

**Shining Waters Regional Council
2025 Online Regional Meeting
October 24-25, 2025**



RESOURCE BOOK

JOINING THE MEETING ONLINE

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 11:45 Am (EDT) or earlier. You will arrive in the waiting room and be admitted at 11:55 Am. The Call to Order is at 12:00 pm.
Saturday: sign into the meeting by 11:45 am, you will arrive in the waiting room and be admitted at 11:55 am. The Call to Order is 12:00 pm. 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 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.
- **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 using the poll. 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.

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TIPS FOR USING ZOOM

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- **RECORDING THE MEETING** This meeting will be recorded and posted to our regional website and YouTube channel. If this is concerning to you, you may not wish to turn on your video camera.

PARTICIPATING

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VOTING

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- **RAISE HAND:** We will be voting using the Raise Hand button found under the Reactions icon on the Zoom toolbar. Older versions of Zoom may have the icon at the bottom of your Participants Panel instead. Voting will be done by following the instructions from the President. To abstain type ABSTAIN in the chat.
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HELP AND SUPPORT

- See the Zoom Help page on our website for general information about using Zoom <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/zoom-video-conferencing/>
- If the meeting suddenly closes, go back to the e-mail with the link and re-join.
- Turn your video off if your connection becomes unstable. You will still be able to see and hear without your video.
- Staff are monitoring the chat for questions and to help troubleshoot, but our capacity to help you may be limited. Please watch some of our zoom tutorials on our website if you need some support in advance of the meeting. <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/zoom-video-conferencing/>
- If you cannot locate the meeting link, e-mail Donna Rutz drutz@united-church.ca.



Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith

Welcome Message from President, Maria Christina (Tina) Conlon

Sanctuary can be an altar in a church building, where we worship. Sanctuary can be a home, where we can be with those we love. A fugitive can claim safety in sanctuary. Sanctuary can be any place where we remove our shoes and kneel in awe at the wonders being held before us.

The theme for both 2024 and 2025 is “Sanctuary: towards a kindom of peace, justice and reconciliation”. This theme is rooted in the story from 1 Kings 17 when Elijah found sanctuary in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, then in Zarenphath in the region of Sidon where he stayed with a widow. In both instances, sanctuary was provided not by the wealthy but by people who were the poorest of the poor and considered unclean.

This two-year theme gave us the opportunity to hear many perspectives and reflect deeply on issues connected to sanctuary, including displacement, housing, reparations, restoration and reconciliation.

This year's worship team is led by Revs. Emily Gordon, Julia Yun Jung Kim and Maria Christina Conlon with the assistance of Staff members Kim Uyede-Kai and Shawn Redden.

In November 2024, the conversation on Toward 2035 began to seek a Spirit-led vision for what it means to be the United Church in the years ahead. Our region, at every level of the church, including communities of faith and other expressions of local ministry, as well as networks and clusters, joins the other regions of the church in discerning dreams and vision, defining what Sanctuary is. GC45's theme on Visions and Dreams followed shortly after the church's 100th anniversary.

The journey still continues ahead.

Blessings,

Rev. Maria Christina Conlon
President, Shining Waters Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

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Toronto Office: 963 Pharmacy Ave., Toronto, ON, M1R 2G5

Website: www.shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca

PROPOSED DRAFT AGENDA

Shining Waters Regional Council October 24–25, 2025

Friday, October 24

- 12:00 Opening of Meeting and Acknowledgment of the Land
 Opening Motions
 Process and Holy Manners
- 12:30 Worship and Theme Presentation: Sanctuary, Towards a Kindom of
 Peace, Justice and Reconciliation
 Worship Leader: Emily Gordon – Attendees are invited to have a candle
 with them for the meeting
 Panel: Shadia Qubti, Christykumar Thangaraja, Maria Christina Conlon
- 1:45 All-purpose break
- 1:57 Music to call us back
- 2:00 Video of Moderator: The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath
- 2:10 Accountability Reports
- 2:20 Theme Presentation: Global Kindom
 Facilitator: Kim Uyede-Kai
 Panel: Won Hur, Joy Vicente, Richard Choe
- 3:20 In Memoriam
 Worship Leaders: Lawrence Nyarko and Eun-Joo Park
- 3:40 All-purpose break
- 3:52 Music to call us back
- 3:55 Recommendations from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities
- 4:50 Theological Reflection: Mastard Sakala
- 5:05 Adjournment and Blessing for the day

Saturday, October 25

- 12:00 Opening and Acknowledgement of the Land
Reminder of Process and Holy Manners
Worship with Communion: Emily Gordon, Worship Leader – Attendees are invited to have a candle with them for the meeting and also materials for communion elements.
- 12:45 Proposals
SW2025-01 Broadview Subscription Challenge Campaign and Fundraising Contest
SW2025-02 Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations
- 1:25 All-purpose break
- 1:37 Music to call us back
- 1:40 Financial Report and Budget
- 2:05 Theme Presentation: Reflections on the Apology to 2SLGBTQIA People and Communities
Facilitator: Kim Uyede-Kai
Panel: David Hallman, Hyerim Park, Nan Hudson
- 3:10 All-purpose break
- 3:24 Music to call us back
- 3:25 Shining Waters Regional Affirming Ministries Service
Worship Leader: Shawn Redden
- 3:50 General Council Report – *Towards 2035*
Jennifer Henry
- 4:20 Nominations Report
- 4:40 New Business – Update on Community Ministries
- 4:50 Theological Reflection: Mastard Sakala
- 5:05 Blessing and Adjournment

CONSENT AND PROCEDURAL MOTIONS 2025 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 (2024 Manual C.1.2.b).

(The President and Secretary of the SWRC United Church Women (UCW) or their designates, former Lay Moderators, past Lay Toronto Conference and SWRC Presidents, and current General Council Lay Commissioners [if they are not already representing their local congregation as a Regional Council Representative] shall all be voting members of the Regional Council)

- b) **Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting:** that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be the Zoom Meeting ID: **874 8460 6322** 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, October 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. to take place at Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Drive, North York, ON M3A 2J5 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 President.
- d) **Minutes:** that the Minutes of the meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council held June 7-8, 2024 and November 12, 2024 be approved as circulated.
- e) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
- f) **Adjournment of Sessions:** that the President 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 (2025 Manual C.1.5).
- h) **Commitments:** that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.
- i) **New Business & Nominations:** Nominations and items of New Business shall be given to the President by 12:00 p.m. on October 24, 2025.

Procedural

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be the zoom chat box.
2. Any handouts must be authorized by the President.
3. The Parliamentarian shall be Beth Moore.
4. The President will present proposals. The President may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The President will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the President 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 President, 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 President in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
7. The normal voting procedure 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: Nominations, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information, and Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council.
9. Correspondence to the Regional Council Meeting will be referred to the Regional Council Executive.

CORRESPONDENCE
SW2025-02 Proposal Support Letter #1
from Coldwater Eady United

**THE COLDWATER EADY PASTORAL
CHARGE**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

COLDWATER UNITED CHURCH
WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, EADY

email: ceucpc@amtelecom.net
website: www.coldwatereadyunitedchurch.com



14 HARRIET ST. P.O. BOX 44,
COLDWATER, ONT. LOK 1E0
(705) 686 7787

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Shining Waters Regional Council

Attn: Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant and Administrative Support

Subject: Letter of Support – Proposal from Dalston-Crown Hill United Church

Dear Members of the Regional Executive,

On behalf of Coldwater Eady United Church Pastoral Charge, we are writing to express our support in principle for the proposal submitted by Dalston-Crown Hill United Church, which recommends that **20% of annual revenue from property sales be redistributed to existing communities of faith within the Shining Waters Region.**

We affirm the intent of this proposal, which aligns with the findings of the Shining Waters study identifying as a top priority the support of existing communities of faith—particularly through financial assistance, collaboration, leadership development, and practical facilitation. Strengthening current congregations can help ensure that they remain vital centres of worship, service, and outreach within their communities.

At the same time, we believe it is important that such funding be directed in ways that benefit the broader community and encourage congregations to continue discerning how to remain relevant and sustainable - whether through collaboration, amalgamation, or new models of ministry. Financial support should enhance this discernment process, not replace or delay it.

We also recognize that the proposal raises important stewardship questions that may warrant further clarification, such as:

- Whether the Region’s quoted assets include depreciated real estate holdings (e.g., church properties);
- How proceeds from the sale of unsustainable congregations are currently handled, and whether the proposed 20% redistribution would mean the remaining 80% remains solely within the Region’s investment portfolio.
- Whether property sales by active congregations (e.g., manses or vacant lots) would be included or exempt from the formula.

We commend Dalston-Crown Hill United Church for bringing this timely discussion forward and encourage Shining Waters to explore the proposal further, ensuring transparency, equity, and alignment with our shared mission.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and your commitment to the vitality and sustainability of our faith communities.

Yours in faith,
Cecil Gratrix
Church Board Chair
Coldwater Eady UC Pastoral Charge

CORRESPONDENCE

SW2025-02 Proposal Support Letter #2 from Midhurst United Church

To: Dalston -Crown Hill United Church

From: Midhurst United Church (MUC) Council

Date: October 9, 2025

In consultation with MUC Council, including our minister, Rev. Dr. Judith Visser, I am writing this letter of support in principle for the proposal to Shining Waters Regional Council from Dalston-Crown Hill U C; **Provide Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Region's Congregations (Updated).**

We have seen a number of communities of faith in our region close due in part to financial challenges. Our own congregation is finding the level of fund-raising and property maintenance required to maintain our community more and more difficult as the majority of our active participants are no longer able to provide the physical effort needed. At the same time, however, we still provide care and support to our greater community as we continue to offer programming and being an invitational church for neighbours seeking community connection and spiritual support. We are supported in doing this through the leadership of our full-time minister, our professional musician and our part-time office administrator and custodian who are taking on more of the work our volunteers are no longer capable of doing. Communally and spiritually, we are a viable congregation and we continue to plan optimistically for the future of our community of faith and the outreach of our congregation. Realistically, our demographics and financial picture suggest that our sustainability as a community of faith is at risk. Financial support from the Region would be a welcome assist to help us continue being the hands and feet of Christ in the community and the world rather than committing almost all our energy and resources to simply sustain our building and pay our staff for as long as we can.

Midhurst United Church supports in principle the proposal submitted by Dalson-Crown Hill United Church.

Sincerely

On behalf of Midhurst United Church Council

Jeannette Schieck
Chair Midhurst United Church Council.

CORRESPONDENCE
Fairlawn United Church Letter
re: Review of Ministry & Funding Priorities Report



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

28 Fairlawn Ave.,
Toronto, ON M5M 1S7
www.fairlawnchurch.ca

416-481-6848

October 16, 2025

Shining Waters Regional Council

Attention: Susan Whitehead, Executive Assistant and Administrative Support

Dear Council Members:

Subject: Report to the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council regarding
Review of Ministry & Funding Priorities

On behalf of the Fairlawn Avenue United Community of Faith, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the time, effort and thinking that went into the writing of the **Report to the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council regarding the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities.**

Echoed throughout the report, we saw a strong sense of the “why” - a shared calling to think globally about social justice but to act through strong local congregations who as the report states, “are the front-lines of ministry where the gospel is lived out through worship, care, hospitality and service. These are the places where ‘the Word becomes flesh and lives among us’. God’s mission takes on flesh in real neighbourhoods, in aging buildings and messy meetings, in Sunday worship and in Tuesday food banks.”

While many of us might have immediately thought of our own congregational situation when reading this last line of the 3rd paragraph on page 4 of the report, a small group of Fairlawners found ourselves thinking instead about Saint Luke’s United Church, a church we had recently visited which sits at the southeast corner Church and Carleton in downtown Toronto – a block from the historic site of Maple Leaf Gardens and directly across the street from Allan Gardens – a beautiful urban park sadly known more for its encampment community of over 90 structures and 60 people in the summer of 2023 than for its majestic conservatory and stunning gardens.

Saint Luke’s is just that – an aging building that is literally crumbling – so much so that the congregation had to move services out of the Sanctuary and into a small chapel down the hall to avoid falling plaster and dripping water. But their mission to serve the local community of “people living on pensions, refugees, immigrants, international students, young

people in school or early in their careers, families, single adults and neighbours living with housing challenges and food insecurities” remains solid. As they wrote in their 2024 Annual Report “While supporting each other within our community of faith was a priority, that was matched by deep engagement to address the needs of those around us facing challenges of food insecurity and being unhoused or underhoused.” (page 2)

These needs are addressed by this small vibrant community of faith through four major initiatives:

1. An interfaith Out of the Cold Meal partnership that operates twice a week, 52 weeks a year including statutory holidays and serves 650-770 meals a week in the basement of their building as well as taking another 235 hot meals a week, bagged lunches, water or other needed items to those who visit the 3 overdose prevention sites in the area.
2. A newcomer’s ministry that has seen Saint Luke’s provide free office space for the African Centre for Refugees (AC4R) which supports LGBTQ+ refugees from Africa and hosting of a Town Hall for Refugees in early 2025.
3. A collaboration with Regent Park Community Ministry called the Downtown East Community Ministry Collective which is working to foster a more impactful and sustainable faith-based presence in the Downtown east neighbourhood of Toronto through the sharing of meeting space, worship and spiritual nurture opportunities (e.g., Bible study and harm reduction training etc.) as well as joint advocacy projects.
4. The Allan Gardens Food Bank which operates on Thursdays and Fridays and provides food for around 90 households weekly.

But in amongst all of this “God’s work”, Saint Luke’s found itself in 2024 losing their full-time minister due to financial challenges, followed by months without a minister and then the hiring of a half-time minister for only six months. Furthermore, the congregation’s financial instability resulted in the need for their redevelopment partner, Kindred Works, to assume management responsibility for their building but the coverage of these costs must be re-paid once the redevelopment has been completed and the church starts to receive some kind of revenue stream from rentals. And to top it all off, they must re-locate both the worship and church services by the end of 2026.

While Fairlawn Avenue along with a few other Toronto-based churches do what they can to financially assist Saint Luke’s, much more is needed to keep this vibrant, life-changing, core ministry going. Toronto’s unhoused population is described as being in *a crisis situation* with an estimated 15,400 people currently unhoused in the city – a figure that indicates that Toronto’s homelessness has more than doubled since 2021 according CBC on July 08th 2025. [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/street-needs-assessment-homeless-population-toronto- 1.7580073](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/street-needs-assessment-homeless-population-toronto-1.7580073)

Saint Luke’s is a large, crumbling, inner-city church with very limited financial and people resources.

But they have unlimited belief in their ability to support the marginalized of Canada's largest city. And they are in desperate need of the kind of support that is referenced in Priority 1. Support to Existing Communities of Faith: Congregations. This desperate need is also one of the key reasons that Fairlawn Avenue United Church came to the last Regional Meeting and asked for the strategic conversation in the Greater Toronto Area which is referenced in report item 2. 5.

Support to Communities of Faith: Community Ministries, Missions and Outreach Ministries. And why we are strongly in favour of the Region using an internal facilitator as well as the external facilitator referenced in Implementation Option i. - because as we all know from experience, strategic planning is a tough slog. Having the collaboration between the perspective of the inner workings of the United Church and the objectivity of an outside perspective is one way to help lighten some of the load and ensure success.

The Fairlawn community of faith also wishes to offer the assistance of some of the members of our congregation who have extensive experience with strategic planning and can help to achieve the goal expressed on page 13 to develop "a clear vision of what the Region wants to achieve in the future with shared organization-wide goals and defined results."

In closing, the development of such a strategic plan provides the foundation for both rural and urban congregations in Shining Waters to thrive going forward. But more importantly, it helps us to realize what sits at the heart of the United Church's self understanding – "the belief that God is calling us into community – not as isolated individuals but as interdependent members of the Body of Christ. As A Song of Faith affirms, "God calls us to be the Church", which includes each congregation celebrating God's presence, living with respect in Creation, and loving and serving others. Supporting local ministries is an act of faithful accompaniment. It is how the Region lives its purpose, and how the wider church stays rooted in place." (page 4)

In a nutshell, it's all about the why!

Respectfully,
Council Representatives
Fairlawn Avenue United Church

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, 2022

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/>

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



Maria Christina Conlon, or Tina, became the Davenport Perth Community Minister in June 2014. In her practice of Intentional Loitering, Tina delighted in integrating the arts, social justice and theological narratives in Community Ministry. DPCM is in a neighbourhood deeply impacted by transience, housing insecurity, and systemic exclusion yet also filled with resilience, beauty and wisdom. Tina's ministry includes communal meals, justice advocacy, and storytelling that centers dignity and resistance. These practices have taught us that formation happens not just in classrooms but in kitchens, on sidewalks, and in the liminal spaces where pain and hope meet, and daily living unfolds. Her ministry approach can be described as presence-based, patient, and open to being shaped by the stories of those we walk alongside.

Tina was ordained in May 2022, called to word, sacrament, and pastoral care and became president of Shining Waters Regional Council the following year. She finishes her term as president in the 2025 AGM.

As commissioner to GC45, she co-facilitated one of the 28 working groups and also co-facilitated one of the pre-event gatherings. At the gathering of Disabled Peoples / People with Disabilities, while reflecting on two biblical passages on healing, she encouraged participants to play with clay. At this GC, Tina moved a point of order and introduced an emergency resolution on Gaza that passed in a reconvened meeting on September 13.

Tina is enjoying being a lola for the first time, being a kukum to one-year old Noodin.

REV. ERIC NYARKO
PRESIDENT-ELECT SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL



The My name is Eric Nyarko, I was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, where I was a soldier (Technical Assistant and a Military Instructor) in the Artillery Regiment of Armed Forces.

I am Friendly, outgoing, organized, positive, energetic, person of deep faith, passionate preacher and strive to get along with people of all ages, a team player. I have strong interfaith and interdenominational background and a good religious tolerance. I am married with three children (Evangeline Sarkaa Nhyira Nyarko, Samuel Wesley Asamoah Nyarko, and Susanna Wesley Adutwumwaa Nyarko). I value church family and community. I have been a preacher for many years before ordination.

I am excited about God, the ministry of Jesus Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the church. I have a great dedication in the church and love for the Bible and prayer. I am willing to serve humanity; seeking justice and resisting evil as I commit to ministry in Christ. I have worked as a coordinator for Coordinating Office of Ministry (Outreach, Evangelism and Renewal movement) at the Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church. The leader of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Canada Circuit and the North American Diocese Boys' and Girls' Brigade Coordinator. Currently, I am the Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral care at the Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church. I hold a Master of Divinity from the Emmanuel College, a member college of the Toronto School of Theology in the University of Toronto.

The cornerstone of my theology is all about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God is my creator and the creator of the Universe. Jesus Christ is God in human form (savior) who came to live and died to show me how to live as a child of God, that is Jesus Christ is my Messiah and the Son of God. The Holy Spirit inspires me to live as a child of God; directs and strengthens me in my ministry.

To me, Ministry is a calling and a vocation; Ministry is service to God and to other people in the name of God. Doing things in the church or congregation and community for God. I see ministry as a round table, the ordained are called to a specific task and they need people of God to minister with, which is the lay. The image to illustrate my ministry is the priesthood of all believers between the ordained and the Lay.

I am excited to serve as the President of the Shining Waters Regional Council, as I see it as a Calling. I Pray for the Lord's leading, so that together, we will all serve our beloved Regional Council. Let us build our Regional Council together through Service.

WELCOME TO THE LAND: Teaching WAYNE MONAGUE



WELCOME and THEME PLANNING TEAM



Rev. Emily Gordon (she/her)
Minister with Bathurst United Church and Burningbush Eco-ministry



Rev. Dr. YunJung Julia Kim (she/her)
Director of the Designated Lay Ministry Program at St. Andrew's College
Minister, Downsview United Church (Toronto)



Rev. Ma. Christina Conlon
Ki Chi Siya

MUSIC COORDINATOR



Matthew Boutda is a Laotian-Canadian conductor, tenor, organist, and educator named one of CBC's "30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30" (2024). He is completing his Doctor of Music in Choral Conducting at McGill University and serves as Director of Music at Leaside United Church. He currently serves on the curation committee for Then Let Us Sing! resource for the United Church of Canada. Matthew has extensive experience as a conductor and singer in both academic and professional settings, including university choirs at McGill, the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, and will be Apprentice Conductor for the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2026.

