

The United Church of Canada
Shining Waters Regional Council

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of Meeting held June 3, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Tina Conlon, Eric Nyarko, David Leyton-Brown, Lynella Reid-James, Daniel Reed, Paul Shepherd, Allan Holditch, Bri-anne Swan

STAFF: Peter Hartmans (Executive Minister), Jody Maltby (Staff Lead), Susan Whitehead (Administrative Support)

REGRETS: Thomas Shin, Jingle Ayupan

GUESTS: Shawn Redden (SW/CS Staff), Kim Uyede-Kai (SW Staff), Sarah Lough (Ad Hoc Committee), Allyce Mutungi (Ad Hoc Committee)

GATHERING, OPENING PRAYER

President Tina opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safe place for all people to gather and participate in our region.

Peter shared his excitement this week regarding the 100th Anniversary this week, read from Psalm 100, verse 1 and then lit the Christ candle. He reflected on some of the events planned around the region and led in an opening prayer.

CHECK IN

Executive members did a check in since last we met.

AGENDA

There was an addition to New Business regarding Right Relations and Reconciliation Budget.

MOTION by Paul Shepherd/Allan Holditch SW Exec 2025-06-03-01
That the agenda for this meeting be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

MINUTES

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/David Leyton-Brown SW Exec 2025-06-03-02
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council
Executive held on May 6, 2025 be approved, as circulated.
CARRIED

COMMISSION MINUTES

Peter wanted to thank the IDC for all their expansive work.

MOTION by Bri-anne Swan/Lynella Reid-James SW Exec 2025-06-03-03
That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Intercultural Diversity
Commission for November 2024 through March 2025, for information.
CARRIED

Omnibus Motion: Incorporated Ministries

MOTION by Paul Shepherd/Allan Holditch SW Exec 2025-06-03-04

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That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc. 2024-2025 Board of Directors

**Janet Adamson
Ken W. Andras
Graham Clark
Jeff Dobson
Emma Hosein
Tony Kerekes
Tim Magwood
Sally Jo Martin
Jenn Meeker
Melody Onuoto
Elena Simpson
Patti Smith**

This is based on the draft Board Minutes, Annual General Meeting, November 19, 2024, 2024 board member approval form, the board contact list provided and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

*****N.B. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has passed and now updated by-laws have been received by all IM's for review. There are four outstanding waiting for various stages of approval and/or correction.***

Corrections to be made and Membership Meetings: Central King Seniors Residence, Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca), Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter Received from Harry Oussoren – May 15, 2025

Peter shared that he has already sent this work to the Social and Ecological Justice Commission prior to this meeting.

**MOTION by Peter Hartmans/David Leyton-Brown SW EXEC 2025-06-03-05
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the letter from Harry Oussoren dated May 15, 2025 regarding peace in Palestine and Israel.**

CARRIED

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AND FUNDING PRIORITIES - AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
The President, Tina Conlon, welcome Sarah Lough and Allyce Mutungi to the meeting to discuss the Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations.

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MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Paul Shepherd SW EXEC 2025-06-03-06
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive and endorse the Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and recommend it the Regional Council Meeting in October 2025 for approval.

CARRIED

1 Abstention – Daniel Reed

Jody shared next steps for the team which is to first post the report on the SW website on the Finance page. It will also be sent out as part of "Currents" since there are a lot of people waiting to see it. The report has a fairly large impact on at least 3 Commissions and Committees (CFC, Mission Grants Cttee, and the Finance Cttee) and those 3 will be meeting in June to discuss and be prepared for it. Finally, the report will come to the Regional Council Meeting (RCM) in October 2025. There was a suggestion that perhaps there might be a Town Hall Meeting prior to the RCM to give people an opportunity to ask questions. Once the Ad Hoc Committee reports to the RCM, it is unlikely that they will be meeting again, as their work will be complete.

Executive thanked Sarah, Allyce and the whole Ad Hoc Committee for their diligent work on the report.

REMOVAL OF JANET MACDONALD AS SIGNING AUTHORITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

It is with regret that the Executive pass the following motion and they wish Janet the best in her new chapter in life.

MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Allan Holditch SW EXEC 2025-06-03-07
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve of removing Janet MacDonald as a signing officer on all financial accounts, including all accounts with BMO (Bank of Montreal) and BMO Nesbitt Burns, effective June 30, 2025, due to her retirement.

CARRIED

Meranda MacKenzie is the new bookkeeper on staff and all financial requests now go to her.

AFFIRMING AND EQUITY WORK

Executive welcomed Kim Uyede-Kai, CoF and Pastoral Relations Minister; Intercultural Diversity, Anti-Racism and Right Relations Minister, to the meeting.

