



Creating Connections

Shining Waters Regional Council Inaugural Meeting

May 24-26, 2019 Georgian College, Barrie

RESOURCE BOOK

Georgian College

One Georgian Drive, Building J
Barrie, ON L4M 3X9

version 2
updated May 20, 2019

Georgian College of Applied Arts & Technology
One Georgian Drive, Building J, Barrie L4M 3X9
705.728.1968

Celebration of Ministries Service:
Georgian College
Building J
Barrie, ON L4M 3X9

General parking:

If you stay in residence, your parking is free in the residence parking lot only. The commuter parking rate is \$7.00/day.

Accessibility

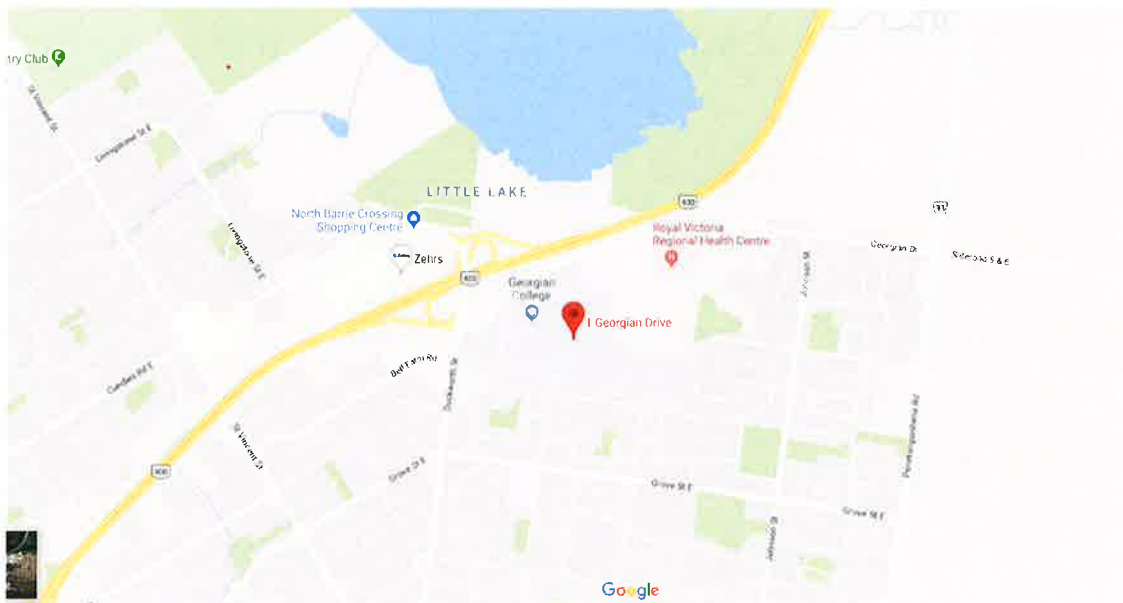
Our meeting rooms on the Georgian campus have barrier free access, and accessible elevators and washrooms are nearby. All stages and speaking areas are barrier-free. Please indicate any requirements for wheelchair accessible accommodation, handicapped parking, hearing assistance, sign language, large print, dietary needs, or other considerations when registering.

By car from the south:

- North on Hwy 400
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- Turn right on to Duckworth Street
- Turn left on to Ring Road (Grizzlies Way)

By car from the north:

- South on Hwy 11, to Hwy 400 south
- Take Duckworth Street exit
- Turn left on to Duckworth Street
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As we gather on the grounds of Georgian College, we honour that Georgian College acknowledges that all campuses are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. The Anishnaabeg include the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. And we join Georgian College in being dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Metis and Inuit people.

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*updated



REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Serving the Shining Waters Regional Council

Encouraging and Connecting
Communities of Faith

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Welcome to Shining Waters Regional Council inaugural meeting!

The members of the Transition Commission who were appointed by the former Presbyteries and the Conference have been meeting with our Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans, and our staff since July. Our task has been to ensure that as we create a new structure, we build upon the experience of four Presbyteries and one Conference, and have in place an effective governance structure for the new region with the core policies necessary for initial smooth functioning. Unless urgently needed, decisions about new policies have been left to the Regional Council, and its elected Executive and Commissions.

To launch the new Region, our theme for the first Regional Council meeting is *Creating Connections*.

We will begin our time together at the Sacred Fire on the college grounds. During our time together, there will be time for worship and music. Ruth McDonald is our music leader.

The weekend will be an opportunity to make some new connections, to renew friendships, to learn about and engage in conversation about clusters and networks and to think about where you can fit in as an individual and as a community of faith to make a difference in our world, and to accomplish more together than we each can separately.

We will hear from six ministers who will be ordained or admitted and hear the wisdom of retirees. Our preacher at the Celebration of Ministry Service on Saturday afternoon will be the Rev. Maggie Dieter, Indigenous Ministries and Justice Executive Minister of The United Church of Canada.

On Friday and Saturday, there will be business sessions to introduce and begin discussions about the governance model, the budget, Affirming Ministries and other business, and hearing from the Nominations Committee.

At the Sunday morning business session, Regional Council representatives will vote for the new executive, the proposed new governance model, the budget, on continuing as an Affirming Region and the preliminary Action Plan and Vision, as well as any proposals that may be presented.

At the closing worship on Sunday, all members will share in a covenanting service with the first executive, the staff and each other, and then enjoy a celebratory feast before heading home.

It will be important for ministry personnel and Regional Council representatives to be in attendance on Sunday for the election of the first executive of Shining Waters Region as well as the commissions and to participate in the business decisions.

We look forward to our time together at the first Shining Waters Regional Council meeting.

David Leyton-Brown & Marg Walker
Co-Chairs, Shining Waters Transition Commission

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING (2019) AGENDA

Theme: *Creating Connections*

Friday, May 24		Saturday, May 25		Sunday, May 26	
10:30 a.m.	Gathering to Ground us in Prayer and Intentions for Hospitality	6:30 – 7:15 a.m.	Sunrise service at Sacred Fire	6:30 – 7:15 am	Sunrise service at Sacred Fire
		6:45 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	6:45 – 8:00 am	Breakfast
		8:30	Theme and Worship	8:30	Worship, led by Youth
		9:30	Business	9:20	Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Policy • Ratification of Governance Model • Ratification of the Budget • Elections • Proposals
11:00	Gathering for Ministry Check-in Registration, Book Room, Labyrinth, Displays, Identify an Open Space topic	10:50	Break*	10:00	Break*
		11:15	Open Space Conversations	10:20	Business continues
				11:20	Honouring Retirees and Jubilands
		12:20 p.m.	Announcements and grace	11:30	Theme and Worship Our Commitment to One Another
				12:05	Closing of Sacred Fire
	Lunch on your own (List of restaurants available at registration)	12:30	Lunch* Close of Nominations and New Business Choir Rehearsal (12:45 pm)	12:30	Celebration Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Opening of the Meeting and Acknowledgment of the Land Welcome to the Land Sacred Fire Opening Ceremony	2:00 p.m.	Connecting Amongst Communities of Faith	2:00 p.m.	Returning Home
2:15	Process to Plenary	2:55	Announcements		
2:45	Orientation and Connecting	3:00	Break*		
3:00	Opening Motions and Actions	3:30	CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE		
3:25	Theme and Worship	5:00	Reception		
4:30	Reflections by Ordinands and Admittand				
5:00	Intro of Governance, Budget, Nominations				
6:00 p.m.	Dinner*	6:00 p.m.	Dinner*		
7:30	Emerging Clusters & Networks				
8:30 p.m.	Theme and Worship	7:30 p.m.	Opportunities to Gather		
9:15 p.m.	Opportunities to Gather				* Prayers for Communities of Faith

PROPOSALS

Creating a Proposal to be considered by the Regional Council:

Proposals can be created to be considered by the Regional Council or the Regional Council Executive. A “proposal” is a formal request for the council to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important to them and ask for the church to take action on it.

The Manual (2019), Section F, describes in detail how a proposal may be submitted. The template below also provides a template for creating a proposal. Proposals can be submitted before the Regional Council meeting, to be circulated in the Regional meeting resource book or a proposal can be submitted to the Co-Chairs before the scheduled close of submission of new business, during our Regional Meeting. See agenda for specific close of business time.

Proposal [template] (also see *The Manual 2019*, Section F, Initiating Action and Change)

1. What is the issue? (describe in broad terms)

We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to:

- do something about...
- engage the topic of...
- respond to the challenge of...
- etc.

Note: proposals for the Regional Council are for issues of Regional Council responsibility that are within the bounds of the Regional Council. Proposals can also be created for consideration to be forwarded to the General Council by the Regional Council (see *The Manual 2019*, section F, Initiating Action and Change)

2. Why is this issue important?

What are the key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues?

What is the history/background of this issue?

What are the principles informing this issue?

3. How might the Regional Council respond to the issue?

Name a possible response that the Regional Council might consider:

A. Study/Discussion of the issue

B. Action on the issue

This could include:

- Regional Council directing that a policy/strategy be developed based on specified principles and parameters
- Regional Council adopting a policy position/strategy

- Regional Council encouraging/suggesting action by congregations and other communities of faith on the issue

Note to 3.A: The Regional Council could be asked to have a conversation about a particular issue as an end in itself without making a policy decision or taking other action.

Note to 3.B: Suggestions for wording of a policy/strategy could be offered as possibilities for consideration in the decision-making process but not as expectations of a particular outcome.

4. For the courts transmitting this proposal to the Regional Council or General Council:

Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?

CONSENT AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 2019 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 Shining Waters 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 (2019 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 numbered tables in the meeting space on the floor of the meeting of the Athletics Centre at Georgian College, One Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON L4M 3X9 and when in session; that the Shining Waters Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including admission and ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on Saturday May 25, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. to take place in the Athletics Centre at Georgian College, One Georgian Drive, Barrie, to fulfil its responsibility to ordain those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for admission, and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.
- c) **Agenda:** that the Agenda as printed and circulated be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Chairperson.
- d) **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.

- e) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings. (2019 Manual C.1.4)
- f) **New Business & Nominations:** that any Nominations for the Regional Council Executive, Commissions and Committees and items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson before 12:30 pm on Saturday, May 25, 2019.
- g) **Naming of the Regional Council 10:** Following a process of consultation and voting, the Transitional Executive approved / agreed that Regional Council 10 be named Shining Waters Regional Council and that the Regional Council will consult with Indigenous Communities of Faith, within the boundaries of Region 10, to request that an additional name be provided by our Indigenous communities of faith, and that name to be used alongside the name Shining Waters.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- 1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1.
- 2. Any handouts must be authorized by the Chairperson.
- 3. The Parliamentarian shall be the Beth Moore
- 4. The Chairperson will present proposals. 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 put 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 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).
- 8. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council, General Council Elections, Reports for Information.

Background for Consent Motions

Evaluation and experience has shown that the agendas of meetings of the Regional Council 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 five (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 etc. and the list of correspondence to the Executive (if any) is included with the reports.

Process

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

1. Presider/chairperson: "You have all received the resource book, with the consent agenda. Does any five members wish to move an item from the consent agenda to be placed on the meeting's agenda?"
2. If any five (5) voting members requests, an item is moved. (By courtesy, advance notice would be given to the Executive Minister.)
3. Chairperson: "Without discussion, then, the consent agenda is ready for a vote. Those in favour? Opposed? All items on the consent agenda are adopted."



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WORSHIP AT REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Written by Karen Hilfman Millson, Worship Co-Ordinator

When the Transition Commission for Shining Waters Regional Council discussed the development of worship and theme for this Regional Council Meeting they identified four guiding intentions:

- 1) to develop a plan that provides significant time for people to connect and have conversations both in the agenda and informal times;
- 2) to include a toolbox of resources for Communities of Faith to support conversations that allow new and creative ideas to emerge around Clusters and Networks;
- 3) to ensure that we are creating a sense of community within the Region that is healthy, life-giving and celebrates the diversity of who we are;
- 4) to develop the theme of *Creating Connections*.

With these four intentions as guidance, our times of worship will include opportunities to engage with each other as we try out some of the resources and concepts provided in the toolbox – a toolbox that we will keep adding to as a resource available on the website. The worship resource for Communities of Faith also includes some of these resources. We hope that at least three aspects of that worship service will be used at some time within each of our Communities of Faith so that the commitment to collaboration and healthy life-giving community will echo throughout Shining Waters along with the gift of our theme song *Awake, Arise*.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/regional-meeting/>

There is a sense of hope and anticipation bubbling up amongst us rooted in the awareness that if we are intentional in this time of transition there is the real possibility of new, re-newed and creative connections emerging. Central to this journey is the building of relationships so we can explore new ways to collaborate in the ministry we share. May this time of gathering as Shining Waters Regional Council inspire us, deepen our connections, encourage us and nourish us for the journey as we caringly host ourselves and each other in this time away together.

