



**Shining Waters Regional Council
2023 Regional Meeting
May 26 – 28, 2023**

RESOURCE BOOK

**North Bramalea United Church
363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6**

USING ZOOM

JOINING THE MEETING

- **MEETING LINK:** Your personalized link to the meeting was emailed to you after you registered. There will be a reminder email closer to the meeting that also includes the link. This is the only link that you may use to access the meeting.
- **ARRIVAL TIME:** Friday: sign in to the meeting by 12:45 pm (EDT) or earlier. You will arrive in the waiting room and be admitted at 12:55 pm. The Call to Order is at 1:00 pm.
Saturday: sign into the meeting by 8:45 am, you will arrive in the waiting room and be admitted at 8:55 am. The Call to Order is 9:00 am. You will be muted upon entry and we ask you to stay muted.
- **YOUR NAME:** Check that your name appears correctly in the participant list. The MORE button beside your name allows you to rename yourself. Corresponding and non-voting participants please add a “Z” in front of your name to help with scrutineering.
- **AUDIO:** When you join the meeting, you will be asked about connecting audio. It is easiest to join by computer audio unless your computer does not have speakers. If you have trouble with your audio you may also connect by phone with the number in your invitation. Remember to use the toll-free number for long-distance calls. If you use a cordless phone, please be sure it has enough charge to last the duration of the meeting, and/or charge your phone during the breaks.
- **VIDEO:** For this meeting you will not need to start your own video (webcam) unless you are going to speak. At the beginning of the meeting it may be nice to “see” everyone, but once the meeting is underway it is best for all video to be off apart from the presenters. For best viewing please change to “Speaker View” and/or “Side by Side” at the top of the video panel of your screen.

PARTICIPATING

- **PARTICIPANTS PANEL AND CHAT:** Open both the Participants Panel and the Chat box on the Zoom toolbar.
- **LISTEN ONLY:** For the majority of this meeting you will likely only need to listen to those presenting.
- **SPEAKING:** Staff will be monitoring the Participants Panel and the Chat box. Please signal your desire to be added to the speaker’s list by raising your digital (not your real) hand by clicking the [blue](#) hand at the bottom of the Participant’s Panel. When you are recognized by the President, unmute your microphone to be heard. In the event there is some issue with sound, you may type in the chat box. Please don’t lower your hand, we will do that for you.
- **POINT OF ORDER:** To raise a point of order raise your hand, and type “PT OF ORDER” in the chat, so that the President can adjust the speakers order accordingly.

VOTING

- **ELIGIBILITY:** Only elected Lay Regional Representatives and Ministry Personnel are eligible to vote. If you are not a voting member please put an “z” before your name – this way the scrutineers can see the votes more easily.
- **RAISE HAND:** We will be voting using the Raise Hand icon found at the bottom of your Participants Panel to vote, following the instructions from the President. To abstain, type ABSTAIN in the chat.
- **VOTE BY PHONE:** Voting representatives participating on the phone will vote by pressing *9 when the President calls for you to vote by phone and this will raise your hand in the Participants Panel.
- **RE-OPEN THE PARTICIPANT AND CHAT PANELS:** Note: When the host shares their screen (ie: with the agenda or a proposal) the program will put you into full screen mode and you will lose the chat and participant panels. To get these back click “Chat” and “Participant” on the Zoom toolbar (usually at the top of your screen). They will reappear in the centre of your screen but you can move them to the side by clicking on the top of the pod and dragging it over.

- **TWO VOTES:** If two people are joined from the same household one person can vote with the Raise Hand button. The second person can add their vote by typing Yes or No in the chat.

CHAT

- **LIMITED** Chat is limited for this meeting to minimize distractions and you are only able to chat with the hosts and co-hosts.

North Bramalea United Church
363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6
(near Hwy 410 and Williams Parkway)

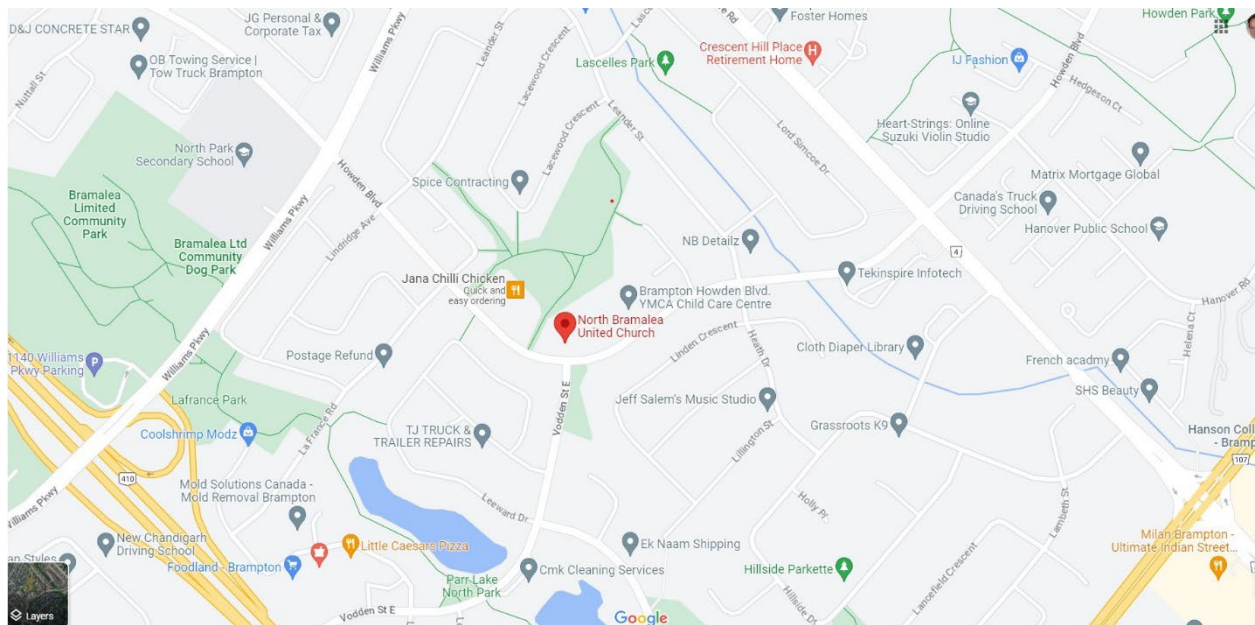
Celebration of Ministries Service:
North Bramalea United Church

Parking:

There is some parking available at the church but will mainly be used for handicapped and staff parking. There is additional parking available at the neighbouring church, Daily Hope Community Church.

Accessibility

Our meeting spaces have barrier free access, and accessible elevators and washrooms 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.



As we gather on the grounds of North Bramalea United Church, we honour that North Bramalea acknowledges the land on which it gathers is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit; acknowledges the territory of the Anihinabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Ojibway/Chippewa peoples, and the land that is home to the Metis, and are grateful to have the opportunity to meet on this land, and by doing so, give our respect to its first inhabitants.

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SHINING WATERS
REGIONAL COUNCIL
The United Church of Canada

Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith

Dear Friends,

We say that we are followers of Jesus and his teachings, but so what? What difference does that make? What do we do as a result, that we might not otherwise have done? How do we live the love that Jesus wants us to be in the world? How do we translate our faith into action? This meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council will invite you to think about the answers to these questions for yourselves, and for your communities of faith. It will illustrate three areas in which Shining Waters is trying to put faith in action, and through discussion and interaction invite you to consider ways in which you can carry these actions into your own communities – intercultural diversity and equity, community ministry, and the environment.

The planning for this Regional Council meeting has recognized the heartfelt desire for connection and interaction, and has realized that members appreciate active engagement rather than passive listening. We have been intentional about building in multiple opportunities for small group discussion and interaction, about each of the theme areas, and also in unstructured time to allow groups and topics to emerge. Please take advantage of these opportunities, and let us know how satisfied you are with the experience.

David Leyton-Brown
President,
Shining Waters Regional Council



So What? Faith in Action
2023 Shining Waters Regional Meeting
May 26 - 28, 2023

Online and in-person at North Bramalea United Church
Draft Agenda

	On-site	On-line
Friday May 26		
11:00 a.m.	Registration Opens Books and Displays available Prayer Room and Art Room open Opportunities for gatherings of networks, clusters, commissions, committees (<i>pre-booking required</i>)	Virtual Displays available Virtual Art Room available
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (<i>on-site by pre-registration or on your own</i>)	Lunch (<i>on your own</i>)
1:00 p.m.	Opening of Regional Meeting Land Acknowledgement Welcome and traditional/cultural teachings shared by Tabitha Shurgold, The Indigenous Network (<i>Participate in on-line meeting</i>) Opening Motions	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>) Introduction to Holy Manners and Process
1:30 p.m.	Worship	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
2:15 p.m.	Theme Presentation 1: EQUITY	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
3:30 p.m.	Break	Break
3:45 p.m.	Theme Presentation 1: EQUITY	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)
4:15 p.m.	Business Session 1 Accountability Reports	(<i>Participate in on-site meeting</i>)

	<p>Introduction to General Council Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization</p> <p>Presentation of Nominations Report Presentation of Finance Report and Draft Budget</p> <p><i>(Participate in on-line meeting)</i></p>	Greetings from Erik Mathiesen, General Council Representative
6:00 p.m.	<p>Dinner <i>(on-site by pre-registration or on your own)</i></p> <p>Nominations close</p>	<p>Dinner <i>(on your own)</i></p> <p>Nominations close</p>
7:30 p.m.	<p>Let's Connect!</p> <p>A conversation about Clusters with Patti Rogers and Jody Maltby</p> <p>Coffee House Art Room and Prayer Room Books and Displays</p>	<p>Let's Connect on-line!</p> <p>A conversation about Collaborations with Andrew Richardson and Diane Matheson-Jimenez</p> <p>Virtual Displays Virtual Art Room</p>
8:30 p.m.	Closing Worship	Closing Worship with Diane on-line
Saturday, May 27		
9:00 a.m.	Worship	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
9:30 a.m.	Theme Presentation 2: COMMUNITY MINISTRY	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting) (during small group discussion there will be on-line break out rooms)</i>
10:30 a.m.	Break <i>(an opportunity to suggest topics for community conversations tonight)</i>	Break
10:45 a.m.	Theme Presentation continued	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting) (during small group discussion there will be on-line break out rooms)</i>
11:30 a.m.	Worship: In Memoriam	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>(on-site by pre-registration, or on your own)</i>	Lunch <i>(on your own)</i>
1:30 p.m.	<p>Business Session 2</p> <p>Decisions on Finance and Draft Budget Decision on Nominations Report</p> <p>Presentation by Toronto United Church Council Minute for Mission</p>	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>

2:15 p.m.	Theme Presentation 3: ENVIRONMENT	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
3:30 p.m.	Break <i>(Expressions of interest in conversation topics for tonight)</i>	Break
3:45 p.m.	Theme Presentation continued	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting) (during small group discussion there will be on-line break out rooms)</i>
4:15 p.m.	Business Session 3 Proposal SW2023-01: A Vision for the Post-pandemic church from a Community Ministries Perspective Proposal SW2023-02: Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church Proposal SW2023-03: Process for Election of President-Elect Proposal SW2023-04: Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians	<i>(Participate in on-site meeting)</i>
6:00 p.m.	Dinner <i>(on-site by pre-registration or on your own)</i>	Dinner <i>(on your own)</i>
7:30 p.m.	Let's Connect! Conversation rooms Coffee House Art Room and Prayer Room Books and Displays	On-line prayer room and Worship
8:30 p.m.	Worship	
Sunday, May 28		
Morning	Worship with a local congregation or your home congregation	Worship with your home congregation
2:30 p.m.	Celebration of Ministries Service On-site for those with a direct relationship or connection with a candidate.	<i>As part of our covid protocols, the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council adopted the following motion: "In order to limit the number of people at the Celebration of Ministry Service, Shining Waters Regional Council encourages members to join online for the service unless there is a direct relationship or connection with a candidate."</i>

CONSENT AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 2023 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 (2023 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 North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6 and the zoom meeting ID: 873 4064 9304 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 Sunday May 28, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. to take place at North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON L6S 4L6 to fulfil its responsibility to ordain those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination and commissioning, 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 posted to the regional website be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the Chairperson.
- d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council held May 27 and 28, 2022 be approved as circulated.
- e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
- f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the Chairperson have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.
- g) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2023 Manual C.1.5).
- h) **Commitments:** that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.
- i) **New Business & Nominations:** (Nominations are closed. The deadline was March 28, 2023). Items of New Business shall be given to the Chairperson by 6:00 p.m. on May 26, 2023.

Procedural

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

HOLY MANNERS

We strive, in this time of community, to be brave by...

B – being accountable for the impact of both our words and our silence

R – reflecting on and naming our own biases

A – actively listening

V – vocalizing questions that arise from our learning

E – encountering new ideas with curiosity and wonder

To be continued....learning as we go....

*Written by Diane Matheson-Jimenez
for Affirming Network webinar, September 22, 2020*

Please also see our Regional Council Commitments related to equity and justice

Anti-Asian Racism statement

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/regionalcouncil-statement-on-anti-asian-racism-hatred-and-violence/>

Anti-Black Racism statement

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/regional-statement-on-anti-black-violence-and-racism/>

Equity Policy

https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/sw_policies_Regional_Council_Equity_Policy.pdf

Shining Waters Regional Council is an Affirming Region

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/equity/affirming/>



DAVID LEYTON-BROWN
PRESIDENT, SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL



David Leyton-Brown is a member of Richmond Hill United Church, and was Co-Chair of the Transition Commission of Region 10, and of the Vision and Church Development Commission of Living Waters Presbytery.

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 is a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, and 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.

MARIA CHRISTINA (TINA) CONLON
PRESIDENT-ELECT, SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL



Maria Christina Conlon, or Tina, baked pies, cookies, and a variety of other specialties at the Groaning Board straight after receiving her M.Div at Emmanuel College in 1983. Not only did this job help give her an insight into her former classmates who conducted luncheon meetings at this place, but it also gave her enough money to put together resumes to look for jobs. She worked in a variety of contract employment from building a shelter for non-English speaking women and children, to volunteer coordination and as a community coordinator at Frontier College, now known as United for Literacy. Before working for

FoodShare, she worked at Chalmers UC in Guelph where she helped the church become a community ministry. Afterwards, she worked for the Downtown Churchworkers Association where she helped found the Multi-Faith Coalition Against Racism in response to some police shootings. As one of the first members of Toronto Food Policy Council, she volunteered on its board for seven years, proud to have played a part in ensuring that bST, or BGH would not be sold in Canada. As a Missioner at the West Don Area Ministry, now known as Regent Park Community Ministry, she led a discussion series with unchurched and de-churched WDAM community residents called "Unprotected Texts," reflecting on biblical narratives. She also found a way to illustrate these stories through painting and formed a group called Old Town ARTbeat. While conducting midweek prayer services in the Peace Garden, she met indigenous people who invited her to Council Fire and eventually became a member of Toronto Urban Native Ministry. In June 2014, she started working as the Davenport Perth Community Minister. In 2019,

when The United Church of Canada recognized that community ministry is also a community of faith, she requested discernment and was ordained in May 2022.

Tina Conlon came to Canada in her late teens with her family in 1972 from the Philippines after its declaration of martial law and where she was beginning to see the colonization of food. She was one of eight children of the late artist Rol Lampitoc and Cecilia, a self-taught pianist. Tina has three grown children and resides with her husband Philip in a housing co-op in downtown Toronto.