AFIRMING MUSIC COORDINATOR



Chris Kovarik (she/her) is a Toronto-based composer and organist. Focusing on choral and organ music for the past few years, she has won an Ontario Arts Council grant, had a collection of organ works published (by Augsburg Fortress), and seen the premiers of several new choral works—one of which (*An Ordinary Girl*) was partly inspired by her own gender journey. She has previously taught music technology at Adelphi University on Long Island, NY, and has been organist and music director at Lansing United Church in North York since 2022.

THEME CONVERSATION PANELISTS: Sanctuary, Towards a Kingdom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation



Maria Christina Conlon



Shadia Qubti is a Palestinian Christian from Nazareth, currently an arrivant on the unceded territories of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətəl (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, known as Vancouver, Canada. She worked in faith-based peacebuilding in Palestine/Israel for 15 years, focusing on amplifying women's voices through initiatives like the Women Behind the Wall podcast. Her writing is inspired by her completed research into Palestinian and North American Indigenous understandings of land, informing her approach to contextual theology. Her forthcoming publications include "Noticing Sumac in Unexpected Places: Theological Engagement" in *The Cross and the Olive Tree: Cultivation Palestinian Theology Amid Gaza* (2025) and "The Significance of Peacebuilding in Theological Education." Shadia currently serves as Community Engagement Animator at Trinity Grace United Church in Vancouver and as a Commissioner to the General Council of the United Church of Canada.



Rev. Christy Kumar Thangarajah. I have been serving as a Minister in the Tamil United Church for the past 10 years. Tamil United Church has been one of the mission wings of the United Church of Canada since 2010. I was born and raised in Sri Lanka, where I served as an Ordained Minister in the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka for about 25 years in various parts of the country during the civil war. I migrated to Canada 15 years ago due to family commitments

THEME CONVERSATION PANELISTS: Global Kindom



Won Hur is the Global Partnership Program Coordinator for Asia with the General Council's Church in Mission Unit. He graduated from Emmanuel College and was ordained in 1994. Since then, he has served congregations in Alberta and Toronto. Won and his wife also spent three years in Japan as mission co-workers, teaching English at an all-girls Christian high school and supporting the school's religious program in Hokkaido. Feeling called to Japan as part of a spiritual journey, he dedicated himself to learning Japanese archery and earned a third-dan rank. One student from the school's archery club once remarked, "Won sensei is more Japanese than the Japanese." These days, Won is taking on the challenge of memorizing the Tao Te Ching, a classic Taoist text. After two years of practice, he is now halfway through. In his free time, he enjoys golf and curling. He and his wife have two grown children.



Richard Choe is a graduate of Emmanuel College and also earned a degree from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, where he studied the religions and philosophies of East and West. Richard was ordained in 1990 and served 20 years in congregational ministry, 10 years as a senior staff at the national church, and the recent 5 years as an intentional Interim Minister. In 2011, Richard received a Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders from the Louisville Institute. His sabbatical project, titled "*Developing and Creating a Common Language of Faith*," focused on integrating photography and poetry as spiritual practices, exploring their use in worship and small group conversations. Richard's extensive involvement in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue during his time in church leadership led him to believe that "*broadening the middle rather than polarizing to either/or*" is key to meaningful religious conversations. As a passionate photographer, Richard has long explored how visual storytelling reveals the Sacred in the everyday. He has been teaching photography as a spiritual practice across Canada and the U.S. for over 20 years. His lived experience as an ethnic minority in Canada also shapes his theological perspective, offering him a deep understanding of what it means to *see God from below/margin*—through the lens of marginalization and resilience. In addition to preaching, teaching, and facilitating conversations in both religious and public settings, Richard has worked as a conflict mediator since 1996, providing support in both church and secular environments. Coaching ministry personnel is his new adventure in ministry.



Joy Vicente (she/her) I am a Social Service Worker with over 30 years of experience in the home care sector, currently serving as a PSW Supervisor at WoodGreen Community Services. Beyond my professional role, I am an active member of the faith community. I grew up attending the United Methodist Church in the Philippines and have been a proud member of Downsview United Church for over 25 years. My contributions include serving as a Lay Leader, Past Chair of the Board, current board member, choir member, and dedicated volunteer across various ministries. Outside of work, I'm a proud mother of two daughters, a fur mom to Ben, and a passionate gardener who finds healing and purpose through nature and therapeutic gardening.

THEME PRESENTATION PANALISTS: **Reflections on the Apology to 2SLGBTQIA people and communities**

David Hallman was a member of the General Council staff of the United Church of Canada from 1976 to 2007. He was open as a gay man from the start. He worked in a portfolio primarily focused on environmental justice and is the author of four books on ecology and spirituality. During his career with the Church, he was assigned responsibility for a number of other areas from time to time including issues related to 2S and LGBTQI+ communities. He provided leadership and partnered with other colleagues on education and advocacy related to federal and provincial human rights codes (1967-77), human sexuality (1979-1988), HIV/AIDs (1986-1995), and equal marriage (2001-2005). In 1989, he organised and edited a book with the papers from the first international conference on ethics and theology related to HIV/AIDs. Since retirement in 2007, he has written three gay-themed books: “August Farewell”, a memoir about the sudden cancer death of his lover of thirty-three years, a novel “Searching for Gilead,” and “Book Tales,” a collection of gay literary short stories.



Hyerim Park is a Diaconal Ministry Candidate serving at Westminster United Church in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. She also serves as Chair of Korean Rainbow United (KRU), a 2SLGBTQIA+ support group for Korean and English speakers. Hyerim is passionate about 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy, intercultural ministry, and building welcoming communities of justice and belonging.



Nan Hudson has served as an ordained minister with the United Church since 1989, and has worked at every level of the church... in Presbytery outreach ministry in Toronto, in the General Council office as the staff person responsible for partnerships and program in East Asia, at the Conference level enabling Stewardship and Mission, and as a congregational minister in Kingston. She holds Joint Masters degrees in Divinity & Community Social Work (Emmanuel College & University of Toronto), and a Doctoral degree in Ministry with a focus on Mission (Chicago). Nan has broad international, national, and local experience inside and outside of the church, working in India, Cambodia, and the Philippines prior to ordination. She was the Executive Director of a national NGO facilitating community-based change both in Canada and Africa, and also served three terms on the Board of Women’s College Hospital, working to establish their first 2SLGBTQ+ health program. She currently serves on the Board of Transforming Cleft, and Toronto-based international NGO. She retired in 2021, but recently served a 6-month contract in ministry at Trinity St. Paul’s United Church in Toronto. She lives in Kingston with her wife and corgi.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTOR



Mastard Sakala

CHAPLAINS



Bri-anne Swan



Andrew Kunyoung Lee

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: Community Ministries, Congregational Finances, Grants, Incorporated Ministries, and Property - Development, Leases, Loans, Renovations, Sales



Minister, Justice and Faith Formation

Shawn Redden sredden@united-church.ca

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

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Shawn 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 Shawn about: Affirming Ministry; Camping 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 and Pastoral Relations

Eun-Joo Park epark@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Eun-Joo encourages and supports both communities of faith and ministry personnel.

Contact Eun-Joo 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. Eun-Joo is responsible for all the Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located south of Highway 407.



Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations Minister; Intercultural Diversity, Anti-Racism and Right Relations Minister

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



Minister, Community of Faith Support

Diane Matheson-Jimenez dmatheson@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield 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.



Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations

Mastard Sakala msakala@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Mastard encourages and supports both communities of faith and ministry personnel.

Contact Mastard 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. Mastard is responsible for Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located north of Highway 407.



Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations

Andrea Allan aallan@united-church.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Andrea encourages and supports both communities of faith and ministry personnel.

Contact Andrea 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. Andrea is responsible for Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located north of Highway 40



Pastoral Relations Minister

Rob Smith rsmith@united-church.ca

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

Location: Teleworks from his home.

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

Contact Rob 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. Rob is responsible for all the Communities of Faith and ministry personnel in the region that are located south of Highway 407 and generally west of Yonge St.



Executive Assistant and Administrative Support

Susan Whitehead swhitehead@unitedchurch.ca

Serves in: Shining Waters Regional Council and Canadian Shield 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. She is the first point of contact for the Canadian Shield Region.



Communications and Administrative Support

Donna Rutz drutz@united-church.ca

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

Location: Teleworks from her home

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.



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 Jones kijones@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.



Bookkeeper

Meranda MacKenzie mmackenzie@united-church.ca

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

Location: Teleworks and works in the Guthrie office

Role: Meranda supports the financial operations of Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Council

United Church of Canada staff who support Shining Waters Regional Council specifically as part of their assigned denominational work through the General Council Office:



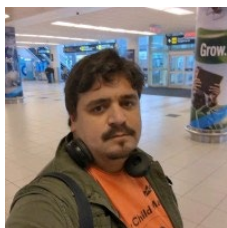
Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC) Indigenous Ministries & Justice Unit

Joni Shawana – interim jshawana@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.



Office of Vocation - Indigenous Church

Tim Hackborn thackborn@united-church.ca

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

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



Growth Animator

Calin Lau

clau@united-church.ca

Serves: Growth and Ministry Development department, deployed to Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council

Location: Teleworks from home

Role: Within the framework of the strategic plan, under the direction of the Director of Growth and Ministry Development, the Growth Animator plants, enhances, evaluates and connects new communities of faith, supports renewal efforts in existing ministries, and strengthens invitation to The United Church of Canada



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.

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

ORDINANDS and ADMITTANTS

Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee – Admittand



My name is Jason Byassee and I am the senior minister of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto, Ontario. My home church is Davidson United Methodist in North Carolina. Since that congregation sent me into ministry I have served several small rural congregations, large urban ones, and one small urban Chinese congregation. I did my theological study for M.Div. and Ph.D. work at Duke Divinity School and taught full-time at the Vancouver School of Theology. I was drawn to ministry because I wanted to study God and see how God meets and transfigures people. My hope is to be part of God's renewal of the church, and so the world.

I am married to Jaylynn Warren Byassee, a fellow Methodist minister from the US and we have served in ministry together in British Columbia. Together we have sons who are 22, 20, and 17. Things break in our house on the westside of Toronto.

Adele Halliday – Ordinand



I was baptized and initially experienced faith formation within The Presbyterian Church in Canada; I moved my membership to The United Church of Canada as an adult. My call to ordained ministry goes back to my teenage years, when I was actively involved with leadership in regional and ecumenical ministries. Even then, I “knew” that I wanted to continue in ministry with the church in the long-term, and at first felt that I could live out my faith as a lay person actively engaged in the church. God's voice still continued to whisper (and sometimes shout!) about a call to ordained ministry in later years. When finally said “yes” to ordination, I felt deep sense of peace about responding to this call.

My home congregation, before pursuing ordination, was St James United in Toronto, and my Supervised Ministry Education experience was at Islington United in Toronto. I hold an undergraduate degree in environmental sciences, a Bachelor of Education, and a Master of Education. I completed my Master of Theological Studies at Emmanuel College, and additional theological education at the Vancouver School of Theology. I am currently working on a Doctorate in Education, in Social Justice Education. I have been working at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada, in different staff positions, for many years. I am currently serving as the Anti-Racism and Equity Lead, and after ordination, I plan to continue in this ministry role.

My hope for my ministry is to continue to resource the creation of welcoming and equitable spaces for people of all identities in the United Church. I hope and pray to collectively engage in this anti-racism and equity work inspired by the Spirit, as a disciple of Jesus, and being responsive to God's call.

Ariel G. Siagan – Admittand



I am Ariel G. Siagan. I am PhD Theological Studies student at Trinity College of the University of Toronto. I was ordained by the Iglesia Evangelica Metodista En Las Islas Filipinas (IEMELIF) in February 2020. I was the pastor of the Upper Room IEMELIF Church in Manila from 2012 to 2016. I was also a staff of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines from 2010-2016. I took my Masters in Theology at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea in 2018.

I was drawn to the ministry by a series of conversions. The first was a born-again experience in which I felt I was called to surrender to a compelling love that is beyond words. I became active in the church after that encounter. The second conversion was an encounter with the people who are suffering because of the state's neglect. Their testimonies warmed my heart and I felt called to do justice work in the church. Those conversions shaped who I am as a minister.

I hope that I could share who I am with the United Church of Canada. There are many new Canadians in the City of Toronto and in many places in Canada, and for that reason that the United Church ministry landscape evolves. I think the Church will have to inhabit a new ministry framework, one that is ready and sensitive to the Spirit's enchantment of God's compelling love and ready and sensitive to externalize this compelling love to the world that is suffering.

Susan Wood- Ordinand



Since childhood, I have joined my mom, Bea Shelswell at Forest Home United Church, just outside of Orillia. From a young age, I felt drawn to ministry, but growing up, I had never seen a female minister—so the path felt out of reach. That changed when Rev. Sue Browning began her ministry at Forest Home. Her leadership and mentorship inspired me to explore my own call. With her support, I began the Lay Pastoral Ministry program and later completed the Leadership Program at the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg.

My educational foundation began with a diploma in Developmental Service Work from Georgian College. I serve for 28 years as an Educational Assistant with the Simcoe County School Board, where I had the joy of working alongside incredible teachers and students. This experience deepened my sense of compassion, patience, and commitment to inclusive community.

My formal ministry began with the Romney Pastoral Charge in Wheatley, Ontario. After a year, I moved closer to home and was called to serve the Heart of Muskoka Pastoral Charge. Now, 21 years later, this vibrant community continues to feel like home, and our shared ministry is still going strong.

My hope for the future of the United Church of Canada is that we continue to be an inclusive, welcoming space for all. I pray we grow in our relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and that we let the music of new hymns lift us together into a faithful, Spirit-led future.

Huanyun (Julia) Ye – Ordinand



With an appointment to the Collaborative Ministry Pilot Project for Central, Sackville, and Visions United, New Brunswick, joining another minister to work as a ministry team from last September, I have had the privilege of ministering with three communities of faith. Before this appointment, I served with the Westmount Pastoral Charge in Ontario.

My journey began with a newfound faith in Christianity. I was baptized and experienced faith formation years at my home congregation, Richmond Hill United Church. During that time, curiosity and hunger for spiritual growth sparked me to study in theology. I earned my Master of Divinity from Tyndale University and completed the requirements from the United Church for Testamur at Emmanuel College.

As a first-generation immigrant and first-generation Christian, I have grown and evolved in significant ways, endeavouring always to be authentic. It was during my years of full-time theological study that I responded to the call to ministry. In the beginning, I saw ministry as a way to give back—to serve others as I had been served. But as I stepped into this call, I found that I was receiving even more, the joy and growth. Learning and serving in ministry has been a very inspiring and fulfilling experience.

I look forward to seeing what awaits me in my ministerial journey when the Collaborative Pilot Project concludes. I want to see my future ministry is actually creating intergenerational space, designing the experience of church with both younger and older members in mind.

Cathy Zixian Zou – Ordinand



I grew up in a non-religious environment in mainland China, where faith was absent from both my family and my schooling. As a teenager, during a season of deep despair and loneliness, I even contemplated ending my life. One day, while on a train, someone shared with me the simple yet life-changing words: “God loves you.” At that moment, I experienced the power of the Holy Spirit and surrendered my life to Christ. From then on, God’s Word and Spirit have guided me daily, and I discovered a special call to walk alongside people

who, like me, find themselves in seasons of struggle and pain, pointing them to the healing love of Christ. I have also felt called to notice and accompany those who are marginalized, creating spaces of dignity, compassion, and inclusion.

I graduated in 2017 with a Master of Divinity from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and am now completing my Master of Theology thesis. I served in Hong Kong for five years before immigrating to Canada in 2022, when I began ministry at Toronto Chinese United Church. Coming from a Pentecostal background, I longed for a community whose theology aligned with my convictions, especially regarding inclusivity. In the United Church, I have found a spiritual home where openness, diversity, and justice are integral to the gospel.

Looking ahead, I hope the United Church will continue to embrace the vitality, creativity, and passion of ethnic minority faith communities, and engage more boldly with the next generation, showing how the gospel speaks with love, power, and relevance today

RETIREES

The Reverend Warren Ball



When I began a one-year term as Staff Associate at Thornhill United Church in July of 1998, little did I expect what would lay ahead! There were all of the puzzling, opening, thrilling, and, yes, even upsetting, experiences at Thornhill United within the course of that year, culminating in a decision to seek discernment as a student candidate. Thank you so much to the Rev. Joyce Kelly and Thornhill United for mentoring and supporting me in that. Then there were all the difficult, affirming, challenging, and growth-filled experiences at Emmanuel College as I completed my M.Div. Thank you so much, Emmanuel. And thank you, too, Trinity United in Newmarket, and the Rev. Robin Wardlaw, for my experience of internship.

Then there were my four pastoral charges: 9 years at Trinity United, Malton, 9 years at Caledon East United (the first 7 years of which were shared with Trinity, in case you're checking my math!), 4 years at St. Matthew's United in Richmond Hill, and 5 years at Mt. Albert United. Together with the communities from which they uniquely grew, all four of those churches provided incredible contexts for the practice of ministry and service, for learning and growth, for laughing and crying. Back in 1998, little did I know of the blessings and opportunities that lay ahead, but here in 2025, all of those experiences have surely given me an enduring reason to be thankful, profoundly thankful. And, in and around all of that, thank you to our magnificent United Church of Canada for continuing to so richly become God's love in creation.

The Reverend Dr. Deborah Hart



I graduated from Emmanuel College in 1984 as part of the first class to graduate with more women than men. Having grown up in a small village in southern Ontario I was quite at home in my Settlement 3-point pastoral charge in Saskatchewan Conference on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border (McAuley and Manson, MB and Welwyn, SK) for 3 years. I fully intended to make my way to BC as I loved my year-long internship at West Point Grey UC in Vancouver. God had other plans, and I ended up in Toronto in three wonderful congregations in team ministry: Royal York Road United, the newly amalgamated Eglinton St. George's United, and Deer Park United (in Ecumenical Shared Ministry with Calvin Presbyterian).

My 40+ years of ministry included a D.Min. degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1993) with my thesis in the area of Grief, leading me to offer Grief Support Groups and workshops for over 30 years. I loved team ministry, and offering pastoral care, more than preaching! I was also fortunate to travel on various mission, ecumenical and interfaith study tours to Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Turkey and Greece, India and Nepal, Italy, Northern Ireland, England, Switzerland and Taizé, South America and East Africa. I also made time for Interfaith Clergy Curling and reiki! I served the wider church in Presbytery, Conference and SWRC in the area of Mission and Outreach, Mission Support Grants, and the Grants and Mission Support committees. I want to extend my gratitude to all the colleagues with whom I have shared, in Team Ministry, in collaboration throughout the various levels of our denominational organization, and with ecumenical partners. I am most indebted to the members and leaders in the congregations with whom I was privileged to serve. It was rewarding, challenging, sometimes exhausting and often joy-filled as we sought to be faithful to the Gospel and the Spirit's leading. I am proud to be part of a denomination that is willing to wrestle with issues that are vital to both church and society, and that stands with

those on the margins, as we *all* strive for healing and wholeness of relationships and the planet, and count on God's grace and wisdom.

The Reverend Elizabeth Mackenzie



Over the course of my life, I have lived in four different countries, four different provinces, and one territory (Northwest Territories). I have attained four degrees: Bachelor of Arts (Hon. French and English), Bachelor of Education, Masters of Business Administration, and Masters of Divinity. From the time I was 13, I wanted to become an ordained minister. (If we count me wanting to become a nun when I was 7, I've had "the call" for a very long time...) So, I became a high school English and French teacher and then a human resources management consultant specializing in human rights, pay and employment equity, before finally landing at Emmanuel College on the same day my youngest child started Junior Kindergarten. I was ordained by Toronto Conference in 2003. I like to say I took the "scenic route."