OPEN SPACE CONVERSATIONS

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for the wealth of conversation topics that people shared during registration. We were astonished when we received over 150 topics. They have been compiled and will be posted at the Regional Council Meeting as well as kept to inform staff of information people are seeking.

Since we only have 45 minutes of Open Space Conversation on Saturday that will not provide enough time to engage all the suggestions for conversation so we have decided on the following steps to identify questions and topics for discussion. Some of these newly identified topics will be

inspired by the topics registrants have provided ahead of time and others will surface through conversations and presentations on Friday night.

Here are the steps to identify topics and questions for discussion:

1. As soon as you arrive at the Regional Council meeting, there will be an opportunity to begin to post a specific question or topic that you would like to engage with others. As you consider topics one of the questions you might ask yourself is “What do I want to collaborate around or gather insights about?” This is a time for us to begin to find other people who are interested in something that we or our Community of Faith are interested in growing and developing.
2. When you are ready to identify a question or topic you want to invite other people to engage with you, you will find a spot in the plenary area under a banner called “Open Space Conversation Topics.”
3. There will be large post-it notes on the wall. They will have Circle Group numbers on them or the option to gather in another location other than the plenary space. Use one of those post-its to identify your topic or question. Be sure to include your name and, if you are not going to be in the plenary, where you are going to be.
4. Also, check to see if someone else has listed your area of interest and if it has been identified, either plan to go to that group or name a specific question or title that will make it clear that your topic has a different specific focus.
5. Be sure to keep going back to the wall to see what topics are being suggested so that you know where you want to start in the Open Space conversations at 11.15 on Saturday.
6. If you are planning to initiate a conversation please plan to be at your table (or over by the door if you are leaving the plenary) when we return from break on Saturday morning. Also, be sure to read the guidelines for the conversations.

Guidelines for Conversations:

1. Stay with conversations for as long as you feel you are learning something, engaged in the topic, or contributing ideas. Know that it is acceptable to move about to different conversations.
2. If an inspiring conversation emerges which you want to follow up on, gather the email addresses of those in the circle and take responsibility for following up by connecting the group.
3. Notice what has heart and meaning for you and be intentional to help that grow.
4. While the person who posted the question or topic is invited to provide a few moments of introduction to their understanding of the topic, this is a communal conversation and so we are to host one another to ensure that a variety of voices are heard. We are encouraged to be open to what is emerging rather than having a preconceived solution for the topic.

5. If there is to be any further conversations to harvest the wisdom and creativity of the idea that is emerging, it will be the responsibility of the gathered group to arrange opportunity to deepen engagement.
6. Parameters for conversations are that they stay aligned with the core values of who we are as The United Church of Canada.

The hope is that this will be a time of rich conversations around topics that have heart and meaning to us.

Enjoy engaging with each other and the gift of this time to explore possibilities!

Created for the Inaugural Meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council 2019

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SHINING WATERS: WHAT'S JUSTICE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Written by Ren Ito, Social Justice Animator

Cornel West once said that justice is the public face of love. It's how we witness to God's love in a wounded world: by loving where the world hates, oppresses, and destroys.

We're used to thinking about justice on the *outside*: how we support or advocate for those around us, the ones on the margins of our society, but we, as church, also need to look *within*. Do we come together in community, as one body in Christ, in just ways?

Well, what does that even look like? What *is* justice?

Our Christian tradition gives us two broad understandings of justice:

1. In the law and the prophets, justice is about ending injustice—rescuing the oppressed, defending the orphan, pleading for the widow.
2. Jesus, meanwhile, recognises that just ending injustice doesn't heal its deep and lasting wounds—that justice is also about finding wholeness in oppression's wake.

We need *both* types of justice in order to realise Jesus' vision of the kin-dom of God!

So where can we start?

Take a moment to reflect on the work that you've been called to do in our Region. Where do you find the marks of injustice? Broadly consider questions like the following:

Ending injustice

How is this work being done?

- What *practices* (ways of meeting, speaking, making decisions, etc.) might cause harm, and to whom?

What does this work *cost* or *demand*—in terms of resources, communities, spaces, institutions, land, time, etc.?

- Who decides or benefits? Who doesn't?

How does this work fit into what's happening in the wider world?

- How might systems of injustice in the world be *replicated* in this work?

Finding wholeness

How can this work be used to give people *voice and agency* in the church? In the world?

What histories of injustice are connected to this work? How might this work *recognise and respond to* those histories?

How can this work be *healing and life-giving* for people who experience injustice?

Where is there creative potential in this work to *imagine and embody* a more just world?

STEPPING STONES TO INTENTIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Written by Karen Hilfman Millson

COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATE

Our commitment and intention to collaborate in healthy life-giving ways is rooted in our sense of call:

To love one another as we are beloved;

To band together to create a world where broken relationships are healed and the wolf and the lamb lie down together, where deserts blossom, and where tools of violence are turned into tools to nurture life;

To seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly together in peace upon this earth;

To be intentional about how we are in relationship so that the power that reigns is love.

Based on John 12, Jesus' Baptism, Isaiah Vision, Micah, One Earth Community, Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, Ephesians 4, Kingdom of God Parables

ANGELES ARRIEN on the Four-Fold Path

Show up and be present

Pay attention to what has heart and meaning

Tell the truth without blame or judgment

Be open to outcome, not attached to outcome

Emergent Strategy Principles

by Adrienne Maree Brown

- change is constant (be like water)
- never a failure; always a lesson
- if you trust the people, they become trustworthy, move at the speed of trust
- focus on critical connections more than critical mass
- build the resilience by building the relationships
- less prep; more presence
- what you pay attention to, grows.

HEALTHY LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITY

As people seeking to create life-giving community we will strive to:

- ✓ listen deeply;
- ✓ connect to the Wisdom of God within us and amongst us;
- ✓ honour our own and each other's gifts and recognize that we each experience and navigate the world differently;
- ✓ share laughter and tears, joys and struggles;
- ✓ create safer spaces where we can be brave and speak from our mind, heart, inner wisdom and experience;
- ✓ commit to action for ongoing transformation as we respond to our life purpose and call;
- ✓ encourage, support and be accountable to one another as we seek to live a vision of wholeness;
- ✓ honour creativity and discover clarity emerging in our midst;
- ✓ deal honestly and kindly with issues before they fester;
- ✓ align ourselves with the way of Jesus and how the Spirit calls us to be.

by Karen Hilfman Millson

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world - indeed it's the only thing that ever has. – *Margaret Mead*

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. – *Albert Einstein*

THE CIRCLE WAY
by Christina Baldwin and Ann Linnea

THREE PRINCIPLES

Leadership rotates among all circle members

Responsibility is shared for the quality of experience

Reliance is on wholeness, rather than on any personal agenda

THREE PRACTICES

Speak with intention: noting what has relevance to the conversation in the moment

Listen with attention: respectful of the learning process for all members of the group

Tend to the well-being of the circle:
remaining aware of the impact of our contributions

RACIAL EQUITY WORK COVENANT

Be **FULLY** Present

Accept that this is heart and head “work”

Listen, listen, listen and respond

Assume positive intent

Be aware of your impact on others and their impact on you (tracking)

Accept the speaker’s story as their truth

Accept multiple realities as truth

Based on Erica Merritt’s work

OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY by Harrison Owen

Guiding Principles

- 1) Whoever comes are the right people
- 2) Whenever it starts is the right time
- 3) Whatever happens is the only thing that could have
- 4) When it’s over, it’s over (in this session)

PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES OF INTENTIONAL CIRCLES

- 1) Engage from the place of authenticity and connection to the sacred that is within us.
- 2) Develop clarity within the group about action and purpose to support our call to co-create a world of wholeness and well-being for all.
- 3) Honour insights that arise from our intuitive capacity by listening deeply to our gut responses and by speaking from our heart.
- 4) Celebrate and claim each person’s unique gifts and tenderly hold each other in our limitations.
- 5) Develop an intentional agreement on how to be in community and agree to its intentions each time we meet.
- 6) Make the group a priority so that we are present and engaged as we are able.
- 7) Recognize that the wisdom of everyone is needed—since every voice counts space is created for every voice to be heard.
- 8) Include time for check-in at the beginning of each gathering so that we reconnect at a heart level through sharing brief stories or insights (with no cross-conversation). This provides opportunity to find our voices.
- 9) Commit to using the responsible “I/we” rather than using “you” statements to engage our hearts and wisdom more fully.
- 10) Intentionally include opportunity for evaluation and honestly assess how we are doing, so that relationships can deepen and circle can be revitalized.

11) Create a space that is life-giving and safe for the full spectrum of who we are to show up.

12) Challenge and shift negative energy and limiting beliefs.

13) Take note when people are absent, and arrange for someone to contact them; people know that they belong when they will be missed.

www.AuthenticConnectionCulture.ca

DAVID LEYTON-BROWN and MARG WALKER CO-CHAIRS



David Leyton-Brown is a member of Richmond Hill United Church, and was Co-Chair of the Vision and Church Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery and a Commissioner at CG43. In civilian life he is Professor Emeritus (which is fancy talk for “retired”) of Politics at York University, where he served as Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Master of Calumet College and most recently Master of McLaughlin College, and was seconded as Executive Director of the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of World Education Services, the TOEFL Board, the government of Ontario’s Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, and the Board of Governors of York University. His academic teaching and writings have focused on international relations, with particular emphasis on Canada-United States relations.

Marg Walker feels it is a privilege and a responsibility to be a member of the United Church of Canada. She grew up in St. Paul’s in Orillia and in 2012 completed her term as President of Toronto Conference at the Annual meeting at St. Paul’s.



Over many years, she has been fortunate to participate in the United Church at the local, Presbytery, Conference, and national levels of the church and now in the new Region of Shining Waters.

Marg was encouraged by several people to serve on the Transition Commission and it has been another wonderful experience working with a dedicated executive and the Rev. Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister. The executive and all of the staff have worked hard over a few months to begin to shape our region. The work is not done. The executive, who we will elect in May, will continue to change and shape our region.

Nick, and Marg look forward to continuing to travel and to share time with family and friends. Knox Agincourt is their home church and Marg especially enjoys singing in the choir!

REV. MAGGIE DIETER
GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
GUEST SPEAKER
Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice



Rev. Maggie Dieter serves at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada as Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice. She currently holds responsibilities for implementing the decisions of the Aboriginal Ministries Council on ministry leadership and congregational development; and oversees the development and implementation of action plans related to the church's commitment to healing and reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. Previously she served 15 years in congregational ministry with Ojibwa pastoral charges north of Toronto and has also provided leadership in

other roles.

Maggie brings Indigenous and Settler Peoples together to promote deeper understanding and relationships of respect and mutuality, acknowledging the legacy from many wise Indigenous leaders before her.

REV. MAYA DOUGLAS
CHAPLAIN

The Rev. Maya Douglas presently serves the Community of Faith at Queensville Holland Landing United Church as their minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. Previously, she interned and then was appointed to Bloor Street United Church. In both churches, she has spent most of her time offering opportunities to live faithfully through prayer and spiritual practices. She spent eight months as a student chaplain at North York General Hospital in 2006-07, focusing her time in the oncology and palliative care departments.



During her 22 years of teaching, Maya was a constant sounding board for teachers in personal and professional distress. In everything she does, she is more interested in listening deeply rather than speaking though eventually... she will speak with, in, and out of Love.

REV. LIONEL KETOLA CHAPLAIN



Lionel Ketola (Rev.) is a Spiritual Care Practitioner working full time at St Michael's Hospital, a major trauma centre in downtown Toronto. Lionel's chaplaincy ministry involves supporting patients, families and staff in one of the hospital's critical care units.

Originally ordained in the Lutheran tradition, Lionel was received into the order of ministry by Toronto Conference in 2013.

Lionel and his husband, Steven Loweth, are grateful to make their home together on the shores of Lake Simcoe, where Lionel enjoys his garden, along with kayaking and canoeing on the beautiful waters of Lake Simcoe - things which deeply nurture Lionel's creation spirituality. And for rainy days (please - no more!!) Lionel has been eyeing his next quilting project.

Lionel has a love of preaching and liturgy and is a regular supply preacher in a number of York Region United churches.

REV. DR. RANDY NAYLOR CHAPLAIN

Randy Naylor was called to Parkwoods United Church as of October 2010 and continues to relish his work as a congregational minister.

Growing up in Alberta, he attended the University of Alberta and St. Stephen's Theological College and was ordained by Alberta Conference in 1971. Randy served two congregations in Alberta before he, Loreen and their two children served as missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa.



Returning from Africa, Randy served as Conference Staff for Alberta Conference, with responsibilities for Evangelism, Stewardship and Communication and also served as Conference Minister for Peace River Presbytery.