ERIK MATHIESEN **EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FINANCE** **General Council Representative**



Erik Mathiesen serves as Executive Officer, Finance, for the General Council Office. In this capacity, he is responsible for the financial operations and risk management activities for the national church. His team also supports the Pension Plan and Foundation. Erik provides support to church treasurers and trustees regarding compliance and general best practices; and has been doing webinars for over a decade.

Erik is also the accountable staff lead for the climate objective within the strategic plan, and has a mandate to mobilize as much of the church as possible to speak out and take institutional, personal, and civic action in response to the climate crisis. He believes there is room for all forms of action as opposed to internally bickering over exactly which action is "best."

WORSHIP LEADERS



Greg Daly



Bri-anne Swan



Julia Yun Jung Kim

CHAPLAINS



Carol-Ann Chapman



Andrew Kunyoung Lee

PRAYER ROOM



Connie denBok



Lawrence Nyarko

PARLIAMENTARIAN



Beth Moore

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL STAFF



Executive Minister

Rev. Peter Hartmans

phartmans@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and spends time in each region.

Role: Peter provides leadership, counsel, and support for the governance and administration in the Regional Councils.

Contact Peter about: Budget and Policy; Media and Public Statements; Regional Joys and Concerns; Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence.



Regional Staff Lead and Communities of Faith Minister

Rev. Jody Maltby

jmaltby@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works from the Guthrie Main Office

Role: Jody coordinates the support to communities of faith, including coordinating the work of regional staff.

Contact Jody about: Appeals; Conflict Resolution; Congregational Finance; Covenants and Self-Assessments; Grants; Intentional Interim Ministry; Incorporated Ministries; Property Matters; Transitions – amalgamations, collaboration, closures.



Pastoral Relations Minister

Dale Hildebrand

dhildebrand@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Toronto Office.

Role: Dale encourages and supports ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice.

Contact Dale about: Conflict Resolution; Finding A New Minister; Lay Employees; M&P Committees; Licenses to Administer Sacraments; Pastoral Relationships Policy; Resources for Transition Times; Retirement; Sabbaticals; Sick Leave; Short Term Supply Ministers; Visiting Minister Options. Dale is responsible for all the Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located south of Highway 407.

cont'd ...



Pastoral Relations Minister

Rev. Todd McDonald

tmcdonald@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Guthrie Office.

Role: Todd encourages and supports ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice.

Contact Todd about: Conflict Resolution; Finding A New Minister; Licensed Lay Worship Leaders; Licenses to Administer Sacraments; Pastoral Relationships Policy; Resources for Transition Times; Retirement; Sabbaticals; Sick Leave; Short Term Supply Ministers; Visiting Minister Options. Todd is responsible for all the Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located north of Highway 407.



Minister, Justice and Faith Formation

Jeffrey Dale

jdale@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Guthrie office

Role: Jeffrey encourages and connects communities of faith with matters of faith and justice and the regional council in youth and young adult ministry and matters of faith formation and liaises with the General Council in this regard.

Contact Jeffrey about: Affirming Ministry; Camping Ministries; Community Ministries; Faith Formation; Guaranteed Income; Harm Reduction; Homelessness; Poverty; Social and Eco-justice; Worship and Music; Youth and Young Adult Ministry, United Church Women (UCW)



Minister, Communities of Faith Support, Anti-Racism and Right Relations

Kim Uyede-Kai

Kuyedekai@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Toronto Office

Role: Kim encourages and connects communities of faith in their work and supports indigenous ministries in their relationship with the region and promotes and supports racial justice.

Contact Kim about: Anti-Racism; Conflict Resolution; Congregational Finance; Intercultural Ministry; Right Relations; Vision and Mission

cont'd ...

**Minister, Community of Faith Support**

Diane Matheson-Jimenez

dmatheson@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Diane provides support for the region by encouraging and connecting communities of faith as they adapt and experiment in changing times.

Contact Diane about: Conflict Resolution, Community Ministries, Congregational Finance, Covenants, Grants, Property, and Transitions - amalgamations, collaboration, closures.

**Executive Assistant and Administration**

Susan Whitehead

swhitehead@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Works from the Canadian Shield main office in North Bay.

Role: Susan is the Executive Assistant to Peter Hartmans and gives administrative support for the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils.

**Executive Assistant and Administration**

Rachael Howes

rhowes@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Works from the Main Office in Guthrie, and teleworks from home

Role: Rachael provides administrative support to the Executive Minister, Regional Council Executive, and related Commissions.

**Communications and Administrative Support**

Donna Rutz

drutz@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Toronto Office.

Role: Donna provides administrative support to the region as a whole including communications, record-keeping, event planning, office management, and reception.

Contact Donna about: General Inquiries; Community Events; Covenanting Services; Records Management; Regional Communication; Regional Events; Social Media; Updating Contact/Subscription Information; Website.

cont'd ...

**Administrative Support**

Celio deAndrade Santos, Jr.

cdeandrade@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Guthrie office

Role: Celio provides administrative support to Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils.

**Administrative Support**

Kathleen Wolfe

kwolfe@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Kathleen provides administrative support to Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils.

Canadian Shield staff who occasionally assist in Shining Waters**Pastoral Relations Minister**

Rob Smith

rsmith@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield Regional Council

Location: Teleworks and works in the Thunder Bay Office.

Role: Rob encourages and supports ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice.

United Church of Canada staff who support Shining Waters Regional Council specifically as part of their assigned denominational work through the General Council Office:**Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC)****Indigenous Ministries & Justice Unit**

Martha Pedoniquotte

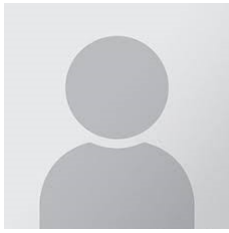
MPedoniquotte@united-church.ca

Serves in: the area of Ontario Quebec East Region

Role: one of three CCDCs working for the National Indigenous Council, Indigenous Ministries & Justice Unit of The United Church of Canada.

CCDCs build capacity within the Indigenous communities of faith through knowledge transfer, skill development, sharing of resources and best practices, facilitation of training and funding opportunities. CCDCs assist with the Mission & Service working group, and the Real Property and Capital Plan working group, and ensure that the needs are met for pastoral care, ministry recruitment and other requirements of the community of faith. Martha currently works with 24 communities of faith in Ontario Quebec.

cont'd ...

**Minister for the Office of Vocation - Indigenous Church**

Tim Hackborn

Phone: 1-800-268-3781 Ext. 2223

thackborn@united-church.ca

Tim's work supports the Candidacy Pathway and the oversight and discipline of ministry personnel for the Indigenous Church across Canada.

**Vocational Minister, Ministry Personnel Accountability**

Rev. Kellie McComb

kmccomb@united-church.ca

Serves: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Teleworks from home in Paris, Ontario

Role: Supports the processes for the discernment and training of ministry personnel, the determination of their fitness/readiness for accreditation, the fulfillment of continuing education standards, and the formal processes for oversight and discipline of ministry personnel.

**Community of Faith Stewardship Support**

Melody Duncanson-Hales

mduncanson-hales@united-church.ca

Serves in: Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils

Location: Teleworks from home.

Role: Support for all aspects of community of faith stewardship, including annual giving programs, year-round stewardship, Mission & Service, planned giving, the United Church Foundation and more. Melody also brings her experience to the modules of Called to Be the Church: The Journey, the United Church stewardship program.

Contact Melody about: Called to be the Church: The Journey program; Congregational Giving; Mission & Service; Planned Legacy Giving; Stewardship Education; The United Church Foundation.

United Church of Canada staff with employment which lies with Shining Waters Regional Council for Administrative Employment Support and/or Ministry Support:

Isaac Kamta: La Mission Protestante Francophone de Toronto (MPFT), the only francophone Community of Faith of The United Church of Canada in Toronto.

Alana Martin: Minister to the GO Project. The GO Project facilitates youth programs across the country. GO believe its mission is to create open programs and spaces for young people to learn how to put faith and love into action in the world.

Angie Hocking: Regent Park Community Ministry, becoming a Christian community of faith and justice in Regent Park. They seek to innovate, and to be compassionate, intercultural, and open to all.

ORDINATION AND ADMISSION

ORDINATION

Jeffrey Dale



I have worked within The United Church of Canada for over seventeen years by serving four communities of faith in both the former Toronto and London Conferences. Currently I am the Minister for Justice and Faith Formation in Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils.

I bring a strong background in the arts to my work as a theatre practitioner and as an author. I was the winner of the James MacRae Canada 150 Award for Poetry and was voted Person of the Year at the 2020 Fierté Simcoe Pride Gala Awards. I hold a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph and a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel College. I am currently working on a play about the statue, Crucified Woman, who stands at Emmanuel College as a painful reminder of the misogyny that exists within the church and society.

I live in the west end of Toronto where my dog Max and I enjoy the wilds of High Park. I truly believe that “if we are open to seek justice, pursue creativity, and love unconditionally; we will truly know what it means to be together in humanity.”

James Harbell



Hello, I am Jim Harbell, a candidate for ordained ministry from Rosedale United Church in Toronto. I have been married to Pat McQuaid for 40 years and we have four children: Martha, Charlotte, Julia, and Ian. I graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School (York) in 1982 and practiced energy, environmental, infrastructure, and real estate development law for 35 years. I was active in my home congregation including being Clerk of Session and a member or chair of a number of committees. Through this congregational involvement and my own spiritual development, I became interested in pursuing theological education. A particular interest in mental health led me to pursue a Masters in Pastoral Studies at Emmanuel College, which I completed in 2020. I interned and worked as a spiritual care provider at Scarborough Health Network.

With a continuing interest in theology, including outreach, worship and pastoral care, I decided to pursue my Master of Divinity and graduated in 2022. I have a particular interest in housing and am one of the founders of Restorative Justice Housing Ontario (rjho.ca) a registered charity which provides medium term housing for ex-prisoners. I am also a Director of Kindred Works which allows me to combine interest in The United Church of Canada with my legal background. I was drawn to ministry to offer my gifts and to integrate them into new forms and ideas about church connected with the broader community. My hope for my United Church ministry is to look

forward, not backward, and optimistically re-imagine and effectively implement church that is reflective of our community's need for hope, for ideas and for places to share thoughts on spirituality, integrated with other community needs and desires.

Jennifer Henry



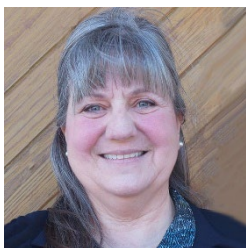
My name is Jennifer Henry (she/her), and my home congregation is Windermere United Church. I hold Bachelors of Arts and Social Work (1988, 1990) from the University of Manitoba, a Master of Social Work (1993) from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Theological Studies (2018) from Emmanuel College. In 2019, I was granted a Doctor of Christian Letters (honoris causa) from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, and I have recently completed a Diploma in Denominational Studies (2023) at the Vancouver School of Theology.

While my earliest years were spent in The United Church of Canada, through most of my life I have been actively involved in the Anglican church. It was in that context that I discerned a call to ordained ministry and had that call affirmed by the Anglican church, before being required to withdraw from the process in 1995 because of the church's discrimination of LGBTQ folks. For close to thirty years, I understood myself as living out a diaconal vocation, while serving Canadian churches nationally in ecumenical social justice lay ministry.

When I left my role as Executive Director of KAIROS in 2020, it was clear to me that the vocational call continued. Christ wounded and risen stirs my passion to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly, and to serve a transformed and transforming church in the world. I understand my call to a ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care within a brave and changing church whose vision aligns with my own commitments to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice.

I am deeply grateful for those who have welcomed me home to The United Church of Canada—through membership, the candidacy process, and the opportunity to contribute at the General Council Office. I currently serve as the Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy and look forward to continuing in that role, as we seek together to renew and invigorate our church with bold, grounded, and expectant hope, towards the next 100 years.

Nancy Umphrey



My name is Nancy Umphrey and my home congregation is Lemonville United Church. As a child, I began attending Sunday school at a local United Church and was confirmed there. As a teenager, I drifted away from church; however, in my last year of university, I began to feel a spiritual yearning. I graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and started working. My grandmother was attending Islington United Church and I started to go to

church with her. I spent six years as a Sunday School teacher and Youth Leader and began to feel a call to ministry.

I enrolled in the Master of Religious Education program at Emmanuel College and began part-time work in the church with children and youth. After graduation, I enjoyed working in the education and social services field, however, I was still feeling a call to ministry and entered the discernment process. I was accepted as a candidate for ordination and later began the Master of Divinity Program at Emmanuel College. However, I had to pull out due to illness.

In 2016, I was feeling called to the ministry once more and entered the discernment process at Lemonville United Church. I was accepted as a candidate in 2017, and finished my studies at Emmanuel College (granted Testamur) while working at Lemonville as a Student Minister.

It has been a long, wonderful and sometimes challenging journey; however, I am so glad to finally arrive at this day. I am thankful to all of the people who have helped me along the way. Many friends, family members, teachers and mentors have contributed to my learning and growth and have supported me with their prayers and encouragement. I am deeply grateful for God's guidance, providence, patience and love. I hope to work within The United Church of Canada to facilitate connection with one another and the deep mystery of God.

COMMISSIONING

Dyanne Marlok



I was born and raised in London, Ontario. My memories of attending church begin when I was eight, at First Westminster United Church. Following graduation from University of Western Ontario (H.B.Sc. in Microbiology and Immunology) and Fanshawe College, I moved to Toronto in 1989. After working for thirty years as a Medical Laboratory Technologist, I retired in September 2019.

In 1995 I moved to Newmarket, where my partner and I raised two children. Sharon-Hope United Church has been an important part of my life for over twenty-five years. It was there during a Sunday worship service that I felt a call to ministry. Through the discernment process I realized diaconal ministry was a good fit for me, based on my life experiences and my gifts and talents. In April 2023 I graduate from the Centre for Christian Studies (CSS). In 2023 I will complete a MTS31 (Master of Theological Studies) degree from St. Andrew's College in Saskatchewan.

It is my hope that I can educate and engage congregants in social justice issues. I hope that through my words and actions I can contribute to The United Church of Canada becoming an anti-racist denomination.

ADMISSION

Thomas Tae Sung Shin



My name is Thomas Tae Sung Shin, and I have a rich background in church and life experience. I have been immersed in theological studies and pastoral ministry dating back to my mother country, South Korea. My initial training was in the Methodist Church and I have served in that church in both South Korea and the USA. In Canada, I earned an MA from Regent College at University of British Columbia and a PhD from McMaster University

Since 2015, I have lived in Burlington Ontario with my wife, Sophia Han, and our three children – Lucy, Lucas and Louise.

While I had originally received theological and pastoral training at the Methodist institutes, I have served as a minister in the United Church since 2017. This was a decision I made as I neared the final stage of my doctoral program. My doctoral studies were in “human flourishing” in Christian Spirituality and Psychology.

I put my academic studies into practical applications with a particular interest in the renewal of the Christian community as an integral space of soul care and Christ-discipleship ministry.

Woong Youm



I’m Woong Youm. I graduated from Hanshin University in Osan, South Korea, and completed my M.Div at Hanshin Graduate School of Theology, Seoul. Since I moved to Toronto in 2004, I served at Good Tree Korean United Church mission for 15 years. Currently, I’m serving at North York Korean United Church.