Since then, I have completed the requirements and been designated for the Ministry of Supervision and Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM). I have had calls, appointments, and IIM appointments with communities of faith in rural Peterborough, Mississauga, Toronto, Hamilton, and Brampton. I have ministered with two ethnic-cultural communities of faith - Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and Toronto Chinese United Church. From 2015 to the end of 2018, I was called the Saskatchewan Conference Personnel Minister. Over my years of ministry, I have served the wider church on many committees and task groups, including most recently as Chair of the Equity Task Group of the SWRC Pastoral Relations Commission, for which I am very grateful. I consider myself to be very blessed to have served in this United Church of ours in so many capacities and with so many wonderful people - ministry personnel and lay people - who have enhanced the quality of my ministry and my life in so many, many ways.

I am a passable curler and a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol, and you can find me patrolling the hills at the Caledon Ski Club. My greatest joy is as mother to two daughters and an Amma to five grandchildren. In August 2024, I adopted Willie, a now seven-year old toy poodle who was taken to the Toronto Animal Services shelter through no fault of his own. This August, we spent a month on my retirement road trip tour, driving as far as Kelowna, B.C., participating in General Council 45 in Calgary, and visiting numerous family and friends along the way. I plan on doing more curling, skiing, spending time with family, and travelling in my retirement...along with finding other opportunities to serve the church, of course!

The Reverend Dr. Todd McDonald



I've been reflecting on the Parable of the Sower lately (Luke 8:4-8). Now retired, as I reflect on the last 35 years of ministry, there has been so much good seed thrown my way. I've been part of people's good grief as they mourn a loved one or struggle with an illness. I've been part of the good creative work of the Development Teams for Voices United and More Voices. My heart has been warmed and blessed by Godly Play worship leaders and children, youth groups and young family ministry. I've been filled with joy as a sermon is launched out there and people tell me what it meant to them, God's Spirit in it all. So much good seed cast that has touched so much of my life.

Some of that seed helped me grow up stronger with deeper roots in my faith. Some of that seed fell on hard ground of my life and even there became compost for potential growth. Some of that seed blessed others like the birds of the parable – it wasn't about me at all. With hindsight I can see the thorny places in my life where the good seed was trying to grow and couldn't. In other words, throughout all my ministry (Britannia Pastoral Charge-Newfoundland, Monkton United Church, Thornhill United Church, Lefroy United Church, Toronto Conference and Shining Waters Regional Council). I acknowledge all the seeds that have been planted and I am so blessed. I am so grateful.

The Reverend Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

The Reverend Andrew Comar

The Reverend Karen Dale

The Reverend Lorraine Newton-Comar

The Reverend Susan Woods

**Note: All retirees above have given their consent to be listed here – it may not reflect the actual list of Retirees*

JUBILANDS

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

65 years	Ronald Nickle
60 years	Anna Taylor J. Hugh Gemmell Richard Moffat Donald Bell
55 years	George Malcolm Sinclair Keith Knill
50 years	Darryl Doyle Leslee Alfano
45 years	Constance denBok Robert Wardlaw Bruce White W.E. Mark Aitchison Gordon Postill
40 years	Vivian Yarwood Timothy Dayfoot Bruce Aitken Marion Switzer

35 years	Todd McDonald Abigail Johnson Danny Huang Richard Choe
30 years	Ellen Redcliffe Christopher Miller Frances Ota Leslie Sedore Karen Hamilton Maria Mindszenty Paul Hutchison Ki Sung Yoo Eric Bacon
25 years	David Kim-Cragg Karen Dale Norman Munroe Ronald Ewart Janet Eriksen Vicki Cousins YoonOk Shin Kang
20 years	Michael Cottrell Lois Brown Lorraine Diaz Amy Yea Kyong Lee Warren Bell
15 years	Adam Hanley Anne Hines Cindy Bourgeois Bronwyn Corlett Hannah Lee Marc Doucet Andrea Allan
10 years	Patricia Rodgers Bradley Inglis Hewitt Holmes Emily Gordon Barry Rieder
5 years	Kimberley Lawrance Lisa Naumann Joel Saavedra Aguirre Brian Stevens Alydia Smith

OBITUARIES

The Reverend Marlene Amonsén (February 20, 1932 – July 17, 2025)

Born in Bradford, Ontario, she was a long-time resident of Toronto, relocating to Port Severn late in life. Ordained as a United Church of Canada minister after completing two master's degrees at the University of Toronto, Marlene spent 10 years as minister of Parkdale United Church, then moved to Davenport Perth United Church, before officially retiring from ministry. Once in Port Severn, she became a very active member of Coldwater United Church.

Joan is survived by her loving husband Ib, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and even a great, GREAT grandchild, and nieces and nephews. She is considered an adopted grandmother and angel to the Yim family and their descendants.

Dr. Alice Marion Pope, Diaconal Minister (March 1, 1928 – July 5, 2025)

Commissioned in 1955 following her studies at the United Church Training School (now the Centre for Christian Studies), Marion lived a life of deep service. She served as a United Church of Canada missionary with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) from 1957 to 1993.

The Reverend Brenda Duckworth (December 15, 1945 – June 13, 2025)

Brenda last served at Wasauksing-Shawanaga Pastoral Charge in Parry Sound before retiring in 2020. We celebrate her 13 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

The Reverend Henry Poutiainen (September 14, 1956 – March 15, 2025)

We celebrate Henry's 13 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada. Henry served at Thornhill United for many years, as well as at St. Paul's United, Long Branch and at Chapel in the Park United in Toronto. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and family.

He is survived by his wife Cathy of 40 years, and by his children Carolyn and Alex (Kassie).

The Reverend Heather Dobson (October 21, 1946 – March 5, 2025)

Rev. Heather Dobson, passed away peacefully at Spencer House, Orillia on Wednesday March 5, 2025 at the age of 78 years. We celebrate Heather's 31 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

The Reverend Betty Lou McNabb (April 23, 1962 – March 2, 2025)

We celebrate Betty Lou's 17 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada. She served as Minister at First United Church, Christian Island United Church, and Georgina Island United Church. Additionally, she was on the Executive of Toronto Conference for many years and was a key leader in the Living Into Right Relations Circle, both in the Conference and the Region, as well as in our participation in the Truth and Reconciliation process. Betty Lou served as the President of Shining Waters Regional Council for one year before stepping down due to health concerns in 2022.

LLWL Paul Stott (October 3, 1944 – February 6, 2025)

We celebrate Paul's many years of service within The United Church of Canada. Paul was on staff as a former Toronto Conference Personnel Minister. He was an active volunteer, serving on the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Education and Students Committee. He also served several terms on the Executive of the General Council, working in the Governance/Business committee. In more recent years in Shining Waters, Paul was a busy Pastoral Relations Liaison, as well as a Pastoral Relations Supervisor, and had been a member of the Pastoral Relations Commission. He was the elected Regional Lay Representative for Trinity-St. Paul's United Church in Toronto. Paul was also recognized by the region as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in 2020. He will be remembered well and missed by all who knew him.

The Reverend Grace Craig (December 1, 1933 – January 28, 2025)

We celebrate Grace's 44 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada. Along with her work for the church, Grace was deeply involved with the apologies to residential schools. Grace will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

The Reverend Ella Taylor-Walsh (November 24, 1933 – January 8, 2025)

We celebrate Ella's 47 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada. She will be remembered for her work with the former Toronto Conference, Toronto Southeast Presbytery and her time on the Education and Student Commission. Ella made a large contribution to the life of the wider church and will be missed.

The Reverend Linda Maw (June 25, 1945 – November 12, 2024)

We celebrate Linda's 21 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada. She will be fondly remembered for her generous and kind heart, and her unwavering dedication as a member of St. James United Church in Etobicoke, her spiritual home for over 40 years.

The Very Reverend Honourable Dr. Lois Brown (April 8, 1927 – September 13, 2024)

Lois faithfully served as Moderator from 1979 to 1982. Rev. Lois Wilson died in hospital in Fredericton, NB, on Friday, September 13, 2024 at the age of 97. We celebrate her 59 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

Lois was known for her work in human rights, ecumenism, social justice, and her contributions to the political and cultural landscape, she received 14 honorary degrees, including one from the United States, and also the following honours and awards: the Queen's 25th Anniversary Medal (1977), The Pearson Peace Medal (opens in a new tab) (1985), Officer of the Order of Canada (opens in a new tab) (1984), Order of Ontario (1991), Companion of the Order of Canada (opens in a new tab) (2003), Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Award for Christian Unity (2010), and the Heart and Vision Award (2011).

Lois is survived by four children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Jeffery Robert Bacon (December 12, 1956 – September 7, 2024)

Jeff served in a few communities of faith in the greater Toronto area, the majority of that being with St. Bartholomew's United Church in Brampton. We celebrate his 11 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

Jeffrey is survived by his wife Deb and their four children.

The Reverend John Young-Jung Lee (August 10, 1948 – August 28, 2024)

His call to ministry came in his early life, where he witnessed his father, a minister and former Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), devote his life to the church's ministry and human rights. This call was insistent and persistent, and finally with his family's support, he was able to answer, "YES." He delighted in theological studies at Emmanuel College, and found joy in ordained ministry at Dentonia Park United Church in Toronto. He served the wider church over the years as President of Toronto Conference, chair of Toronto Southeast Presbytery, co-chair of Committee on Asian/North American Asian Theologies (CANAAT), and various groups. He was charismatic and gifted, devoted to the Church's ministry and mission, and was passionate about justice and human rights. He was a published author, writing about living a Christ-based life in our contemporary context. He strongly believed in supporting colleagues in ministry, setting up a grant fund, and spending countless hours to help others. He lived a faithful and faith-filled life of love and service to God and others.

The Reverend Dr. Gordon Freer (July 23, 1927 – August 14, 2024)

After serving in Manitoba, Massachusetts, and Toronto's west end, in 1960, Gordon was called to become one of the managing editors for the New Curriculum program at the United Church's national office. In twenty-nine years of service, he worked as an educational planner, writer, event organizer, and editor of programs such as Kergyma. He was a frequent speaker at United Church events and a delegate to The World Council of Churches when it met in Romania. We celebrate his 73 years of ministry with The United Church of Canada.

Gordon is survived by his wife Arlie, daughters Cathy and Elene and their families.

The Reverend Dr. Dorothy (Sharman) Wilson (July 6, 2024)

Ordained in 1957, Dorothy was a trailblazer who married academic theology with deep faith. She led many a congregation with caring wisdom and absolute grace, including Emanuel United (Emsdale), Burks Falls United, South River Chalmers United, Trinity United, Sprucedale United, Novar United, Harmony United, Sand Lake United Churches, and St. Paul's Oak Ridges. She was also first choice amongst her family to hatch, match, and dispatch, which she always did most excellently until she decided she wanted some weekends free. She often wished she could remember how many people she had married (as a minister)

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES – June 7-8, 2024

The annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on June 7-8, 2024 at North Bramalea United Church, 363 Howden Blvd., Brampton, ON and via video conference. The theme was *Sanctuary Towards a Kingdom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation*.

FRIDAY, June 7, 2024

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered at North Bramalea United Church and via Zoom video conference at 9:00 a.m. to begin the annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. David Leyton-Brown, Acting President, welcomed all those participating, introduced himself and Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

David Leyton-Brown gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement. David introduced Tabitha Shurgold, the Cultural Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Network who offered an opening ceremony and teaching to begin the time together.

President, David Leyton-Brown constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council.

The United Church of Canada Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne brought greetings via video.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave an orientation to how the group will be together during the meeting, and the BRAVE slide was shared. She also highlighted the programming happening during the meeting.

David Leyton-Brown led the participants through a test motion and vote.

Opening Motions

MOTION by Peter Hartmans / Allan Holditch

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-01

That 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).**
- j) **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: 895 5117 1366 when in session; that the Shining Waters Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including admission and ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 6:30 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.**
- k) **Agenda: that the Agenda as posted to the regional website be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the President.**
- l) **Minutes: that the Minutes of the meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council held May 26-28, 2023 and September 19, 2023 approved as circulated.**

- m) **Accountability reports:** that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.
- n) **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.
- o) **Corresponding Members:** that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2024 Manual C.1.5).
- p) **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.
- q) **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

- 10. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be microphone #1 and the zoom chat box.
- 11. Any handouts must be authorized by the President.
- 12. The Parliamentarian shall be Beth Moore.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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).
- 15. Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the Chairperson in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.
- 16. 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.
- 17. In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Elections, Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information.

CARRIED

Introductions

Acting President, David Leyton-Brown expressed thanks to the staff and volunteers of North

Bramalea United Church. Rev. Jamie Holtom brought greetings on behalf of North Bramalea United Church. The Acting President shared that the theme, “Sanctuary: Towards a Kindom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation”, was selected by our President, Tina Conlon, who was able to participate in some of the initial planning. David also made a number of introductions, including the chaplains, the prayer room support, worship team, parliamentarian, General Council representative, and Shining Waters staff. He welcomed Nancy Ferguson, Chair of the Canadian Shield Regional Council who brought greetings from Canadian Shield.

Worship

A time of worship was led by Uganda Martyrs United Church.

Theme Reflection: Sanctuary

The first theme time centred around welcoming a panel of people who helped reflect from their lived experience on what it means to give and receive sanctuary. It included each panellist sharing their story and then a discussion and reflection on questions that were provided to them ahead of the meeting.

Announcements and Grace

Jody Maltby offered some announcements. The meeting broke for lunch and Andrew Kunyoung Lee offered a blessing on the meal.

Accountability Reports

The Acting President called for questions related to the Accountability Report of the Executive.

Nominations Report

Allyce Mutungi of the Nominations Committee presented the Nominations Report.

Hearing from Candidate for President-Elect

Eric Nyarko addressed the court, sharing his vision for the work of the regional council over the next few years.

Financial Presentation

Acting President, David Leyton-Brown presented a brief narrative on the decision to defer the 2025 Budget to an online regional meeting to be held no later than November 30, 2024. Janet MacDonald shared the financial report for 2024 and answered questions.

Grants & Mission Support Committee Report

John Joseph Mastandrea of the Grants & Mission Support Committee presented the Grants Report.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Theme Reflection: Principles-Based Approach to Justice

Acting President David invited Ariel Siagan and others from the General Council Theology and InterChurch/InterFaith Committee to present on principles-based approach to justice.

The theme presentation continued with small group reflections in groups of 4 people, while online participants engaged in breakout group time, followed by reporting and an interactive conversation with TICIF.

Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council

Susan Eagle presented proposal SW2024-04: *Reducing Homelessness in Canada*.

MOTION by Susan Eagle/Brian McIntosh **SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-02**
That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2024-04: *Reducing Homelessness in Canada*, as presented.

The motion was moved and seconded and was before the court. A point of order was raised that not all people may be present to discuss this proposal as it was moved from its original spot on the agenda; therefore, the discussion of the motion occurred after dinner.

Announcements and Grace

David Leyton-Brown offered some announcements, including Pat Gilmore from the Grand River Bookstore. Amy Lee led the court in two new pieces from *Then Let Us Sing*. Bri-anne Swan then offered a blessing for supper.

Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council Continued

As Susan Eagle presented proposal SW2024-04: *Reducing Homelessness in Canada* before dinner, it was then discussed by the court.

MOTION by Susan Eagle/Brian McIntosh **SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-02**
That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2024-04: *Reducing Homelessness in Canada*, as presented.
CARRIED

Susan Eagle presented proposal SW2024-03: *Support of Broadview Magazine*.

MOTION by Susan Eagle/Deborah Hardwick **SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-03**
That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2024-03: *Support of Broadview Magazine*, as presented.
CARRIED

Don Ford presented proposal SW2024-05: *SEJC RC Information Sharing*.

MOTION by Don Ford/Alexa Gilmour **SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-04**
That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2024-05: *SEJC RC Information Sharing*, as presented.
DEFEATED

Blessing and Adjournment

Peter offered a blessing and the President declared the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on June 8, 2024.

SATURDAY, June 8, 2024

Words of Welcome

Acting President, David Leyton-Brown, welcomed participants to the second day of the Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting.

Worship

Members of the Uganda Martyrs United Church led the meeting in worship and Rev. Bri-anne Swan of East End United Church offered a reflection.

Business Section – Proposals to the Shining Waters Regional Council Continued

Daniel Reed, from the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive, made a motion on behalf of Executive.

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Allyce Mutungi

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-05

That the Shining Waters Regional Council direct the Regional Council Executive to create an ad hoc committee, with the support and advice from all four Commissions, Grants & Mission Support Committee and the regional council Finance Committee, to do a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities. The review would include input from all four regional Commissions, all communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council grant recipients, PTCC and TUCC and a review of current regional council granting priorities and available financial resources. The Committee will report back to the Executive with recommendations, no later than June 30, 2025 and to the regional council with recommendations, no later than the 2025 Regional Council Meeting on October 24/25, 2025. The committee to be created will provide a schedule of milestones to accomplish their work to the Regional Council Executive no later than October 31, 2024 and thereafter, provide quarterly updates as to progress. Such reports to be posted promptly with the minutes of Regional Council Executive.

CARRIED

Motion as Amended:

MOTION by Victoria Stuart/George Isaac

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-06

That the committee to be created and provide a schedule of milestones to accomplish their work to the Regional Council Executive no later than October 31, 2024 and thereafter, provide quarterly updates as to progress. Such reports to be posted promptly with the minutes of Regional Council Executive.

CARRIED

Motion as Amended:

MOTION by Susan Eagle/Frances Ota

SW RCM 204-06-07/08-07

That support an advice be received from the four Commissions, Grants and Mission Support Committee and the Regional Council Finance Committee.

CARRIED

Cameron Watts was to present proposal SW2024-02: *Viability of Ministries in the GTA* and withdrew the proposal.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

George Isaac presented proposal SW2024-01: *Financial Assistance for SWRC*.

Daniel Reed offered a motion to refer.

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Allyce Mutungi

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-08

That the proposal SW2024-01: *Financial Assistance for SWRC*, be referred to the ad hoc committee to be included, as part of the consultation.

CARRIED

Announcements and Grace

Acting President David Leyton-Brown offered some announcements. The meeting broke for lunch and Rev. Shawn Redden offered a blessing on the meal.

In Memoriam

Todd McDonald and Lawrence Nyarko led an in-memoriam worship service remembering the congregations that have closed, disbanded or amalgamated, and remembering those who have gone before us.

Nominations

MOTION by Allyce Mutungi/Sarah Lough

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-09

That Shining Waters Regional Council elect those listed in the Nominations Report to serve on the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive, Commissions, and Committees of Shining Waters Regional Council, for the stated terms.

CARRIED

Minute for Mission

Melody Duncanson-Hales, Community of Faith Stewardship Support, brought greetings from the Philanthropy Unit of General Council and shared a slide presentation about Stewardship.

Courtesies and Adjournment

The President declared the meeting adjourned.

Celebration of Ministries Service

Shining Waters Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministries Service at North Bramalea United Church, Brampton.

Acting President, David Leyton-Brown presided assisted by Executive Minister, Rev. Peter Hartmans. Liturgists Rev. Lawrence Nyarko, Rev. Won Hur, and Rev. Lauren Hodgson, provided leadership.

The liturgists gave an Acknowledgement of the Land. The Scripture readings were from 1 King 17:1-16 and Isaiah 59:9-15. Rev. Brian McIntosh delivered the message.

The service recognized and celebrated those ministry personnel that have retired since the last regional council meeting and those ministry personnel marking a significant anniversary of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada.

Christopher Fraser, Laura Gallagher-Doucette, William Gardner, Krista Moore, and Andrea Wheaton were ordained to the order of ministry. Robert Murdock was commissioned to the order of ministry. Nestor Medina was admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

Communion was served by the liturgists, the new ministry personnel and others.

The Rev. Brian McIntosh gave the commissioning and blessing.

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES – November 12, 2024

The meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on November 12, 2024 via video conference.

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 7:00 p.m. to begin the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council. President Maria Christina Conlon welcomed all those participating, introduced herself and the Regional Staff Lead Jody Maltby, who is Acting Executive Minister on behalf of Peter Hartmans.

Tina constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together at this 8th meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council, for the work that may properly be brought before it to the glory of God.

Tina shared an acknowledgement of the land and read a safe space statement.