In 1983, he was asked to become head of communication for the United Church and was still serving as General Secretary: Communication, when the Church's General Secretary died. Randy was appointed acting General Secretary for a year while the United Church found a new General Secretary. Randy then accepted an appointment to serve as head of communication for the

National Council of Churches of the USA in New York City. The United Church was a member of the NCC's Communication Commission.

From 2001 through 2010, he served as General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication. In 2006, the offices for WACC were moved from London, England to Toronto. The United Church is a founding member of WACC.

All of Randy's work has been undertaken with the approval of his presbytery and the United Church.

Following his call to Parkwoods, Randy was active in Toronto Southeast Presbytery where he served as Chair (2012-2014), past-chair (2014-2015) and Chair of the Nominations Committee (2015-2018).

REV. DR. PAUL SHEPHERD CHAPLAIN



Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but has now lived most of his life in the Toronto area. Growing up he spent one year in England and one year in Sweden.

Paul completed a Ph.D. in atmospheric physics at York University, and worked for over 15 years as an environmental scientist in both the public and private sectors, primarily in the area of resource management, developing mapping applications. He moved from scientific work into ministry in The United Church of Canada in 2006 because he finds people more fascinating

than numbers.

Paul has held a number of ministry positions, and is currently working as the minister at Martin Grove United Church, in Rexdale. He feels called to Rexdale because it is a place with deep needs, and is therefore a great place to have a church. His main interests in ministry are around emotional/spiritual healing, and social justice.

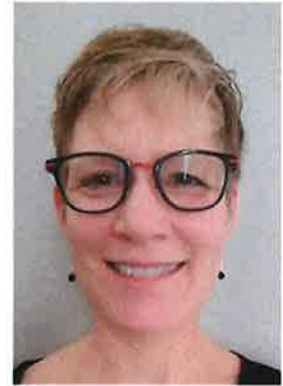
Paul has supported the Presbytery (now the Region), being the Chair of the Property and Environment Team of Presbytery for five years and is a member of the Shining Waters Regional Executive until the Regional Council meeting.

Paul's hobbies include cycling and scuba diving.

REV. RUTH McDONALD
MUSIC WORSHIP LEADER

Ruth McDonald is Director of the new initiative in Barrie called the Listening Post .. a group that nurtures listeners and creates safe locations for people to be heard one-on-one with respect, compassion and in confidence. Feel free to ask her about it!

It is a source a great joy for her to partner in music leadership with the band at the inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. What she experiences through this team as they practice and lead the gathered people is an enlivening creative energy and openness to the movement of the Spirit.



REV. KAREN HILFMAN MILLSON
WORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR



After 25 years of congregational ministry, Karen began working with Communities of Faith as a Consultant and Facilitator of Significant Conversations in 2013. Her process is rooted in Listening Circles where we tap into the wisdom within us and amongst us to discover a renewed sense of vision.

In August 2017, Karen accepted a position with Living Waters Presbytery primarily to begin conversations to cultivate the potential of Clusters and Networks emerging within the grassroots of the church. In January 2019, Karen became one of two Ministers in Shining Waters Regional Council focused on Cluster and Network Animation along with Jean Ward. On May 1st, her position expanded to include Congregational Support.

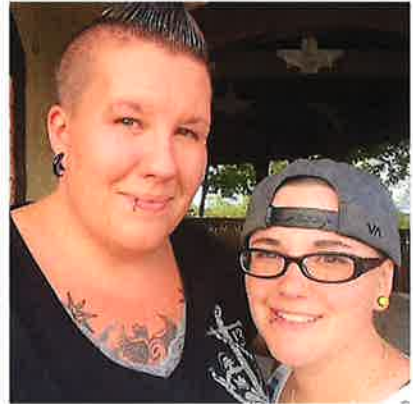
Karen is a soon-to-be published author of *The Mended Mirror* where she reflects on the impact of a mother with many personalities and a shocking DNA test result and how they have shaped her life work of creating healthy life-giving community through a culture of authentic connection.

REV. EVAN NOODIN SMITH
KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

JESS BIMWIDOO WAAZKON SWANCE-SMITH
HEAD FIRE KEEPER

Rev. Evan is ordained in The United Church of Canada and is the minister at Toronto Urban Native Ministry in Regent Park, Toronto. Evan is Queer, Two-Spirit, Anishinaabe, and turtle clan. Evan works on the front lines doing pastoral care and harm reduction with sex workers, Indigenous LGBTQ2A youth, families, people who are incarcerated and street-involved folks. Passionate about encouraging people's spiritual health, Evan serves Indigenous people living on the margins through the practice of both Traditional Spirituality and Christianity as part of the ministerial work at Toronto Urban Native Ministry. Evan is currently serving on the Shining Waters Executive and as the Moderator's Appointee to the United Church Foundation Board. Evan is also a member of the Provisional Indigenous Office of Vocation. When not doing ministry, Evan works as a Birth Centre Aide at the Indigenous-led Toronto Birth Centre.

Jess is in their third year at Emmanuel College (University of Toronto) studying in the Master of Divinity program. Jess is President of the Emmanuel College Student Society and member of the Victoria University Board of Regents. Jess studied thanatology at King's College and is passionate about supporting marginalized people, especially children, through the grief and bereavement process. Jess puts their training to use by serving on the Board of Toronto Urban Native Ministry where they regularly volunteer. Jess is Otter clan and traditionally adopted into the Toronto Anishinaabe Community. Jess identifies as a Queer Two-Spirit person and lives in Toronto with their family including children and grandchildren.



BETH MOORE PARLIAMENTARIAN



Beth Moore is a life-long member of Birch Cliff/Birchcliff Bluffs United Church in southwest Scarborough. As a lay presbytery representative for her congregation since 1993, she served in various positions in Toronto Scarborough Presbytery, including Chair and Secretary, and as a member of the Pastoral Relations and Ministry Support Team of Toronto Southeast Presbytery. She is now her congregation's Regional Council lay representative and is currently serving on the interim Pastoral Relations Commission of Shining Waters Region.

Beth has recently retired from the practice of law. While in practice, she provided legal services to Toronto Conference, The United Church of Canada, several presbyteries and numerous United Church congregations and incorporated ministries. She served as Parliamentarian at Toronto Conference annual meetings for a number of years.

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF



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Administrative Support

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Joan Bailey

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ORDINATION AND ADMISSION

ORDINATION

Barbara (Joy) Cowan



Emmanuel College – Master of Divinity (2019)

Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine – Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine (2004)

McMaster University – Bachelor of Science (2000)

Barbara Cowan, who is now known as “Joy,” adopted her new name as she entered theological school in 2015 to celebrate the change of direction in her life - “You show me the path of life. In Your presence, there is fulness of joy” (Psalm 16:11). Joy hails from Trinity United Church in Gravenhurst, ON, where in her previous career, she was a licensed Naturopathic Doctor. Joy felt the call to ministry as a teenager but first pursued her love of helping people using Naturopathic Medicine for 10 years before finally answering God’s call. Joy participated in her Supervised Ministry Education in 2017-2018, in a shared internship between three pastoral charges in southern New Brunswick (Sussex area).

Joy is enthusiastic about cultivating vibrant and inclusive communities of faith based upon the values of mutuality, solidarity, justice and compassion. Joy hopes that those who have felt rejected, uninspired or hurt by their previous experiences with religion may find belonging, community and renewed spiritual purpose as followers of the way of Jesus and members of The United Church of Canada today.

Joy would like to express her gratitude to the late Rev. Don Gillies who was her kind mentor along this faith journey. She would also like to thank her family who generously and wholeheartedly supported her every step of the way. (Photo Credit: Universal Portrait Studios Ltd., Nova Scotia)

Dianne Everitt

My name is Dianne Elizabeth Everitt (née Vance). I am married to Jim and have four children (David, 17; Marie, 15; Joey, 13; Colleen, 11). It could be said that, like Brer Rabbit who was “born and raised in that briar patch,” I was “born and raised” in The United Church of Canada. I was baptized as a (delightful!) infant at Applewood United Church in Mississauga and over the years have been involved in many United Churches, through university and into adulthood. Most recently, my home congregation has been the McKellar-Dunchurch Pastoral Charge north of Parry Sound, ON; I have served in a very rewarding Candidate Supply appointment at Trinity United Church, Magnetawan, and did my internship at two churches who recently came together into shared ministry: Bethany United Church (Attercliffe) and Fenwick United Church (Fenwick). This was a very positive experience.



I graduated from Emmanuel College with an M.Div. (completed 2018, graduated 2019), Queen's University (M.A., Renaissance Italian Panel Paintings), McMaster University (B.A., History/Art History) and the University of Toronto (B.Ed.).

I was recruited into the RCMP (Depot – Regina) where my interest in power and power dynamics was ignited, and where I became aware of the pervasiveness of those dynamics in so many of our daily encounters. I returned to Ontario because God appealed to me to continue my pursuit of Ordained Ministry.

God is unwrapping before me my purpose in ministry, but it includes reminding people that we are loved by a benevolent God who calls us into covenant and works as goodness in and for the world. The nature of my call also includes storytelling; I am to help to bring into relief God's presence in our world. This unfolding epiphany is rooted in life experiences and the study of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus lived his ministry preaching, healing through pastoral care, breaking down boundaries and binaries, turning thinking upside down, communing with God in quiet places, getting tired and 'hiding in doorways,' meeting people who were not interested in his message, sometimes asking God to 'take this cup from me,' recognizing ministers in the people we serve, making sacrifices to bring God's message to the world, standing up to power and suffering for that. Jesus shows us as ministers how to draw on scripture, through word and music, which will meet us right where we are. My one hope for my ministry would be sharing, through music and service, how interesting a person Jesus of Nazareth was, that in God's complex self-disclosure to us is all we need for peace in ourselves and in the world.

Jason Meyers



Home Congregation: Rosedale United Church

Education: Masters of Divinity from Emmanuel College

I was drawn to ministry because I have a pilgrim's heart and Jesus Christ reached into my life and offered me a path in which to walk. A path that does not shy away from the pain and suffering of the world. A path that offers transformation through dying and rising with him. A path that leads to confrontation with systems of domination. A path that brings meaning through service, identity in community and purpose through a radical vision of reconciliation between God, humanity and all of creation. I am drawn to ministry specifically within The United Church of Canada because I believe we understand the link Jesus made between discipleship and justice through love. In 2012 the Executive of the General Council issued a report called *Toward 2025: A Justice Seeking/Justice-Living Church*, which states that our vision as a denomination is to "risk discipleship in today's world and seeking to embody the transformation it has already proclaimed, open to and inviting others to join in and change the journey." That sounds about right to me.

My hope for my ministry is that I am able to keep the doors open. I'm not talking about keeping a ministry financially viable (although, with God's help, that may be an outcome). I'm hoping to keep the doors open between church and culture, congregation and neighbourhood. I want to get the fresh air of creativity moving through engagement with the world outside our walls. Our denomination is going through remarkable change and the impulse may be to close off and hoard

up what we've got. But I believe God is using this moment of stress to open us up to something deep and beautiful. For love to grow it needs space. I hope to keep the doors open.

Stephen Milton

I was born in Toronto, raised in Montreal. I was a seeker for a while, dabbling in Buddhism and Hinduism, but started on my Christian journey when my first child was baptized. My first career was as a documentary filmmaker for television. It is my hope that I can help change how we worship and do ministry so that lapsed Christians and the curious can be drawn in. It is my sincere hope that The United Church of Canada will also make this transition, hanging onto what has fed the souls of its existing congregations, while becoming a beacon of hope and spiritual abode for those who are spiritually homeless.



I have an Honours degree in English and Political Science from Queen's University, an M.A. in Political Studies from the University of Toronto, and I did course work for a Ph.D. in Social and Political Thought at York University. I recently graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College. My home church for the last ten years has been Bloor Street United Church, and before that, Roncesvalles United Church. (Photo credit: Priscilla Rice Knight)

Heather Stevenson



My name is Heather Stevenson, and I am delighted and excited about following God into a new phase as an Ordained Minister. Perhaps somewhat uniquely for a woman about to be ordained, I grew up in a family that never attended church, but God kept reaching out to me and, as a young adult, I decided to give this "church thing" a try. I quickly became involved in church life, and before I knew it, I had been recruited as a Sunday school teacher. Looking back, this was also the moment where my first call to ministry began. I loved children's ministry, and a few years later joined the staff team as Director of Children's Ministry. I began my formal theological studies at Tyndale Seminary, completing a Master of Theological Studies degree in 2011.