My ministry passion to build God’s beloved community of people has been enlivened while I served Korean immigrant congregations. Korean immigrants including myself have confronted many challenges internally and externally, due to language barriers, cultural differences, and negative experiences of being marginal by racism and many other forms of discrimination in the white dominant society. However, yet there are the wisdom of life, resilience, and relational power of love forged on our marginality, since the spirit of God inspires the broken people to move toward a new vision of life. This is my hope and my conviction in my call to God in The United Church of Canada ministry - that through God’s grace and companionship, I can grow to be a faithful servant of God who serves to build a God’s beloved community where the marginal people can find their sense of belonging to and feel at their true home in God’s love.

I am excited as I look ahead to my further United Church ministry journey that is filled with God's transformative love and hope. Thank you!

LICENSED LAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Marilyn Elphick



My name is Marilyn Elphick and I belong to Fairbank United Church, in Toronto where I have been a member for almost five years. I experienced a sincere welcoming, inclusive community which allowed me to heal spiritually.

I feel God is calling me to do more in The United Church of Canada through presiding, preaching and offering spiritual care. I would like to be known as a woman of truth, authenticity and faith who continues to deepen my relationship with the Trinity.

At present, I work as a chaplain in two long term care facilities, and serve the Fairbank United church community through preaching and presiding.

RETIREES

The Reverend Carol Baggett-McKinley

I was born in Sacramento, Kentucky. I grew up with seven brothers and sister on the family farm which was passed down for several generations. I moved to Canada in the mid 1980s.

I have served in the United Church for 25 years as an ordained minister. I served at Plattsville/Washington, Queensville, Queensville-Holland Landing, Cookstown-Thornton, a contract position at Shining Waters Regional Council, and Asbury and West United Church.

I am married to Rick McKinley which has been and continues to be an adventure. I have three children Stephanie, Robert, and James, and three grandchildren, Christopher, Madison, and Laurie Ann.

I love spending time with family, travelling, gardening, and close friends. I plan to do all these things a lot more in retirement. I also plan to take up ballroom dancing.

The Reverend Cindy Cooper

I grew up at Grace United Church in Brampton, Ontario where I attended Sunday School, served a term as president of the youth group, taught Sunday School and chaired their pastoral care committee. I trained to be a primary/junior school teacher, but after two years supply teaching realized it was not for me. I then pursued becoming a Christian counsellor and began taking courses at Emmanuel College. I enjoyed the classes so much that I decided to get my M.Div. After graduating, I worked in lay ministry as a Staff Associate with the English speaking 2nd generation congregation of Toronto Korean United Church, from 1988-1991. I then served as Staff Associate in Christian Education and Pastoral Care for Centennial-Japanese United Church in Toronto from 1991-1994.

I felt a call to ordained ministry so began the process in 1994, culminating with ordination by Toronto Conference in 1997. From 1994-2006, I was the minister for the Home and Huttonville Pastoral Charge. In 2006 I returned as minister with Centennial-Japanese United Church and in 2011 became minister for both Centennial-Japanese United Church and Oriole York Mills United Church. They later amalgamated and became Bayview United Church in 2014 with whom I continued to minister until my retirement this year.

In the wider church, I served on the Toronto Conference Ethnic Ministries Committee and Youth and Young Adult committee in the early 1990s. Then I served on the presbytery and conference education and students committees, and the conference Internship Committee and Interview Board for over 20 years. It was a joy and a privilege to support many candidates through their ministry process.

I have had a full and vibrant ministry filled with inspiration, joy, sorrow, wonder, worship, service, learning, Reiki healing, grace and love. I am thankful for the opportunity to share God's love and blessings with so many wonderful people in such meaningful and positive ways. I am looking forward to the new roads I will explore in the next phase of my life.

The Reverend Hugh D. Reid

Hugh was born and raised in Hamilton, ON. His gifts as a speaker were recognized early and honed as a finalist for Ontario in the National High School Public Speaking competition held in Yellowknife, N.W.T. and as the Chair of the debating union and member of the Hart House debates committee at the University of Toronto.

He attended Victoria University, U of T and completed his Masters of Divinity at Emmanuel College, graduating with the Sanford Gold Medal in Divinity and a post-graduate fellowship. Hugh has been married to Esther for 39 years and they have two grown children, Heather an artist in Montreal and Will a nuclear engineer in Port Elgin.

Hugh has been in full time ministry for 37 years, serving three pastoral charges beginning with a three-point charge near Dunnville (South Cayuga), then Ryerson in Hamilton, and for the past 22 years, he has been coordinating minister at Kingsway-Lambton, in Etobicoke. He also served for two years as a Teaching Assistant in Systematic Theology at Emmanuel College while doing doctoral work and for a year as adjunct faculty in Pastoral Care at Emmanuel, and for many years he has been a site field educator and internship supervisor for Emmanuel College, Vancouver School of Theology, and the Atlantic School of Theology. As well as the many students he has had the privilege of working with and supervising, six individuals from the congregations he has served have gone on to ordained ministry in the United Church.

Hugh has been involved in served on many boards and agencies for social justice and theological learning. He was an early adopter and pioneer of the use of technology in worship. His articles and sermons have been published in a number of journals. He has done a great deal of anniversary and guest preaching, and led preaching and theological workshops. His grief program is employed in a number of churches. But his greatest joy in ministry is to serve the local congregation and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the beloved community.

His anticipated future in retirement is more opportunities to serve in ministry (deepening spirituality in God's lavish grace, supporting bold discipleship in the way of Jesus Christ, and serving daring justice through the humble love of the Holy Spirit). He also aspires to do more reading, golfing, travelling and learning.

His predominant feeling after 37 years in ministry is gratitude.

JUBILANDS

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

70 years	Lindsay King
65 years	Gervis Black Ewing Rae James Finlay
60 years	Ralph Garbe Karl Burden
55 years	Ross Gilroy John Harries Donald Parsons Philip Rodgers Nancy Hardy
45 years	Carolyn Miller
40 years	Patricia Gale-MacDonald Donald Gibson Robert Gillingham Peter Thompson Alan Hall Hoon Kim Colin MacDonald
35 years	Johannes Van Nie Mary Dodge Bovaird Susanne VanderLugt Marjorie Knill Joan McCalmont Dale Young Jo-Ann Marriott Karen Hilfman Millson Philip Cable Brian McIntosh
30 years	Thelma Arnott Lutia Lausane Kathryn Ariss-Pater Gretta Vosper

25 years	Barbara White Robert Wright Kenneth Ramkeesoon Ruth Noble Eiko Hosaka Carol Baggett-McKinley Martha ter Kuile Raymond Whitehead Jamie Holtom
20 years	Linda Maw Kerri Hagerman Shawn Lucas Eui-Shin Kim Richard Tamas Kathleen Taylor Elizabeth Mackenzie T. Leigh Olson Linda Kuschnik
15 years	Sheila Campbell Joan Smith Hae Bin Jung
10 years	Jeffrey Bacon Lorraine Daly-Price
5 years	Sung Ran Kim Carol-Ann Chapman Kun Young Lee Roberta Howey Tom MacNeil Gregory Daly Emma Pipes



OBITUARIES

The Reverend E. Jean Bruce (November 6, 1927 – July 13, 2022)

Jean Bruce was ordained in 1984. She served at Fairlawn United Church, Toronto, and as prison chaplain at the Metro-West Detention Centre, retiring in 1994. She was a long-time member of Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto.

She was predeceased by husband, Doug and is survived by sons, David, Michael, Steven and Peter, and two grandchildren.

The Reverend Clifford Campbell (August 23, 1923 – May 19, 2022)

Clifford Campbell was ordained in 1966. He was overseas personnel in Jamaica (various churches, Operation Friendship in the Kingston slums, Knox College), and served in Bolton (Cedar Glen Camp & Conference Centre) and Cambridge (Zion-St. Andrews). He retired in 1989 and served as Retired Supply at McKellar-Dunchurch Pastoral Charge for six years.

He is survived by his wife, Jutta Campbell, children Michael, Carolyn O'Higgins, Andy, Suzanne Bento, Sandy Boroumand, Ingrid Exner, and the late Monica and Derrick Exner, and six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend V. Marie Goodyear (August 8, 1944 – April 17, 2023)

Marie Goodyear was ordained in 1988 and served Crystal City and Clearwater Pastoral Charge, Manitoba (1988-1997) and then Deer Park United Church, in Toronto (1999-2013). Marie was instrumental in forming the Ecumenical Shared Ministry of Deer Park United and Calvin Presbyterian. She retired in 2013 after 25 years in ordained ministry.

She is survived by distant cousins, and her Deer Park church family and friends.

The Reverend Edmund Hanssmann (September 17, 1938 – November 21, 2022)

Edmund Hanssmann was ordained in 1991 and settled at the Deutsche Evangeliums Kirche Pastoral Charge where he served until his retirement in 2003.

He is survived by his wife, Beate.

The Reverend Laura Kennedy (May 10, 1925 – July 12, 2022)

Laura Kennedy was commissioned in 1987 and retired in 1992. She was a member of Islington United Church and the former South West Presbytery of Toronto Conference.

She is predeceased by her husband, Bill, and survived by her two children, John (Cathy) and Bill (Lori), five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Barbara Laing-Hiseler (July 13, 1927 – November 13, 2022)

Barbara Laing-Hiseler was ordained in 1981. She served Dashwood-Zurich, Dunwich, Central Avenue, Bethel-Cooks Mills and All People's pastoral charges. After retirement in 1994, she was very involved with Bracebridge United Church.

She is survived by her husband, Stan Hiseler, son Ron (Donna Jo), many step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Janet MacPherson (October 17, 1941 – September 30, 2022)

Janet MacPherson was commissioned in 1969. She served as overseas personnel with the United Church, at Wesley Pastoral Charge in Regina, and with the Canadian Council of Churches. She retired in 2003.

She is survived by her wife, Dr. Miriam Skey, and their three honorary grandchildren.

The Reverend Margaret Nelson (July 9, 1934 - May 10, 2022)

Margaret Nelson was commissioned in 1960. She served with the former Toronto West and South West Presbyteries of the former Toronto Conference and retired in 1999.

She is survived by her husband, Donald.

The Reverend Dr. Neil R. Parker (February 16, 1948 – April 21, 2023)

Neil Parker was ordained in 1978. He served at Brechin, Inglewood, Churchill-Gilford, Sandford-Zephyr, Kingsview (Oshawa), Holland Centre, and Ballinafad pastoral charges before retiring in 2009.

He is survived by his wife, Rev. Linda Pennock, three children, and five grandchildren.

The Reverend Walter Ridley (January 8, 1930 – February 27, 2023)

Walter was ordained in 1953 and was settled in New Brunswick. He then served as overseas ministry personnel in Japan for 10 years. In Canada, he served at Home, Huttonville, and Norval United Churches, and Presteign-Woodbine pastoral charge. After retirement in 1996, he served as Retired Supply at Cosburn and Humber Valley United Churches. He was also an active member of Metropolitan United Church in Toronto in his retirement.

He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret, and is survived by his daughters, Linda Mewett and Donna Ridley, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Warren Schell (January 10, 1946 – May 23, 2022)

Warren Schell was ordained in 1996 and served at churches in Hagersville, Trinity Newmarket, Aurora, Brown's Corners and Victoria Square pastoral charges. He retired in 2012.

He is survived by his husband, John Ross.

The Reverend Fritz Schmidt (March 14, 1925 – February 12, 2023)

Fritz Schmidt was ordained in 1958. He served congregations in Saskatchewan and Ontario until 1967 and subsequently served for 18 years in Family Ministry at the General Council Office. He retired in 1989.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda, two sons, Jonathan (Annerose) and Tim (Janice), two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Reverend Molly Thomson (October 22, 1956 – December 30, 2022)

Molly Thomson was ordained in 1990, and served at Sutton-Dunham, Brown's Corners, Victoria Square and St. Mark's, Whitby, pastoral charges. She retired in 2020.

She is survived by her children, Ian and Alex.

The Reverend Cecil Tiller (May 25, 1934 – September 17, 2022)

Cecil Tiller was ordained in 1965. He served Stouffville, Thorncliffe Park, Sandford-Zephyr, and Queensville-Holland Landing, as well as pastoral charges in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He retired in 1997.

He is survived by his children, Janice Prince (Rob), and Geoff Tiller (Stacey), and three grandchildren.

The Reverend Laurence Wood (March 13, 1953 – April 18, 2023)

Laurence Wood was ordained in 1980, and served Locks United Church in Baysville, St. Paul's in Orillia, and Westminster United Church in Orangeville. He retired in 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle, children Christal (Thomas), Mary Ellen (Rob), and Phil (Kate), and six grandchildren.



**DIGEST OF ACTIONS
THE EXECUTIVE
OF SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE PERIOD June 6, 2022 to April 27, 2023**

Decisions made by the sub-Executive June 6, 2022

1. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:

a) Church of the Master Homes Corporation

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2019-2020 Board of Directors

Elaine Dalziel

Robert Fletcher

Mathew Peltier

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Pauline Anderson

Robert Fletcher

Mathew Peltier

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Pauline Anderson

Jennifer Couthino

Robert Fletcher

Mathew Peltier

b) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Philip Armstrong

Brent Caslick

Evelyn Hill

Marg Krauter

Louise Mahood

Harry Ramsaran

Nick Walker

- c) The Toronto United Church Council
 ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of The Toronto United Church Council that the 24-30 Wertheim Court office be declared surplus, and that the incorporated ministry be allowed to sell the property.

 - d) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes
 ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes 2021-2022 Board of Directors
 - David Almack
 - Trevins Fonseka
 - Neil Harris
 - Bridie Lane
 - Tony Lo
 - Jim McArthur
 - Bob Pomeroy
 - Patricia Shearer
 - Jane Warwood
2. that on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the sub-Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the nomination of Ralph Dunham, Rev. Susan Eagle, Lorice Haig, Wendy Jarvis, Robin Pilkey and Ron Wigle as members of Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) with a three-year term from 2022 to 2025.
 3. that on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the sub-Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the nomination of the following Directors of Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation with various terms: Harry Ramsaran (2022 to 2026), John Barr (2022 to 2026), and Bill Jermyn (2022 to 2025), filling a vacancy from June 2021.
 4. that the sub-Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Terms of Reference of the Shining Waters Region Fund as presented.
 5. that the Shining Waters Regional Council sub-Executive accept the proposal of Dale Hildebrand to move his work hours to 60% time starting September 1, 2022.
 6. that the Shining Waters Regional Council sub-Executive accept the proposal of the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive to partner with Shining Waters Regional Council in hiring a full-time administrative position to serve both the Canadian Shield Regional Council and the Shining Waters Regional Council as outlined in the confidential Proposed Staff Changes Chart dated May 30, 2022.
 7. that the Shining Waters Regional Council sub-Executive negotiate with North Bramalea United Church to host the 2023 regional council meeting.