Greeting and Opening Prayer Video

Tina shared a video greeting and an opening prayer from the Executive Minister, Peter Hartmans.

Orientation to the Meeting

Diane Matheson-Jimenez oriented the region on how they would be gathering together in this meeting.

Financial Report on Budget for 2025

Jody Maltby, Staff Resource to the Finance Committee, and Janet MacDonald, Regional Financial Administrator, presented the financial report and the budget for 2025.

**MOTION by Allan Holditch/David Leyton-Brown SW RCM 2024-11-12-01
That the Shining Waters Regional Council approve the 2025 Budget, as presented.
CARRIED**

It was expressed that there is a want for more in-person gatherings and the Shining Waters Co-Chair of the 2025 Festival of Faith (FoF) planning team, Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea, spoke to the in-person FoF gathering that is happening next June 13-15, 2025 in Sudbury, ON.

Report from Ad Hoc Committee for Review of Regional Priorities

At the June 2024 Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting, a motion was approved directing the Executive to form an Ad Hoc Committee to conduct a region-wide review of ministry and funding priorities with regular reports to the Executive, including a final report with recommendations to the next Regional Council Meeting in October 2025. Sarah Forge-Lough, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee, shared the committee's progress indicating that the first benchmark of consultation with all Shining Waters Commissions, Committees, TUCC and PTCC has been reached with a result of eleven (11) priorities. Sarah shared that the team then moved on to consulting with each community of faith by forwarding those priorities via email requesting a response before January 31, 2025.

Adjournment and Blessing

The President, Maria Christina Conlon, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. and Kim Uyede-Kai, the Regional Council's Communities of Faith Support, Intercultural Diversity, Anti-Racism and Right Relations Minister, offered a closing blessing.

DIGEST OF ACTIONS THE EXECUTIVE OF SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD June 10, 2024 to October 25, 2025

Decisions made by the Executive June 18, 2024

1. That the SW Executive instruct David, Peter, and Jody to gather up to four (4) and no more than five (5) names to form an Ad Hoc Committee to be approved by Executive via E-vote or in-person (Zoom) no later than July 25, 2024.
2. That the SW Executive forward the document entitled Proposed Process for Funding Priorities Consultation Review to the SWRC Ad Hoc Committee for consideration as a process.
3. That the SWRC Executive approve the Finance Committee's recommendation that the distribution of funds from the sale of property as outlined in the Property Policy, other than funds to be distributed as per the proposal of the community of faith, be held in abeyance pending the completion of the review referenced in the motion of the Executive to the Regional Council Meeting (SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-05) and any changes in the policy coming from said motion.
4. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council, on recommendation of the Nominations Committee, elect Paul Sheppard to the Executive and Richard Gardiner to the Pastoral Relations Commission for a three-year term.
5. There was consensus that Peter will commence with hiring a full-time accounting assistant to help with the transition when Janet leaves her position.
6. That the budget for the 2025 Festival of Faith be up to \$30,000 for the Shining Waters Regional Council's portion of the joint event with CSRC (50% percent of the total cost of \$60,000).

Decisions made by the Executive by E-Vote June 19, 2024

7. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves and authorizes the sale of the property of the former Heritage United Church, being 3332 Muskoka Street in the Township of Severn (Washago) to Scott Inc Limited for the purchase price of four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000) with a closing date of July 17, 2024.

Decisions made by the Executive by E-Vote July 22, 2024

8. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council appoints the following members of the Ad Hoc Committee to do a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities: Daniel Reed, Allyce Mutungi, Sarah Lough, Wendy Jarvis and Gloria Tozek and directs the Committee to select a Chair from within their membership.

Decisions made by the Executive by E-Vote September 6, 2024

9. Upon the recommendation of the Shining Waters Finance Committee, that the 2025 draft Budget be approved and forwarded to the Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting, no later than November 12th, 2025, and that the final 2025 Budget be approved by the Regional Executive no later than the December Executive Meeting.

Decisions made by the Executive September 25, 2024

10. That the SWRC Executive receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission from January 2024 to April 2024, for information.

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

- a) Central King Seniors Residence

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Mary Louise Ashbourne
Alex Gribben
David Hewitt
Joyce Klamer
Sandy McCamus
Taye Maddison
Lang Moffat
Stephen Mogford
Jennifer Osther
Bob Putnam

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of May 29, 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.

- b) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC)

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Philip Armstrong
John Barr
Brent Caslick
Bill Jermyn
Peter Kupfer
Louise Mahood
Harry Ramsaran
Nick Walker

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual Members Meeting of June 5, 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.

c) Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NO 1, as approved by the members on June 18, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Weston King Neighbourhood Centre.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Sebastien Bouffard
Jean-Marie Boutot
Hyacinth Demattos
Rochell Elliston
Faisal Hassan
Rikki LaCoste
Kerri Lee
Eleni Marino
Lang Moffat
Kathy Steiner
Kenny Stier
Barbara Stone

These are based on the draft AGM Minutes of June 18, 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 is fast approaching and there are nine Incorporated Ministries that the Region has not received updated by-laws to approve. Central King Seniors Residence, Church of the Master Homes Corporation, Fred Victor Centre, Grace Place Community Resource Centre, Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca) are all working on their by-laws and updates have been requested from Camp Big Canoe, Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc., Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes but have not been received yet.

Decisions made by the Executive September 26, 2024

12. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive acknowledge receipt of the email to Jody Maltby from Nicole Treksler (General Council Office) dated September 25, 2024 regarding the request of a response for an appeal.
13. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive refer the September 25, 2024 appeal email to the Communities of Faith Commission.
14. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve of the hiring of an independent legal counsel.

Decisions made by the Executive November 5, 2024

15. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission for March through September 2024, for information.

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

a) Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health (formerly 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 Articles of Amendment as approved by the members on September 17, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Abiona Centre for Infant & Early Mental Health 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Edem Akan
Jessica Amey
Lisa Blanchette
Alexandra Clark
Beth Dewitt
Susan Golets
Helen Harris
Michael Kuske
Carolina Martelo
Anika Mehta
Heather Mundell
Jalpa Patel
Elena Simonetta
Hilary Smee

These are based on the draft Annual Members Meeting Minutes of September 17, 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.

b) 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 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Nick Arnott
David Berton
Danielle Boon
Doug Clark
Patricia Clark
Laurie Cook
Heather Dahmer
John Dinner
Vicki Greenwood
Jeremy Hyde
Katherine Leaman
Scott Taylor

Chris Tindal
Lindsay Tucker
Sue Williams

This is based on the draft Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of April 28, 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.

c) Fred Victor Centre

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NO. 2024-1 as approved by the members on October 4, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Fred Victor Centre.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Fred Victor Centre 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Chris Anastasopoulos
Anne Bell
Neill Carson
Mardi Daley
Nancy Easton
Michele Erskine
Richard Gill
Tzen-Yi Goh
Grant Gonzales
John Hinds
Erik Landriault
Ken McKinnon
Monica Masciantonio
Anju Nair
Prossy Nambatya

These are based on the draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of June 25, 2024, Special Members Meeting of October 4, 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.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to arrange on behalf of Fred Victor Centre a refinancing of the existing mortgage for 704 Mortimer Avenue (\$704,589.33) matured on October 1, 2024.

This is based on the Fred Victor Centre Briefing note dated August 26, 2024 and board email vote of August 29, 2024 and will be formally approved by the board at its November meeting. Pre-approval is required by the Region per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre to accept the terms of the Offer to Sub-lease between Fred Victor Centre and the City of Toronto for the premises located at 90 Dunn Avenue as approved by the board on May 31, 2023 and further enter into the Sublease and the Contribution Agreement, as approved by the board on September 19, 2024.

This is based on the Board Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2023 and September 19, 2024, briefing notes regarding this project (described below), and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated

Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

This project is unique because it involves a partnership with the University Health Network and focuses on preventing people from cycling from homelessness to the hospital. There is also a large focus on working with over-represented populations such as Black and Indigenous communities. The proposal is to have half of the units be targeted to Indigenous Peoples experiencing chronic homelessness. Referrals will be made through some of Fred Victor's internal Indigenous-focused programming.

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre to accept the terms of the Offer to Sub-lease between Fred Victor Centre and the City of Toronto for the premises located at 175 Cummer Avenue as approved by a board email vote of August 29, 2024.

This is based on the Fred Victor Centre Briefing note dated August 2024 and board email vote of August 29, 2024. If the Centre's application is approved further approvals will be required.

d) Ina Grafton Gage Home of Toronto

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Articles of Amendment, as approved by the members on September 26, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as 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 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Maura Bascom
Tracey Comeau
Anne Fomin
Ntonghanwah Forcheh
Alexis Lamsen
Tania Leil O'Brien
Molly Marrack
Kalsang Tanzin

These are based on the draft minutes of Annual Members Meeting of September 26, 2024, the 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.

Staff continue to work on a release agreement with this IM and should be ready soon for signature. Updated by-laws will be approved in connection with the release agreement.

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 2024-2025 Board of Directors

David Almack
Trevins Fonseka
Neil Harris
Bridie Lane
Tony Lo
Jim McArthur
Jo-Anne McArthur
Patricia Shearer

Ty Yusko

This is based on the draft minutes of 31st Annual General Meeting of June 18, 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 past and there are now six Incorporated Ministries that the Region has not received updated by-laws to approve. All six, Camp Big Canoe, Grace Place Community Resource Centre, Lake Scugog United Church Camp Inc., Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca), Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes are working on their by-laws to be submitted for review.

17. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the Nominations Committee recommendation of Lorraine Diaz to the Pastoral Relations Commission and of Alternate Commissioner Lawrence Nyarko for GC45.
18. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the SWRC Logo Policy.
19. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the Executive Minister Report.

Decisions made by the Executive December 3, 2024

20. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for April through September 2024, for information.
21. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc.

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Articles of Amendment as approved by the members on April 9, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc.

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NO. 4 as approved by the members on April 9, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc.

These are based on the draft Special Members Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, 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 past and there are now five Incorporated Ministries that the Region has not received updated by-laws to approve. All five, Camp Big Canoe, Grace Place Community Resource Centre, Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca), Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes are working on their by-laws to be submitted for review.

22. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the revised Toronto Southeast Presbytery – Major Capital Fund Agreement.
23. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive 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 and recommend the St. Enoch's Fund grant applications to Toronto United Church Council.

24. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive commit to funding at the same level for three years for the community ministries of Davenport-Perth, Jane-Finch and Regent Park.
25. That funds for the camps of Big Canoe, Simpresca and Sparrow Lake be released upon confirmation that they are fully compliant under the Incorporated Ministries Policy.
26. That the date for the 2025 in-person and online Celebration of Ministries Service be October 26, 2025 and that staff inquire into Jubilee United Church, Toronto as a possible location.
27. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the revised 2025 Budget.
28. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the addition of Meranda MacKenzie as a signing authority for the Shining Waters Regional Council.
29. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council agrees to the following terms regarding monies owed by the GO Project to Shining Waters Regional Council as of the dissolution of the Memorandum of Understanding:
 - That any amount owing over \$35,000 be forgiven; and
 - That the remaining \$35,000 be repaid in annual payments of \$5,000 beginning in 2026.
30. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the payment of legal expenses incurred by Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto in the amount of \$9,728.17 and that this amount be added to the previous loan approved on April 23, 2024, for a total loan of \$59,728.17, such loan to be repaid from the income of development of their property.
31. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive accepts the 100th Anniversary grant of \$2,000 from The United Church of Canada, with gratitude, and that the SWRC Executive invite communities of faith to host local watch parties celebrating with The United Church of Canada's online service on June 8, 2025 and to encourage communities of faith who need financial support for their watch party to submit proposals for small grants, to support watch parties to a maximum grant of \$250 and that the deadline for proposals is March 31, 2025.
32. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the Executive Minister Report.

Decisions made by Executive by E-Vote December 11 , 2024

33. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):
 - a) Abiona Centre For Infant & Early Mental Health

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, and per the request from the City of Toronto grant permission to Abiona Centre For Infant & Early Mental Health to discharge the existing \$10,000 mortgage and enter into two mortgages for the 55-57 Humewood property, one for \$25,430 and the other for \$50,000 as approved by the Abiona Centre board of directors on November 27, 2024.

This is based on the request received from Abiona Centre dated November 28, 2024, request from City of Toronto dated October 29, 2024, November 27, 2024 Board Resolutions and mortgage documentation provided per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

The 55-57 Property represents two houses located at 55 and 57 Humewood Drive. Abiona Centre acquired these properties as part of the amalgamation with Humewood House Association. These two houses have four apartments each that Abiona Centre rents to young mothers and their children for two years. It is a transitional housing program.

The funding is to cover a comprehensive substance survey and mold assessment, fees for design consultants, and project management, ensuring all procurement needs are met and the acquisition and installation of two high efficiency boilers, which come with a three-year parts and warranty agreement, significantly enhancing operational capabilities.

b) Beginning Again Richmond Hill

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Beginning Again Richmond Hill 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Shahin Akter
Elizabeth Jack
Juliet Alexandra Saunders
John Squigna
Carol Thompson
Melville Thompson

This is based on the draft minutes of 2022 and 2023 Annual General Meetings held December 20, 2023, and August 7, 2024, 2022 and 2023 board member approval forms, the board contact lists provided and receipt of other required documentation per The United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries Policy.

****NB:** 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. The decision to dissolve was made in February 2023 and approved by the Region. The IM have now purchased D&O insurance effective September 3, 2024 to December 5, 2027 through UCC Protect/Northbridge. This incorporated ministry is not in compliance with the policy, but are winding up.

c) Fred Victor Centre

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre to enter into the Purchase Agreement and to complete the Transaction to purchase 3000 Queen Street East as the property for the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA) program with the City of Toronto as approved by the Fred Victor Centre Board of Directors on December 9, 2024.

This is based on the draft minutes of Board Meeting of December 9, 2024, and briefing note regarding the MURA project that was originally approved by the Region on February 6, 2024, and receipt of other required documentation per Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada. This is the next step in the process to bringing this project to fruition.

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the action of Fred Victor Centre to change from a Facility Use Agreement to an Operational Agreement between City of Toronto, Fred Victor Centre and Bethlehem United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) with regards to the continuing operation of an emergency shelter at 1161 Caledonia Road dated September 23, 2024.

This is based on the briefing note of November 27, 2024, the signed lease dated September 23, 2024, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

This is purely an operational agreement with no monetary value. It is being brought to the Executive as the partnership/lease was missed by Toronto Conference when originally formed in 2007. This change was made to better delineate the responsibilities of the different parties in managing the shelter and the building in which the shelter is located. A copy of the agreement is on file with the Region and The UCC.

**N.B. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has past and there are now five Incorporated Ministries that the Region has not received updated by-laws to approve. All five, Camp Big Canoe, Grace Place Community Resource Centre, Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca), Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes are working on their by-laws to be submitted for review.

Decisions made by Executive February 4, 2025

34. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Intercultural Diversity Commission for September through October 2024, for information.
35. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Church of the Master 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 NO. 6 as approved by the members on January 8, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as 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 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Jennifer Couthino
Elaine Dalziel
Robert Fletcher
Mathew Peltier

These are based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2025, the 2025 board 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 past and now updated by-laws have been received by all IM's for review. There are six outstanding waiting for various stages of approval and/or correction.

Membership Meetings: Camp Ahshunyoong o/a Camp Big Canoe and Central King Seniors Residence.

Corrections to be made and Membership Meetings: Grace Place Community Resource Centre, Simcoe Presbytery Camp (Camp Simpresca), Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc., and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes.

36. That Shining Waters Regional Council Executive nominate Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, C.M. to be a nominee for the role of Moderator, to be considered by the 45th General Council.
37. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive forward the GC45 proposal, Peace Through Equal Rights in Israel/Palestine, to the 45th General Council for consideration, with concurrence.
38. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive forward the GC45 proposal, Calling on Canada to renounce Administrative Detention of Palestinians, to the 45th General Council for consideration, with concurrence.
39. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive forward the GC45 proposal, Affirm the Imperative of a Palestinian State, to the 45th General Council for consideration, with concurrence.
40. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive forward the GC45 proposal, Harm Reduction Sunday (Sunday closest to August 31st - International Overdose Awareness Day), to the 45th General Council for consideration, with concurrence.
41. That the President of the Shining Waters Regional Council, Tina Conlon, and Bri-anne Swan create a one-minute video to be SWRC's contribution to the video montage for the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada.
42. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the Policy for Financial Appeals to Communities of Faith and authorizes the Communities of Faith Commission to proceed with a financial appeal to Communities of Faith to support the establishment of a Community Ministries Fund to sustain the existing community ministries while also providing seed funding for potential future community ministry in Shining Waters Regional Council, as per the motion at the 2023 Shining Waters Regional Council re: proposal SW2023-02 Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church.
43. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council of The United Church of Canada:
 - (1) Confirms Jody Maltby, Janet MacDonald and Chris Bennett as Trustees for Wexford Heights United Church Cemetery, 2102 Lawrence Ave East, Scarborough;
 - (2) Authorizes Jody Maltby alone to act on behalf of the Trustees in all matters relating to the property including all financial matters and matters relating to any accounts held at any financial institution.
44. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council add Meranda MacKenzie as a signing officer to all financial accounts, including all accounts with BMO (Bank of Montreal) and BMO Nesbitt Burns.
45. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the Nominations Committee recommendation of Mary Owusu Adwoa as a GC45 Commissioner (Youth or Young Adult) and Julian Munro/King Julez as an Alternate GC45 Commissioner.

46. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the Executive Minister Report.

Decisions made by Executive March 4, 2025

47. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission for May 2024 through September 2024, for information.

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

a) Grace Place Community Resource Centre

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve Articles of Amendment and BY-LAW Number 2 as approved by the members on December 17, 2024 of the incorporated ministry known as Grace Place Community Resource Centre

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Grace Place Community Resource Centre 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Linda Davis
C. Jean Jamieson
Chris Moon
Robert Reilly

These are based on the draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Members of June 11, 2024, draft Special Meeting of Members Minutes of December 17, 2024, the 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.

b) Simcoe Presbytery Camp o/a Camp Simpresca

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Simcoe Presbytery Camp 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Geoff Belanger
Brian Cooper
Lucas Cooper
Sarah Draper
Peter Fairman
Sarah Fairman
Taylor Poulin

This is based on the draft AGM Meeting Minutes of July 15, 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

c) The Toronto United Church Council (TUCC)

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve The Toronto United Church Council 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Carole Bennett
Elizabeth Cunningham
Greg Daly
Roberta Howey
Ted Meyers
Doug Mills
Harry W. Ort
David Shearman
Doug Smith
Kate Young

This is based on the draft Annual Meeting Minutes of June 6, 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 past and now updated by-laws have been received by all IM's for review. There are five outstanding waiting for various stages of approval and/or correction.

Membership Meetings: Camp Ahshunyoong o/a Camp Big Canoe

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.

49. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council forward the proposal "The IHRA Antisemitism Definition – a Threat to Charter Rights" to the General Council with concurrence.
50. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the grant of \$5,000 to Unity United Church, Vasey, to help support the extraordinary startup costs of welcoming an admissions minister, Rev. Samuel Mavundu and his family (spouse and two children) from Zimbabwe.
51. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the following recommendations of the Nominations Committee: Paul Rose and Ken Clarke to be members of the Grants and Mission Support Committee; and Glen Greenwood to be a member of the LLWL Committee.

Decisions made by Executive April 1, 2025

52. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission for September 2024 through January 2025, for information.
53. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) Camp Ahshunyoong operating as Camp Big Canoe

... based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve GENERAL BY-LAW as approved by the members on February 24, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Camp Ahshunyoong operating as Camp Big Canoe

This is based on the draft minutes of the Corporation Meeting of February 24, 2025 and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

b) United Church of Canada GO Project

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the United Church of Canada GO Project 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Dorothy Carson
Katie Curtis
Lloyd Dunham
Keith Hall
Stephen Pike

This is based on the draft 2023 AGM Minutes of May 27, 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 past 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.