It was a position as Children's Ministry Leader that led me to North Bramalea United Church. It was there where I fell in love with the United Church. It was also where I realized that God was nudging towards a different type of ministry, and with the support of North Bramalea United Church, I began the discernment process and enrolled in the Master of Divinity Program at Emmanuel College, graduating in 2016. Along the way, I completed a student placement at Mayfield United Church, completed my internship at Cheltenham United Church, and became a volunteer at Bethel Hospice. I am grateful to everyone who has loved and supported me through this journey.

None of this would have been possible without the love and support of my family, especially my "little family," daughter Jessica and husband Dean. It isn't easy being the family of a minister, and I'm so glad we're in this great adventure of following God together.

My hope for the church is simple, that we can continue to a place of hope, healing and reconciliation for a world that so desperately needs it. I believe that a better world, the world that God intended is possible, and I am honoured to work with and among those who trust that God loves each of us more than we could ever imagine. (Photo credit: Carnival Cruise Lines)

ADMISSION

Isaac Makarios Kamta



Je suis né et j'ai passé la grande partie de ma vie au Cameroun. Consécration au ministère pastoral à l'Église Évangélique du Cameroun, la principale église protestante du Cameroun. Études à la Faculté de Théologie protestante de l'Université Protestante d'Afrique Centrale de Yaoundé au Cameroun. Recherches à Oxford Centre for Missions Studies en Angleterre et Akrofi Christaller Institute de Akropong-Akwapem au Ghana. Docteur en Théologie, domaine de recherche Missiologie, Missions et œcuménisme. Postes occupés : responsable de paroisse, Département Mission, Évangélisation et Éducation.

Expériences œcuméniques : Conseil des Églises Protestantes du Cameroun, enseignant et aumônier dans les Universités et promoteur des initiatives de paix.

Pourquoi suis-je pasteur ? Mes parents et mes grands-parents étaient déjà des chrétiens. Mon enfance s'est passée dans un environnement chrétien de l'école du dimanche et dans les groupes de jeunes aussi bien à l'Église que dans les aumôneries des lycées et collèges. Ma vocation est née et s'est développée dans ce cadre. Être ministre, c'est s'engager à toujours discerner la volonté de Dieu et son plan pour le monde à partir d'un milieu avec son histoire et dans son contexte.

Dès octobre 2015, mon épouse Florence Bukam et moi avons été admis dans l'ordre des pasteurs consacrés de l'Église Unie du Canada par le Synode de Montréal- Ottawa.

Mes premiers pas à l'Église Unie du Canada ont été avec la Paroisse de Knowlton - à Lac-Bromé au Québec. Et depuis juillet 2016, avec Les Ministères en Français de l'Église Unie et le Synode de Toronto nous cheminons dans une expérience enrichissante : Le Ministère Protestant Francophone de Toronto, communauté de foi francophone de l'Église Unie du Canada. Depuis l'été dernier je fais aussi partie du Comité Théologie et Relations Interconfessionnelles et Interreligieuses l'Église Unie du Canada.

Je voudrais être au sein de l'Église Unie, surtout à ce moment de changement, un signe du bon travail missionnaire de ces églises aujourd'hui à la croisée des chemins.

I was born in Cameroon, and spent most of my life there. I was consecrated pastoral minister of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon, the main protestant Church in Cameroon. I studied theology in the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the Protestant University of Central Africa at Yaoundé. I conducted research at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in England and at the Akrofi Christaller Institute of Akropong-Akwapem in Ghana. I was awarded the degree of Doctor of

Theology with a research specialization in Missiology, Missions and Ecumenism. I have been parish director, Department of Mission, Evangelism and Education. I have been involved in ecumenical work with the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon, as a teacher, as a university chaplain and as a promoter of peace initiatives.

Why did I become a minister? My parents and my great grandparents were already Christians. I spent my childhood in a Christian environment, from Sunday school to youth groups both at church and at school and campus chaplaincies. My vocation was born and developed in this context. To be a minister is to commit oneself to constantly discerning the will of God and his plan for the world in a given place with its particular history and context.

In October 2015 my wife, Florence Bukam, and I were admitted to the order of ordained ministers of The United Church of Canada in the Montréal and Ottawa Conference.

My first steps in The United Church of Canada were with Knowlton Pastoral Charge at Lac Brome in Québec. Since July 2016, in collaboration with Ministries in French and the Toronto Conference, we have journeyed together through an enriching experience: The Francophone Protestant Ministry of Toronto, a French-language community of Faith of The United Church of Canada. Since last summer, I have been a member of the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee.

I am glad to be a part of The United Church of Canada, especially in this time of change, as a sign of the good missionary work of churches that are today at a crossroads. (Photo credit: Jeannette Kamta)

RETIREES

The Reverend Patricia Gale-MacDonald

“I thank my God in all my remembrances of you”. These words of St. Paul, written to the fledgling church in Philippi, are my words today. As I look back over the past 60 plus years, I am reminded of how blessed I have been by the love and support, the opportunities and the challenges that have been part of my journey. Amazing parents, who understood and encouraged my need to “dream big” and to “step outside the box;” the devoted leadership of so many at Central United Church in Weston, where I grew up; two years at a L’Arche community in Trosly-Breuil, France, where community life gave me a vision of how we’re called to be in relationship with one another, and also where my love for Jesus moved from my head to my heart; and six years teaching at an inner city school that broke open my heart to the gospel call to justice.

I am thankful for my call to ordained ministry. I began my studies at Emmanuel College in 1980 and three years later headed west with my husband, the Rev Dr. Colin MacDonald and our five month old son. Since 1983, we have each served four pastoral charges. Two of those we served together: one in southwest Saskatchewan and the other in Eastern Ontario. In 1993, I accepted a call to Westway United Church in Etobicoke, and in 2000, I was called to serve at Burton Ave

United Church in Barrie. For 15 years I was their Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. In 2015, with financial support from Living Waters Presbytery and Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC), I was able to follow my dream and became the fulltime Minister of Justice and Outreach at Burton Ave. For the last four years I have focused on developing the ministry of Open Hands United, which brings Canadians and Nicaraguans together in cross cultural, relationship-based ministry.

I thank my God for all my remembrances: for the people and the opportunities; for the challenges and the difficulties; for the learnings and the growth that were part of each pastoral experience. I thank my God for the privilege of serving God through the church that I love. And I thank my God for all the possibilities of retirement. Colin and I are blessed with three children, three children-in-law and five grandchildren. We are also more than ready for the next big adventure!

The Reverend Colin MacDonald

Born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, Colin took his education in the public system. He received his B.A. at McMaster University, majoring in Italian language and literature. After a year of travelling through Europe, Colin was accepted to study at Emmanuel College, Toronto, where he earned his M.Div. in 1983. He served his first summer supply term at Valcartier, Quebec. In second year, he and Patricia Gale, another theolog, were married, and they spent their next summer supply posting in eastern Newfoundland. They took their settlement charge in 1983 in Climax, Saskatchewan where they served a 4-point pastoral charge that covered 3,600 square miles! In 1986, they were called to the Glengarry East Pastoral Charge northeast of Cornwall, Ontario. During that time, Colin was conductor of the Glengarry Gaelic Choir (An Coisir Gleann Goraigh) for two years. In 1992, Colin accepted a call to the Woodbridge Pastoral Charge. In 1995, while serving in Woodbridge, Colin earned his D.Min. in Preaching from McCormick Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. In 1999, he accepted a call to Central United, Barrie where he served until 2017. From 2017-2018, Colin served the Centennial Pastoral Charge in Stayner, Ontario as pulpit supply.

Colin has served the wider church as Secretary of Cypress Hills Presbytery, on the Education and Students as well as Conference Staff Committee with Seaway Valley Presbytery and Montreal and Ottawa Conference, with the Education and Students committee in York Presbytery, and later was Chair of Simcoe Presbytery. Colin served on the Toronto Conference Interview Committee for 15 years.

In 2012, he was accepted into the program of Christian Spiritual Formation at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. He graduated in the first cohort, and continues to attend courses and gatherings annually in Wichita. He offers courses in Christian Spiritual Formation to any who are interested.

With Pat, Colin has helped to raise three children into adulthood, and they are now enjoying the company of five grandchildren aged 6 years to 10 months!

Colin's interests include singing (bass section, King Edward Choir), cycling, reading, and lately pottery.

The Reverend Doug Norris

Doug Norris was ordained at Hamilton Conference in 1986, following BA studies at University of Toronto, MDiv studies at Emmanuel College and University of Edinburgh (Rotary Graduate Fellowship) and work as Candidate Supply at The Locks Pastoral Charge, Huntsville. A middling student, Doug embraced pastoral ministry and in the next 33 years worked with congregations in the Laurentians north of Montreal (Rouge Valley), the Guelph area (at Eramosa, then at Dublin Street) with the past 18 years at Rosedale United in Toronto.

Doug chaired Waterloo Presbytery (1998) and Toronto South Presbytery (2003), was a commissioner to three General Councils (1992, 1995, 1998), led in youth work in Hamilton Conference, Roman Catholic dialogue team, and the development of new ministry models in Toronto (West Don project).

Retiring now from United Church ministry, Doug has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Abbey Retreat Centre in Haliburton Ontario, a small residential facility with a primary focus on support for cancer patients and their caregivers, alongside the availability of the Centre for groups to gather, individual retreat time, classes and day programs. (www.abbeyretreatcentre.ca).

Much gratitude to the hundreds of faithful members in congregations who have welcomed and been at the heart of the work, and to Heather, gracious and steadfast partner in life, daughters Sarah and Kat who might, in some other work, have had a larger share of my heart and soul. "Omnia lucent est."

The Reverend Bryan Ransom

Born in Ottawa and raised in the rural community of Fitzroy, I now live in Bowmanville. My home congregation, St. Andrew's United Church, journeyed with me throughout my education and ordination process, culminating with my ordination in 1984 in my home church.

While completing my B.A. at University of Waterloo, I met my wife, Roberta, who was completing her Honours B.A. in English. We both feel truly blessed by our three young adult children. Roberta and I are grandparents with a second grandchild arriving late July. During my spare time, I enjoy cycling, reading, movies, physical labour, the company of others, travelling and most of all being a grandparent.

I have been assisting others in ministry in the United Church for over 35 years. I've served four pastoral charges over this time; Strasbourg, Bulea, Sifton Pastoral Charge (Saskatchewan, 1983-1985), Newtonville, Kendal, & Shiloh PC (Ontario, 1985-1991), Zion United Church Mitchel's Corners (Ontario 1991-2005) and Lansing United Church, Toronto (2005-2019). My ministry at Lansing continues to lead the faith community through the many changes and challenges of a church redevelopment along with enabling new ministry directions to be discerned and lived out.

I want to thank you, my colleagues, the many congregations and Shining Waters Regional Council for allowing me to serve in various capacities within the United Church. These are exciting and transformative times for our faith communities and ministries as together we discover new ways

to be the Church. My prayers are with you as you provide the leadership for the many transitions that need to be wrestled with and the challenges encountered to be the body of Christ in our community.

The Reverend Malcolm Sinclair

I have been privileged to participate in forty-eight years of ministry in four Toronto city churches; thirty of them at Metropolitan United. I have also preached in various parts of Canada and in several foreign countries. It has been a wonderful ministry.