Decisions made by the Executive September 7, 2022

8. approved the draft 2020 Financial Statement as presented.
9. approved David Leyton-Brown, Past President, to complete the current term of President Betty Lou McNabb, due to her resignation, effective May 29, 2022.
10. the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission for November 2021 through April 2022 be received for information.
11. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:
 - a) Central King Seniors Residence
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2021-2022 Board of Directors
Mary Louise Ashbourne
Carla Cronier
Alex Gribben
David Hewitt
Joyce Klamer
Jon Lee
Taye Maddison
Lang Moffat
Stephen Mogford
Bob Putnam
Kathy Steiner

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2022-2023 Board of Directors
Mary Louise Ashbourne
Alex Gribben
David Hewitt
Joyce Klamer
Taye Maddison
Lang Moffat
Stephen Mogford
Bob Putnam
Kathy Steiner
 - b) Church of the Master Homes Corporation
.....pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2022-2023 Board of Directors
Pauline Anderson
Jennifer Couthino
Robert Fletcher
Mathew Peltier

c) Fred Victor Centre

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada
approve the Fred Victor Centre 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Chris Anastasopoulos
Anne Bell
Sandra Bennett
Neill Carson
Deane Collinson
Nancy Easton
Michele Erskine
David Estabrooks
Andrew Gray
John Hinds
Jawad Kassab
Ken McKinnon
Muwanguzi Ssebaggala
Christina Topp

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada
approve the Fred Victor Centre 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Chris Anastasopoulos
Anne Bell
Sandra Bennett
Neill Carson
Mardi Daley
Nancy Easton
Michele Erskine
David Estabrooks
John Hinds
Jawad Kassab
Ken McKinnon
Anju Nair
Prossy Nambatya
Muwanguzi Ssebaggala
Christina Topp

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada
grant permission for Fred Victor Centre to enter into an offer to lease with the City
of Toronto (the “Offer to Lease”) with respect to the lease of a building located at
4626 Kingston Road, Toronto for the purposes of providing affordable housing and,
in connection therewith, and enter into a lease (the “Lease”) and a contribution
agreement (the “Contribution Agreement”), both with the City of Toronto as
approved by the Fred Victor Centre Board of Directors on July 8, 2022.

- d) Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation
...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve By-Law Number 1 (version 5) dated December 14, 2020 superseding the version dated June 10, 2019 as approved by the members on December 14, 2020 of the incorporated ministry known as Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation.
- e) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes
...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes 2022-2023 Board of Directors
 - David Almack
 - Trevins Fonseka
 - Neil Harris
 - Bridie Lane
 - Tony Lo
 - Jim McArthur
 - Bob Pomeroy
 - Patricia Shearer
 - Jane Warwood

12. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:

- a) Church of the Master
... remove Anne Shirley Sutherland, Jack McLean, Clyde Harris and Sharon Aylsworth as Trustees for Church of the Master United Church, 3385 Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough, ON with thanks for their service, appoint Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett and confirm Jody Maltby as Trustees.
- b) Dunkerron
... remove Christine Smaller and Harry Ramsaran as Trustees for Dunkerron United Church with thanks for their service, appoint Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett and confirm Jody Maltby as Trustees.
- c) Locust Hill
... remove Harry Ramsaran as a Trustee of Locust Hill United Church, 8847 Reesor Road, Markham, ON with thanks for his service, appoint Chris Bennett and confirm Janet MacDonald and Jody Maltby as Trustees.
- d) Regent Park
... remove Shirley Baster, Jim Keenan and Harry Ramsaran as Trustees for Regent Park United Church, 175 Oxford Street, Orillia, ON, with thanks for their service, appoint Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett and confirm Jody Maltby as Trustees.

e) West Ellesmere

... remove Randy Naylor as Trustees of West Ellesmere United Church, 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough, ON with thanks for his service, appoint Chris Bennett and confirm Janet MacDonald and Jody Maltby as Trustees.

f) Wexford Heights

... remove Diane Bennet-Jones and Christine Smaller as Trustees for Wexford Heights United Church, 2102 Lawrence Ave East, Scarborough, ON with thanks for their service, appoint Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett and confirm Jody Maltby as Trustees.

... remove Christine Smaller and Kelly Cook as Trustees for the Wexford Heights United Church Cemetery with thanks for their service, appoint Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett and confirm Jody Maltby as Trustees.

g) Appoint Chris Bennett, Janet MacDonald and Jody Maltby as Trustees of the following churches and remove any Trustees previously named by the former congregations that have ceased to exist:

- Ardtrea United Church, 3601 Menoke Beach Road, Orillia, ON
- Coulson United Church, 343 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Oro Township, Oro-Medonte
- Don Mills United Church, 126 O'Connor Drive, East York, ON
- Guthrie United Church, 59 Line 4 North, Oro-Medonte, ON
- Heritage United Church, 3332 Muskoka Street, Washago, ON
- Hobart United Church, 4590 Line 6 North, Oro Township, Oro-Medonte, ON
- Little Brick Church, 402 Ridge Road West at Line 6 S, Oro Station, Oro-Medonte, ON
- Meadowvale Korean United Church, 1010 Old Derry Road, Mississauga, ON
- Minesing United Church, 1662 George Johnston Road, Minesing, ON
- Newton Robinson United Church, Highway 27 at 10th Line, Bradford, West Gwillimbury Township, ON
- Peaches United Church, 10762 McCowan Road, Markham, ON
- Wilmar Heights United Church, 967 Pharmacy Avenue, Scarborough, ON

13. that the Executive receive the Clergy Peer Learning Group Program proposal from the Pastoral Relations Commission for information with the Executive's support and appreciation for the commission's work.
14. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council request the Intercultural Diversity Commission to look into the request from Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and make a recommendation to the Executive on how to proceed.
15. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the Pastoral Relations Commission Marriage License Policy revised June 14, 2022 for information.
16. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the Shining Waters Indigenous Fund to the National Indigenous Church.

Decisions made by the Executive October 24, 2022

17. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the proposed Regional Council Executive: Finance Committee Policy as presented.

18. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:

a) Camp Ahshunyoong operating as Camp Big Canoe

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp Ahshunyoong operating as Camp Big Canoe 2020-2021 Board of Directors

David Bell
David Berton
Doug Clark
Patricia Clark
Laurie Cook
Heather Dahmer
John Dinner
Constance Dupuis
Vicki Greenwood
Jeremy Hyde
Katherine Leaman
Alexa Nemfield
Lisa Osburn
Scott Taylor
Sue Williams

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Camp Ahshunyoong operating as Camp Big Canoe 2021-2022 Board of Directors

David Berton
Doug Clark
Patricia Clark
Laurie Cook
Heather Dahmer
John Dinner
Vicki Greenwood
Jeremy Hyde
Katherine Leaman
Alexa Nemfield
Lisa Osburn
Scott Taylor
Chris Tindal
Sue Williams

- b) Grace Place Community Resource Centre
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Grace Place Community Resource Centre 2020-2021 Board of Directors
Kathleen Armitage-Peddle
Daniel Clark
C. Jean Jamieson
Robert Reilly
Stephen Rhodes
Cameron Welsh
- c) Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes
...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the additional members of the Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes 2022-2023 Board of Directors
Frances Grego
Joanne McArthur
Ty Yusko

19. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council set the Celebration of Ministries service to be held on May 28, 2023.
20. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve and authorize that Heritage United Church, 3332 Muskoka Street, Washago, ON L0K 2B0, be listed for sale.
21. that the Shining Waters Regional Council sub-executive for 2022-23 consist of David Leyton-Brown (President), Tina Conlon (President-Elect, Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), and Allan Holditch, Bri-anne Swan and Steven Loweth.

Decisions made by the Executive December 8, 2022

22. that because of a conflict of interest, and to ensure fair process, the complaint received by Shining Waters Regional Council from Ms. Lee-Ann Turner be referred to Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Executive Minister of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. Rev. Stadelbauer-Sampa and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council will follow the procedures outlined in The United Church of Canada's Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy (<https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/harassment-policy.pdf>)
23. that the Executive receive the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission for January through September 2022 for information.
24. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:
- a) Grace Place Community Resource Centre
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Grace Place Community Resource Centre 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Kathleen Armitage-Peddle
C. Jean Jamieson
Chris Moon
Robert Reilly
Stephen Rhodes
Cameron Welsh

- b) Ina Grafton Gage Home of Toronto
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Ina Grafton Gage Home of Toronto 2022-2023 Board of Directors
Thérèse Culnan
David Dicks
Pamela Gauci
Charles Hain
- c) The Massey Centre for Women
...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada grant permission to The Massey Centre for Women to renew Scotia Mortgage Corporation mortgage of \$980,440.88 for a term of five years at 1.628% effective April 1, 2021.
- ...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada and further to the prior consent recorded in the March 23, 2021 Shining Waters Executive Minutes approve the Final Amalgamation Agreement between The Massey Centre for Women and Humewood House Association approved by the members of The Massey Centre for Women on May 5, 2021.
- ...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve By-Law Number 2021-1 and the Letters Patent of the amalgamated incorporated ministry known as The Massey Centre For Women.
- ... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Massey Centre for Women 2021-2022 Board of Directors
Jessica Amey
Alana Buckley
Jennifer Dockery
Justine Humphries
Breann Kirincich
Anika Mehta
Mitze Mourinho
Jalpa Patel
Elena Simonetta
Rachel Solomon
Catherine Wang
Stephanie Wang

- d) The Massey Centre for Women and Toronto United Church Council
...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, grant permission to The Massey Centre for Women and Toronto United Church Council to renew mortgage of up to \$137,357 for a term of three years effective January 1, 2023.
- e) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation
...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2022-2023 Board of Directors
 - Philip Armstrong
 - John Barr
 - Brent Caslick
 - Bill Jermyn
 - Marg Krauter
 - Louise Mahood
 - Harry Ramsaran
 - Nick Walker

- 25. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the recommendations of the Grants and Mission Support Committee as presented, recommend the Net Annual Revenue grant applications to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation for consideration, recommend the 5% Capital grant applications to the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation, recommend the St. Enoch's Fund grant applications to Toronto United Church Council, and recommend the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund application to Toronto United Church Council.
- 26. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the recommendation of the Grants and Mission Support Committee to the release of the second year of funding to the community ministries of Davenport-Perth, Jane Finch and Regent Park.
- 27. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the 2023 Budget as presented.
- 28. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council accept the Executive Minister Update/Report as information.

Decisions made by the Executive February 6, 2023

- 29. that pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approved the Articles of the Corporation of The Massey Centre for Women be amended to change the name of the Corporation from The Massey Centre for Women to Abiona Centre.
- 30. that the Executive receive the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for April through November 2022 for information.

31. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:

a) Beginning Again Richmond Hill

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Beginning Again Richmond Hill 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Shahin Akter
Elizabeth Jack
Andra Saunders
John Squigna
Carol Thompson
Melville Thompson

Beginning Again held Liability insurance with Hub from December 1, 2020 to December 1, 2021 with The United Church of Canada named as an additional insured, but no directors' and officers' coverage. They have not purchased insurance since this expired. This incorporated ministry is not in compliance with the policy, but are anticipating a decision to dissolve in the near future.

b) Fred Victor Centre

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre to renew the 40 Oak Street mortgage with Infrastructure Ontario with a five-year term and an amortization over 18 years, including a debt reduction of \$650,000 to be paid August 29, 2022 at the rate of 4.08%, as approved by the Fred Victor Centre Board of Directors on August 23, 2022.

c) Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Jean-Marie Boutot
Monica Djebah
Myrtle Hardware
Eleni Marino
Lang Moffat
Iqbal Singh
Kenny Stier
Barbara Stone
Wendy Whiteley

32. that the email correspondence from Robin Wardlaw, Chair of the Palestine Network from January 24, 2023 be received, for information.

33. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the changes to the *Regional Council Executive and Communities of Faith Commission: Property Policy* as presented.

34. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the changes to the *Executive Minister: Incorporated Ministries Policy* as presented.
35. that on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve these members for the Finance Committee: Bruce Chappell, Allan Holditch, Paul Kim, Wendy Jarvis, Elizabeth Herrema.
36. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council instruct Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), in partnership with Shining Waters Regional Council, to sell Cheltenham United Church, Cheltenham, and Trillium United Church, Caledon and that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council gives thanks for the ministry of Cheltenham United Church, Cheltenham and Trillium United Church, Caledon.

Decisions made by the Executive March 27, 2023

37. that pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Beginning Again Richmond Hill to dissolve the corporation and begin the winding up of the charity per its decision February 11, 2023
38. that pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Articles of the Corporation be amended to change the name of the Corporation from The Massey Centre for Women to Abiona Centre For Infant & Early Mental Health.
39. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the hiring of a co-ordinator for the Canada Summer Jobs program students for 2023, with a budget of \$15,000.
40. that the Executive receive the Minutes of the Intercultural Diversity Commission for March 2023 through January 2023 for information.
41. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:
 - a) Church of the Master Homes Corporation
.....pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Church of the Master Homes Corporation 2023-2024 Board of Directors
Pauline
Anderson
Jennifer
Couthino
Robert Fletcher
Mathew Peltier
 - b) Grace Place Community Resource Centre
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Grace Place Community Resource Centre 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Kathleen Armitage-Peddle
Daniel Clark
Linda Davis
C. Jean Jamieson
Chris Moon
Robert Reilly

c) The Massey Centre for Women

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve By-Law Number 2022-1 of the incorporated ministry known as The Massey Centre for Women.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Massey Centre for Women 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Edam Akan
Jessica Amey
Alana Buckley
Beth Dewitt
Justine Humphries
Breann Kirincich
Michael Kuske
Anika Mehta
Mitze Mourinho
Jalpa Patel
Elena Simonetta
Catherine Wang
Stephanie Wang

d) Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Michelle Black
Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Anne Forsey
Stephen Forsey
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Eric McFarland
Janet McFarland
Kim Niece
Barry Rieder
Ellen Weir

Mark Winger

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Paul Foley
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Samantha Misner
Katie Mutton
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

42. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the recommendation from the Communities of Faith Commission to sell Sandhill United Church (Caledon, ON).
43. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive expresses deep appreciation for the many years of service of the community and ministry of Sandhill United Church and that a letter will be sent to Sandhill UC expressing that sentiment.
44. that Shining Waters Regional Council wants to create a safe environment for all people at the 2023 in-person regional council meeting, therefore, the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive encourages mask wearing and Covid testing.
45. that in order to limit the number of people at the Celebration of Ministry Service, Shining Waters Regional Council encourage members to join online for the service unless there is a direct relationship or connection with the candidate.
46. that Shining Waters Regional Council reimburse our new Community of Faith and Pastoral Relations Support Minister, when hired, for basic moving expenses if applicable.

Decisions made by the Executive April 27, 2023

47. that the 2021 Shining Waters Regional Council Draft Audit be approved, as presented.
48. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the sale of the West Ellesmere property to Qudus Michael Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church, for a purchase price of \$5,800,000, closing March 30, 2023, as recommended by Toronto United Church Council (TUCC).
49. that the Executive receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission for May 2022 through March 2023, for information.
50. that the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive take the following actions:

- a) Simcoe Presbytery Camp o/a Camp Simpresca
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Simcoe Presbytery Camp 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Brian Cooper
Lucas Cooper
Paul Cooper
Sarah Draper
Colin Elliott
Peter Fairman
Sarah Fairman
Ryan O'Hearn
Taylor Poulin

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NUMBER ONE of the incorporated ministry known as Simcoe Presbytery Camp operating as Camp Simpresca.

- b) Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc.
... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the Sparrow Lake United Church Camp, Inc. 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Christopher Fickel
Paul Foley
Janice Franklin
William Grove
Lee Holland
Samantha Misner
Katherine Mutton
Ellen Weir
Mark Winger

51. that the proposed changes to the Pastoral Relations Commission Policy for Members be as follows: A Chair and six to ten members to allow for some regional representation with a balance of ministry personnel and laity to work with the Pastoral Relations Ministers, to include one person who is a pastoral relations liaison to be named by the Pastoral Relations Commission.
52. that the signing officers for all Bank Accounts at the Bank of Montreal and BMO Nesbitt Burns for Shining Waters Regional Council be Susan Whitehead, Janet MacDonald, Jody Maltby, and Kathleen Wolfe effective June 1, 2023.
53. that after reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils, the Shining Waters Executive direct the President to sign

the MOU.

54. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council receive the Executive Minister Report, for information.
55. that the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council recommend the preliminary draft budget for 2024 to the Regional Council Meeting for approval.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Regional Meeting Report

Our regional meeting theme for this year is *So What? Faith in Action*. This has been a challenging third year for the regional council (Covid related), communities of faith and The United Church of Canada as we live out our new Covid reality. Staff and volunteers have worked countless hours preparing, changing, experimenting, and succeeding in continuing as Church in new and creative ways. As an Executive, we have heard stories of sacrifice, perseverance, hope, success and also deep fatigue. We have also heard stories of worry, stress, frustration and struggle. As a region, as community, we give thanks, we continue to be on a long journey together; we celebrate the resilience of our churches and the expression of the Gospel in many new and creative ways. Reflecting on pandemic experience raises many questions about how we approach ministry, how we serve each other, and finally our role as a Church in society.

Connecting within our Regional Council

This past year many of our communities of faith, outreach ministries, and camps have struggled figuring out our new normal! Folks have used their phones, mail, video (Zoom/YouTube) for church. Most communities of faith have returned to offering in-person worship and many have continued offering live streaming too. We have continued a ministry of caring and support, and we have continued in new and creative ways. Volunteers, music leaders, ministry personnel, camp staff, outreach staff, and congregational support staff have all worked tirelessly.

As a regional council, the region has hosted Zoom gatherings for both Ministry Personnel and Lay Leaders for support, updates and education. Our website/newsletter continues to be a key tool for communication within our regional council. Many local, and a few regional, networks and local groups have also met to connect, learn, challenge, listen, and work together. The Executive also celebrates the significant work of the regional council commissions and networks/clusters and informal gatherings of United Church folks/community members.

Work of the Regional Executive

Our Executive meets monthly (with the exception of the summer) and does the work of the regional council when our region is not meeting (C.3.1.1). Often the Executive has a very full agenda which includes oversight of the regional commissions, regional finances, regional policy, regional meeting, emerging work, and the Executive Minister and staff.

The draft 2023 budget will be presented at our regional council meeting. This past year's spending reflects an unusual year with Covid-19. Staff travel has been down dramatically but support to communities of faith increased. We continue with a 5-year budget projection, a requirement of our bylaws, to be updated yearly.

Part of our work as a regional council is to develop more dependable income to support the work of the regional council and the work of granting by the regional council. In 2020, we joined in on a formal partnership with Kindred Works (formally the United Property Resource Corp.) to develop rather than sell property. The property would create housing (including affordable housing), regular income, and some regional community space for the regional council. Our first project will break ground late spring 2023 in Orillia, with other projects starting in the months and years to come.

Monthly Work of the Regional Council Executive

If you are interested in a detailed account and overview of the work of the regional council Executive, please see the Digest of Actions, which will be received for information at our regional council meeting. The digest offers an itemized account of the regional council Executive since our last regional council meeting. It also gives you an idea of the monthly variety and work of our Executive. We have also added a new link to our webpage which offers a close look at our finances in one location, including audited statements as they are completed by the auditors. Covid-19 has slowed our audits as the auditors prefer in-person meetings, however, we have made significant progress in 2023.

Working towards Right Relations, Anti-Racism and Equity

The United Church of Canada is working towards becoming an anti-racist institution. For the United Church it means encouraging the General Council office, regional council offices and communities of faith, and even Canadian society to pause and reflect. The United Church has allocated staffing and resources for both General Council staff, regional staff, and Ministry personnel. The United Church is offering training, learning opportunities, and discussion groups as part of a strategy of becoming an anti-racist Church. Practically, the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council staff have joined together on a one-year journey of reflecting, learning, re-learning history, theological reflection, and discussion on how to become an anti-racist Church and work towards right relationship. Staff from both regions meet together bi-weekly to talk, learn, challenge, pray, reflect, and discuss on a path toward becoming an anti-racist church.

Both regional councils have encouraged equity conversations at the Executive level, commission and committee levels of the church. The regional council continues to lift up our commitment to equity across our work. We are beginning to live into our new pattern of equity leads being named by each commission.

We continue to work at and celebrate Shining Waters Regional Council as an Affirming regional council and support community of faith conversations too!!!!

Staffing

In 2022/2023, we saw more transition of staff in our regional council. Susie Henderson decided to leave Shining Waters Regional Council in December of 2022, as she explores new work. Susie served as Communities of Faith Minister for Equity and Innovation. Rachael Howes will transition into retirement at the end of May 2023, where Susan Whitehead will become the sole Executive Minister's Administrative Support staff. Dale Hildebrand transitioned to part-time in 2022 and will fully retire in 2024 (date still tbd). I have deeply appreciated Rachael and Dale's work with the regional council and they will be missed. In 2023, in anticipation of Rachael's retirement, we hired Kathleen Wolfe, administrative support. We also added Celio de Andrade Santos Jr., administrative support, as a way of supporting program staff and working with less program staff for the regional council. Celio and Kathleen will work for both Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield Regional Council.

I continue to deeply appreciate working with Jody, Susie, Jeffery, Kim, Dale, Todd, Celio, Donna, Rachael, Susan and Kathleen. We are blessed with incredible staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year. Thank you!!!! I am also grateful for our Executive and President David Leyton-Brown who have provided attentive leadership throughout this year. Thank you!!! David returned as President to finish the term for Betty Lou McNabb, who needed to resign for personal reasons.

2023 marks the start of the implementation of The United Church of Canada (UCC) Strategic Plan (2023-2025). Sharing the introduction of the UCC Strategic Plan (found on the UCC website) it states:

"In partnership with regions and the Indigenous Church, the national ministry will dedicate focus, energy, and resources to revitalizing the church towards a vibrant future. We will renew by strengthening existing communities of faith towards transformation. We will create by encouraging the development and sustainability of 100 new communities of faith, with a particular focus on churches that serve migrant communities. And we will invite by investing in sharing our unique witness with neighbours across the country and encouraging participation in our ministries, communities, and campaigns. This passion for growth will be enabled by leadership development, supported by denomination-wide strengths, fostered by justice campaigns and climate initiatives, and realized alongside Indigenous pathways. Our priority plan pulls key activities in each of these strategic objectives into service towards dynamic growth. Daring Justice. This is our Call, grounded in our statements of faith, right relations commitment, and core values, but articulated anew for this time. Along with our Call, is a Vision to become "a bold, connected, and evolving church" as disciples of Jesus in this place."

(The United Church of Canada Strategic plan 2023-2025 document)

In the near future, the General Council office, in consultation with the regional councils, will hire six (6) Growth Animators (full time positions) to support the work of growth and renewal for The United Church of Canada.

The strategic plan has much more detail! See The United Church of Canada website for the most up-to-date details.

As we look forward, I give thanks for the support of my family this past year. I give thanks to God for the grace of community, the love and support of the Spirit, and the message of God's love and grace through Jesus Christ, which has provided incredible hope during a very challenging year.

Peter Hartmans (Rev.)
Executive Minister

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

The mainstay of the Communities of Faith Commission's work continues to be approvals related to loans, lease agreements, sale of property, governance changes, property development, and collaboration agreements. This year we continued to share much of this work across task groups that consider these approvals and we are grateful for the work that members put in between monthly meetings of the full commission. At those meetings we have been able to consider how the commission can support the strategic direction of the church and region and take time with policy issues that effect all communities of faith.

In the summer of 2022, the Commission started to lay out activities that would support the goals we discerned during our strategic planning in the spring. As set out in the commission's report last year, our priority goals included: strengthening connection between communities of faith and the Shining Waters Regional Council; connecting rural and small ministries for resource sharing, and helping small/rural communities of faith imagine new possibilities for ministry.

Some of our work this year has been to advance the direction of "deepening connection" with the goal of "strengthening connections between communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council." In the summer a survey was conducted to better understand needs from the perspective of leaders in communities of faith. A strong sentiment that came through was that of disconnection from the region and each other. It was clear that some of the first work in deepening connection would be re-introductions and familiarization with the region. In the fall we conducted the first of our "*Let's Connect*" sessions that was framed as a region 101 session. This has been followed by a session in February where Jennifer Henry provided information on the United Church Strategic Plan. Further sessions will be scheduled for later in the spring and summer.

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure currency and relevance of regional policies, the commission undertook a review and modest updates to the Property Policy this year.

The United Church and the communities of faith across the denomination have been reckoning with declining attendance and contributions along with flagging energy among lay leaders for many years. These challenges were amplified over the years of the pandemic. As we emerge from this, most communities of faith are taking steps to discern the path forward – often facing difficult decisions about viability. Working to support communities of faith navigate these challenging discussions has been a focus of the commission. Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) is one method for congregations to do this discernment and in this past year we have seen three more congregations in our region embark on this process. The commission's purpose through the IIM Committee is to provide support to our interim ministers, the regional reps appointed to serve on transition teams, and to partner with the Communities of Faith Commission to support congregations in the Intentional Interim Ministry process. The IIM Committee has been considering how it can provide a wider range of supports to congregations in transition to make the process more accessible and to support a wider range of needs in the region.

Amalgamation is another option that some congregations will see as a possible path for the future. Staff at the commission are developing reference tools to help congregations who wish to consider amalgamation as part of their path forward. Since last spring the commission has approved three amalgamations in the region.

This past October the commission met together with the Pastoral Relations Commission to discuss issues of common interest and how we could help each other meet our respective mandates. We discussed the challenges and opportunities of lay led congregations, how to bring an equity lens to the Living Faith Story, how intentional interim ministry can contribute as described above, and supporting communities of faith as they close. This meeting highlighted how our mandates overlap and further collaboration opportunities emerged from this meeting.

Another initiative that has occupied the attention of the commission is the working group that was struck to build a proposal to address concerns around sustainability of community ministries in the region. The work of this committee, ably shepherded by Jeffrey Dale, resulted in proposals that address sustainability for community ministry, bring greater attention to this form of ministry, and build an understanding of how community ministry can be incorporated more fully into the future directions for all communities of faith in the region.

The Commission expresses gratitude to the leadership of communities of faith in these challenging times. As noted above, many communities are discerning futures that will include difficult conversations and decisions. Know that in the course of our work this year, we have also seen new opportunities and new hope in communities throughout the region. We give thanks for your faithfulness and resilience, and we will strive to accompany you along the way.

As chair, I am grateful for the dedication and skill of the staff who support the work of the commission and the communities of faith throughout the region; and to the commission members who bring wisdom and commitment to all the discussions and decisions we face.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Bennett, Chair

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

(Galatians 3:28)

The purpose of the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC), as stated in the terms of reference, is as follows:

The Pastoral Relations Commission will set policy and give direction within their mandate.

The Pastoral Relations Commission will provide support for ministry personnel throughout their ministry, including equipping, covenanting, pastoral relationships and retirement.

In reality, this involves things such as: co-operating with communities of faith in recruiting, choosing, calling, appointing, and covenanting with ministry personnel and communities of faith; ending calls, appointments, and covenants with ministry personnel; appointing a regional council liaison to assist a community of faith in pastoral relations matters at designated times. We are also responsible for encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice; and assisting with informal conflict resolution processes. This responsibility is shared with the Communities of Faith Commission.

Currently, the Pastoral Relations Commission meets monthly on Zoom, although our June meeting was held in-person, and our October meeting was also an in-person meeting held with the Communities of Faith Commission. At each of our meetings we review a list of calls and appointments, and at times license those needing to administer the sacraments; we review requests for a change of pastoral relations; and we review recommendations from the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) Committee for licensed lay worship leaders and respond to requests for Voluntary Associate Minister status. We also set and review policies which guide pastoral relations work in the region and receive the staff reports. Some of the other annual highlights from our meetings have been:

- a) the Marriage License Policy was reviewed
- b) the annual telephone allowance was reviewed
- c) it was agreed that financial support for gatherings of retirees could be provided from our budget
- d) a proposal for Clergy Peer Learning Groups was approved
- e) a new Flourish Advisory Group was approved
- f) a budget for the commission for the year 2023 was recommended to the regional council
- g) the purpose of the Pastoral Relations Commission was reviewed
- h) Jill Strapp, on behalf of Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), presented a report re: the Ministry Team Development and Orientation Program required for new ministry teams in long-term pastoral relationships
- i) Kellie McComb, Office of Vocations, presented & answered questions about the Supervised Ministry Education (SME) process

One piece of ongoing work for the commission is the work on the Equity Project received at our meeting in June, 2021. The Equity Task Group appointed to work with the results, brought forward a complete work plan in June, 2022, and the commission continues to work on the project. Here is what the commission accomplished since the last annual meeting of the regional council.

- An Equity Advocate responsibility description was created in consultation with the pastoral relations liaisons. The Equity Advocate, a member of the search team, seeks to ensure equity concerns are addressed during a search process.
- A template position description for a ministry personnel that is available to search teams was revised to encourage equity commitments.
- Pastoral Relations and Communities of Faith Commissions met to talk about applying an equity lens for the creation of Living Faith Stories.
- An enhanced equity training module for search teams was presented to pastoral relations liaisons for search team training purposes.

Thank you to everyone who has served as a pastoral relations liaison or pastoral charge supervisor during the past year. Your support, service and care in assisting the ministry of Shining Waters Regional Council has been most appreciated.

I want to thank the members of the Pastoral Relations Commission for all of their work throughout this year. The members of the commission are: Andrew Comar (ordered); William Haughton (ordered); Barbara Hendren (lay); Sung Ran Kim (ordered); Deirdre Lawrence (lay); Liz Mackenzie (ordered); Beth Moore (lay); Lawrence Nyarko (ordered); Robin Pilkey (lay); Paul Stott (lay); Donna Bowman-Woodall (ordered). Your willingness to give so freely of your time, expertise and diverse perspectives is greatly appreciated.

The ministry of the Pastoral Relations Commission and the work of the chair is supported by a faithful and dedicated staff team. I offer heartfelt thanks to Donna Rutz, our staff administrative support who keeps us on track, ensuring paperwork is organized, minutes are recorded, and details are attended to. Sincere thanks also to Rev. Todd McDonald, and Dale Hildebrand, our Pastoral Relations Ministers, whose wisdom, advice, and care has supported the commission beyond measure.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Bowman-Woodall (Rev.), Chair

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission carries out its work under the following mandate: *The Social and Ecological Justice Commission will encourage, support, and initiate social and ecological justice work within Shining Waters Regional Council, which encompasses but is not limited to anti-racism and becoming a critical intercultural church of justice.*

Currently the Commission is composed of eight members and during the past year met monthly in person or by Zoom except for July, August and December. The following areas of concern were addressed:

POVERTY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Election Action:

- Provincial election materials prepared by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) were made available to communities of faith with an invitation to use these materials for dialogue with members of churches and in all-candidates' meetings.
- Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) Lawn Signs were made available to communities of faith to be used during both the provincial and municipal elections to raise awareness about the desperate need for basic income to allow people to have food and shelter.

Dialogue with Elected Leaders:

- As follow-up to a resolution approved by the regional meeting, a letter was sent to Premier Doug Ford as well as several cabinet ministers and leaders of opposition parties from President Betty Lou McNabb, calling on the province to initiate a three-year plan to raise social assistance rates to a level above the Market Basket level of poverty, and immediately raise social assistance rates to the deep poverty threshold of the Market Basket Measure. Also, calling on the Government of Ontario to immediately: index Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates to inflation, and to collapse the basic amount and shelter allowance into a standard flat rate benefit.

Poverty Advocates:

- Letter sent to communities of faith with a request that each community of faith identify a poverty advocate to work with the Social and Ecological Justice Commission. (Letters sent a couple of times)
- Meeting of Poverty Advocates from communities of faith to get a pulse of where congregations are, what concerns they have and to know how to collect and share information. Housing and homelessness were identified as high priorities across Shining Waters region.