54. That the SWRC Executive receive the Ad Hoc Committee's Quarterly Report for information, with deep appreciation.
55. That the SWRC Executive receive the March 2025 General Council Executive Report, for information.
56. That the SWRC Executive approve the GC45 SWRC Executive Accountability Report and will forward it to the General Council Office.

Decisions made by Executive May 6, 2025

57. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for October 2024 through March 2025, for information.
58. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):

a) 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. 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Marcia Ferguson Morgans
Christopher Fickel
Paul Foley
Janice Franklin
Lee Holland
Samantha Misner
Katherine Mutton
M. Ellen Weir

This is based on the minutes of Annual General Meeting of January 21, 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 past 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.

59. That the SWRC Executive approve the 2023 SWRC Audited Financial Statements.
60. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the Executive Minister Report.
61. That Mac Macdonald be named an GC45 Alternate Commissioner.

Decisions made by Executive June 3, 2025

62. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Intercultural Diversity Commission for November 2024 through March 2025, for information.
63. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):
 - d) 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.

64. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the letter from Harry Oussoren dated May 15, 2025 regarding peace in Palestine and Israel.
65. 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.
66. 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.
67. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve of an Affirming Working Group supported by the Minister for Justice and Faith Formation (Shawn Redden).
68. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the 1st Quarter Financial Statements.
69. 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.

Decisions made by Executive by E-Vote July 15, 2025

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

a) **United Church of Canada GO Project**

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of United Church of Canada GO Project to enter into an additional loan with Toronto United Church Council of up to \$30,000, at the rate of 4% or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year interest rate (maximum 6%), whichever is the higher on the date of the first draw for a term of Five (5) years, commencing on or about July 1st, 2025.

The loan will have regular interest-only payments, with the principal to be repaid in annual lump-sum payments of \$7,500 on or before February 28th, beginning in 2027. The loan is fully open and may be

paid at any time without penalty. Security: A Promissory Note to be signed by a majority of the Directors/Officers of United Church of Canada GO Project. Condition: The payment of a \$250 Origination Fee and approval by Shining Waters as the Supervising Region.

This is based on the request from United Church of Canada GO Project, draft minutes of Board Email vote of June 23, 2025, letter from TUCC dated May 29, 2025, and receipt of other required documentation per Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

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***N.B. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has passed and 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.

Decisions made by Executive September 2, 2025

71. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Community of Faith Commission for October 2024 through May 2025, for information.
72. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):
 - 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 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Nick Arnot
Aidan Bell
Doug Clark
Patricia Clark
Anabelle Clark-Lepard
Laurie Cook
Heather Dahmer
John Dinner
Vicki Greenwood
Jeremy Hyde
Katherine Leaman
Chris Tindal
Lindsay Tucker
Sue Williams

This is based on the draft Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of April 14, 2025, 2025 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.

- b) Central King Seniors Residence

... 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 as approved by the members on May 28, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Central King Seniors Residence

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Central King Seniors Residence 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Mary Louise Ashbourne
Alex Gribben
David Hewitt
Joyce Klamer
Sandy McCamus
Taye Maddison
Lang Moffat
Stephen Mogford
Jennifer Osther
Bob Putnam

These are based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2025, 2025 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.

c) Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc.

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Jody Maltby, Finance and Property Minister, Shining Waters Region to approve the bridge loan from Toronto United Church Council to Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc. for \$40,000 from August 27, 2025 to October 31, 2025, at the rate of 4% or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year interest rate (maximum 6%), whichever is the higher on the date of the draw.

Interest will accrue to the loan balance and be fully repaid at the time of discharge. Promissory Note, to be signed by the Board Chair and Treasurer with the Origination Fee of \$250 waived.

This is based on the staff report from Jody Maltby of August 27, 2025, and confirmation letter from Toronto United Church Council of August 26, 2025. Draft minutes/motion of Lake Scugog United Church Camp, Inc. confirming this request were requested August 27, 2025, but not received as of writing, so not in compliance with the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, however, there is an urgency to meet payroll.

d) The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC)

...pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Philip Armstrong
John Barr

Brent Caslick
Bill Jermyn
Peter Kupfer
Louise Mahood
Robin Pilkey
Harry Ramsaran

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual Members Meeting of June 11, 2025, 2025 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.

e) Simcoe Presbytery Camp o/a Camp Simpresca

... 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 as approved by the members on June 16, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Simcoe Presbytery Camp operating as Camp Simpresca

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Simcoe Presbytery Camp 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Geoff Belanger
Brian Cooper
Lucas Cooper
Paul Cooper
Sarah Cooper
Sarah Draper
Peter Fairman
Taylor Poulin

These are based on the draft 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2025, 2025 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

f) Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

...based on the guidance received from General Council Staff, pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve BY-LAW NO 1, as approved by the members on June 17, 2025 of the incorporated ministry known as Weston King Neighbourhood Centre.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Weston King Neighbourhood Centre 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Sebastien Bouffard
Jean-Marie Boutot
Hyacinth Demattos
Rochell Elliston

Faisal Hassan
Rikki LaCoste
Kerri Lee
Eleni Marino
Lang Moffat
Kathy Steiner
Barbara Stone

These are based on the draft AGM Minutes of June 17, 2025, 2025 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.

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**N.B. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has passed and now updated by-laws have been received by all IM's for review. All but two have been approved once the above are confirmed by the Executive. Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc. is non-compliant with the IM policy, awaiting outstanding documentation so that by-laws can be approved and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes are awaiting their lawyer's review.

73. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the SWRC Q2 Financial Statements.
74. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the date of Friday, October 10, 2025 as the deadline for the 2025 SW Regional Council Meeting Proposals.

Decisions made by Executive October 7, 2025

75. That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission for February through June 2025, for information.
76. That the Shining Waters Regional Council (10) Executive take the following action(s):
 - a) Fred Victor Centre... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Fred Victor Centre 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Chris Anastasopoulos
Anne Bell

Mardi Daley
Nancy Easton
Richard Gill
Tzen-Yi Goh
Grant Gonzales
Maria Huijbregts
Blue Knox
Erik Landriault
Ken McKinnon
Monica Masciantonio

Anju Nair
Prossy Nambatya
Jeremy Roach

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual Meeting of June 25, 2025, 2025 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.

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the request of Fred Victor Centre for the City and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) pre-development Seed funding of \$225,000 composed of a \$171,000 interest free loan and a \$54,800 grant for the proposed plan for affordable housing at 500 Dundas East with Parliament Gerrard Development Corporation

This is based on the Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025, briefing note regarding this project, and receipt of other required documentation per the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada.

Fred Victor Centre staff submitted applications for pre-development seed funding to support due diligence and pre-construction work that is required for a housing development and were successful. Funds can support legal fees and architect fees.

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. 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Andrew Blair
Colin Campbell
Timothy Edwards
Marcia Ferguson Morgans
Christopher Fickel
Paul Foley
Janice Franklin
Lee Holland
Samantha Misner
Katherine Mutton
M. Ellen Weir

This is based on the draft minutes of Annual General Meeting of January 19, 2025, 2025 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.

c) United Church of Canada GO Project

... pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada, approve the United Church of Canada GO Project 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Dorothy Carson
Lloyd Dunham
Jeff Laforet
Lorraine A. Lowes
Alana Martin
Stephen Pike

This is based on the draft Annual General Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2025, 2025 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.

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**N.B. Information - ONCA deadline for by-laws has passed and updated by-laws have been received by all IM's for review. All but two have been approved. Sparrow Lake United Church Camp Inc. is now in compliance with the IM policy, but awaiting members meeting to approve by-laws and Wilmar Heights United Church Non-Profit Homes await lawyer's review.

CARRIED

77. That the SWRC Executive approve the SWRC Regional Council Meeting Executive Accountability Report for the RCM Workbook.
78. That the Executive of Shining Waters Regional Council approves up to \$10,000 for a legal review of the existing construction management agreement of Aurora United Church as recommended by Kindred Works.
79. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the updated Investment Policy as presented.
80. Upon the recommendation of the Shining Waters Finance Committee, that the updated 2026 draft Budget be approved and forwarded to the Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting and that the final 2026 Budget be approved by the Regional Executive no later then the December Executive Meeting.
81. That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the Executive Minister Report.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT OF THE SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Regional Council

Our regional meeting theme for this year is Sanctuary: Towards A Kingdom of Peace Justice and Reconciliation. This Regional meeting is a wonderful opportunity to gather online across our Regional Council, to connect, to pray, to worship and to update each other. We join together as United Church to celebrate our Ministry together as communities of faith, to seek encouragement from each other, as we share the gospel and most of all, worship and give thanks!

As a region, as community, as individuals, we give thanks as we continue to be on a journey together, we celebrate the resilience of our churches. Our theme, Sanctuary: Towards A Kingdom of Peace Justice and Reconciliation, is an expression of the Gospel in every way. We also look beyond our borders, including the middle east and south of our border, along with our global community.

Connecting within our Regional Council

This past year many of our communities of faith, outreach ministries, and camps are slowly figuring out our new normal. 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. Many communities of faith continue to offer ministry through online worship, hybrid worship, and gathering for meetings

virtually. Hybrid worship is a new and creative offering, which was limited five years ago and is now routine within our Regional Council and across our UCC.

As a region, our primary tool for connecting continues to be online gatherings, for both Ministry Personnel and Lay Leaders, for support, updates, and education. Our website along with our newsletter “Currents” continue to be key tools for communication within our Regional Council, along with the “Daring Justice Newsletter” and with blogs and “Family News”(our website is the starting point for connecting with our Regional Council work: <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/news/> <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/>).

Many local and Regional networks and local groups have also meet to connect, learn, challenge, listen, and work together across our Regional Council. The Executive also celebrates the significant work of the Regional Council Commissions, Teams and networks/clusters who provide leadership, support, inspiration, education, community, and connection within our Regional Council and beyond the UCC. We especially note continued faithfulness, leadership, and commitment of our local, regional and national UCW's, and the many formal/informal gatherings of UCC folks/Community members.

In 2024/25, the Executive spent a significant amount of time considering our Ministry now and in the future, including participation in a joint retreat with the CSRC Executive in fall of 2024. One of the primary foci of the retreat and beyond for our Executive is supporting communities of faith in the next 5 to 10 year and beyond. We have focused on how we support communities of faith and Ministry Personnel. How do we, as a Regional Council, support each other? The Executive continues this work, in partnership with the UCC, in promoting, working on, and celebrating the Towards 2035 Strategic Plan.

A newer resource for connecting regularly is the “Let’s Connect Lay Leader Resources” work of the Regional Council. The Regional Council offers Lets Connect events several times a year with a variety of foci. The website offers recorded copies of events as a resource. See link: <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/lets-connect-lay-leader-resources/>

The Executive celebrates volunteers within the Regional Council have also organized a number of connecting events between communities of faith and Ministry Personnel, both locally and across the Regional Council. There are local and regional opportunities to connect formally and informally; we have a number of community of faith clusters across our Regional Council, along with specific clusters.

Festival of Faith 2025

In June, both the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council joined together for the 2025 Festival of Faith (FoF) on June 7,8 & 9, 2025 in Sudbury, Ontario. The event was well-attended by both Regional Councils and nearly sold out. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity for folks to connect, grow, learn, and gather. Both the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne and Rev. John Bell provided key leadership for the event. The FoF also hosted a number of engaging and inspiring workshops focusing on many topic from Ministry and outreach, Church planting, self care, stewardship and the work of The United Church of Canada. The Executive(s) express deep gratitude and thanks to the Regional and local planning teams, along with staff support who worked many, many hours to create a memorable and inspiring event. The weekend ended with outdoor worship on Sunday, with a primary focus on the 100th anniversary of

The United Church of Canada.

Work of the Regional Executive

Our Executive meets monthly (apart from the summer) and does the work of the Regional Council when our region is not meeting (The Manual 2025 C.3.1.1). Often, the Executive has a very full agenda which includes oversight of the Regional Commissions, Regional finances, Regional policy, Regional Council Meeting, emerging work, and the Executive Minister and staff. Key leadership in the Regional Council continues through the Regional Council Commissions and teams. The Executive partners with the Pastoral Relations Commission, the Communities of Faith Commission, the Intercultural Diversity Commission, the Social and Ecological Justice Commission, the Nominations Committee, the Finance Committee, along with a number of invaluable teams, who support specific work the Regional Council.

The draft 2026 budget will be presented at our regional council meeting. We are grateful for the faithful work of the finance team and the folks who prepare our budget and support our Regional Finances, both volunteers and staff.

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 since our last meeting. We have also added a link to our webpage which offers a close look at our finances, including Audited Statements as they are completed by the Auditors, in one location. Minutes are also posted on our website.

The Shining Waters Regional Council Review of Funding

At our May Regional Council Meeting in 2024, the Regional Council directed the Executive to provide oversight for a Regional Council Review of Funding. The Ad Hoc Committee worked tirelessly throughout the year and submitted their final report to the June Executive with 6 primary recommendations and paths forward. At our October 2025 Regional Council Meeting, we will receive the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. Below is a summary of the 6 Recommendations with a link to the final report. We give thanks for the incredible work of the Ad Hoc Committee and staff support, throughout this past year.

6 Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee:

1. Support to Existing Communities of Faith: Congregations;
2. Support to Communities of Faith: Community Ministries, Missions and Outreach Ministries;
3. Ensuring there are Sufficient Funds for Regional Needs and Grants;
4. Engaging with Children, Youth and Young Adults;
5. Right Relations with, and Justice for, Indigenous Peoples; and,
6. The Need for a Strategic Plan.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Review-of-Ministry-and-Funding-Priorities-Recommendations-Final-Report.pdf>

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, communities of faith, and even Canadian society, to pause and reflect. The United Church is offering training, learning opportunities, and discussion groups as part of a strategy of becoming an anti-racist Church. The United Church offers a wide variety of resources, video's, workshops, and printed materials to support our work: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism>

SWRC has 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 also continue to work and celebrate the Shining Waters Regional Council as an Affirming Regional Council and support community of faith affirming conversations too.

Regional Council Staffing Update and Staffing Support Through the General Council Office

In 2024/2025, we saw more transition of staff in our regional council. Dale Hildebrand transitioned to retirement in early 2024. Todd MacDonald transitioned to retirement in July 2025. We have deeply appreciated their work with the Regional Council, and their many years of service - they will be missed. We warmly welcome Mastard Sakala and Andrea Allan, Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations Ministers. Janet MacDonald, who has provided financial administrative support and leadership to the Regional Council since 2019 has transitioned into retirement in June 2025. We wish her well and we are so very grateful for her work through reorganization and normalizing our financial operation. Meranda MacKenzie, Accounting Assistant/Bookkeeper has been hired fulltime for CSRC/SWRC, who worked with Janet as she transitions into retirement. Meranda works part-time for SWRC and can be reached at: mmackenzie@united-church.ca. Jody Maltby, Minister, Finance and Property/Staff lead SWRC, has move some of her work time from SWRC to CSRC and is providing key leadership and support to the Finance Team and the Regional Council, focusing on the regional budget.

In 2023/2024 we started a more intentional transition to shared staff between Regional Councils. Rob Smith transitioned from full-time in CSRC to part-time and is now also supporting Ministry Personnel in Shining Waters Regional Council as a Pastoral Relations Minister. All four administrative staff - Donna Rutz, Kathleen Wolfe, Celio de Andrade Santos Jr. (Admin Support) and Susan Whitehead (Executive Assistant and Admin Support) - now officially serve both Regional Councils. Shawn, Jody and Diane (Program Staff) also support both Regional Councils, along with Peter (Executive Minister).

To learn more about our staff see: <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/about-us/staff/>

We continue to deeply appreciate working with Jody, Susan, Diane, Rob, Donna, Meranda, Melody, Shawn, Kim, Celio, Kathleen, Mastard, Andrea, and Peter. We are blessed with incredible staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year. Thank you!! We are also grateful for our Past Chair, David Layton Brown, Current Chair, Tina Conlon, and Chair-Elect, Eric Nyarko, who have provided attentive leadership throughout this year. Thank you!

Office of Vocation and Support of Ministry Personnel

We continue to be well served by the Office of Vocation, its many volunteers and staff. The staff person who supports the Shining Waters Regional Council, through the Office of Vocation is Kellie McComb, Vocational Minister: kmccomb@united-church.ca. We express gratitude for Kellie's work. Website link for Kelly: <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/about-us/staff/>

Community of Faith Stewardship Support

While Melody Duncanson-Hales serves part-time as CSRC staff, the General Council also supports Stewardship learning and growth conversations through the work of Melody, for the General Council Office in SWRC and CSRC. Questions about stewardship can be emailed to Melody at: MDuncanson-Hales@united-church.ca. We are grateful for Melody's work, experience, and inspiration.

United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministry

In partnership with the General Council, its staff and Regional Council staff, the Executive provides primary oversight to our United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministries. In Shining Waters Regional Council, we support a number of key Incorporated Ministries including Camping, Community ministry support/outreach, and housing. We give thanks for the many, many hours volunteer folks offer to support Incorporated Ministry. This very important ministry is an invaluable extension of the ministry of our communities of faith, the Regional Council and The United Church of Canada.

United Church of Canada Foundation

In partnership with the Regional Council and the Executive, The United Church of Canada Foundation supports the work of The United Church of Canada, its Regions and Communities of Faith. The role of the foundation is to help you make powerful, meaningful gifts to the ministries and causes that are most important to you, helping them grow into the future. A key piece of work of the foundation is that it also offers grants. For more information see: <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/about-the-foundation/>

UCC Strategic Plan Towards 2035

2025 marks the end of the first chapter of the implementation of The United Church of Canada Strategic Plan (2023-2025). The United Church of Canada Executive is currently working on updating the strategic plan called Towards 2035 and the Regional Council Executive offered feedback to the draft in early 2025. The General Council Office is currently working on a congregational tool kit and additional support materials, which is being tested actively in three Regional Councils, to be circulated to all communities of faith in the very near future. Our Regional Council also reviewed the preliminary material at the Joint Regional Council Townhall Meeting in June and offered feedback to Commissioners to General Council 45. GC45 also reviewed and considered the updated Strategic Plan in August of 2025 and approved a funding plan for the strategic plan. See link: <https://generalcouncil.ca/document/gc45-gce04-funding-strategic-growth-initiatives-summer-2025>

The Shining Waters Regional Council Review of Funding also recommends including the Towards 2035 Strategic Plan as part of our active Regional Council Strategic Plan, ministry and work, through the Executive and Commissions. This will include a presentation of the Towards 2035 material at our fall Regional Council Meeting, focusing on our hope, dreams, and strategic thinking for our Regional Council.

The Regional Council Executive is also planning a Joint Regional Council Executive meeting in December with the Canadian Shield Regional Council, to learn, plan, and focus on the Towards 2025 Strategic Plan.

We are grateful for the work of Calin Lau, General Council Growth Animator, supporting the Canadian Shield Regional Council and Shining Waters Regional Council. clau@united-church.ca, 1-800-268-3781 ex. 2047

Sharing the introduction of the 2023 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, post on the UCC website)

The strategic plan has much more detail. See The United Church of Canada website for the most up-to-date details, including an introductory video:

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-vision/2024-strategic-plan-annual-report#downloads>

Click on this link to read a PDF of the report and working plan:

<https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2025-05/strategic-plan-report-2024.pdf>

100 Years!

In 2025, we continue to participate in the 100th year celebration/reflection of The United Church of Canada with an online/in-person services, along with the June Celebration hosted by The United Church of Canada. Some communities of faith hosted “watch party” events across the Regional Council. Other communities of faith celebrated and reflected on our history in unique ways through study groups, reflection, commitments for reconciliation, and gatherings which included picnics, potlucks, barbecues, art presentations, lectures, and the list goes on.

The Centennial Theme is:

Deep Spirituality

The words of Jesus' prayer that the disciples be one (John 17:21)

Bold Discipleship

The belief that what unites us is stronger than our differences

Daring Justice

The desire to live out the gospel call to love and justice in Canada and around the world"

For more information see: <https://united-church.ca/100years>

Thanks

We give thanks for the work of the Regional Council, outreach ministries, camps (including our incorporated ministries), our many communities of faith and its many volunteers such as: ministry personnel, music teams, administrative staff, custodians, and treasurers, just to name just a few. May God continue to bless our ministry in 2025 and beyond.