JUBILANDS

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

70 years	William B. Thorneloe H.J. Bart van Nie
65 years	Donald R. Jay John Klassen Paul H. Morris
60 years	Robert O. Reid William R. Fritz Murray R. Binsted
55 years	Morris O. Bartlett David N. Winsor Kenneth A. Deer David H. Burns Kenneth Moy
50 years	Chai-Shin Yu Peter S. Wyatt K. John Symons Norman J. Greene Janet A. MacPherson
45 years	Heather P. Branch Susan J. Thompson James H. Thompson
40 years	Rudolf Johan Plug Ann P. Howes Bruce J. Roffey Kay Cho David B. Black David W. Allen Stephen F. Willey

	Mark R. Waugh
	Jean A. Ward
	Paul S. Wilson
	Glen W. Eagle
	Eek Sun Kim
	Linda Levin
35 years	Mary Elizabeth Davis
	Lloyd D. Paul
	Deborah M. Hart
	Karen E. Ptolemy-Stam
	Andrew M. Comar
	Edward (Ted) J. Reeve
	Andrew J. B. Stirling
	Joan E. Silcox-Smith
	Jean Evelyn Hunnisett
	E. Jean Bruce
	William S. Kervin
	Robert B. Oliphant
	Lorraine Newton-Comar
	Bryan M. Ransom
	M. Elizabeth McKinlay
	Judith H. MacGillivray
30 years	Linda M. Butler
	Thomas Crothers
	Mary-Ann L. Jansen
	John Stewart Niles
	John J. Mastandrea
	Elaine D. Longland
25 years	Kevin S. Logie
	William R. Ford
	Judith Ann Oliver
	Young-Joon Rhee
	Mark Whitney MacLean
	Audrey Joan Brown
	Won Hur
	John Thomas Perigoe
	Beverley Ann Marie Irwin
	Christopher William Lehman
	Johmann Kwong
	Brian W. Goodings
	Norma Jane Godbold
20 years	Arlene V. Simms
	Valerie M. Noakes
	Sungmin Jung
	Nelsona Constance Dundas
	Nina Patricia Fulford

	Kathleen Isabella Mowat
	Sang Ye Sarah Yoon
	Christopher Cheung
	Martha Elizabeth Martin
	Karen MacKay Llewellyn
	W. J. Keith Lockhart
15 years	Mary Kathleen Elizabeth Joseph
	Ambury R. Stuart
	Sarah Elizabeth Miller
	Sandra Marie Michener
	Jim McKean
	Peter William McNaughton
	Cynthia Dianne Randall
	Ratna J. Arasaratnam
	Charles J. Arasaratnam
10 years	Ralph Wushke
	Bright Yun
	William Haughton
	Diane Bennett-Jones
	Norman Richard Hennig-Pereira
	Michael Blair
	Therese Marie Samuel
	Heather Anne McCarrel
	Anne M. Hepburn
	Christine Ann Smaller
5 years	David M. Howes
	Daniel Benson
	Sheryl Heather Elizabeth Johnson
	Kara Louise McCluskie

OBITUARIES

The Reverend Paul Dempsey (June 8, 1939 – September 18, 2018)

Paul Dempsey was ordained as a Minister of The United Church of Canada in 1965 and served congregations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan before returning to Ontario in 1977 and serving the congregation at Annesley United in Markdale. In 1989, the Dempsey family moved to Bracebridge where Paul served the United Church until retirement in 2003. In retirement, he did Sunday Supply around Muskoka and longer terms at Lake of Bays and at St. James United in Parry Sound. He was also very active in the wider church at the Presbytery and Conference levels.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Fern (Featherston), and his children Lynn (Tim Dobbin), Brian (Anne Rintala), and Carol (David Bertrand). He was Grandpa to Sophie and Felicity Dobbin; Kira, Mika, Vesa, and Tiia Dempsey; Sylvia, Vivian, and Russell Bertrand. Paul

was predeceased by his parents Allison and Jereldene Dempsey and his brothers Morris and Keith. He is survived by his brother Ian (Nancy).

The Reverend Margarete Emminghaus (January 1, 1923 – April 13, 2019)

Margarete Emminghaus graduated from the United Church Training School in Toronto in 1952. She was the Director of Christian Education at First United Church in Corner Brook, Newfoundland from 1953 to 1957. She then served as the Director of Christian Education at George Street United Church in Peterborough from 1957 to 1962. From 1962 to 1966, she was part of the field staff for Maritime Conference located in Sackville, New Brunswick. Margarete was with the Board of Christian Education of The United Church of Canada in Toronto from 1966 to 1970. Her last appointment was as Administrator at the Centre for Christian Studies from 1970 to her retirement in 1988. In 1996, Margarete moved to Orillia where she was very active as a Stephen Minister and Prayer Companion at St. Paul's United Church.

Margarete is survived by her sister, Christa Buitenhuis and by five nieces and nephews and their families. She was predeceased by her sister Hilda Waugh.

The Reverend Donald Dwight Evans (September 21, 2017 – January 5, 2018)

Donald Evans was ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada in 1955 and served at Grand Forks, British Columbia from 1955 to 1958. He went on to serve as an assistant professor of philosophy of religion at McGill University (1960-64), before joining Victoria College at the University of Toronto as a professor of philosophy in 1964, where he taught for 44 years until 2008.

He lived a rich life, full of diverse intellectual pursuits. Married to Ruth Blenkinsop (1952-1976) and Frances Smith (1983-1997) and predeceased by brother, John; he was the father of Steve (Joan), Greg (Ronda), Luke (Guylaine), Nick (Sue) and Gareth (Susannah); beloved grandfather of Drew (Andrea), Cass (Juliana), Tom, Ryan, Philippe, Luke, Ben and Isobel; and great-grandfather to Aidan and Felix.

The Reverend Don Gillies (June 27, 1934 – September 4, 2018)

A minister with the United Church of Canada since 1959, Don Gillies later taught at Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. Don was a long-time Voluntary Associate Minister at Bloor Street United Church. He will be remembered for his love of music, books and New Yorker cartoons, progressive political views, charming neuroses (most notably about the English language and how kitchen utensils should be put away) as well as his unwavering dedication to work and family.

Don was the loving and devoted husband of Mimi Gillies (Johnston) for 61 years. Cherished father of Stephen Gillies (Deanne), Maureen Gillies, Donna Gillies Marson (Kevin) and John Gillies (DeeAnn). Proud grandfather of Erin (Adam), Shauna (Jeremy), Craig, Matthew, Kiera, Allie (Tyler), Geoff, Jenna, Sara, Lisa and the late Lily. Adored great-grandfather of Olivia and Henry. Dear brother of Mary (late Paul) and Barb (Jim) and brother-in-law of Donald (Helen) and Lock (late Anne). Don will also be remembered by his extended family, colleagues and many friends.

The Reverend Dr. John Hartley (February 6, 1942 – February 3, 2019)

John Hartley's call to ministry took him to Mount Allison University, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree followed by a Master of Divinity, Pine Hill Divinity Hall. His love of learning continued his whole life earning him a Master of Theology from the Atlantic School of Theology, a Master of Arts from the University of Windsor and PhD (English) from the University of Western Ontario.

A United Church Minister for over 54 years, John ministered to five pastoral charges. Gaspé, Cap-Aux-Os and Murdochville (Québec); Erskine and American United Church (Montréal); Trinity United Church (Ottawa); Lincoln Road United Church (Windsor, Ontario) and St. Andrew's United Church (Toronto). He served in the wider work of the United Church of Canada on the National Division of the Communications, General Council Executive.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, and children, Bruce (Dr. Cristina Robinson-Hartley) and Jennifer (Tom Rosser) and his grandchildren Jacob, Anna and Chloé. He also leaves behind brother Robert Hartley (Dartmouth), sister-in-law Maggie Sharpe (Kelowna, BC) many nieces and nephews and countless cousins. Predeceased by his mother Hattie Mae Hartley, father Allan Richard Hartley and brothers Blair and Alfred.

The Reverend Nettie Irma Jeanetta Hoffman (August 24, 1927 – April 29, 2019)

Nettie Hoffman was ordained in 1950. She served in two pastoral charges in Grey County and then was called to St. James in Montreal from 1955 to 1960. Nettie was the first ordained female minister in the Province of Quebec. She retired in 1991. Her late husband, Rev. Dr. John Hoffman, was a former principal of Emmanuel College.

She was the beloved mother of Jeanetta (Philip), John (Blandine) and Sandy (John) and dearly loved grandmother of Justin, Erin, Adrienne, Shawn, Colin, Louise and Charles. Daughter of the late Rev. Merrill and Jean (Ashford) Wilson, she was predeceased by her three brothers, Paul, Don and Ralph. Survived by her sisters-in-law, Anna Wilson and Lucille McBeth (Cecil), she was also sister-in-law to the late William Hoffman (Margaret). Aunt Nettie is fondly remembered by her nine nieces and nephews.

The Reverend Dr. Frank W. Lockhart (1934 - October 3, 2018)

Frank Lockhart was a long time United Church Minister, most recently at Kendal United Church. He was a former President of Toronto Conference from 1976 to 1977. He held Masters degrees in Philosophy, Divinity and Theology as well as a Doctorate in Theology.

He was the beloved husband of June Marie (nee Rothwell); loving father of Christine Lockhart, Barbara Lockhart (John Mackinnon) and Robert Lockhart; cherished granddad of Elizabeth Lockhart, Meaghan McNeill and Andrew McNeill; and dear step-brother of John Ball and predeceased by Roy Lockhart and Enid Wortley.

The Reverend John Murray Metson (March 22, 1933 – May 19, 2018)

John Metson was a graduate of Mt. Allison University (BA Theology) and Queen's (MA Theology and Psychology), and he was acknowledged later in his career with an Honorary PhD in Theology from Queen's University. As a young United Church minister in Oyen, Alberta, he conducted four services every Sunday in small prairie towns. John loved that life but moved to Toronto in 1964 establishing, in Cabbagetown, the first, non-congregational, community outreach Ministry in the United Church; The Christian Resource Centre (CRC).

John is survived by his wife Gayle, children Michael (Radana), Megan Louise, Alex (Laura) and step-son Jay; grandchildren Patrick (Gosia), Laura, Bradley Harman, Emily and Joshua Metson, William and Julianna Metson and Joshua Perks, his sisters and brother-in-law and his nieces and nephews.

The Reverend Adams G. Archibald "Arch" McCurdy (June 29, 1927 – April 22, 2019)

Arch McCurdy was ordained 1957. His ministry was varied and interesting: Canora Invermay a five-point pastoral charge in Saskatchewan, then Stettler United Church in Alberta; 1966 brought a move to Ontario when Arch was elected to the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of General Council in Toronto. Subsequently, he was one of the ministers of Church at the Crossroads, Erin Mills Church Campus (an experimental cooperative by five denominations in one building); chaplain at the provincial Court of Ontario (Criminal Division); Co-ordinator of Chaplaincy Services, Toronto Conference; chaplain at Bloorview Children's Hospital. After mandatory retirement at age 65, Arch continued in ministry as a supply minister in various congregations in Ontario, until finally "retiring" from ministry in 2010. Throughout his years in Ontario, Arch was involved in social action, peace and environmental organizations, most notably: the Christian Peace Conference, The International Pastoral Care Network for Social Responsibility, the National Coalition Against the Return of the Death Penalty, and the Multifaith Council of Religious and Pastoral Care.

Predeceased by his first wife, Phyllis (Hurley) McCurdy; sisters, Florence (Bob) Guild, Alice (Niels) Jorgensen, and Helen McCurdy; brothers, Earle (Lois), and Sherburne (Betty). Surviving to cherish his memory are his wife, Brenda; sons, Scott, Edmonton, Alta.; and Garth, Welland, Ont.; daughter, Kimberley-Ann (Rob) Jandl, Abbotsford, B.C.; grandchildren, Brooke (Herm), Rianna, Samantha (Kevin), Jason, Michael, Timothy, and Keanan; many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

The Reverend Tom M. Page (May 14, 1930 – November 12, 2018)

Tom Page was ordained in 1965 and retired in 1995.

He was the beloved husband of Frances Joyce (nee: Whitney). Loving father of Gregory and wife Connie of Orillia, Stephen (predeceased), Paul and wife Kathy of Milton, Susan Page & Patrick of Barrie, and Janette Blums of Hamilton. Proud grandfather of Jessica, Shelby, Amanda and Brandon Page, Jennifer Lazarski (Joel), Brent and Spencer Page, Kiara, Cassandra Evans (Jonathan) and Harrison Courchesne, Jordan and Jacob Blums. Great grandfather of Leah, Samuel, Cooper, Arabella and Nathan. Dear brother of Alec (predeceased) and wife Olive of Temagami,

Irvin and wife Dee (both predeceased), David (predeceased) and wife Joyce of Savannah, Georgia. Predeceased by his parents Milton and Ila Page.

Linda Parsons (d.o.d. October 29, 2018)

Linda's committed and faithful action in The United Church of Canada made a huge impact over years of service. Linda was very active in her home congregation of Trinity United in Newmarket as well as the wider church. She has been a General Council Commissioner, served on the Camp Big Canoe Board, the Board of Francis Sandy Theological School, the Toronto Conference Interview Committee, Mission Support consultation, and the Living into Right Relations Circle. She was a passionate advocate for right relations and social justice. She was also a past Chair of Living Waters Presbytery and was a member and Chair of the Community Connections and Right Relations Commission. She has left behind a legacy of faithful leadership, selfless sacrifice, and love that will be missed by many whose lives have been touched by her strength and determination.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Ken Parsons and children, Melissa Williams and Joanna (Richard Gardner). She was a loving grandmother of Jade.

**DIGEST OF ACTIONS OF THE
TRANSITION COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE
OF SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE PERIOD August 15, 2018 to May 6, 2019**

Decisions made by the Transition Commission June 22, 2018

1. that all Region 10 Commissioners should be at the same table, making decisions together.
2. that the Explorers Program should continue to function and perhaps, hand it off as a national project (it might be healthier to be seen as a national program instead of a program just from Region 10). This is a recommendation only and the Commissioners are not responsible for this – the elected group after January 1, 2019 will be.
3. to transfer oversight for all the staff being funded and supervised by various sources to Region 10, with supervision and funding to be determined by Region 10, post January 2019.
4. that the commission will chose from internal staff instead of holding external competitions for positions.
5. that Peter Hartmans will indicate Region 10's interest in hiring Todd McDonald and Dale Hildebrand.
6. that Rachael Howes will be the half-time Executive Minister Admin and half-time Regional 10 Admin staff.
7. that Jody Maltby will be hired for Region 10 and Peter Hartmans will let Jody know this.
8. that there is a definite interest in provisional staff sharing between Region 6 and Region 10, with Lillian Roberts and Will Kunder, after decisions are made with regards to budget and Region 10 staffing.
9. that David Leyton-Brown and Marg Walker will be co-chairs for the Region 10 Commission.