Partnerships

- The Commission maintains membership and/or partnerships with ISARC and the national GLI committee. It has also initiated contact with the Ontario Health Coalition. In this way the Commission can receive current information and participate in strategies to respond to issues.

ISARC pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs was shared with United Church advocacy contacts.

GLI work with municipal councils is being used to support GLI proposal being brought to regional council meeting.

- The Commission is working with its social and ecological justice counterparts in other United Church regions through Social Justice Network of Ontario Regions (SJNOR) to implement an initiative of creating a social justice liaison position with the provincial government.

Housing Issues

- The Commission endorsed a letter to Barrie City Council from the Barrie Homelessness & Housing Justice Network.
- The Commission prepared a submission to the provincial government's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy in opposition to Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster*, identifying negative impacts for both affordable housing and the environment and also questioning the timing and the process. The submission was signed by Shining Waters Regional Council President, David Leyton-Brown. The submission was also sent to Premier Doug Ford, opposition party leaders, and ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Natural Resources and Forestry. It was also made available to communities of faith.

ENVIRONMENT

Education:

- The Commission spent time last summer learning more about environmental issues.

Information Sessions:

- The Commission held two information sessions during the year to assist communities of faith in working toward the goal of implementing the General Council resolution to decrease carbon emissions by 80% by 2030: *Committed to Climate Action: How to Reach 80% Emissions Reduction by 2030* (November 2022) and *Near Net Zero by 2030? Retrofitting Church Buildings with Minimal Resources* (March 2023)
- Two more information sessions are planned for:
June 21, 2023: Green design (concepts such as renewable energy, transportation initiatives, food waste, gardening, etc.)
November 4, 2023: Community engagement (can include advocacy, inspiring and connecting people outside the church building)
- The Environment Sub-Committee is preparing an environmental presentation for the regional meeting, May 26-28, 2023.

Advocacy and Action:

- The commission has encouraged workshop participants to hold meetings in their churches and invite municipal, provincial, and federal elected leaders as well as environmental leaders in

their area and community. The focus of the conversation is to acknowledge that there is a crisis and consider actions that can be taken locally.

- The commission is looking to find ways in which data collection and sharing can be facilitated to assist communities of faith with these conversations.
- The commission is also initiating work on a children's environment curriculum for Sunday Schools and youth education, which is age appropriate and respectful of different environments such as urban and rural, Indigenous, etc. including equity issues.

HARM REDUCTION

- The commission has received requests from communities of faith for support in learning more about harm reduction. Budget has been allocated and staff work is being done to prepare a congregational workshop on harm reduction and naloxone training. Interest has been expressed by other regional councils to develop this as a multi-regional effort.

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

- During the past year the commission sponsored attendance at a United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI) conference and assisted with budget for honoraria.
- It is providing financial support for a November 2023 webinar series, *Palestine: Resistance Through Art*.
- It is also providing up to \$4,000 to assist four first-time attendees from within Shining Waters to participate in an exposure tour being promoted by Palestine Network for this fall.
- The commission is seeking new ways to relate to, and work with, the regional network, PalNet.

UPCOMING:

- The commission, in reviewing its work, has identified some ways in which its work might be strengthened:
 - a more interactive relationship with other commissions and the executive;
 - better knowledge of, and access to, local media to support advocacy by communities of faith.
- The commission has ordered Shining Waters Regional Council banners which will be available for communities of faith hosting or participating in local events.
- The commission is considering the following work:
 - responding to an expressed interest in facilitating a liturgy-writing workshop;
 - organizing another mid-winter event;
 - giving more focus to Calls to Action and progress made in responding to them;
 - creation of art around justice themes.

Questions:

What further resources do communities of faith wish to have to enable education and advocacy work in local justice initiatives?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We continue to use the named regional council priorities of racial justice and ecological justice as the lenses through which all justice work is approached, as we address issues of homelessness/need for affordable housing, income security and environmental challenges.

We are grateful to staff, Jeffrey Dale, Kim Uyede-Kai, Rachael Howes, and Celio de Andrade Santos for resource leadership and administrative support. We could not do our work without the strong support of the staff team.

We wish Rachael Howes all the best as she retires from her work with us. Our thanks, also, to Tina Conlon and Bruce Sweet, who served on the commission this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Susan Eagle, Chair

on behalf of Commission members: Lois Brown, Esther Collier, Don Ford, Jennifer Gordon, Irene Green, Won Hur, and Brian McIntosh.

INTERCULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMISSION

The purpose of the Intercultural Diversity Commission is to encourage and engage the Shining Waters Regional Council, its Executive and commissions, and its communities of faith in honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry. The Commission has been meeting since September 2021.

The elected members are made up of seven people who speak from a diversity of experiences, ethno/cultural backgrounds and languages. At each meeting, members share what is happening in their local contexts as well as significant moments in their cultural history so that their Commission work stays grounded in ethno-cultural and church experiences. The Commission continues to discern and explore how Shining Waters Regional Council is called to live into becoming an intercultural and anti-racist region in the denomination.

Relationship is foundational to intercultural ministry in Shining Waters. When there is deep sharing and trust built over time, differences are validated and dignity is honoured. After a year and a half of Zoom meetings, which included hard conversations, the commission held its first in-person gathering over a shared meal to plan its regional meeting presentation. Eating, laughing together, and sharing ideas and difficult stories was a demonstration of interculturality as a participatory and embodied ministry of intentional mutuality.

In addition to discussing correspondence received and requests for regional communities of faith to participate in initiatives in different regions, the Commission receives requests for resource development and/or specific gatherings. Two areas were the focus for 2022-2023:

Korean language translations were requested from some Korean language United Church communities of faith in Shining Waters region so that they can better educate their governance and groups on United Church policies and procedures. Two handbooks were prioritized and have been translated as regional resources for five regional United Church communities of faith that use Korean language:

- Pastoral Relations Guidelines for Search and Selection,
- Ministry and Personnel Committee: Policy, Procedures, Practices Handbook, and
- A Korean language glossary of terms will accompany the handbooks.

Additional resources will be translated into Korean in 2023-2024.

One of the gifts of the Commission is its regional commitment to global relations from diverse Canadian perspectives. An exchange with PROK (Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea) Seoul Presbytery (south) was a relationship commitment when Toronto Conference was in existence, and resulted in a group from the Conference visiting Seoul Presbytery and a group from Seoul Presbytery visiting the Conference. Since then, Shining Waters Regional Council was formed, Seoul Presbytery staff and leaders changed, and the global pandemic put a pause on a renewal of the relationship. As a commission that did not exist in Toronto Conference, the Intercultural Diversity Commission is now in the process of re-establishing relationship with Seoul Presbytery and discussing what a relationship might look like going forward. John Egger, United Church global “co-worker” who recently returned from his work with the PROK office in Seoul, has helped advise the commission on this partnership work.

The Commission is grateful for the administrative work of Rachael Howes and Celio de Andrades Santos who turn recorded meetings into wonderful minutes.

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Yea Kyong Lee (Chair)

On behalf of Commission members: Hedy Baker-Graf, Joel Aguirre, Innocent Karuhanga, John Joseph Mastandrea, Néstor Medina, Moon Ja Park.

Staff Support: Kim Uyede-Kai, Rachael Howes, Celio de Andrades Santos

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I want to bring greetings to your region as you meet this spring season. I pray that your meeting goes well and that you experience God's presence and blessing in this important work of the church. My name is HyeRan Kim-Cragg and it is my privilege to bring you greetings as Emmanuel's Principal. I come to this role as the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching and an ordained member of The United Church of Canada. My term began July 1, 2022. I hope to see you in person in the near future and share good news of Emmanuel College with you and hear good news of this region's wonderful ministry.

Faculty Compliment and Faculty on the Road

Some good news from Emmanuel College is that we have embarked on three new faculty searches. One in United Church of Canada studies (tenure track) another in Spiritual Care and Practical Theology (tenure track), and the other in Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling (teaching stream). These searches are complete and by the time of your meeting should be announced. These faculty complements will enable us to cultivate students to become conscious and compassionate scholars and equip them to become competent and committed leaders in the United Church and beyond.

The current faculty is keen to go out into different communities of faith, promote Emmanuel and share their scholarship and wisdom. Andrew Aitchison as Admissions Counsellor and Recruitment Coordinator will be a liaison connecting faculty with communities. Please let him know if your communities want to invite our Christian, Muslim or Buddhist faculty. That would be so wonderful.

Back in Person: Buzzing with Joy and in Gratitude

Emmanuel College was back in person after two long and challenging pandemic years online. We had a heart-warming in person orientation with close to 100 new and "returning" students who had never been to the college. We held a special fall graduation celebration for those who convoked online in 2020 and 2021.

Spiritual and religious practices on Wednesday are alive and well and were offered Monday through Thursday with the leadership of Spiritual and Community Life Coordinator, Beth Ann Fisher, through the leadership of our first ever Interfaith student Spiritual Life team who is taking a year-long course "worship and ritual leadership practicum" with instructor, the Rev. Dr. David Kim-Cragg.

Hybrid Master of Divinity Program

Building on our experience of remote delivery throughout the pandemic, our Master of Divinity program has been approved by the University of Toronto to be offered in a hybrid mode of delivery. This means that up to two thirds of the degree can be done online. We are excited as we hope this will reach more prospective students outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

All Members of EM Re-Connected and Networking

One of my priorities as principal is to re-connect all members of the College as we emerge from many years apart. We are anticipating many wonderful anniversary celebrations and reunions with the UCC's 100th anniversary in 2025 and EM's 100th anniversary in 2028, so keep an eye out for our various events to celebrate these historical milestones.

Gardening Project

Another goal I am focusing on as principal is the land on which we are located. Concurring with Victoria University's strategic framework on sustainability, and commitment to right relations with Indigenous communities which is laid out in the EM strategic plan, I am seeking to create a garden with the participation of the Indigenous community and to remove the lawn grass from our courtyards. This idea has generating some excitement and we received a starting grant from the United Church Foundation's Seeds of Hope to get us started! So please stay tuned and feel free to share your ideas and spread the news. it is my hope that the courtyard where the crucified woman statue is standing will be dug up next spring!

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to provide significant financial support to students. Through the John W. Billes Fund, Emmanuel continues to provide 100% of tuition coverage to all domestic students who are registered full-time in the M.Div. program and who are engaged in The United Church of Canada's candidacy pathway process. All incoming domestic full-time students are eligible for our Entering Theological Education grant, which offers 50% tuition coverage to their first year courses. For more information about studying at Emmanuel College and about the financial support available for all Emmanuel programs, whether one is studying full-time or part-time, please contact Andrew Aitchison, emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Emmanuel is offering an increasing number of Continuing Education events online. These events are offered through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). This coming academic year will feature again "The Things They Didn't Teach Me in Seminary" Seminar Series, which was developed to bridge the gap between academy and church. M.Div. students could take this series for credit, while engaging with continuing education participants who were ministers in the field. A list of upcoming offerings are found on the Emmanuel College web site at <https://www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/the-centre-for-religion-and-its-contexts/continuing-education-events-and-courses/>. For further information about these events please contact Shawn Kazubowski-Houston: ec.events@utoronto.ca.

Please follow us on social media: Facebook: @EmmanuelCollegeofVic; Twitter: @EmmanuelColleg2; Instagram: @emmanuelcollegetoronto; YouTube: @EmmanuelCollege1

If you have questions or are seeking further information about Emmanuel College, please be in touch with us or explore Emmanuel: <http://bit.ly/exploremmanuel>.

Rev. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg, Principal
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

2022 for The Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) was a year full of preparation, anticipation, and adjustment. It began with the departure of David Lappano (former program staff) and Michelle Owens (former principal). It set the stage for two search teams to look for new staff. Meanwhile, Ken Delisle served as the interim principal for most of the year until the arrival of the new principal. Through several months of internal preparation, discussion, and searching, CCS now has new Program Staff Alcris Limongi and Alan Lai, the new principal. They both started in the month of October.

Alcris Limongi came to CCS from Parkdale United Church in Ottawa, where she served as the Minister of Pastoral Care. Alan came from Vancouver, where he was the minister serving South Arm United Church in Richmond. Alcris originally came from Venezuela, and Alan, Hong Kong. Together, they bring intercultural perspectives and years of leading anti-racism and intercultural learning to the CCS community. Covenanting service for Alcris and Alan were conducted on November 23rd, at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg.

With the assemble of the new team complete, the staff spent the last few months of the year building new relationships and sharing ideas and practices. The spirit of exploration and relationship building was high. With Alan's photographic and video production skills, CCS has begun to post more updates and videos on the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

While the searches were going on most of the year, CCS's programs and operation continued smoothly with dedicated staff and volunteers. CCS continues to offer courses online and in-person, which include: Power and Privilege, Ages and Stages, Ministry as Community-building, Health, Pain, & Trauma. CCS Fridays is a series of free, one-hour online workshops and discussions offered mostly once a month to connect friends and the wider community. On April 3rd, during the Annual Service of Celebration, Aileen Urquhart was awarded the Companion of the Centre Award.

Financially, CCS continues to rely on the commitment of the denomination and generous donors who believe in the mission of the school. Lori Stewart, our Development Coordinator, has done a fantastic job connecting with donors and applying for grants and funding. While denomination funding is decreasing, and Endowment portfolio is not as promising as before, we are committed to working towards financial sustainability. We are thankful that many of our donors remain committed to diaconal education and bless us with extraordinary generosity in 2022. CCS is anticipating major Endowment fundraising campaign in the coming years.

There is no doubt the pandemic has challenged the school on many fronts, including programming, student enrolment, marketing, and so on. It disrupted more than just in-person gathering, but also concepts of theological education, teaching, learning, and service in the world. However, the process of rebuilding has begun.

We are blessed with collaborative, generous partners, including:

Anglican and United Churches
Diakonia of The United Church of Canada

Anglican Deacons
Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean
Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,
Council and Committee volunteers
St Andrew's College
St Stephen's College
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
Strategic Charm (social media managers)

Our Yearbook, Financial Statements, and Annual Report may be found at:
<http://ccsonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-Year-Book.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Alan Lai, Principal

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings and grace to you as you convene for your regional council meeting. May that time nourish and sustain you, as you build up the church and enjoy the goodness of *being* the church.

I am pleased to report that Atlantic School of Theology (AST) has experienced several interesting events and changes in the last year. Here are a few of them.

In the summer of 2022, and for the first time since 2019, we were able to have our summer MDiv students take their courses in person and occupy rooms at the campus residence. I had several opportunities to meet with students both as a group and individually. They were pleased to meet faculty and fellow students in person and to share worship, meals, and recreation with their colleagues.

As the Fall 2022 term began, our courses were offered remotely or in hybrid (both virtually and in-person) form. As none of our own students applied for residence, all our rooms were rented to international students from other institutions in the Halifax area. However, we maintain a policy of preferential availability for AST students. In the meantime, we are remaining true to the fundamental values and mission of AST by reaching out to those who would have to pay much more for accommodations or would be unable to study in Halifax because of a lack of rental spaces.

In other good news, the Province of Nova Scotia has provided AST with a grant of \$3M to renovate and upgrade our residence facilities, work that is long overdue. The funds will allow us to repair brickwork, install new plumbing, make wi-fi system updates, and upgrade shared kitchen and bathroom facilities.