With Gratitude and Prayer,

The Shining Waters Regional Council Executive:

Tina Conlon, President

Eric Nyarko, President-Elect

David Leyton-Brown, Past President

Peter Hartmans, Executive Minister

Jody Maltby, Staff Lead

Susan Whitehead, Executive Administrative Assistant

Lynella Reid-James

Daniel Reed

Bri-anne Swan

Paul Shepherd

Jingle Ayupan

Allan Holditch

Thomas Shin

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH COMMISSION

The Communities of Faith Commission continues to focus on its mandate to provide approvals related to loans, lease agreements, sale of property, governance changes, property development, and collaboration agreements. As is our practice, we share much of this work across task groups that consider many of these approvals and are grateful for the work that members put in between monthly meetings of the full commission. This permits us at the meetings of the full commission to consider how this group can support the strategic direction of the church and region and take time with policy issues that effect all communities of faith.

The work of the Commission this year centred more on the application of policies and reflecting on the needs of communities of faith as they try to navigate some of the challenging question related to their futures. These futures ranged from making the difficult decisions to close, engaging in the challenging questions related to amalgamation, or making the careful calculations related to

prudent investment. This year we saw two more congregations close, continued supporting amalgamations, and advised and supported many churches making investments in their space and their programming.

While it was a busy year for staff and the Commission reviewing and approving various decisions, we were blessed to be able to take up interesting and important questions about the future of the Church in our region:

- how our work can support that future through policy and practice,
- how spending priorities can see us use resources effectively in setting a path for sustainable communities of faith,
- and how, through an understanding of the theology of ownership, we can better understand our responsibility to manage the legacies with which we have been entrusted.

A high point from my perspective was the continuing work of Eun-Joo Park, Andrea Allan and various volunteers and presenters who led the Let's Connect program. These informative and interesting sessions were opportunities not only to learn but to build and sustain relationships for lay leaders and clergy around the region. This work will continue and, I hope, expand in coming years.

As I reviewed the business of the Commission over the last year I was reminded how much that change and disruption remain central themes in the work of individual communities of faith and the oversight that the region offers. We at the Commission saw so many communities of faith struggle with difficult decisions that brought with them considerable risk for the community and individuals.

Our conversations at the commission often centred on this dimension of decision making, Risk is the uncertainty that we face when making decisions. We look to manage risk by limiting certain choices or by insuring against the effect of the choices we do make. Faith has a role in helping guide our choices, but our responsibilities also range into the secular where we are fiduciaries to our communities of faith and more widely into the neighbourhoods and region within which we build and maintain these sacred spaces. We often wrestle with the desire to preserve the tradition of church in a place against the very real stress of declining membership, energy, and finances. There is a point when that tension can lead communities of faith to make faith-filled but risky choices. The Commission will continue to look at policy and decision-making with a view to building a healthy understanding of the risk and how it should be approached.

Over the course of this past year, we reviewed and prayed on a wide array of local decisions that we hope see energies well directed toward fostering sustainability and cultivating new communities of faith, while giving care and new homes for those where the difficult decision has been made to disband. As always we are deeply grateful to the staff and volunteers who travel with communities as they make their way through these changes. We are indeed guided by faith and discipleship in all the work we do together in building this Church in God's world.

As chair of the commission, I once again thank all of the members of the commission and the professionals that support our work for their dedication, wisdom, and care in all the deliberations we take up.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Bennet

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

“The Lord has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

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. 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 pastoral relations liaison to assist communities of faith in pastoral relations matters at designated times; and appointing pastoral charge supervisors when needed. We are also responsible for encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice through our Flourish initiatives. Also, in collaboration with Communities of Faith Commission (FCF), PRC assists with informal conflict resolution processes.

Currently, the PRC meets monthly on Zoom, although our October 2024 and September 2025, meetings were in-person held together 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 normally review requests for a change of pastoral relations; review recommendations from the LLWL Committee for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) and respond to requests for Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) relationships. We also set and review policies, and draft policies which guide pastoral relations work in the region and receive reports from staff. Some of the annual highlights from our meetings have been:

- Review the policies of the Pastoral Relation Commission and changes were made where necessary.
- the Commission appointed a member as Equity Advocate who helps to remind us of equity issues at PRC meetings.
- The commission draft a policy outlining the requirements for the approval of a provisional call or appointment for ordinations, commissioning and admission.
- We had Ministers’ Zoom gatherings, Ministers’ Day Away at Jubilee United Church, Toronto, and clergy retreat at Fern Resort in collaboration with Canadian Shield Regional Council.
- PRC had Rev. HaNa Park and Rev. Min-Goo Kang from Victoria, BC as facilitators for November 6, 2024, event at Jubilee United Church in Toronto
- Drafted Sacramental Elder Policy that gives some selected and trained lay people the privilege to officiate sacrament in their local congregations.
- PRC minister, Todd McDonald trained 12 ministers in a ‘Conversations Worth Having’, a program which teaches how to prepare for difficult conversations that is generative, consistently affirming and empowering, and fosters new life within relationships.
- The Commission welcomed two new staff members Rev. Andrea Allan and Rev. Mastard Sakala, to support of PRC and CFC, and said goodbye to the Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald who retired in the year.

- PRC developed and adopted a Negotiation Handbook through its Equity Task Group to better help ministers and communities of faith to negotiate the term of their pastoral relationship

Thanks to the Equity Task Group of PRC who were committed in helping in removal of barriers to employment for equity-seeking ministry personnel. The equity work of the Regional Council is ongoing; however, the work of the PRC Equity Task Group has come to an end and the group is disbanded.

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 SWRC has been most appreciated. I would also like to acknowledge that through the year we lost one valuable member, Paul Stott, through death. May he rest in peace with the Lord.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the PRC for all of their work throughout this year. The members of the commission are William Haughton (ordered); Barbara Hendren (lay); Sung Ran Kim (ordered); Deirdre Lawrence (lay); Beth Moore (lay); Lawrence Nyarko (ordered); Robin Pilkey (lay); Richard Gardner (ordered) and Lorraine Diaz (ordered). Your willingness to give so freely of your time, expertise and diverse perspectives is greatly appreciated.

The ministry of the PRC 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 Todd McDonald, Eun-Joo Park, Kim Uyede-Kai, Rob Smith, Andrea Allan and Mastard Sakala our Pastoral Relations Ministers, whose wisdom, advice, and care has supported the commission beyond measure. The commission said farewell to Todd McDonald who retired in June 2025 and welcomed Andrea Allan and Mastard Sakala as new pastoral relations staff in the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lawrence Nyarko (Rev.), Chair

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission will encourage, support, and initiate justice work within Shining Waters Regional Council, viewing and acting on issues through the lenses of racial, social, ecological justice and economic equality.

The Social and Ecological Justice Commission met 12 times since its last accountability report to the Regional Council at its meeting in May 2024. Members who have served on the commission during that time are:

Lois Brown, Esther Collier, Susan Eagle, Don Ford, Alexa Gilmour, Jay Gordon and Irene Green.

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

The Commission identified priority issues as those brought to the commission by Communities of Faith from time to time, and also the theme areas of Eco-Justice and Poverty and Homelessness.

Following are actions taken in these areas:

Eco Justice

- Bill 5 “Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act”
Urgent action request shared with communities of faith
- Letter from Regional council sent to Premier, Minister and Opposition Party Leaders addressing Indigenous concerns and environmental impact
- Letter to Prospective Financiers of Pipeline Projects from Faith Leaders was endorsed and President signed along with other faith leaders

Other Issues:

- **Highway 413:** Letter to Premier expressing concern for fast-tracking of Highway 413 without due consideration of environmental and agricultural impact as well as Indigenous concerns
- **Gun Violence:** Letter to Premier. GTHA Mayors and Toronto city councilors, written in consultation with Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism Equity Lead for national church
- **Gambling Economy:** discussion and review of existing United Church documents at the request of community of faith minister
- **Israel-Palestine:** letter of solidarity in response to ecumenical request from Jerusalem Voice for Justice

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Workshops

- **Community Ministry** with guests: Angie Hocking, Rachel Butler, Lorraine Anders
- **Several Eco Justice workshops and webinars:** Net Zero by 2030, Planet-Care-Share
- **Ontario Election Issues:** On-line Election Webinar “More Than Tariffs” as part of SJNORR (Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils) February 2025

Resources and Education

- Ongoing provision of Daring Justice Newsletter – with thanks to Shawn Redden for much of the writing and editing
- Preparation of Advent worship materials for use by communities of faith
- Distribution of ISARC Ontario Election Resource to communities of faith

Building a Better Justice Network

- Began work on Contagious Hope to support a justice network through a searchable database

Daring Justice On-line Newsletter

- Monthly justice update: through Daring Justice – Thanks to Shawn Redden for her work on this

FUNDING SUPPORT

Microgrants

- Leading from the Heart (youth projects): individual grants as noted in Minutes
- Eco Justice: Temperanceville United, Beach United
- Social Justice: Asbury and West United

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIES

PalNet

- **Monthly Updates** from PalNet
- **Workshop Funding** for several workshops
 - Faith in a Time of Genocide
 - The Bible and the War on Gaza
 - Raising Our Voices
 - Jaffa, the Orange's Clockwork
- **Endorsement of proposals** for Regional Council Executive and General Council
 - Affirm the imperative of a Palestinian State
 - Peace Through Equal Rights in Israel/Palestine
 - Calling on Canada to renounce Administrative Detention of Palestinians
 - IHRA Antisemitism Definition a Threat to Charter Rights

Other Partnerships

- National United Church GLI (Guaranteed Livable Income) Network
- SJNORC (Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils)
- ISARC (interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition)

As I finish my second term as chair of the Social and Ecological Justice Commission I want to acknowledge and thank all those who have served as Commission members during the last six years.

Members who served this past year are listed above.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the staff (past and present) who have supported our work: Jody Maltby and Rachael Howes, Bri-anne Swan and Jeffrey Dale; and currently: Shawn Redden, Kim Uyde-Kai and Celio de Andrade Santos

It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity and to be able to participate in so many aspects of justice work that is carried out with and behalf of the many people, justice groups and faith communities across our Regional Council.

Respectfully Submitted:
Rev. Susan Eagle
Chair

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 ten times a year since September 2021.

The Commission's seven elected members speak from a diversity of experiences, ethno/cultural backgrounds and languages. Relationship continues to be foundational to intercultural ministry in Shining Waters. At the start of 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 and members learn from one another. The Commission meets at least once a year in person to deepen their connections and share their stories in less formal ways.

Resource Development

By translating various resources into Korean, the language most used in the region next to English, language appropriate access to policies and handbooks begin to address inequities.

Relationship with Seoul Presbytery, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)

The United Church of Canada and PROK have a long and valued relationship. As an extension of that relationship, Toronto Conference and Seoul Presbytery participated in mutual exchange visits before the pandemic. After a long gap and structural reorganizations, Shining Waters IDC re-established the relationship and had an online meeting with Seoul Presbytery leaders. We hope to meet twice a year to deepen the relationship.

Intercultural Diversity Micro-Grants

Recognizing the need for communities to develop interculturality with a vision to enhance understanding of intercultural diversity and justice in their own contexts, IDC established microgrants to offer financial assistance of up to \$500 to help them realize their vision.

Gathering of Ethno-cultural Congregations

Under the theme of "Building Intercultural Communities from the Heart", the Ethno-cultural Communities of Faith ministry personnel and lay leaders in Shining Waters Regional Council gathered at the Ghana Calvary Methodist Church, Toronto, on Sept 27, 2025. Almost 100 attendees were graciously hosted and fed by Ghana Calvary Methodist folks. The community worshiped, sang, danced, and prayed together; told their stories; learned about stewardship through an intercultural lens; broke into spontaneous song; and blessed one another on their journeys.

Financial Support

We deepened our work by offering financial support for a broader mission: Korean Network Gathering, "Here from the Beginning" Black History Exhibition, supporting the Ugandan Martyrs Choir's presentation at the Festival of Faith. Promotion for Néstor Medina's upcoming co-authored book "Decolonizing Church: Emerging Voices Speak" as also supported. When the book is released, IDC will host an education event on themes in the book.

As we reflected on the past year, we were strengthened, challenged, comforted, and encouraged by sharing God's love and the spirit of interculturality through the work of our IDC ministries. We give thanks to the God of Solidarity for bringing us together as one in the Intercultural Diversity Commission, walking hand in hand with one another. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted by

Amy Yea Kyong Lee, Chair

On behalf of commission members:

Joel Aguirre, Hedy Baker-Graf, Innocent Karuhanga, John Joseph Mastandrea, Néstor Medina, Amber Lee Rowe

Regional Staff support: Kim Uyede-Kai

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE (GCE)

Origin: General Secretary – Michael Blair

GCE Member – David Leyton-Brown

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your children shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your elders shall see visions. —Joel 2:28

THE 45TH GENERAL COUNCIL convened under the theme of "Dreams and Visions" at the Telus Centre in Calgary, Alberta, from August 7-11, 2025. This was the first in-person gathering since 2018. It was a [good gathering](#), appreciated by the commissioners and global and ecumenical guests. Some of the highlights of the Council include:

- the apology to the 2S and LGBTQAI+ communities;
- the powerful reflection of the theme speaker, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, USA;
- hearing from Youth Forum participants on their dreams and visions for the church
- a presentation on Toward 2035, the denomination-wide strategic initiative to strengthen communities of faith and planning for the future, which included some of the new ministry incitive across the country.

This Council saw the full participation and integration of youth and young adults as well as Youth Forum into the life of the meeting. There were about 94 Youth Forum participants, representing the diversity of the church; about 50% of the youth were racialized.

The [Alvin Dixon Memorial Walk/Run](#) achieved its best level of fundraising, raising more than \$31k. Alvin's daughter and granddaughter were present for the run along the river front in Calgary on Aug. 10, and were later introduced to the Council. We are grateful for all the participants and those who contributed. As you know, the funds are held in the Foundation for support of Indigenous education.

The Council also expressed its gratitude to former Moderator, the Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott and the Very Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath was installed as the 45th Moderator. We look forward to welcoming Moderator Heath to her role.

The Council did not complete its work; usually the unfinished proposals would be sent to the Executive to complete. Part of the challenge was that several proposals came from Commissioners, which the Council committed to deal with. One of the proposals is related to a series of consultations with the Indigenous communities and another is related to the formula for assessment. The Council has requested that the General Secretary offer to the Executive a new and more equitable formula that would see communities of faith with more wealth being assessed at a higher rate, and regional councils with more resources, receiving a lesser percentage of the assessment revenue.

The Council also approved a proposal to use 10% of Mission and Service giving for the work of supporting growth initiatives and the [Towards 2035](#) strategy. In addition, the opportunity for communities of faith, regional councils and the denominational office to experiment with new and innovative ministries was approved.

We will be doing some work this year on the proposal process and our business process for future meetings. The General Council was recalled on September 13, 2025 to finish its work. Following the Council's meeting in Calgary, the new Executive authorized the statement, "[Dreaming a Better World into Being](#)," highlighting the church's commitment to justice and peace. This was a new addition to the work of the Council; a small Public Issues working group identified the issues raised in the Council. You can find proposals and decisions and daily summaries of the meeting here or on the [United Church YouTube channel](#).

Dreaming a new future – Global Partnership Program

After 100 years of ministry and mission, we have embarked on a process of imagining and developing a sustainable and effective global mission programme. As part of that process, we initiated the Pilgrimage of Learning initiative.

Between May and September, four regional delegations – 16 individuals from across The United Church of Canada – visited global Mission and Service partners across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East as part of the 2025 Pilgrimage of Learning initiative.

As a transformative initiative, the pilgrimages strengthen global solidarity, amplify partner voices, and affirm the United Church's commitment to faithful presence and mutual learning across cultures and continents. The church's commitment to support its broader mission of decolonizing global partnerships. Learning from these visits will help shape the future of the programme. Mutual Radical Accompaniment supports its broader mission of decolonizing global partnerships.

Telling our stories

Two significant initiatives were launched as part of the Centennial celebration. Firstly, [100 Tables](#) invited communities of faith to share their ministries and welcome in a public and explicit way. Metropolitan United Church in Toronto [constructed a 100ft picnic table](#). Other [stories](#) can be found on the United Church website.

The other initiative is [A Place at the Table](#). This campaign is intended to reach out to Canadians to share the values of the church and to invite curiosity.

The Executive of the General Council (GCE)

The GCE met September 25-28, 2025. This first meeting of the Executive of the 45th General Council was a time of orientation of the Executive to its work for the triennium. The Executive approved the principles and assumptions of the triennium budget 2026-2028. In November, management will present the budget, based on the assumptions for approval. The setting of the budget will face some significant challenges. We continue to live into the structural changes with a focus on the Executive understanding and appreciating their role as governors.

We also continue to sharpen and refine the Strategic Plan. Once finalized, we will make this available to the church. A significant focus will be on Toward 2035, a denomination-wide strategic initiative. Toward 2035 envisions a future where the United Church thrives through a strong denominational identity characterized by cooperation and collaboration, better reflecting the diversity of Canadian communities.

It aims to foster resilient and inspired communities of disciples, accompanied by adaptive and effective ministry leaders, less burdened by property and governance requirements. As part of prioritizing this work, we will make a significant budget commitment. It will mean that we will stop some of our usual work.

For more information on the work of the Executive and the General Council, or to [sign up to receive updates](#), please see www.generalcouncil.ca

STEWARDSHIP



This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [stewardship resources](#)



I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the United Church Foundation to the good people of the Shining Region.

Over the past year I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a *Called to be the Church: The Journey* program, at the last in person meeting in North Bramalea, or through a phone conversation or town halls. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way I would love to connect in 2024 and beyond is through the learning programs, [Called to be the Church: The Journey](#). We currently have 4 course offerings available on [churchX](#) that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, *"I appreciate the leadership,*

the enthusiasm, the knowledge and the support of the leaders of this course. It was a lot of information, and was presented in a way that was not overwhelming. The recommendations are practical and doable.” You can learn [more here](#).

Locally, Mission and Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Shining Waters. Community partners like Albiona Centre, Jane Finch Community Ministry, chaplaincy ministries at the University of Toronto and Hospice Muskoka, and outreach ministries such as the Anglican United Refugee Alliance and Cummer Avenue Drop In Centre are just some of the transformative programs supported with your Mission & Service donations in 2024. Thank you!

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are [posted monthly](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service](#). If you want to bring more conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity and Mission & Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter [God’s Mission, Our Gifts](#).

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the important work being done by the United Church Foundation. In 2022 the Foundation established [four priority areas](#): Anti-Racism, Reconciliation with Indigenous People, Climate Justice, and Communities of Faith. If your community faith has program ideas or is engaged in work that falls into one of these areas, there may be grants available. Additionally, the United Church Foundation is there to help you invest in the ministries you care about.

Thank you, Shining Waters Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2026.

In gratitude,

Melody Duncanson-Hales,

Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for Shining Waters Region

mduncanson-hales@united-church.ca 705-618-3032 or 1-833-236-0281 Ext. 4

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

On behalf of Emmanuel College, I bring greetings to your region as you gather this fall. I hope your time together is both renewing and Spirit-filled. **My name is Pamela McCarroll, and I am honoured to be serving as Acting Principal of Emmanuel College while Principal HyeRan Kim-Cragg is on a six-month administrative and research leave until January 1, 2026.** It is a joy to share with you some of the exciting updates from Emmanuel this past year.

Historic Enrolment Growth & Enhanced Student Services

This past academic year, we celebrated the largest increase in enrolment in recent decades, culminating in our biggest orientation yet last September. This year we continue to grow and will have over 250 enrolled students marking continued growth and likely the highest enrolment the college has ever seen. To meet the evolving needs of our growing student population, we’ve expanded our student services through the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) at Victoria

University. With the **addition of Sean Martin as Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Wellness**, and existing 10 staff there, students now benefit from an enriched array of services including counselling, international student support, career advising, gender diversity support, and accessibility services.