Peter gave a background of equity and affirming work in the region, sharing that there are questions that are an invitation for us both as staff and the regional council to remind ourselves where we are around equity and affirming work. He also indicated that Eun-Joo Park, Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Minister, shared that the Pastoral Relations Commission (PRC) asked the question 'what was our current and future vision of equity and affirming work?'

After discussing this topic, the suggestion was made that perhaps a small task group could be created with the staff support from Shawn Redden (Justice and Faith Formation Minister), for affirming work in our region.

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MOTION by Peter Hartmans/Allan Holditch SW EXEC 2025-06-03-08
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve of an
Affirming Working Group supported by the Minister for Justice and Faith
Formation (Shawn Redden).
CARRIED

Kim shared that the formation of the Intercultural Diversity Commission was an act of equity in and of itself but the Commission is not a program. Kim agreed with Lynella that there needs to be some kind of educational program to re-educate people about equity and to help people understand the depth and breadth of what equity is in all our actions and ways.

After Executive discussed equity, it was decided that this topic will be on the agenda at the September meeting. Peter will write Eun-Joo Park to discuss the Executive conversation so she can relay the information to the PRC.

1ST QUARTER FINANCES UPDATE

Jody shared and discussed the 1st quarter finance report with Executive.

MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Lynella Reid-James SW EXEC 2025-06-03-09
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the 1st Quarter
Financial Statements.
CARRIED

Peter acknowledged the tremendous work that Meranda and Jody have put in to transfer the books from Janet, with great thanks from the Executive.

Peter also shared that he, Jody, Kathleen and Meranda were travelling to Port Elgin to have a goodbye party with Janet and thank her for her many years of service in finance for The United Church of Canada.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Bri-anne shared the 100th anniversary video that Tina and she created. Peter thanked both Tina and Bri-anne for the video and said he has received very good reviews of both the SWRC and the CSRC videos.

TOWARD 2035 UPDATE

Peter shared with Executive that there are no new updates on Toward 2035

FESTIVAL OF FAITH UPDATE

Peter shared that if anyone wants to attend for the day, there are day passes still available and anyone is welcome at the Celebration of Ministry Service on Sunday at Bell Park. He stated that of the 180 people registered for the FoF, at least 50 -75 attendees are from SWRC.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT (APPENDIX A)

Peter shared his Executive Minister Report with Executive.

NEW BUSINESS

Indigenous Finance Report

Kim shared the report prior to the meeting and indicated that there are excess funds coming from the sale of buildings and property, and at this point in 2025, there is \$60,130 to be allocated.

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MOTION by Peter Hartmans/David Leyton-Brown SW EXEC 2025-06-03-10
That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the list of
funds dispersed from the 2025 Indigenous Ministries Right Relations
and Reconciliation Fund of \$60,130.
CARRIED

CLOSING PRAYER

Bri-anne gave a closing prayer and Tina the meeting closed at 3:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

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APPENDIX A
Executive Minister Report - Shining Waters Regional Council
June 2025

GC 45:

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

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

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

4:00 to 7:00 p.m. ET: Learning and discussion

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

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

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

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

- **Rev. Dr. Samuel V. Dansokho (he/him)**
Ordained Minister, nominated by Nakonha:ka Regional Council
- **Rev. Dr. John Pentland (he/him)**
Ordained Minister, nominated by Chinook Winds Regional Council
- **Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, CM (she/her)**
Ordained Minister, nominated by Shining Waters Regional Council
- **Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath (she/her)**
Ordained Minister, nominated by Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
- **Rev. Sungmin Jung (he/him)**
Ordained Minister, nominated by Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council

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

100th Anniversary June 8th 2025

The June 2025 UCC 100th Anniversary celebration is taking place in Newfoundland on Sunday June 8th. President Tina, in partnership with Celio De Andrade, has created a video to bring greetings to The United Church of Canada from the Shining Waters Regional Council. Many regional events are happening throughout the SWRC and we have been encouraging folks to include on the 100th Anniversary website. See link to event map: https://united-church.ca/events?event_type=All&focus=308 Please consider adding your event to the map!

June 10th, 2025: National Listening event

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

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

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

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

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

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

Festival of Faith

Planning continues for our CSRC and SWRC Festival of Faith in 2025. Over 160 folks have registered. The planning team have also created day passes, so local folks can attend for part of the event. John Bell will be providing key leadership for the Festival of Faith and will also include a number of workshops and key leadership from within the United Church too. The Moderator will be attending the Festival of Faith as well.

<https://canadianshielddrc.ca/about/festival-of-faith-2025/>

Equity Conversation

Included in the Executive Agenda is an opportunity to discuss Equity work within the regional council. In 2020, we invited Commissions and the Executive to include Equity in their work. The Pastoral Relations Commission in particular, has focused significant time on equity work. I would also like to include an Affirm check-in with our Equity conversation.

Toward 2035

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