At the May 2023 Convocation, the first cohort of students in the Diploma in Missional Leadership (DML), all of whom are affiliated with the United Church, will graduate from this new program. The next cohort of the DML will begin in early 2024. This learning opportunity will be available to persons from all denominational backgrounds as we build a new complement of ecumenical partners in mission. AST is currently in the last stages of the formal application processes to launch a Bachelor of Theology degree program. The key purpose of the Bachelor of Theology degree is to increase accessibility to higher education in theological subjects. Those who desire postsecondary education specifically in the theological disciplines but lack an undergraduate degree will benefit from this new degree. A direct-entry undergraduate degree option will assist them in their vocational and educational goals.

A key element of the Strategic Plan adopted by the AST Board in February 2022 is collaboration with Saint Mary's University (Halifax) as part of the now twenty-year old Memorandum of Understanding between our two independent institutions. In the past year, we have integrated our student information infrastructure into the Banner system at SMU. That project, funded by the Nova Scotia government through the NS Council of University Presidents, is almost complete. The initiative has provided significant benefits to our students, faculty, and staff. It has allowed AST to move from paper-based to IT-based processes for handling many things, from course registration to student records and course changes.

We will see some significant leadership changes at AST over the next several months. The Presidential Search Committee (even as this is being written) is nearing the end of its work to find a candidate to propose to the Board as AST's new President. As well, a second search committee is in the process of seeking a new Academic Dean to succeed Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell who has served in that role since 2017. His outstanding contributions to the university have earned him a well-deserved sabbatical which will begin this summer. Finally, Rev. Dr. Linda Yates succeeds Dr. Peter Secord as Chair of AST's Board of Governors.

We would like to express deep gratitude to our partners in The United Church of Canada—the General Council, the Regional Councils, the Board of Governors of Pine Hill Divinity Hall, and the local churches, leaders, and ministers—who support AST's work in a variety of ways. Financial support from the General Council and Pine Hill Divinity Hall are critical to our capacity to function as a university focused on theological education for ordered ministry candidates and lay leaders. The local churches support AST through discernment processes for potential ministry candidates, by encouraging lay people to continue their lifelong faith learning, by calling and supervising our graduates who serve your congregations, and by your vital and deeply valued financial support. If your Community of Faith has not yet made a gift to AST this year, I ask you to consider doing so in the next month or two.

AST continues to seek to be responsive to the emerging needs of the church and society as we serve together in God's world. In this, we are grateful to be your partners.

In Christ,
Dr. Tim O'Neill
Interim President, Atlantic School of Theology

UNITED CHURCH STUDIES PROGRAM at Montreal Diocesan Theological College

Report to the *Shining Waters Regional Council, and the Canadian Shield Regional Council*
February 2023

Forming a new ecumenical college

The amalgamation of The United Theological College (UTC) and Montreal Diocesan Theological College (Dio) in 2022 is the culmination of five years of planning and collaboration. The process has called for courage and risk, letting go of the past, vision, prayer and discernment, and a deep commitment to ecumenical collaboration.

In September 2022, Montreal Dio amended its constitution to provide for United Church participation in its governance and agreed to ensure the continuity of United Church theological education in Montreal, under the working name of *United Church Studies at Dio*. It is now required that one-third of the Dio Board be members of the United Church of Canada. The position of Director of United Church Studies was created to support ministry formation in a United Church tradition and ensures that United Church-affiliated students meet requirements for United Church Testamur. Montreal Dio is now an *ecumenical* institution forming students for ministry in the Anglican, United Church, and other traditions, in partnership with the Montreal School of Theology and McGill University.

We are encouraged by the continued growth and increasing diversity of our student body. Over half the United Church-affiliated students are francophone or fluently bilingual, most were born outside North America, and over 85% of them are newcomers to the United Church and to Canada. Outside of our regular degree programs we offer courses for Admission Ministers and a week-long residential orientation program for leaders new to the United Church. These programs are intercultural in nature, opening us up to conversations and relationships that nurture our growth as an institution with regards to justice and spirituality. This rich diversity of language, culture, and tradition is changing us and the church – informing how we teach and learn, how we converse across differences, including theologically, and how we experience God's spirit in our midst.

Courses and Events for Lifelong Learning and Ministry

The amalgamation of UTC and Dio has enabled us to expand our offerings and extend the reach of our programs for lay people and ministry personnel. We are focusing on programs that support a renewed and vibrant church and that help people grow in faith and in leadership.

Open Enrolment Courses Winter 2022 to Spring 2023

These online courses are offered for four to six weeks. Often, groups from congregations take the course together. We offered 9 courses this year on various topics related to the Bible, spiritual formation, and Christian leadership and attracted over 120 participants from across the country.

What Next for the Church: Congregational Ministry in a Pandemic Shaped World

October 29, 2022. Day-long, in-person conference with The Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau and ecumenical panelists.

Conflict Resolution Jesus Style

February 9, 2023. Day-long in-person event with The Rev. Susan Brasier, J.D., and The Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch.

Formation for French and Bilingual Ministry

One of our key areas of focus this year has been equipping the church to minister in the unique context of Quebec and strengthening French ministries across the United Church. This includes a partnership agreement with *La Table des ministères en français* of the United Church which helps us to support ministry formation for francophones. We have also expanded our program for bilingual ministry by hiring a dedicated program director to oversee French formation for students and implement the revised *Certificate in Bilingual Ministry* program. In May of 2023, we will be offering a week-long *French for Ministry* intensive course designed to strengthen the linguistic competence and cultural know-how of those working in French or bilingual ministry and pastoral contexts.

Montreal Mission Internship

In summer 2022, Dio launched the Montreal Mission Internship, a 9-week program for 18- to 25-year-olds that combines social service work with theological reflection and intentional community. Last summer, thirteen young adults from across the country came to Dio to put their faith into action and explore a call to Christian ministry beyond the walls of the church. Applications are now open for the 2023 program, which has been expanded to host 18 participants.

United Church Orientation Learning Circle May 2022 and May 2023

A week-long residential event was held in Montreal from May 30 to June 3, 2022 for United Church Admission Ministers to learn the historical and theological context of the United Church, the core values, structures, policies, and vision; and to help the church live out its commitment to anti-racism and intercultural community. This event will be offered again in May 2023 to an expanded cohort of leaders, lay people, and ministers who are new to the United Church.

Plans for 2023

In addition to our regular programming and courses, Dio will begin to develop a long-term plan for its future as a renewed ecumenical institution. In the face of challenges and transitions within and beyond church walls, the college will seek to discern its role and the ways it will continue to form leaders for a vibrant future church.



THE REV. DR ALYSON HUNTLY
DIRECTOR OF UNITED CHURCH STUDIES

Shining Waters Regional Council 2024 Draft Budget

	Actual	Actual	Approved	Super
	2021	2022	2023	Preliminary
INCOME				2024
Grant Income				
Right Relations Fund			80,130	80,130
PTCC			605,854	605,870
TUCC			54,000	54,000
			739,984	740,000
Investment Income	94,061	- 42,429	50,000	50,000
National Grants				
Assessment	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000
M&S Grant	240,000	240,000	240,000	216,000
Other	9,375	79,075		
Salary	99,000	99,000	99,000	99,000
	673,375	743,075	664,000	640,000
Property Income				
Development				
Other	350,000			
Rentals	149,210	208,945		
Sale (Net)	1,348,745		1,411,850	1,465,130
	1,847,955	208,945	1,411,850	1,465,130
Transfers from Closed Churches		66,288		
Grants/Bequests	144,369			
Total Income	2,759,760	975,879	2,865,834	2,895,130

Expenses	Actual	Actual	Approved	Super
	2021	2022	2023	Preliminary 2024
Affirm			10,000	10,000
Clusters and Networks	1,296	2,108	5,000	5,000
Committees	100		1,000	1,000
Contingency/Misc.	6,721	26,901	55,000	55,000
Commissions				
Communities of Faith	9,488	32,979	35,000	35,000
Intercultural Diversity		6,585	35,000	35,000
Pastoral Relations	20,891	24,859	39,300	40,000
Social & Ecological Justice	6,161	8,830	25,000	25,000
Executive	40	1,994	5,000	5,000
Finance	42,747	54,013	40,000	45,000
Grants/Outreach Ministries	609,190	551,421	1,134,075	1,140,000
Legal Fees	3,478	78,653	20,000	20,000
Managed Properties	378,000	462,263	150,000	150,000
Office Expenses	49,378	50,577	70,000	70,000
Regional Meeting	8,201	10,980	80,000	80,000
Staff Team	1,039,863	986,367	1,052,329	1,055,000
Support to Indigeneous Ministries			60,130	60,130
SWRC/CSRC Shared Expenses	2,545	7,966	9,000	9,000
Youth	1,056	53,439	50,000	55,000
	2,179,155	2,359,935	2,865,834	2,895,130
Income less Expenses	580,605 - 1,384,056			-

**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and submitting to the Regional Council, its Executive or the Executive Minister, as appropriate, recommendations for election to the following:

- a) Executive (including President, Past President or President-Elect and members)
- b) Communities of Faith Commission
- c) Intentional Interim Ministry Committee
- d) Pastoral Relations Commission
- e) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee
- f) Social and Ecological Justice Commission
- g) Intercultural Diversity Commission
- h) Finance Committee
- i) Grants and Mission Support Committee
- j) Nominations Committee

In carrying out this responsibility, the committee:

- reflects theologically on the basis for appointed member participation in the church
- discerns who is equipped to serve
- develops and tests processes for selecting individuals and developing effective groups
- to the best of the committee's ability, strives to meet the region's commitments to its mission, including the equity policy and
 - becoming an intercultural church
 - the full inclusion of people with disabilities
 - developing new and young leadership
 - the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church
 - any future commitments regarding the appointed leadership of the United Church

Members of the Nominations Committee actively seek out and encourage nominations from across the diversity of the church and try to ensure that at least one third of any nominations slate is reserved for diversity appointments.

The terms of office for most positions are typically for three years, renewable once. Remaining vacant positions may be appointed by the Executive.

The Nominations Committee offers thanks to all those completing their term with this regional meeting, to those who have agreed to a second term and to those who have put their name forward to fill a vacancy.

a) Executive (including President, Past President or President-Elect and members)

The primary role of the Executive is to develop and monitor policies that enable the Region to live out its mission.

The Executive consists of the President, President-Elect or Past President and members to a maximum of 15 who are members of The United Church of Canada One member from the Indigenous community will be named at the Spiritual Gathering.

The President is be elected at the Regional Council meeting for one year as President-Elect, a two-year term as President and one year as Past President.

President

- Maria Christina Conlon (ministry personnel) (term as President ending 2025)

Past President

- David Leyton-Brown (term ends 2024)

Members

- Isaac Kamta (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Lynn Mooney (lay member) (second term ending 2024)
- Allyce Mutungi (lay member) (second term ending 2024)
- Jingle Ayupan (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Allan Holditch (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Steven Loweth (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Moon Ja Park (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Daniel Reed (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Bri-anne Swan (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- One position available for an Indigenous member named by the Spiritual Gathering on Indigenous Communities

b) Communities of Faith Commission

The Commission:

- sets policy and give direction within their mandate,
- cares for communities of faith and provide resources for collegiality and support amongst communities of faith,
- nurtures new ministries, and
- empowers and resources ministry in the Region. This includes supporting communities of faith in areas such as clusters, networks, visioning, amalgamation, disbanding, and property matters.

Membership is a chair and six to ten members.

- Harry Ramsaran (lay member) (second term ending 2024)
- Gloria Tozek (lay member) (second term ending 2024)
- Patti Rogers (ministry personnel) (term ending 2024)

- Carolyn Harding (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Calin Lau (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Amy Lee (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Tom MacNeil (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Eric Nyarko (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Trevor Brisbin (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)
- Sandra Nottegar (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Chris Bennet (chair) (lay member) (second term ending 2026)

c) Intentional Interim Ministry Committee

The Committee gathers expertise and retains and integrates best practices and knowledge into our intentional interim ministry.

Membership is six members.

- Anne Hepburn (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes (ministry personnel) (term ending 2024)
- Cynthia O'Connell (ministry personnel) (term ending 2024)
- Jim Keenan (chair) (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Marlene Buwalda (lay person) (term ending 2026)

d) Pastoral Relations Commission

The Commission:

- sets policy and gives direction within their mandate, and
- provides support for ministry personnel throughout their ministry, including equipping, covenanting, pastoral relationships and retirement.

Membership is a chair and six to ten members.

- Andrew Comar (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Donna Bowman-Woodall (chair) (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Elizabeth Mackenzie (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Paul Stott (lay member) (second term ending 2024)
- Sung Ran Kim (ministry personnel) (term ending 2024)
- William Haughton (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Barbara Hendren (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Robin Pilkey (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Deirdre Lawrence (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Beth Moore (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Lawrence Nyarko (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2026)

e) Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Committee

The Committee implements the License Lay Worship Policy of Shining Waters Regional Council.

The Committee provides support and oversight to Licensed Lay Worship Leaders within Shining Waters Region and is a recommending and reporting body to the Pastoral Relations Commission.

Membership is a chair and four to six members.

- Emily Gordon (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2024)
- Glen Greenwood (LLWL) (second term ending 2024)
- Pat Edmonds (LLWL) (second term ending 2025)
- Lisa Pfau (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Jeannette Schieck (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Doug Reid (LLWL) (term ending 2026)
- Brian Stevens (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)

f) Social and Ecological Justice Commission

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission will encourage, support, and initiate social justice work within Shining Waters Regional Council, which encompasses but is not limited to anti-racism and becoming a critical intercultural church of justice.

- Susan Eagle (chairperson) (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Lois Brown (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Don Ford (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Esther Collier (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Irene Green (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Won Hur (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Jennifer Gordon (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Brian McIntosh (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Alexa Gilmour (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)

g) Intercultural Diversity Commission

The Intercultural Diversity Commission sets policy and gives direction within their mandate. The Intercultural Diversity Commission will encourage and engage Shining Waters Regional Council, its Executive and Commissions, and its Communities of Faith in honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry and work to deepen intercultural awareness and respect.

- Hedy Baker-Graf (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Joel Saavedra Aguirre (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2026)

- Innocent Karuhanga (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Amy Yea Kyong Lee (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2026)
- John Joseph Mastandrea (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2026)
- Néstor Medina (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2026)
- Moon Ja Park (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Amber Lee Row (lay member) (term ending 2026)

h) Finance Committee

In May 2022, the Regional Council approved the creation of a Finance Committee. The committee provides support and oversight to the financial planning and reporting of Shining Waters Regional Council.

Membership is four to six members.

- Allan Holditch (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Beth Herrema (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Bruce Chappell (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Paul Kim (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Wendy Jarvis (lay member) (term ending 2026)

i) Grants and Mission Support Committee

In October 2021, the Executive approved the merger of the Grants Review Committee and the Mission Support Committee to become the Grants and Mission Support Committee. The Committee receives all grant applications and determines where the application should be directed. This provides one point of entry for all grant requests.

Membership is seven to ten members.

- Deborah Hart (chair) (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Sarah Lough (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Ron Wagle (lay member) (second term ending 2025)
- Paul Rose (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Bruce Chappell (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- John Joseph Mastandrea (chair) (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)
- Dan Clark (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Maryanne Robin Thomson (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)

j) Nominations Committee

Membership is eight members including at least two, but not more than four, members of the Executive and up to six members not currently serving on the Executive. These must be members of the United Church but not necessarily members of the Regional Council, at least two of whom are lay members and two are ministry personnel.