Faculty Appointments

We are delighted to share that **Prof. Jenny Bright has been appointed as the inaugural Wutai Shan Venerable Dayi Assistant Professor of Buddhist Spiritual Care** as of July 1, 2025. This endowed position represents the largest gift in Emmanuel's history and is a first-of-its-kind faculty appointment in Canada. Also beginning July 1, **Prof. Mona Tokarek LaFosse assumed the newly established joint position of Assistant Professor of New Testament and Sacred Literature Studies**—a collaborative and continuing appointment between Emmanuel and Victoria Colleges.

In addition, we welcomed **Dr. Amy Panton as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology** (part-time) to support our expanded MPS program. We also congratulate **Prof. Nazila Isgandarova on her promotion to Associate Professor** following a successful continuing status review.

In December 2025, we look forward to welcoming **Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne as Assistant Professor of United Church Studies**. Dr. Lansdowne will begin teaching within the MDiv program in January 2026.

Nurturing Ministry Project for the 21st Century: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Individual School Phase 1 and 2 Grants

Thanks to the Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow grant, we launched the “**Nurturing Ministry Project**” to explore the evolving needs of Christian ministry within the UCC and beyond in preparation for a grant submission for further funding from the Lilly Foundation. From March to September 2025, our research team has consulted with MDiv students, alumni, regional and national church leaders, and ministry leaders across diverse contexts to gather feedback. Insights are informing how we further integrate the arts and social justice into our MDiv program and shape continuing education to better support alumni and lay leaders. We are delighted to report that EC's project proposal titled “**Nurturing Ministry: Theological Education in Situ**” has **been chosen for an over \$1 million CAD grant** through the Pathways for Tomorrow individual school grant initiative. We are excited about the ways this grant will support expansions of arts and justice-based experiential learning opportunities in our MDiv and to expand continuing Education opportunities over 5 years.

Reimagining Theological Education Across the UCC: Lilly Pathways for Tomorrow Collaborative Phase 2 Grant Application

Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg and I worked with the heads of UCC schools and the GC ministry office, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, to **craft a robust vision for theological education—one that challenges the narrative of decline and engages congregations and regions**. After months of collaboration, we submitted a substantial grant request to the Lilly Foundation. While we hope for approval, we are confident many aspects of this vision will move forward regardless.

Growing Scholarships & Generous Community Partnerships

We are pleased to report several new and significant scholarships supporting our diverse student body:

- The Ching Kwok Temple Endowed Scholarship for Buddhist Studies was launched in October 2024.
- The Sang Chul Lee Endowed Scholarship supports students focused on Korean peace and Minjung theology.
- A new Music Scholarship endowment benefits Master of Sacred Music students.
- The Lawson Scholarship, established through a generous bequest of Elizabeth Lawson from the United Church of Canada Foundation, supports students engaged in Queer studies.
- The Jaffari Community Scholarship provides \$100,000 over five years to students in Muslim focus of MPS and MTS programs.

Indigenous Healing Garden Project

Construction for the Indigenous Healing Garden is complete and a soft-launch celebration was held in May 2025 during alumni week with a formal celebration to be had in May 2026. The project not only honours Indigenous spirituality and makes commitment to TRC but also enhances accessibility with the installation of a new ramp at the east entrance to the building.

Anniversary Celebrations & Events

We had a season of vibrant celebrations:

- In 2025, we celebrate the 10th and 15th anniversaries of our Buddhist and Muslim Foci in the Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) program.
- As part of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, Emmanuel hosted the Drag and Spirituality Summit (Nov 1–3, 2024) and a book launch on Nov 13, 2024 for *Moments in Time: Sermons from the United Church of Canada 1910–2020*, co-authored by Principal Kim-Cragg and Rev. Dr. Don Schweitzer.
- In January 2025, we cohosted an International Conference on Trauma-Informed Interreligious Pedagogy with St.
- In March 2025, we welcomed the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America Conference (BSCENA).
- May 12, 2025 marked the climax of our celebrations with a banquet at Burwash Hall on Alumni Day during convocation week.
- A fundraising concert for the MSMus Music Scholarship concluded our anniversary events on June 13, 2025, at Trinity St. Paul's United Church.

Financial Support

Emmanuel College continues to offer strong financial support, including **100% tuition for domestic full-time MDiv students in the UCC candidacy pathway** through the John W. Billes Fund. **Incoming domestic full-time students also receive 50% tuition coverage in their first year** through the Entering Theological Education grant. For details on financial aid for all programs, contact Andrew Aitchison at emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca.

Continuing Education Funding Developments

- **Cantonese Christian Continuing Education Program**
A generous donation was received to support the creation of a Cantonese Christian Continuing Education Program
- **Continuing Education for MPS Alumni**
Donors contributed **\$50,000** to fund professional development opportunities for MPS alumni, focusing on spiritually integrated psychotherapy and spiritual care practice.

• **Support for Buddhist Courses**

An additional **\$20,000** donation was made to strengthen Buddhist course offerings within the continuing education portfolio.

- **Partnership: Compassionate Canopy – Practical Buddhist Studies in Canada**
Emmanuel College has partnered with the Buddhist Association of Canada to establish the **Buddhist College of Canada (BCC)**, in collaboration with the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts. This initiative, rooted in a partnership with the temple in Peterborough, represents the first Buddhist institution created through collaboration between a Buddhist organization and a Canadian higher education institution.

Emmanuel is also offering Continuing Education events online through the Centre for Religion and Its Contexts (CRIC). A list of upcoming offerings is found on the [Emmanuel College website](#). For further information about these events please contact Andrew Aitchison: ec.cric@utoronto.ca.

Faculty Accomplishments and Publications

• **Faculty Recognition**

Dr. Michelle Voss received the **McGeachy Prize** to support her research across the United Church of Canada on becoming an intercultural church.

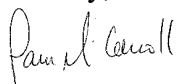
- **Glenn McCullough**, *Jacob Boehme and the Spiritual Roots of Psychotherapy: Dreams, Ecstasy, and Wisdom*, Brill.
- **Nazila Isgandarova**, *Muraqaba: Basics of an Islamic Mindfulness Technique in Spiritually-Integrated Psychotherapy*, Routledge.
- **Michelle Voss**, “Still Becoming an Intercultural Church,” *Touchstone* 43.2 (2025): 45-55.
- **Henry Shiu**, *Libeng yue buhuai 禮崩樂不壞 (Music of the Times)*, Chinese University of Hong Kong Press.
- **Swee Hong Lim**, *All Shall Be Well: Songs for the Church*, Hope Publishing, 2024.
- **Pamela McCarroll** (co-editor), *Pastoral Theological and Psychological Reflections on Climate Change*, *Pastoral Psychology* 74.1; *Pastoral Theology and Climate Change*, *Journal of Pastoral Theology*.
- **Thomas Reynolds** (co-editor), *Disrupting Images & Stories of the Church: Honouring Voices with Lived Experience of Disability*, Bloomsbury.
- **Mona Tokarek LaFosse** *Honouring Age: The Social Dynamics of Age Structure in 1 Timothy*, McGill-Queen’s University Press.
- **HyeRan Kim-Cragg** and Don Schweitzer, *Moments in Time: Sermons from the United Church of Canada 1910–2020*, United Church Publishing House.

Please follow us on social media: **Facebook:** @EmmanuelCollegeofVic, **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>.

Yours sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll
Acting Principal, Emmanuel College

CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

*If the only constant in life is change, then we are certainly alive to it.
God being our witness, 2024 was an eventful year for CCS.*

2024 Students and Programming

Spring '24, in Winnipeg, we celebrated the graduation of five students – Kendra Mitchell-Foster, Dan Leaver, Rob Murdock, Susan Toller, and Alicia Walls – spanning five Regions from northern BC to southern New Brunswick. We also celebrated Rev. Marlene Britton as a beloved and honoured Companion of the Centre, welcoming her Canadian and Caribbean wisdom about diaconal ministry, education, and social change. In June '24, we held a successful 2-week Learning on Purpose (LoP) circle on the west island of Montreal, and in August offered a 2-week online UCC Admissions Orientation circle across twelve time zones, for ministers in the process of transferring from other denominations. September saw the largest intake of new students in several years, with a diverse cross-section of ages, genders, neurodiversity, identities, and experiences. We also took the '24-'25 Integration year students 'on the road'; to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Diakonia of the United Church of Canada (DUCC) at their National Gathering in Drumheller AB, after which we held the Integration-I learning circle in an alumna's Community of Faith there. Theme circles offered in 2024 included; Power and Privilege, Ages and Stages, Oppression and Resistance, Relationships, Eco-Justice, and Culture and Identity, in addition to the three Integration year circles.

Learning on Purpose and all Theme circles are open to lay people, candidates for all ministry streams, and ministry personnel for Continuing Education. For more information about [upcoming learning circles](#), online or in-person 6-day intensives. Bursaries are available.

Curious about which CCS Diaconal Diploma and Certificate students live in your region or relate to your candidacy board?

***** Rob Murdock (grad '24), Allison Abuloc *****

And you could be one of them! The 2025 Learning on Purpose will be held in June in Winnipeg, at less than half the usual price! Come deepen your self-awareness as a leader in these changing times, discern your next steps in ministry or formation, learn practical tools like the Spiral model of theological reflection, and engage liberative perspectives of the bible, theologies, and social analysis. And it's fun! From puppets to Paulo Freire to prayer, music to Miriam to social movements, come learn together.

In other programming news, we continued our free, monthly, 'lunchtime' Zoom CCS Fridays on topics such as Shifting Funeral Practices, the Indigenous-Racialized Youth Scholars Program, Art as Spiritual Practice, An Ecology of Faith Formation, AI and Pastoral Care, Harmonious Spaces, and Christianity in a Crisis-shaped World.

2024 Staffing News

With mixed emotions of sorrow and gratitude, we celebrated Lori Stewart's retirement in June as the Development Coordinator of 10 years, and wished Principal Alan Lai a sacred return to pastoral ministry in the lower mainland of BC. As CCS was in the final stages of a strategic planning process that included staff restructuring, Central Council opted to address these vacancies with interim positions. CCS hired .4-time Program Staff member Marcie Gibson to also serve as .6-time Interim Principal for one year, and hired Winnipeg Anglican graduate Gwen McAllister as half-time Interim Development Coordinator for one year.

2024 Strategic Planning

The end of the year wrapped up the research and writing phases and began implementation. The plan makes recommendations in the areas of governance simplification, staffing restructuring, increased promotion and recruitment, financial planning, and pursuing deeper partnerships for diversification, collaboration, and accreditation. 2025 will regretfully see Cheryl Thiessen's retirement, expanded Program Staff roles, and a [hiring process](#) for two new fulltime, permanent staff, a Finance and Administration Coordinator and a Principal for Leadership and Development. Stay tuned!

2024 Sustainability and Partnerships

Amidst the shifting sands of theological education, funding challenges, and volatile investment markets, we continue to be sustained by generous donors, creative collaboration, dedicated and visionary volunteers, Council members, and staff, a diaconal imagination of what church can be in the world, and God's grace. We are thankful for the mutual partnerships with which we engage in this sacred ministry of education, spiritual care, and justice. Particularly with; Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, St Stephen's College, St Andrew's College / Saskatoon Theological Union, associate schools in the United and Anglican Churches of Canada, and the national staff who support them, Diakonia of the United Church of Canada, Anglican Deacons Canada, Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC), and all who support CCS and its students (particularly, diaconal Mentors, Field Placement organizations & communities of faith, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members).

To know more...

Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter Common Threads: <http://ccsonline.ca/blog/common-threads/>

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to hear about happenings and upcoming events.

For information about the program and studying with us: <http://ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/>

For more details and numbers, 2024 Yearbook, 2024 Annual Report, and financial statements: <http://ccsonline.ca/event/ccs-annual-general-meeting-2025/>

Respectfully submitted by Marcie Gibson, Interim Principal

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Atlantic School of Theology serves Christ's mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith. We did this in a variety of ways in 2024. With students and alumni in every United Church of Canada Region, we bring together a community with an extensive understanding of the varied needs of the church. The Summer Distance MDiv continues to be the degree with the highest enrollment, bringing students together for 6 weeks of intensive learning in the summer and online, synchronous, and asynchronous classes in the fall and winter. In addition to the MDiv degree, we have United Church of Canada Students enrolled in the MA as well as 4 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options. The newest Diploma, approved by the AST Senate in October, offers a specialization in Intergenerational Faith Formation.

The Bachelor of Theology degree, which includes a "Ministry Specialization" stream, is proving popular with UCC students. This degree reduces the barrier for those without an undergraduate degree who feel called to serve the church and want academic excellence at a bachelor's level combined with opportunities for practical experience serving the church. Students who complete the degree and all the requirements for Testamur can be approved for SME as the final requirement for ordination. We are excited about the ways this may meet the identified needs of our founding parties.

We value our relationship with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards across the country as we seek to respond to the educational needs of the church for shaping effective and faithful leaders.

Our President, the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance works closely with the other heads of UCC colleges and schools as we seek to find ways of sharing ideas and resources. It was a joy to host them in Halifax this past year.

AST has just begun a two-year self-study as part of our accreditation process with the Association of Theological Schools.

Like all educational institutions, we face challenges and the road ahead is not always clear, however, there is a spirit of optimism and a sense of renewal within our school community as we chart a path for the future.

It is a joy to work with United Church of Canada students as well as those who support them within the administrative structure of the church and individual communities of faith. We welcome your input as we seek to serve the ever-changing needs of the church.

With the Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Susan MacAlpine Gillis

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Academic Dean
Atlantic School of Theology

GROWTH ANIMATOR REPORT



When I have been in the role of Growth Animator (Central and Northern Ontario) since January 1, 2024. I have been welcome to participate in various meetings of the Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC), including the Communities of Faith Commission, Pastoral Relations Commission, and with the SWRC staff. It has been helpful for me to become familiar with the experience in the region and learn from it. The focus of my role is in three areas: To invite, to renew, and to create. It's not only about the existing communities of faith (Anglo-Saxon, francophone, Korean, Chinese, etc.) but also emerging communities of faith from various ethnocultural backgrounds.

Through a study of the Neighbourhood Profile Report, the activities relating to the 100 Tables campaign and the Strengthening Invitation Grant, I accompanied various communities of faith to reimagine and fulfil their visions and missions in their own contexts through the lens of Growth. It's my passion to walk with the faith communities in Shining Waters Regional Council (rural, suburban, and urban) with hope and love, and I wish to bring insight, passion, optimism, and curiosity to my work, enhancing the congregations to focus on the Call of the United Church of Canada, "Deep spirituality, Bold discipleship, Daring justice."

Calin Lau

UNITED CHURCH RURAL MINISTRY NETWORK

The United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN) is a national network, that connects electronically to share stories and news of rural communities across Canada (and around the world), by networking with leaders of rural communities of faith – lay and clergy. UCRMN received a one-time start up grant of \$5,000 from United Church Foundation in 2020. UCRMN is a charitable organization that receipts donations from Regional Councils, Congregations or interested people. At UCRMN.ca, there is a link for online donations, or information to email an e-Transfer, or how to mail a donation by cheque. UCRMN asks all Regional Councils (or tri-Region groupings) to put UCRMN in their annual budgets, as 70% of United Church congregations across the country are in rural or small towns, therefore a relevant cost to each Regional Council.

Our primary ways of connecting with people are e-Newsletters (10 times a year), quarterly Zoom workshops and the ongoing presence of our website, <https://ucrmn.ca> online. Peter Chynoweth of Cochrane, AB, has been our Web Minder since October 2022.

The e-Newsletters are always available for sharing worship ideas and hopeful stories from rural congregations. Regularly, there is excellent tech advice and challenges from Martin Dawson in PEI and from Peter Chynoweth in Cochrane, AB, who write the regular ‘Tech Corner’. In addition, the e-Newsletters publicize events happening throughout the Church which are of interest to rural folks, advertising from Regions and committees like Affirming Connections, Curiosity Cohort, etc. Rural Routes Through the Holy conference held in the Maritimes for a number of years receives good coverage through the UCRMN newsletter and website as Catherine Smith is a partner of the UCRMN Board. Chinook Winds has also held rural ministry conferences publicized by UCRMN. If other Regional Councils would like to connect with the rural constituency, let us know – editor@ucrmn.ca. We invite all rural congregations to connect through registering to receive e-newsletter through the website.

Our Zoom workshops this year covered “Lifelong Learning (facilitated by St. Andrew’s College, Feb. 24, 2024), “Social Media for the Rural Church (facilitated by the United Church Digital Team, April 18), “Rural Church Check in” (an invitation to share concerns and events throughout the country, Sept. 19), “LLWL Check in” (a conversation with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, which proved so welcome and valuable a networking and such rich conversation that we held a second and a third get-together in Jan. and March), “How is Your Rural Church Celebrating the 100th Anniversary (facilitated by Bronwyn Corlett, Feb. 20) and coming up in May (15th), “Hands On – How to Save your Computer” (led by Martin Dawson and Peter Chynoweth). These workshops are advertised in the e-Newsletters and registration is done through Eventbrite, offered free of charge. Reports on a number of the workshops that were held are found on the UCRMN website.

UCRMN folks ran the Canadian portion of the International Rural Churches Association (IRCA) 24-hour Global Prayer event that took place on March 10, 2025. A section of the day was about UCRMN specifically, and highlighted our Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, as well as Collaborative Ministries, and then Catherine Smith, a UCRMN member from the Atlantic Region, was the host of ‘Canada East’, and Robin Haensel, a retired Alliance pastor and member of CiRCLe M at the Saskatoon Theological Union, hosted ‘Canada West’. You can check them out on the IRCA website (<https://irca.online/24-hour-prayer-zoom> - the Americas).

UCRMN members are taking part in the “Rural Townhall” by Edge Network for Ministry Development, to hear peoples’ thoughts about what is going on in rural churches, and how rural ministries can be supported.

UCRMN always is looking for members to serve on the Board, as e-Newsletter Editor, Workshop Coordinator, or on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted Catherine Christie - President, UCRMN (Abbey, SK)

REVIEW OF MINISTRY AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

Introduction

As the people of the United Church of Canada in the bounds of Shining Waters Regional Council, we have undergone a process of listening for the insight of God's Spirit, to one another, and to the needs and hopes of our communities of faith.

The recommendations listed below have emerged through consultation over the course of 2024-2025, and point to deep needs in this moment but also to a persistent hope: that we are still called, and that we are not alone.

The Church is always being re-formed by the Spirit. In a moment when change feels both urgent and overwhelming, we turn to our faith to guide our priority settings. These recommendations are not merely practical or administrative, they are also theological. They reflect what we believe about God, about the Church, and about the world we are called to serve. They are expressions of our ecclesiology, our discipleship, our commitments to justice, and our vision for the future.

We ground this discernment in the United Church of Canada's Call and Vision, which commits us to '*Deep spirituality. Bold discipleship. Daring justice.*' and we hold that alongside the Region's own vision: '*Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith.*'

To fulfill this vision, we also draw on the United Church's Strategic Plan and our shared theological resources, including *A Song of Faith*, the Apologies, and our commitments to intercultural ministry, ecological justice, and right relations.

Just as each community of faith is expected to articulate a Living Faith Story – a narrative of how they understand their purpose, calling, and context – the Region must also reflect on its own “why.”

These recommendations seek such a Story as our basis – to name how the Region, in this particular moment, is called to serve, in line with God's mission in the world.

Legend

A Community of Faith is any community of people within the United Church that

- a) gathers to explore faith, worship, and serve; and
- b) is recognized as a community of faith within the United Church by the regional council through a covenantal relationship between the community of faith and the regional council. (The United Church Manual, 2025 B.1.1)

A congregation is a group of people that meets for public worship, and that has been formed as a congregation of the United Church. A pastoral charge is a unit of organization that consists of one or more congregations. (The United Church Manual, 2025 B.1.2)

All congregations and pastoral charges that existed prior to January 1, 2019 automatically continue as recognized communities of faith as of that date (B.1.2). However there can be many other kinds of communities of faith including outreach ministries, camps, community ministries, chaplaincies, house churches, online communities and others.