Decisions made by the Transition Commission August 15, 2018

10. that quorum for this Commission be fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of voting members, or eight (8) voting members.
11. that the Region 10 Commission will retain the Living Waters office and the Toronto Southeast office, while releasing the Northern Waters and South West offices.

12. that Region 10 Commission gives the Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans, permission to negotiate with the General Council office in regards to accounting, email, incorporated ministries and IT support services.
13. that Region 10 accept the following position recommendations:
 - Community Engagement and Partnership - Susie Henderson, (1.0);
 - Congregational Support Minister (with an emphasis on Right Relations and Justice) - Will Kunder (0.5);
 - Clusters and Networks - Karen Hilfman Millson 0.4) on a one year contract;
 - Clusters and Networks - Jean Ward (0.4) on a one year contract;
 - Pastoral Relations Partnerships - Lillian Roberts (0.2);
 - Administration, Region 10 in partnership with Region 6 - Joan Baily (up to 14 hours per week total);
 - Administration, Region 10 - Donna Rutz (1.0).

Decisions made by the Transition Commission October 10, 2018

14. to accept the draft Memorandum of Understanding, Two Regional Councils sharing Executive Minister and Executive Minister administrator with the addition of a #10 to read: A Region 6 and 10 task group would be created, to begin after the first Regional meeting, to be made up of two members of each regional council executive, to support transition, and to communicate mainly electronically
15. that the Observer insert be discontinued in favour of publishing a Region 10 newsletter.
16. that the Region engage Janet McDonald to be meeting coordinator of the Regional meeting in May.

Decisions made by the Transition Commission November 12, 2018

17. that the regional United Church Women (UCW) President and Secretary, or designates, be members of the Regional Council.
18. that the transition commission for Regional Council 10 take the following actions:
 1. Adopt the marriage licence registration policy;
 2. Adopt the processes regarding marriage licence registration; and
 3. Name Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister, as the governing official for the purposes of marriage license registration within the Province of Ontario.
19. that the Region 10 transition Commission support the continuation of the property management agreement with Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) and request that Peter Hartmans be in dialogue with TUCC to pursue that negotiation.
20. that the Region 10 transition commission approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

21. that the Region 10 transition commission approve the following Mission Support grants:

Muskoka Chaplaincy	\$ 4,500
Davenport Perth Community Ministry	\$ 2,500
Jane Finch Community Ministry	\$ 2,500
The Journey Neighbourhood Centre	\$30,000
Christian Resource Center	\$23,000
Anglican United Refugee Alliance	\$35,000
Ecumenical Chaplaincy, U of Toronto	\$10,000
Fred Victor Mission	\$ 7,500
Massey Centre	\$ 6,000
Michael Garron Hospital	\$ 6,000
Mount Sinai Hospital	\$12,000
St. Matthews Bracondale House	\$ 1,000

22. that the Region 10 transition Commission approve the primary budget projections as presented.

23. that the Region 10 Regional Council meeting be held at Georgian College in Barrie on May 24/25, 2019.

Decisions made by the Transition Commission November 30, 2018

24. that the Region 10 Transition Commission agree to the protocol from the National Indigenous Council.

25. that the Regional Council 10 Transition Commission approve the following policies and recommend that the Regional Executive, elected at the Regional Meeting in May, 2019 review these policies within the next three years:

Regional Council

Regional Council – Relationship with Region 6

Regional Council – Executive

Executive Minister – Responsibilities and Accountability

Executive Minister – Correspondence

Executive Minister – Marriage Licenses

26. that the Regional Council 10 Transition Commission agree in principal with the Pastoral Relations and Communities of Faith Commission policies and that the Commission gives permission to the staff to contact individuals to be interim members of the commissions to serve until the Regional Meeting in May.

27. that Catherine Smith, Ross Leckie, and Kirsty Hunter be named as the Nomination Committee to prepare a slate of officers for election at the May Regional Meeting.

28. that a congregation could apply for up to \$3,500.00 to support a congregation when their ministry personnel goes on sabbatical.

Decisions made by the Transition Commission December 12, 2018

29. that the name of Region 10 be Shining Waters Regional Council.
30. That the Regional Council 10 Transition Commission appoint the following people to the Interim Grant Review Commission: Norm Dundas, Angus MacLennan, Rev Betty Lou McNabb, Paul Rose, John Suk, Nick Walker, Rev. Kent Ward, and that the term be to June 1, 2019 and that the Commission is empowered to review and approve Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) grant applications and other grant applications for which there is no existing review process.
31. that the Regional Council 10 Transition Commission approve the following policies and recommend that the Regional Executive, elected at the Regional Meeting in May, 2019 review these policies within the next three years:
 - Executive Minister – Budget Process
 - Executive Minister – Incorporated Ministries
 - Pastoral Relations – Voluntary Associate Minister
 - Pastoral Relations – Marriage License Policy
 - Pastoral Relations Commission: Addition of 7. Sacramental Privileges to Responsibilities

Decisions made by the Executive January 14, 2019

32. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive support, in principle, the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) How Green is Your Church initiative.
33. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:
 - a) Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc.

... approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Greg Derbyshire
Anne Forsey
Stephen Forsey
William Grove
Katelyn Harrison
Lee Holland
Michelle Waller
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

... approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Greg Derbyshire
Anne Forsey
Stephen Forsey
William Grove
Katelyn Harrison
Lee Holland
Michelle Waller
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

... approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Greg Derbyshire
Anne Forsey
Stephen Forsey
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Barry Rieder
Michelle Waller
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

b) Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

... approve the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2017-2018 Board of Directors

Timothy Barlow
Jean-Marie Boutot
Debra Gibson
Sylvia Hampton
Faisal Hassan
Katherine Joseph
Michael Kooiman
Doreen Miller
Lang Moffat

Ken Stier
Barbara Stone
Mike Sullivan
Wendy Whiteley

... approve the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Timothy Barlow
Jean-Marie Boutot
Marlee Cargill
Debra Gibson
Doreen Miller
Lang Moffat
Ken Stier
Barbara Stone
Mike Sullivan
Wendy Whiteley

c) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes

...approve the addition of Jane Warwood to the Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes 2018-2019 Board of Directors

d) Toronto Conference Executive and sub-Executive minutes

...approve the Toronto Conference Executive minutes of November 14, 2018 and the sub-Executive minutes of November 6, 2018.

Decisions made by the Executive February 6, 2019

34. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive for information the notes of the June 22, 2018 meeting of the Transition Commission and ratify the decisions made at that meeting.

35. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council (10) take the following action:

Fred Victor Centre:

...that consent be given to Fred Victor Centre to amend the current lease to include the fourth floor (4,757 square feet) of 59 Adelaide Street East, City of Toronto for the Employment and Training Services (ETS) program from October 1, 2018 to April 30, 2020.

36. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the transitional budget presented with the two amendments noted.

37. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council agree to support the Skylight Festival in the amount of \$5,000 for this year and next year they be directed to the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund for funding.
38. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Sub-Executive Policy.
39. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Conflict of Interest Policy.
40. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Property Management Policy.
41. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Property Distribution of Proceeds Policy.
42. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the Covenant between the General Secretary, La Table des ministères en français and Shining Waters Regional Council as presented.

Decisions made by the Executive March 5, 2019

43. that the quorum for the remaining term of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive be seven members.
44. that the summary of decisions of the Transition Commission made between August and December 2018 be posted on the website.
45. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive endorse the Canadian Circle of Courage & Renewal Facilitator Preparation Program Application for a Seeds of Hope grant.
46. that the Executive ask the Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans, to correspond with the General Secretary to have assigned email addresses to Ministry Personnel and regional council members.
47. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council confirm that John Suk and Nick Walker are members of the Major Capital Fund Commission of Toronto United Church Council.
48. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council confirm that Norm Dundas, Paul Rose, Louise Mahood, Silver Ayupan, Doug McLeod, Victor Kitagawa, Catherine Smith are members of the Toronto United Church Council Urban Forest Fund Commission.
49. that the Executive receive the Pastoral Relations Commission Congregational Designated Ministry Policy and include it in the Governance document.

50. that the Executive receive the Pastoral Relations Commission Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Policy, and include it in the Governance document.
51. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Regional Fund Policy.
52. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Right Relations and Indigenous Ministries Fund Policy.
53. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Mission Policy with the additions discussed.
54. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Communications Policy with the additions discussed.
55. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Affirming Region Policy.

Decisions made by the Executive April 10, 2019

56. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accept the Offer to Purchase from Highglenn Homes Limited in the amount of \$4,410,000 for the property of Victoria Park United Church at 1 Stamford Square North, Toronto, being Lots 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275 & 276, PL3846, S/T SC110580, ST SC86215, Scarborough, City of Toronto.
57. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:
 - ... remove Rose Cambourne as a Trustee for Church of the Master United Church, 3385 Lawrence Ave East, Scarborough, Ontario with thanks for her service, and appoint Jody Maltby as a Trustee.
 - ... remove Rose Cambourne as a Trustee for Regent Park United Church, 175 Oxford Street, Orillia, Ontario with thanks for her service.
 - ... remove Rose Cambourne as a Trustee for West Ellesmere United Church, 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough, Ontario, with thanks for her service, and appoint Christine Smaller as a Trustee.
 - ... remove Rose Cambourne, Linda Gray and Sue Sottinwood as Trustees for Dunkerron United Church, with thanks for their service, and appoint Jody Maltby, Christine Smaller and Harry Ramsaran as Trustees.
 - ... remove Rose Cambourne as a Trustee for Locust Hill United Church, 7661 ON-7, Locust Hill, Ontario, with thanks for her service.
 - ... add Jody Maltby as a Trustee for Victoria Park United Church, 1 Stamford Sq.N., Toronto.
58. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accept the position description for the Minister for Congregational Support, and that the position be posted, with a start date of May 15, 2019.

59. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the *Governance and Mission* document as presented.
60. the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the *Regional Council Executive: Property Policy* as presented.
61. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the *Communities of Faith: Manse Funds Policy* as presented and add to the Governance documents.
62. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the *Communities of Faith Commission: Intentional Interim Ministry Committee Policy* and include it in the Governance documents.
63. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the *Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Policy* and that it be included in the Governance documents.
64. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the amendment to the *Communities of Faith Policy* by adding the section: "Support and Oversight of Communities of Faith in Property Matters."
65. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the amendment to the *Pastoral Relations Commission Policy* by adding the information on Pastoral charge supervisors
66. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the amendment to the *Regional Council Executive: Mission Policy* as presented and amended.
67. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the *Regional Council Executive: Nominations Committee Policy* as presented and amended.
68. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the amended *Regional Council Executive: Remuneration Policy* as presented.
69. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the *Equity Policy* as presented.
70. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the *Equity Committee Policy* as presented and amended.
71. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the *Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) Committee Policy* and include it in the Governance documents.
72. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the addition to the *Regional Council Executive: Communications Policy* as presented.

Decisions made by the Executive April 23, 2019

73. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive direct Susie Henderson to pursue another round of designs for the logo.

Decisions made by the Executive May 6, 2019

74. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council confirm that John Suk and Nick Walker are members of the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund Commission of Shinning Waters and that the Commission will report annually to the Regional Council Executive and advise Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) on the use of the funds.
75. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council confirm that Norm Dundas, Paul Rose, Louise Mahood, Silver Ayupan, Doug McLeod, Victor Kitagawa, Catherine Smith are members of the Urban Forest Fund Commission of Shinning Waters, and that the Commission will report annually to the Regional Executive and advise Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) on the use of the funds.
76. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive give David Leyton-Brown and Marg Walker authority to appoint two representatives to the Toronto United Church Council Annual Meeting.
77. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:

a) **Church of the Master Homes Corporation**

...approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Elaine Dalziel
Robert Fletcher
Bennett Olegasegram
Mathew Peltier

b) **Fred Victor Centre**

...approve the addition of Neill Carson, Marco Ding, Michele Erskine, John Hinds and Karine MacIndoe to the Fred Victor Centre 2018-2019 Board of Directors

...approve the move of the Fred Victor Centre credit line from Scotiabank (\$500,000) to RBC (\$650,000) and the increase of indebtedness this entails

...that consent be given to Fred Victor Centre to lease 185 Dowling Avenue, Toronto, ON M6K 3B2 for the Housing First program for five years commencing March 1, 2019.

c) Hillcrest Lodge

...approve the addition of Mary Lee MacMillan to the Hillcrest Lodge 2018-2019 Board of Directors

d) The Massey Centre for Women

...approve the addition of Mitze Mourinho to The Massey Centre for Women 2018-2019 Board of Directors

e) Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc.

... approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Greg Derbyshire
Anne Forsey
Stephen Forsey
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Barry Rieder
Michelle Waller
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

78. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accept the 2018 Toronto Conference audited financial statements.

79. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive implement a policy that requires five people to remove an item from a consent motion at the Regional meeting.

80. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive add the following as lay members of Shining Waters Regional Council: Past Conference Presidents, former lay Moderators, current General Council lay Commissioners who are not the Regional rep for their congregation.

81. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive request that in 2019 the offering from the new ministry service and covenanting services go to student funds.

82. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive amend the membership of the Executive to include a person from the Indigenous community.
83. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accept the Mission Support Committee Policy as presented and with amendments discussed.
84. that Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accept the Grants Review Committee Policy as presented.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

In spring 2017, the presbyteries in Toronto Conference and the Executive of Toronto Conference named members to the Transition Commission for Region 10. The group met for the first time with the Rev. Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister for Regions 10 and 6 on June 22, 2018. The members of the Transition Commission were officially recognized at General Council 43 and requested to do significant planning prior to January 1, 2019.

The Commission held six meetings before January 1. We adopted a goal of “Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith;” developed a process to name the region; began the work of governance by developing a structure and policies for the region, the Regional Executive, the Executive Minister, the Communities of Faith Commission and the Pastoral Relations Commission; appointed members to the commissions; created a Covenant with Canadian Shield Regional Council (Region 6), and began to plan for the first meeting of the region in May, 2019.

On January 1, 2019, the Transition Commission became the Transition Executive of the region.

The document *Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church* outlines a new relationship for all of us. As we have met, the Transitional Executive has kept the Calls to the Church in focus while we await further conversations with the Indigenous Ministries.

The Transition Executive made decisions and policies to provide a basic structure to support the immediate and on-going work of the region. The Transition Executive also decided that unless needed for effective transition, where possible, new policy decisions should be the responsibility of the future elected Executive.

We learned that Shining Waters Regional Council will have considerably less financial resources than Toronto Conference has had in the past. With the national assessment, and sharing across the church, Shining Waters will receive less than the former Conference assessment realized. The region will continue to use funds from the sale of property to meet the budget, when possible.

Staffing is a large component of the budget of any organization. The Executive, with the Executive Minister, developed a staffing model which is reduced from the previous Toronto Conference experience. The region will need to live within our financial means and its new financial reality.

The 2018 Audited Statement of Toronto Conference and 2019 Shining Waters Regional Council budget information will be available in the Resource Book.

The funds available through Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) and the New Ministries Development and Leadership Fund (NMD&LF) are also restricted. Presbyteries approved major grants from PTCC for 2019 and beyond, and the funds have not been topped up recently. At this time, there is a hiatus in grant applications as the agreements with PTCC and NMD&LF are renewed and refined.

During our Regional Council meeting, we will have the opportunity to discover new ways to be the United Church as we leave behind some of the old ways.

This is some of the work of your Transition Commission and the Transition Executive. General Council provided guidelines to all of the regions in determining the governance structure.

- Each region requires a covenant with the region(s) they relate to and with whom they share an Executive Minister.
- Each region will have a covenant with La Table des ministères en français.
- Each region will have a Nominating Committee of the Executive and two commissions or committees to do the work of Pastoral Relations and to support Communities of Faith.

Recognizing that each region is unique, the Transition Executives had the authority to determine other aspects of the governance structure.

The organization chart provides an overview of Shining Waters Regional Council.

The Transition Executive decided very early in our discussions that our goal is “Encouraging & Connecting Communities of Faith” and this is the theme for our first Regional Council meeting.

Governance

The Governance Policies document is a ‘living’ document. As policies are developed and refined, the material on the website is updated. All policies will be reviewed regularly.

There have been discussions about justice work and continuing as an affirming region. Guidelines have been developed in several areas, including justice and communication.

Policies for the Regional Council

There are only a few policies of the Regional Council, but it is important to realize that these are reflected in all other policies.

- The first policy provides the authority, compliance, membership of the region.
- There is a policy regarding our relationship to Canadian Shield Regional Council (Region 6) and a policy regarding our relationship with La Table des ministères en français is in process.
- An Equity policy has been developed.

Policies for the Regional Executive

The Executive acts as the region between meetings of the Regional Council. The first policy provides the mandate, membership and responsibilities of the Executive.

Other Executive policies include: Mission, Sub-Executive, Conflict of Interest, Communication, Remuneration and The Communities of Faith and The Pastoral Relations Commissions. There are several policies with respect to property. There are two policies with respect to the Regional Fund and a new Right Relations and Indigenous Ministries Fund. The Executive committees are Nominations, Equity, The Grants Review and Mission Support.

Executive Minister Policies

These policies outline the responsibilities and accountability of the Executive Minister, including the budget process, correspondence, incorporated ministries, and marriage licenses.

Commissions

The Commissions have worked with the Executive in developing policies within their mandates.

The Communities of Faith Commission (CFC) has one policy at this time: the Manse Fund policy. The CFC has one committee, the Intentional Interim Ministry Committee.

The Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) has several policies: Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM), VAM Marriage License, Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Congregational Designated Minister, and Short term Appointments and Appointments Policy. The PRC has one committee, the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee.

Naming the Region

The name Shining Waters was decided by a vote in December 2018. United Church members within the boundaries of the region were invited to participate and over 300 votes were submitted.

The Transition Executive had several conversations and expressed the desire to include Indigenous language in the name but feels it is important to consult with the Indigenous ministries within Shining Waters before making a decision. We are fortunate that Rev. Evan Smith is a member of the Executive so we could seek her advice.

The National Indigenous Church (NIC) will meet in the summer of 2019 and the Indigenous Ministries will determine and inform the new Executive with whom we will have a relationship. At that time, the new Executive will know with whom to consult.

Continuing as an Affirming Region

The Transitional Executive recommends that the Regional Council meeting in May support continuing the relationship with Affirm United.

As the Executive considered the affirming statement of Toronto Conference, we realized the importance to continue to include those who are marginalized in any way. To that end, we decided to use the term 'Equity' for our policy and for the committee name.

As we live into our new structure, the Executive felt that the new committee should have the opportunity to develop the actions and practices for the region. It will be important that the committee consider suggestions from and consult with different constituents in the region.

Equity Policy

Striving to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and place, Shining Waters Regional Council will continue to remove barriers to participation in the life and work of the region and society, committing itself to be open to the Spirit. Resisting all forms of oppression, we welcome and celebrate people of all abilities, any sexual orientation and gender identity, and all others who are marginalized, in the life and work of the region.

The Committee will be responsible to develop practices to support the Equity Policy in areas such as access, 2SLGBTQIA+, disability, intercultural commitments and other forms of marginalization. The Minister for Community Engagement and Partnership will provide support to the committee.

Submitted to the Inaugural Meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council

The members of the Transition Executive: Dan Benson, Kirsty Hunter, Ross Leckie, David Leyton-Brown (Co-chair), Kye Munro, Paul Shepherd, Catherine Smith, Evan Smith, Jessica Stevenson, Bri-anne Swan, Martha ter Kuile, Marg Walker (Co-chair), Kent Ward (resigned March, 2019)

Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister and Rachael Howes, Administrative Support.

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL



GOVERNANCE POLICIES

This is a developing policy document for Shining Waters Regional Council
of The United Church of Canada

Updated May 20, 2019

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Governance and Mission

FRAMING GOVERNANCE AS A TOOL FOR THE CHURCH TO BE ABOUT GOD'S MISSION

As we move into new governance structures of the denomination, it is important to remember and frame our conversations about organization decisions, mindful of the deeper questions of mission and purpose. As the United Church moved through the discussions about Remit 1 on the structures of the Church, the underlying focus was the empowerment of local communities of faith to be vibrant, strong, and healthy as they lived God's mission in their context and in the world.

Governance is understood as a tool through which the organizational (institutional) Church empowers mission. The structures of the Church should not exist for their own sake, but rather, to support and inspire the mission of local communities of faith. As we set in place the governance for the new Shining Waters Regional Council, we are conscious of the principles related to our new denominational model:

- 1. Governance should enable and empower the mission of local communities of faith;*
- 2. Governance should not compete for precious volunteer engagement by lay or ministry personnel leaders. The work of the church is not primarily to sustain its own systems but to equip leadership for doing mission;*
- 3. Governance needs to be nimble and flexible in order to respond to specific contexts and to adjust to ongoing change in resources and priorities;*
- 4. Governance should energize leadership for mission by providing opportunities for growing in leadership skills and an understanding of the call to be Christ's Church in changing times and context.*

The governance model being offered strives to minimize layered decision-making, giving authority through the use of Commissions, to attend to operational decisions and thereby freeing the Executive to attend to the conversations and work (ministry) of visioning and planning for faithful and effective resource allocation to the mission needs of our context. Commissions, committees, clusters and networks provide a place for persons with particular passions for areas

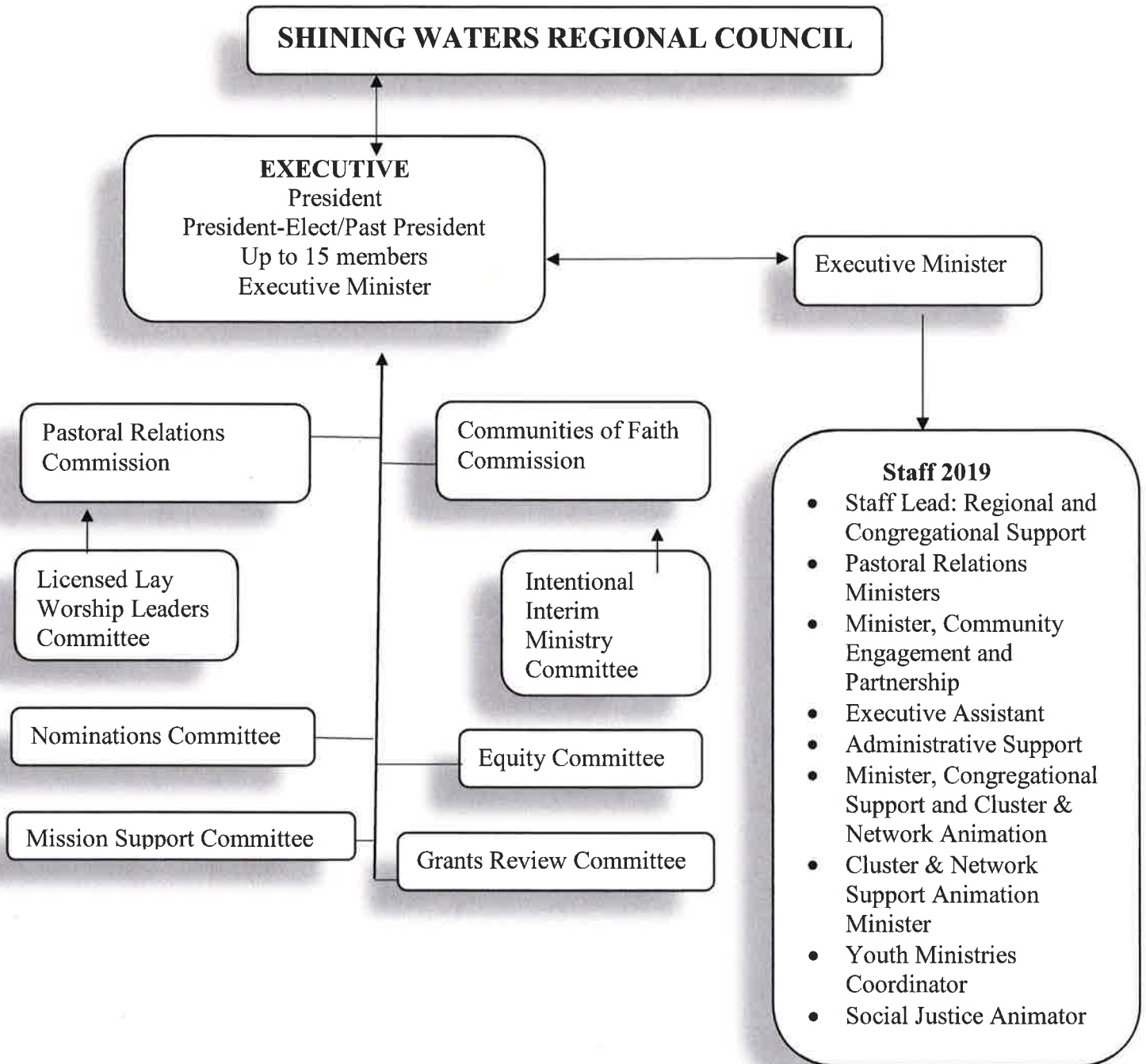
of the Church's mission to shape and implement programming that gives life to those areas of ministry.