- David Leyton-Brown (chair) (lay member) (term ending 2024)
- Greg Daly (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Martha ter Kuile (ministry personnel) (term ending 2025)
- Sarah Jane Wetelainen (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Allyce Mutungi (lay member) (term ending 2026)

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL SW2023-01

A VISION FOR THE POST-PANDEMIC CHURCH FROM A COMMUNITY MINISTRIES PERSPECTIVE

Origin: Shining Waters Regional Council – Community Ministries Working Group

*“‘We are called to be the church’
Where there is solidarity with the poor and oppressed,
there is the heart of the church.
From that position, Community Ministries have a special calling
to witness to the integration of faith and justice in the world
... and give leadership in developing a new way of being the church.”
~from the Community Ministry Standards and Best Practices, UCC 2007*

1. What is the issue?

For some, the church’s future looks bleak. It has been said that The United Church of Canada is closing a building per week, and yet we know that the need for spiritual nourishment and community has never been greater.

Community ministry offers spiritual nourishment through a variety of intentional engagements that build relationships beyond the boundaries of how we have often enacted ministry. Community ministry allows the church to be the presence of Christ while being in relationship with those who most need the church’s support. Since its formation, and even before, members of The United Church of Canada have been committed to community ministry in a variety of capacities, and yet now, in this time, it seems as though this way of operating is imperative as we work to connect with future generations.

In a post-pandemic church, we are challenged by The United Church of Canada’s new strategic plan which calls us to be “deep, daring, and bold.” This strategic plan only strengthens our commitment to seek justice as we embrace the intersectionality of spirituality and justice through liturgy, advocacy, pastoral care and justice-making. Creative and inclusive tools and supports will help engage us “to do justice, mercy, kindness and walk humbly with our God,” (Micah 6:8), putting into practice what faith looks like within the church and out in the world.

Community ministry with its emphasis on how we are to do what we believe, closely aligns us with a world in which truth must be experienced first hand. When myths and misinformation abound in the media, community ministry is the church’s opportunity to bear witness to the realities facing those we are called to serve, that move across boundaries of urban/rural, gender identities, sexual orientations, racial identities, and economic realities. Therefore, community ministry, with its emphasis on doing what Christ taught, is vital to every member and community of faith across Shining Waters Regional Council.

2. Why is this important?

In this time, we as the church are called to engage across the regional council with those seeking purpose and meaning. Those who are committed to community and justice. Those alienated from both. Through this engagement, we may find ourselves pursuing spirituality, outside of traditional methods (i.e. singing hymns or reciting pre-written prayers), to find and experience Jesus through poverty relief and social justice, jointly engaged in the struggle against systemic racism and economic injustice.

It is here that community ministry, having done this work for decades, is uniquely positioned to help the church move from inside church walls to meaningful engagement alongside those who struggle outside.

3. How does this proposal help the church live into our commitments on equity?

If the church takes seriously its commitment to inclusion, equity and the common good, community ministry would be the praxis for being the church in the world, an ally for those who are the least heard in society, and an active partner in the making of Christ's beloved community.

4. How might the regional council respond to the issue?

That Shining Waters Regional Council:

1. Identify and celebrate communities of faith that have been working in local community ministry engagement.
2. Engage a working group to identify, prepare, and develop learning tools, led by currently existing Community Minister, to prepare educational opportunities for lay and clergy membership across the region. Working with platforms like Church X for delivery of such opportunities is suggested.
3. Provide opportunities for community of faith ministry personnel to learn and share best practices, stories of experiences (failures, successes, and learnings) in community ministry engagement.
4. Identify models of learning and engagement within community development and work towards grassroots up learning models. Connect with those teaching community development in theological programs across the country to support the identification of the many modalities possible.
5. Provide resource support (monetarily and staff) to ensure that the former four points are enacted upon.

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL SW2023-02

FUNDING COMMUNITY MINISTRY AS A PRIORITY FOR THE CHURCH

Origin: Shining Waters Regional Council – Community Ministries Working Group

1. What is the issue?

Community ministry is the pastoral, priestly, and prophetic presence that provides community development, organizing, and advocacy within the wider neighbourhood. Attending to the needs and challenges of a given community, community ministry is a partnership between the church and its representatives, often a Community Minister, as they journey with those who live, play, and work in spaces that society often negates - particularly people who experience systemic racism and economic oppression.

For the past 40 years, intentional community ministry practices have been part of the boundaries now represented within Shining Waters Regional Council. Most recently, these intentional community ministries have taken shape in the form of Jane Finch Community Ministry, Davenport Perth Community Ministry, and Regent Park Community Ministry. Each of those three community ministries have built relationships with people who live in precarious places, engaging in the important relational community with people who experience poverty, community violence, immigration issues, substance use, and living rough.

In 2022, a task group was formed, at the request of Shining Waters Regional Council, to consider the financial realities facing the three community ministries, particularly in regards to continued funding into the future. The hope was that through this task group, the creation of a sustainability plan would be presented at the 2023 regional council meeting. We recognize that if a plan is not being formalized for funding considerations by December 2023, these three ministries will need to work towards the ending of their ministry, as a year is needed for this transition to occur.

Since the task group was formed, we have examined the purpose of community ministry within Shining Waters Regional Council and The United Church of Canada. We have engaged in the practical and financial realities facing these three community ministries and the communities they serve. We have contemplated the financial futures and what it means to widen the base of financial support for community ministry within Shining Waters Regional Council. We have considered the financial support possibilities for community ministry and where funding sources may be found.

We have learned that, while the three intentional Shining Waters Regional Council Community Ministries are often engaged in financial support campaigns independently, it is difficult to engage the entire region within the financial outreach efforts. In reality, congregational appeals cannot be the sole pillar of a capital campaign without congregational awareness of the community ministries, their work, and its importance as we move forward.

By embracing community ministries as a priority for the region it is not merely about supporting these three community ministries but also a call to fully engage how we enact community ministry within our region. Studies have shown that flourishing congregations are engaged in their local

community, and if properly funded, these three community ministries may be a resource in assisting congregations in community engagement.

2. Why is this important?

[Jane Finch Community Ministry](#), [Davenport Perth Community Ministry](#), and [Regent Park Community Ministry](#) are situated in low income, racially diverse communities.

The Jane Finch community has a population of just over 80,000 people. 60% of the community is deemed to have inadequate income. Predominantly black, Jane Finch neighbourhood represents over 100 nationalities with 70 different languages and dialects. A vibrant ministry in the centre of these diverse communities offers the church opportunities to learn and grow while also serving people in need. The ministry, in conjunction with the community, strives to eradicate challenges created by systemic racialized poverty, including gun violence.

The Davenport Perth community is made up of over 100,000 people and 76% are first (45.1%) and second (30.9%) generation in Canada, with 40% of the community making below a living wage. The community often struggles with precarious housing and food insecurity. Davenport Perth is currently experiencing gentrification. Those that the ministry serves are often living in rooming houses. Some are experiencing ‘renoviction’ with no alternative but to live rough. This community is home to three Toronto Community Housing spaces and is also home to Davenport-Perth United Church. The ministry, in conjunction with the community, has responded to the needs of the community through a variety of modalities from direct food security-based action, to political advocacy, and artistic exploration.

The Regent Park community has experienced extensive gentrification since the re-development where Phase 2 was completed in 2018 and Phase 3, 4, 5 continue. It is difficult to know the current population of Regent Park, considering that the last census took place before the 2018 re-development was completed. However, there is somewhere between 10,000 – 12,000 people who live in Regent Park’s mixed housing. About 25% of the community makes below a living wage. 51% of people who live in Regent Park are also a visible minority. Here the community ministry strives to serve both those who live within this fluctuating community as well as those who serve the community through the Christian Resource Centre.

Through all of this work, the community ministries are living out God’s purpose for ministry, that we connect the realities of the gospel call to our deep sense of justice through acting faithfully, offering hope, space to be heard, and finding ways to make connections and companionship.

3. How does the proposal help the church live into our commitments on equity?

By embracing these three community ministries as an integral part of the Shining Waters Regional Council ministry purpose, we are continuing to work towards being an intercultural church. It is in understanding of the need for the church to be present in places and spaces where diverse ethno-cultural communities are working towards being an anti-racist and equitable church.

4. How might Shining Waters Regional Council respond to the issue?

Plan for consistent core funding that could include:

1. Establishing a working relationship with the Toronto United Church Council to support fundraising efforts and financial contributions.
2. Revisiting the distribution of assets policy with respect to disbanding or amalgamating communities of faith to include funding for community ministries.
3. Creating a policy and process for financial appeals to communities of faith.
4. Initiating a capital campaign with the goal of 10 million dollars to sustain the existing community ministries while also providing seed funding for potential future community ministry in Shining Waters Regional Council.
5. Hiring a fundraiser to support in the efforts listed above (funding through: application to the Seeds of Hope Grant (Fall 2023) - \$20,000 request, community ministries - \$15,000 matching, Shining Waters Regional Council - \$15,000.

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL SW2023-03

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

Origin: Shining Waters Regional Council – Nominations Committee

1. What is the issue?

The regional council needs to establish a process for the election of a President-Elect. The current process for nominations in Shining Waters Regional Council is to present a slate of officers for consideration at the regional council meeting that includes one candidate for the position of President-Elect. In some years, there is only one candidate for the position. The Nominations Committee is seeking direction on an appropriate process in a year when more than one candidate has put their name forward for consideration. The question is whether multiple names should be presented to the regional council for a vote, or whether Nominations Committee (or Executive) should determine one name only to be presented.

2. Why is this issue important?

The current process (presenting only one name) as compared to an election process has not been discussed and approved by the regional council. There is a range of views on what the most appropriate process would be.

There are pros and cons to both approaches, as follows: Presenting only one name to the regional council for consideration implies that the Nominations Committee will discern with all candidates how each person's gifts and skills match the requirements of the role. The committee can also consider how a person's qualifications and profile balance with other members of the Executive. Each candidate has the opportunity to ask questions in order to fully understand the responsibilities of the role before agreeing to let their name stand. The process ensures that candidates do not find themselves in a public competition for the role and may be less likely to feel embarrassed or discouraged by an unsuccessful application.

The risk is that presenting only one candidate may give the appearance that the process is not transparent and that candidates are chosen by staff or well-connected volunteers. This may prevent candidates from applying.

A different process, such as an election during the meeting allows for a fully open process in which anyone can stand for election with no implication of interference by staff or well-connected volunteers.

The risk is that someone without appropriate qualifications, time and understanding of the role could be elected. Those who are not successful may be discouraged from participating in other ways in the life of the regional council.

An election process allows members to be guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in the discussion during the meeting of the regional council.

3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

The Nominations Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and submitting to the regional council, its Executive, or the Executive Minister, as appropriate, recommendations for appointment to this and other roles. The Nominations Committee is dedicated to ensuring that the appointment process is transparent, accessible and equitable.

In carrying out this responsibility, the committee will

- reflect theologically on the basis for appointed member participation in the church
- discern who is equipped to serve
- develop and test processes for selecting individuals and developing effective groups
- to the best of the committee's ability, strive to meet the region's commitments to its mission, including the equity policy
 - becoming an intercultural church
 - the full inclusion of people with disabilities
 - developing new and young leadership
 - the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church
 - any future commitments regarding the appointed leadership of the United Church

(from the Regional Council Executive: Nominations Committee Policy)

To date, the committee has engaged in discernment with candidates in an effort to meet the region's commitments to equity while also recommending a candidate with gifts for the role. The committee recommends the candidate that they believe best fits these criteria.

Does this make the nominations process more or less accessible for people who are part of equity-seeking groups?

4. How might the regional council respond to the issue?

- a. The regional council could affirm the current process for selecting a President-Elect;
or
- b. The regional council could affirm a process for an election during the regional meeting that involves all candidates;
or
- c. The regional council could affirm a different process for selecting a President-Elect;
or
- d. The regional council could offer feedback on the process for selecting a President-Elect and refer this back to the Nominations Committee.

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL SW2023-04

WORKING FOR A GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME FOR ALL CANADIANS

Origin: Shining Waters Regional Council - Social and Ecological Justice Commission

1. What is the issue?

Background: A basic income is an unconditional cash transfer from governments to individuals to enable everyone to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity – regardless of work status. A federally-funded, income-targeted basic income could help alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty, manage services, and support people to invest in their local economy and community.

Action Needed: Advocacy to encourage the Federal Government to implement a Guaranteed Livable Income for all Canadians.

2. Why is this issue important?

When people do not have enough to live on, their lives are affected not only by lack of food and housing but also by loss of quality of life, health consequences and marginalization.

When people do not have enough to live on, social services are stretched, charitable programs are stressed, and municipalities are tasked with using limited revenue streams such as property taxes to try to fill the gap.

A federally-funded basic income could help alleviate the pressures municipalities face in providing crucial social supports and would allow municipalities to provide more effective, affordable and high-quality services that work in tandem with those provided under provincial, territorial, and federal programs.

Evidence suggests that a federally-funded basic income is not only feasible in Canada, but could bring significant benefits at the municipal level.

Citizens and municipalities can find common ground in urging that adequate income programs be provided by federal and provincial levels of government.

3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitment on equity?

Since the 1970s, The United Church of Canada has called for a universal Guaranteed Livable Income that is non-discriminatory and accessible, particularly for Indigenous peoples. With the cost of living skyrocketing, a Guaranteed Livable Income is urgently needed.

Justice, equity, compassion and care for neighbour are at the heart of the Christian gospels and Christian theology. For too long we have offered the charity model of “helping the poor,” without equal passion and energy for addressing the root causes of poverty: unfair distribution of wealth,

discriminatory labour laws, insufficient wages, and stigmatizing and isolating of those who are vulnerable and impoverished.

We add further harm when we provide a “social safety net” that is woefully inadequate to meet basic need, and so complicated with barriers, it penalizes those who seek to become participants in the economy.

By inviting his disciples to act from the perspective that “whatever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do to me,” Jesus called for Christian discipleship that models compassionate justice and equitable inclusion for all people.

United Church members and communities of faith have already successfully appealed to municipal councils in Victoria BC, Sooke BC, Halifax NS, Moncton NB, St. John NB, Fredericton NB and St. John’s NL.

4. How might Shining Waters Regional Council respond to this issue?

Shining Waters Regional Council might undertake an initiative to encourage and assist its communities of faith to engage with their local municipal councils to pass resolutions calling on the federal government to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income.

Communities of faith within Shining Waters Regional Council might use any or all of the following whereas clauses and resolution in approaching their local municipal council:

“Whereas, Municipalities represent an important voice in social policy discussions at all levels and are often on the front lines, working to ensure that residents and communities lead happy, healthy, sustainable and productive lives; and

“Whereas, Municipalities are struggling to keep up with the downloaded responsibility of providing essential public and social support services; and

“Whereas, basic income can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty and help municipal services remain sustainable and affordable for everyone; and

“Whereas, basic income as an income security program would work in concert with necessary social services to better support low-income individuals while helping municipalities to do the same; and

“Whereas, basic income can help remove barriers to active community engagement, enabling individuals to participate more meaningfully in society; and

“Whereas, a permanent basic income could stimulate economies, boost consumer spending and encourage individuals to shop locally; and

“Whereas, improved financial stability makes it easier for residents to participate, contribute and invest in their local economies and communities; and

“Whereas, basic income might help address what is often a major driver of demand for housing, food security, mental health and other programs;

“Therefore, be it resolved that the Municipality of _____ calls on the Government of Canada to implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income, ensuring everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs, which would go a long way towards eradicating poverty and homelessness and alleviating the pressure on municipalities to use their limited resources to fill gaps in our failing social safety net,

“And be it further resolved that the Municipality of _____ endorse this Resolution, and forward the same to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).”