorship page. Shawn noted that Chair Eric will be requesting agenda time and display space at the 2026 regional AGM.