In the new governance, there are fewer requirements for volunteers to "staff" the needs of the structure. This is not intended or constructed in order to limit the number of people participating but rather to invite more of us to connect with the places where the Church is living its calling and to give our time, energy and passion to being disciples rather than curators of the institution. It does represent a "shift" in how many of us have thought about our volunteer time to the church. Many of us have responded to the need of the church to have the "work of the church", (meaning administrative work of the church) attended to by those willing and able to devote time, leadership, skills, and experience. While there will always be the "work of the church" and the need for volunteers called to that ministry activity, our new structures and the governance requirement for them are endeavouring to make space for us to think about "discipleship" rather than "churchmanship" [sic].

The encouragement of cluster and networks is not intended as an 'add-on' to the governance model, but rather, as a call to dedicated church people to re-think the power of collegial, supportive relationships that nurture creative approaches to living the Gospel as a faithful witness of discipleship. The hope is that we live into being a Regional Council community, where there will be desire, energy, and commitment to journeying together through building connections built on common areas of interest, outreach, longing for learning, justice seeking, and shared experience and challenges.

As we contemplate the best model of governance for our Regional Council, a balance has been sought between attending to duty of care, decision-making, and resource allocation, and support and resourcing the priority of mission by the local community of faith.

ORGANIZATION CHART



DRAFT BUDGET

Budget Shining Waters Regional Council

	2019	2020
INCOME		
Assessments	325,000	325,000
Grant from GC for mission work	289,000	289,000
Archives Reserve	22,500	22,500
Income from Sale of Property	882,500	878,500
TUCC- Property Income	126,500	126,500
	1,645,500	1,641,500
EXPENSES		
Staff/ salary costs	685,000	725,000
Staff expenses	28,500	28,500
Memorandum of Agreement	9,000	9,000
Regional Expenses including meeting	72,000	80,000
Office Costs	97,000	97,000
Property Management Costs	120,000	120,000
Regional Networks/Youth	40,000	40,000
Shared Services	55,000	55,000
Pastoral Relations Commission	47,000	45,000
Community of Faith Commission	57,000	57,000
Conflict Resolution	50,000	50,000
Sabbatical Assistance	30,000	30,000
Living into Right Relations Fund	50,000	50,000
Archives	45,000	45,000
Mission Grants	180,000	160,000
Camp Awesome	30,000	
Contingency	50,000	50,000
	1,645,500	1,641,500
Income Less Expenses	-	-

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL #2019-01

Title: Social and Ecological Justice Commission for Shining Waters Region
Original Source: Grace United Church, Barrie

That in light of the recent initiative of a number of United Church communities of faith to organize around social justice and ecological justice issues, that Grace United Church petition Shining Waters Region to create a Social and Ecological Justice Commission that will encompass a broad and collaborative mandate and consider the following document as the framework for the work of the commission:

*Proposal
Social and Ecological Justice Commission for Shining Waters Region
April 2019*

From: Social and Ecological Justice Network within Shining Waters Region

Background

We have a long history as The United Church of Canada of organizing and structuring our social and ecological justice mission in the various judicatory bodies that decide upon such matters. We are a group of people who were former participants in social and ecological justice mission initiatives in previous judicatories, such as Presbyteries and Conferences, as well as newcomers to regional justice mission efforts. We all hope to organize ourselves as Shining Waters Region to do direct education, action, and advocacy, on a host of social and ecological justice initiatives, in such a way as to make a gospel-based impact both within the church and within the public sphere, based in our calling as followers of the prophetic and passionate Christ.

The following recommendations seek to address this desire for a both authoritative yet flexible structural body within Shining Waters Region that will be both responsive in the short-term yet committed to long-term priorities for transformative initiatives. We believe a Commission would be the best structural form for the missional work outlined below, as opposed to a Network, as a Commission would have the necessary authority to represent the Region on emerging justice issues, with the appropriate power to act on behalf of the Region as a whole within its mandated authority.

Along with the following recommendations about a Social and Ecological Justice Commission for Shining Waters Region, we also signal our hope and desire that the creation of this new Region is a collective opportunity to discern together how to remake our structure into a thoroughly missional body, aligning itself with God's broad mission rather than being tempted to remain focused on the governance, maintenance, functionality, or even growth of the church alone. This goes far beyond our direct justice work, and would have far reaching implications, including, but not limited to, how we deal with church properties, how we communicate within and beyond the church, how and who makes decisions that affect us all, how we undertake collaborative ministries skill development, how we train leaders, how we understand budgets as missional documents, etc., and it is the hope of the group that puts forward this Proposal that a Commission on Social and Ecological Justice, once established, would be consulted by the governing body of the Region regarding this larger goal of enabling the church in this Region to be thoroughly missional.

The missional nature of the church's calling is in constant evolution, due to the changing global and cultural context and crises that give rise to particular missional initiatives and priorities. We have a

broad understanding of both the church's missional purpose, and its evolution in the church and the communities we serve, and we seek to be both impactful and be consistent bearers of hope as followers of Christ. The Commission that this Proposal calls for should be in consistent discernment about how to be faithfully effective in the building of justice-related connections, and the commitment and skills needed to build and sustain relationships across the Region, both within and beyond the church.

Recommendations

Taking into account the Mandate of a Regional Council as stated in *The Manual*, we propose that:

1) Shining Waters Region create a Social and Ecological Justice Commission that will encompass a broad and collaborative mandate, inclusive of but not limited to the following:

- build relationships with communities of faith and General Council in meaningful ways;
- build relationships of mutual engagement and partnership with justice-seeking coalitions and networks;
- listen to oppressed and marginalized people/groups and seek ways to not only be in solidarity with them but be transformed by them;
- aligning our efforts with the Caretakers Call to the Church recommendations;
- network and engage with ecumenical and interfaith groups on various issues;
- undertake advocacy and offer articulate and timely leadership in public and church forums;
- ensure responsible use of budgeted resources and effective, timely communication;
- plan for continuous education within the church about God's social and ecological justice mission;
- foster collaboration and partnerships appropriate to its mandate;
- develop process skills and terms of engagement for respectful relations of mutuality, safety and solidarity both within and beyond the Commission;
- seek to exhibit a representative and real inclusion of various voices and people, through the elimination of identified barriers to participation, for example;
- facilitate the strategic and tactical development of the church's justice-related mandate;
- serve to support specific action, education, advocacy, and networking initiatives as are either assigned to it or are discerned from time to time in collaboration with the communities of faith and/or the networks and communities we serve;
- create a missional resource, skills/tools, and information inventory/clearing house that supports those involved with this work across the region and beyond;
- act as a consultative/advisory group for any emerging justice mission-related church initiatives, such as what was undertaken in the mission support funding process of previous judicatories, for example;
- be nimble in responding to and working on social and ecological justice issues, such as but not limited to those listed in the addendum to this Proposal;

2) The Commission be inclusive of those within Shining Waters Region who feel called to social and eco-justice work, through a flexible structure that can provide authority and autonomy when needed and/or be easily changed or adapted when necessary;

3) The Commission be assigned an adequate number of committed and authorized members, at least 15-20 given the size of the region, and that additional adjunct members, such as representatives from specific networks who may not attend meetings regularly, as well as members-at-large who are not necessarily members of the Regional body, and who may or may not be United Church members or even Christians, be accounted for as well;

4) A sufficient and robust staff compliment be retained to relate to the broad mandate and work of the Commission, namely at least 3 staff assigned to specific justice-related roles, such as networking,

communication, education and training, advocacy, etc. (just to be clear, in addition to current Community Ministries staff who work in four specific communities at present), such staff, if possible, to be deliberately representative of the diversity found in the communities of our region;

5) A budget of \$40,000 for this Commission be created to enable the support of its mandate and mission, the bulk of said budget to be for programming, resource development, partner support, etc., beyond Commission governance and administration; and

6) The Commission be given a provisional two-year mandate, so that an evaluation can be done as to its effectiveness, its responsiveness to emerging missional justice-related issues, its capacity to be flexible and adaptable, its mission outcomes (to be defined), etc.

Addendum

Issues which may be dealt with, on either a consistent or ad hoc basis, by the Commission, may include but not be limited by the following:

- building right relations with and alongside Indigenous Peoples;
- reducing or eliminating poverty and homelessness;
- respect for and care of creation, seeking climate justice, reducing green house gases and fossil fuel consumption, protecting lands and mineral resources as well as forests, lakes, and oceans, respecting the right to clean water and air, protecting climate refugees, limiting waste and engaging in energy efficiency and low carbon transportation, etc.;
- defending human rights;
- confronting anti-black, anti-asian and other forms of racism, as well as white fragility/supremacy;
- advocating for, sponsoring and supporting refugees;
- pursuing peace and non-violence;
- educating for alternatives to Empire;
- building gender equity, advocating for queer/trans justice;
- pursuing holistic health initiatives, particularly related to drug user rights, safe injection sites, and mental health supports/rights;
- seeking mining justice;
- seeking migrant worker justice;
- seeking just peace in the Middle East, especially Palestine/Israel;
- advocating for criminal and correctional justice;
- strengthening interfaith and ecumenical relationships;
- and other related issues, recognizing the intersectionality of these issues with each other and with related missional mandates of the church.

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL #2019-02

Title: **Mental Health, Sexuality and Gender Support and Educational Resources for Communities of Faith**

Original Source: **Grace United Church, Barrie**

1. What is the issue?

God calls us into relationship with one another. Through the beatitudes and the ministry of Jesus Christ we are reminded that we are called as the church to walk with the most vulnerable in our community. When Jesus stated, “You are blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and God’s rule” (The Message, Matthew 5:3) We need to be walking more with those living with mental health issues.

Communities of Faith have become a place where people needing mental health support are turning to, and as such we believe it is important for Shining Waters Regional Council to be setting mental health as a priority in the training practices and educational experiences. We are encountering a great deal of people (both younger and older) who are experiencing their own personal connection between their mental health and their sexuality/gender. This is especially relevant to Shining Waters Regional Council as it seeks to be an Affirming Ministry. For example, people who are transgender that are affected by anxiety because of what societal forces are telling them about their bodies. Elderly people who are coming out and experiencing depression and anxiety around engaging with people who are the same sexual orientation, but there is limited resources to build community.

We believe it is important for a robust education that calls us to action when it comes to mental and physical health. We need comprehensive educational resources that blend the four fundamental pillars of a healthy life (emotional support, physical support, mental health support and spiritual health support).

2. Why is this issue important?

MENTAL HEALTH

We acknowledge that many communities of faith in Shining Waters Regional Council have limited access to educational resources that are progressive, inclusive and life-affirming; especially around the current growth of mental health as a concern for people of all ages.

The statistics from CAMH report that:

- 70 % of mental health problems have their onset during childhood or adolescence.
- Young people ages 15 to 24 are more likely to experience mental illness and/or substance abuse use disorder than any other age group.
- Studies in various Canadian cities indicate that between 23 % and 67 % of homeless people report having a mental illness.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

With a growing number of churches entering the Affirm United process in Shining Waters Regional Council is to be engaged fully in our educational strategies throughout the Region.

The statistics from CAMH report that:

- Studies have found high rates of depression, anxiety, obsessive–compulsive and phobic disorders, suicidal thoughts and acts, self-harm, and alcohol and drug dependence among LGBTQ people.
- LGBTQ youth have an increased risk of suicide, substance abuse, isolation and experiencing sexual abuse. A Canadian study estimated that the risk of suicide among LGB youth is 14 times higher than for their heterosexual peers. A recent U.S. study of LGBTQ youth found that 10% of them met the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder and 15% met the criteria for major depression.

3. How might the Regional Council respond?

- a) we call on Shining Waters Regional Council to begin the process of working towards becoming an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada through the process at Affirm United. While during the Affirming Process ensure there is a particular focus around mental health in the LGBTQ community.
- b) Engage staff, particularly those working in youth ministries and social justice, in preparing curriculum and programming around mental health and physical health (focusing on: bodily health, consent, sexual orientation, and biodiversity).
- c) Working towards building relationships with groups and agencies like: Canadian Mental Health Association, the Ontario Health Coalition (www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/) and the subsidiaries in Bracebridge/Huntsville, Orillia, Brampton, Scarborough, Toronto.
- d) Engage staff, particularly those working in youth ministries and social justice, in setting up a region wide network on Mental Health for Shining Waters Region to: prepare information around engaging people in Mental Health, assist in curriculum and workshop development, and offer support at the Regional Council Meetings, youth gatherings, and region wide events.

Sources

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