In this document, when the term used is community of faith, it includes all communities recognized through a covenantal relationship with Shining Waters Regional Council. When the term used is a congregation, it refers specifically and intentionally to congregations.

In Shining Waters Regional Council, collaboration refers to communities of faith that are exploring collaborative ministry, working together, sharing ministry personnel and resources. It most often includes a formal Collaboration Agreement to share ministry personnel. Clusters are more informal groups of communities of faith that gather to provide community and support for one another.

Mission and Service Fund: United Church people across the country join together to share what we can with people and places in need through a unified fund called Mission and Service. Shining Waters Regional Council receives an annual Mission Support grant and uses these funds to support its granting program.

[What Is Mission and Service? | The United Church of Canada](#)

PTCC: The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation (PTCC) was established in 2010 as a charitable Ontario Corporation with a mission to serve the Presbyteries of Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada by making capital and net revenue grants to communities of faith and charitable organizations.

After January 1, 2019, with the formation of Regional Councils, PTCC now serves the successors of the Presbyteries, namely Shining Waters Regional Council and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. [PTCC - The Presbyteries of Toronto Conference Corporation](#)

PTCC manages the Regional Fund that provides grants within Shining Waters Regional Council.

TUCC: For over 130 years, Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) has served communities of faith in the former Toronto Conference and now in Shining Waters, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways and East Central Ontario Regional Councils. In addition to its other programs, TUCC provides capital loans, missional investing, and grants for church, social, and youth ministries.

[Home - TUCC](#)

TSP-MCF: The Toronto Southeast Presbytery – Major Capital Fund supports communities of faith and incorporated ministries within Shining Waters Regional Council by providing access to capital for essential facility upgrades and new ministry development, in circumstances where normal loan programs are not sustainable.

Shining Waters Regional Council has a Regional Fund (recommended to be renamed Regional Reserve Fund) that covers regional expenses. [sw_policies_RC_Executive_Regional_Fund.pdf](#)

The regional council also has a Right Relations and Indigenous Ministries Fund. [sw_policies_RC_Executive_Right_Relations_Indigenous_Ministries_Fund.pdf](#)

UPRC: In 2019, The United Church of Canada established The United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) to assist communities of faith, regional councils, and other United Church entities in making

faithful and prudent property decisions. UPRC provides advisory services to create a sustainable ecosystem that continues to serve the common good.

UPRC often partners with Kindred Works to bring professional real estate expertise to guide communities as they navigate property decisions, whether it involves property sales, development (with Kindred Works or others in each local community), or various other strategies. [UPRC – Protecting What is Vital](#) [Kindred Works](#)

1. Support to Existing Communities of Faith: Congregations

This priority aligns with the regional mission: Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith; with the Executive Mission; with the General Council’s strategic plan: Toward 2035; and with the United Church’s call to Bold Discipleship, Deep Spirituality, Daring Justice

The strongest and clearest priority named was support for existing communities of faith that are congregations – particularly through financial aid, collaboration, leadership development, and practical facilitation.

This is not merely a matter of survival. It is a theological affirmation: that God is already at work, and that work takes place within congregations across the Region.

As a Region, we believe that local congregations are the front-lines of ministry, where the gospel is lived out through worship, care, hospitality, and service. These are the places where ‘the Word becomes flesh and lives among us’. God’s mission takes on flesh in real neighbourhoods, in aging buildings and messy meetings, in Sunday worship and in Tuesday food banks.

When these communities falter, the United Church’s capacity to participate in that mission is diminished.

As one community wrote:

“Practical support from Regional Council will translate into helping churches to have a more active presence within the communities whom we serve.”

At the heart of the United Church’s self-understanding is the belief that God is calling us into community – not as isolated individuals but as interdependent members of the Body of Christ. As A Song of Faith affirms, “God calls us to be the Church”, which includes each congregation celebrating God’s presence, living with respect in Creation, and loving and serving others.

Supporting local ministries is an act of faithful accompaniment. It is how the Region lives its purpose, and how the wider church stays rooted in place.

This support expresses our trust in that Spirit, and our conviction that nurturing congregations through education, connection, collaboration, and financial assistance is an act of faithfulness. The call to “encourage and connect communities of faith” is not merely a slogan – it is a response to Christ’s prayer that “they may all be one”, and a recognition that our collective strength depends on our ability to uplift one another.

Recommendations:

1. Create an open application process for congregations to access annual program grants.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Grants and Mission Support Committee.

Funds for this program to come from the Regional Fund housed at PTCC; the TSP-MCF and St. Enoch's Fund housed at TUCC; and Mission Support funds received from the General Council Mission & Service Fund.

Congregations within Shining Waters will be eligible to apply for program grants.

2. Create an open application process for capital grants to assist congregations with unexpected capital expenses.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Communities of Faith Commission working with the Grants and Mission Support Committee.

This Capital Grants fund to be housed with TUCC given their experience supporting capital funding.

Congregations within Shining Waters will be eligible to apply for capital grants.

3. Develop and deploy regional resources, including staff and financial resources, to support and encourage formal collaboration and amalgamation processes in congregations.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Communities of Faith Commission and staff for implementation.

4. Encourage and support congregations to gather with one another in informal clusters that provide community and support.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Communities of Faith Commission and staff for implementation.

- i. Provide more support to clustering.
 - ii. Survey congregations to learn more about existing clusters and where possible clusters might develop with regional support.
 - iii. Offer financial and staff support to help initiate new clusters.
 - iv. Provide tangible support that would assist clusters, i.e. offer a microsite on the regional website where clusters could create their own sites.
5. With gratitude for work that has already taken place, deepen and intensify educational opportunities for congregations and other communities of faith.

Implementation Option: Refer to Communities of Faith Commission and staff for implementation.

- i. Invite ideas for workshops.
 - ii. Provide additional relevant workshops and resources to support the work of local congregations and other communities of faith
 - iii. Provide operational training, strategies and useful templates for local congregations and other communities of faith.
 - iv. Provide support to the unique needs of rural congregations and other communities of faith through a rural ministries network.
 - v. Offer funding to support congregations and other communities of faith, or clusters, to engage in education as a group.

6. Develop a communication strategy to help disseminate information to the appropriate people within congregations and other communities of faith.

Implementation Option: Refer to staff for implementation in consultation with commissions and committees.

2. Support to Communities of Faith: Community Ministries, Missions and Outreach Ministries

This priority aligns with the regional mission: Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith; with the Executive Mission; with the Regional Funding Framework; with the Proposal SW2023-01 “A Vision for the Post Pandemic Church” and Proposal SW2023-02 “Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church” approved by the Regional Council in 2023; and with the General Council’s call to Daring Justice

The second-highest priority was financial and structural support for community ministries, outreach, and justice initiatives. These ministries – whether housed in congregations or independently governed – are integral to the life and identity of the United Church.

This work cannot be separated from the support of communities of faith, as healthy congregations are often the backbone of community outreach. That said, theological integrity demands that we hold both together – supporting the Church’s interior life and its outward mission.

As a Region, we believe that Community Ministries and Outreach initiatives are not “extra” or “adjacent” to the Church. They are expressions of our calling – and are often more agile, more context-responsive, and more justice-oriented. Ecclesologically, they challenge us to see the Church not only through the lens of a singular congregation but as a network of ministries, bound together by shared calling.

Community ministries are places where sacraments of presence, service, and resistance are enacted. They are spaces of deep incarnation – meeting people in their vulnerability and strength, often in ways that traditional church structures struggle to reach. They also are often the most visible embodiment of the Church’s gospel witness – where the ‘poor receive good news, the broken are healed, and hungry are fed, and the oppressed set free’

One respondent said it plainly:

“This is where the vital support is for organizations that are doing important work for others in their communities.”

The Church is called not only to sustain itself but to give itself away in love, especially to those on the margins. *A Song of Faith* reminds us that ‘God works both through and beyond the church’ and that we are called to ‘co-operate with God for the healing of the world.’

By prioritizing these ministries, we affirm that the gospel is public and political, rooted in the struggle for justice and the common good, that Christ’s presence is especially known in service to and with those who suffer, and that the Spirit leads us into partnerships beyond church walls, through ecumenical, interfaith, and community-based engagement.

Recommendations:

1. Affirm the commitment of the Regional Council, made at the 2023 regional meeting, to develop a \$10,000,000 fund to support community ministries.

Implementation Option: This proposal was referred to the Communities of Faith Commission. Investigate the best financial option for housing this fund. Working with the Grants and Mission Support Committee, establish a process for how funds will be accessed, including criteria for assessment of eligibility.

2. Affirm the commitment of the Regional Council, made at the 2023 regional meeting, to provide educational opportunities, to learn and share best practices, and work toward grassroots up learning models for community engagement.

Implementation Option: This proposal was referred to the Social and Ecological Justice Commission in partnership with the Community Ministers.

3. Continue to offer a closed multi-year application process for identified community ministries, as per the Funding Framework

Implementation Option: Refer to the Grants and Mission Support Commission. funds to come from The Community Ministries Fund.

- i. Until such time as the Community Ministries Fund is producing sufficient income to meet its intended commitments, these grants – or portions of these grants – may be funded from the Regional Reserve Fund.
 - ii. Review every five years or more frequently if needed, to assess if there are other ministries that should have access to this multi-year funding.
4. Continue to offer annual program grants for Missions and Outreach Ministries through an open granting process.

Implementation Option: Refer to Grants and Mission Support Committee. Funds to come from the Regional Fund housed at PTCC; the TSP-MCF and St. Enoch's Fund housed at TUCC; and Mission Support grants from the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

Ministries housed within congregations and stand-alone ministries within Shining Waters Region will be eligible to apply.

5. Facilitate a strategic conversation in the Greater Toronto Area to consider how property assets and other resources can support viable ministry, particularly for marginalized communities.

Implementation Option: Refer to Communities of Faith Commission.

- i. Retain an external facilitator for the conversation
- ii. Invite the following to participate in the process: congregations, missions, community ministries, diaspora ministries, SWRC, TUCC, PTCC, UPRC and the General Council Department of Growth and Ministry Development.

3. Ensuring there are Sufficient Funds for Regional Needs and Grants

This priority aligns with the Executive mission; and with the General Council's budgeting process

A third key priority was ensuring that the Region has the resources and structures needed to offer ongoing grants and financial support – both for new experiments and also for sustainable, faithful ministry.

This invites a theological reflection on stewardship and abundance.

At its heart, stewardship is about relationship: with God, with resources, with one another. As a Region, we believe that what we have is a gift entrusted to us for the good of all. More than just funding, this speaks to our fundamental principles of trust, discernment, and shared responsibility.

Abundance, in gospel terms, does not mean excess. It means enough for all, rooted in generosity rather than fear. A theology of abundance challenges us to move beyond fear-based decision-making and scarcity thinking. Here, we remember Jesus feeding thousands with a few loaves and fishes, blessing what seems insufficient and then inviting it to be shared.

As one community reflected:

“A sound foundation to the source of funds is essential for sustainability and continuity of funding into the future.”

Ensuring the Region's financial sustainability is not a distraction from ministry – it is ministry. It allows us to act with integrity, to offer support consistently, and to respond boldly when needs arise. Building financial capacity is a form of pastoral care and prophetic readiness. It enables us to act when called, and to demonstrate a fearless investment in both people and purpose.

Recommendations

1. Rename the Regional Fund the Regional Reserve Fund to help distinguish it from the Regional Fund housed at PTCC.
2. Review and update the policies for the Regional Reserve Fund and the Right Relations and Indigenous Ministry Fund.

Implementation Option: Refer to Executive

3. Increase the cap on the Regional Reserve Fund to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).

Implementation Option: Refer to Finance Committee and staff

4. Transfer funds in excess of 10 million dollars to support SWRC granting processes: the PTCC Regional Fund (supporting Program Grants), the Community Ministries Fund and a Capital Grants fund (as described above).

Implementation Option: Refer to Communities of Faith Commission working with the Grants and Mission Support Committee, Finance Committee and staff.

Transfer excess funds currently invested by SWRC to support granting programs as follows:

- i. 2/5 to the PTCC regional fund to a cap of twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) to support program grants to communities of faith under the existing Framework for Funding
 - ii. 1/5 to a Capital Grants Fund to support capital grants for congregations
 - iii. 2/5 to a Community Ministries Fund to a cap of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).
5. Revise the Regional Property Policy with respect to distribution of funds from the sale of property so that all property sales within the region (not just property sales after a church closure) include a contribution to the Indigenous Ministry and Justice Fund and a contribution to regional granting programs and that sufficient funds are available to top up the Regional Reserve Fund; the regional fund housed at PTCC; the Community Ministries Fund; and a Capital Grant Fund.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Communities of Faith Commission

6. As part of a communication strategy, help communities of faith to access other grant opportunities and loans available through the UCC Foundation, TUCC, the United Church Capital Assistance Program, and other funding sources.

Implementation Option: Refer to staff

7. In keeping with a commitment to live within our means and in alignment with the budgeting principles of the General Council, request the Regional Finance Committee to develop annual Budget Principles and Assumptions based on a thorough analysis of reserve funding and that these principles inform decisions about the total operating budget deficit, before transfers from the Regional Reserve Fund.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Finance Committee and staff

4. Engaging with Children, Youth and Young Adults

This priority aligns with the regional purpose as identified in The Manual (C.2.4); with the Framework for Funding; and with the General Council's Strategy: Toward 2035

Engaging with children, youth, and young adults was also a high priority.

In our baptismal theology, all people are ministers. Young people bring insight, urgency, creativity, and justice-driven faith. To welcome and empower them is to live into the inclusive and intergenerational Body of Christ. As a Region, we believe that in this two-way invitation: the church invites young people in, and young people invite the church to change.

This work is deeply connected to right relations, ecological justice, and emerging forms of spiritual community. It is also deeply local – supporting congregations and ministries already seeing new forms of youth participation and energy.

One respondent wrote:

“The United Church is doomed to eventually cease to exist unless younger people come to see the value in church attendance and involvement.”

Supporting this priority is about shaping a church where everyone has voice, and where the Spirit is heard in the rhythms and resistance of the next generation.

Recommendations:

1. Create a focused committee, supported by the Justice and Faith Formation Minister, to develop a plan that coordinates with the work of Toward 2035 and that includes support for spiritual formation within United Church camps.

Implementation: refer to the Communities of Faith Commission

2. Continue to offer annual program grants for camps and other programs for children, youth and young adults through an open granting process.

Implementation Option: Refer to Grants and Mission Support Committee

Funds to come from the Regional Fund housed at PTCC; the TSP-MCF and St. Enoch’s Fund housed at TUCC; and Mission Support grants from the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

5. Right Relations with, and Justice for, Indigenous Peoples

This priority aligns with the regional mission, Executive mission, the property policy and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church found in The United Church Manual

Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples was the fifth-most supported priority. This is not a single issue or one-time commitment. It is a covenantal relationship – one rooted in truth-telling, reparative justice, and mutual transformation.

The Apologies of the United Church – alongside its commitment to the TRC’s Calls to Action – call us to move beyond symbolic gestures into solidarity, advocacy, land-based learning, reparations and shared leadership. As a Region, we believe that we need to become an anti-colonial institution, both walking humbly and listening deeply, but also recognizing that we need to substantively change.

Right relations is deeply theological: it is about how we understand covenant, repair, truth and transformation. That work also requires all of the spiritual resources we can muster.

As one respondent noted:

“We acknowledge our role in working toward right relations and justice for Indigenous Peoples.”

This work is connected to every other priority – especially youth engagement, ecological discipleship, and anti-racism. It is about how we see the land, how we remember our history, and how we walk together in the future. To support Indigenous justice work is to stand with Christ, who sides with the oppressed, and to believe in the power of resurrection – even for systems long broken.

Recommendations:

1. Explore what it means to engage in living in right relations with Indigenous peoples, and respond positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Executive to take the lead in this work.

2. Encourage and support Communities of Faith in exploring what it means to live in right relations at a local level.

Implementation Option: Refer to staff as part of communications policy to curate resources to support communities of faith and to encourage participation in the Living Into Right Relations Circle.

3. Continue to offer supportive funding to Indigenous Ministries within the region and wider where appropriate from the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Fund

Implementation Option: Refer to the Executive with leadership of the Intercultural Diversity, Anti-Racism and Right Relations Minister

4. Change the language in the Regional Council Policy from Mission to Vision to align with the language of the General Council and in acknowledgement that missional language is a tool of colonization. Work toward the de-colonization of the structure, policies and practices of Shining Waters Regional Council.

6. The Need for a Strategic Plan

This priority aligns with the General Council's focus on strategic planning

Though not pre-listed among the eleven priorities, many respondents emphasized the need for a strategic plan, a roadmap that links the Region's vision to its actions. We need to continue this work with a much deeper and far-reaching process that will enable us to listen, pray, consult, and decide where God is calling us next.

As a Region, we believe that planning is a form of collective discernment. There is a spiritual dimension to the work of naming what matters most, how we will get there, and how we will know if we are being faithful – not just successful.

One participant envisioned:

"A clear vision of what the Region wants to achieve in the future... with shared, organization-wide goals, and defined results."

Developing such a plan is a way to make the next step in developing the Region's own Living Faith

Story. Strategy is not about control, it is about courage. It is about letting go of the past where needed, such that we might step together into God's unfolding future.

Recommendation:

1. Develop a strategic plan for Shining Waters Regional Council that aligns with our Vision and with the strategic plan of the General Council: Towards 2035.

Implementation Option: Refer to the Executive to give leadership in this work.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: [The Manual, 2025](#)

APPENDIX 2: [sw_policies_Regional_Council_policy.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 3: [sw_policies_Regional_Council_Executive_policy.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 4: [Our Call and Vision | The United Church of Canada](#)

APPENDIX 5: Toward 2035 Placeholder

APPENDIX 6: [A-Framework-for-Funding-in-SWRC.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 7: [Copy-of-2025-Budget-Final.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 8: Proposal SW2023-01 "A Vision for the Post Pandemic Church" and Proposal SW2023-02 "Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church"

[sw_regional_meeting_PROPOSALS.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 9: [SW-Funding-Priorities-Consultation-Process.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 10: [Consultation-Document-November-2024.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 11: [SW2024-01-Financial-Assistance-for-SWRC-Proposal.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 12: [SW2024-02-Viability-of-Ministries-in-the-GTA-Proposal.pdf](#)

APPENDIX 13: *Motions from the 2024 SW Regional Council Meeting:*

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Allyce Mutungi

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-05

That the Shining Waters Regional Council direct the Regional Council Executive to create an ad hoc committee, with the support and advice from all four Commissions the Communities of Faith Commission, Grants & Mission Support Committee and the regional council Finance Committee, to do a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities. The review would include input from all four regional Commissions, all communities of faith and Shining Waters Regional Council grant recipients, PTCC and TUCC and a review of current regional council granting priorities and available financial resources. The Committee will report back to the Executive with recommendations, no later than June 30, 2025 and to the regional council with

recommendations, no later than the 2025 Regional Council Meeting on October 24/25, 2025. The committee to be created will provide a schedule of milestones to accomplish their work to the Regional Council Executive no later than October 31, 2024 and thereafter, provide quarterly updates as to progress. Such reports to be posted promptly with the minutes of Regional Council Executive.

CARRIED

Motion as Amended:

MOTION by Victoria Stuart/George Isaac

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-06

That the committee to be created and provide a schedule of milestones to accomplish their work to the Regional Council Executive no later than October 31, 2024 and thereafter, provide quarterly updates as to progress. Such reports to be posted promptly with the minutes of Regional Council Executive.

CARRIED

Motion as Amended:

MOTION by Susan Eagle/Frances Ota

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-07

That support an advice be received from the four Commissions, Grants and Mission Support Committee and the Regional Council Finance Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Allyce Mutungi

SW RCM 2024-06-07/08-08

That the proposal SW2024-01: Financial Assistance for SWRC, be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee to be included, as part of the consultation.

CARRIED

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
- k) Commissioners to the General Council

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

- Eric Nyarko (ministry personnel) (term as President ends 2027)

Past-President

- Maria Christina Conlon (ministry personnel) (term ends 2026)

Members

- Bri-anne Swan (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2025)
- Thomas Shin (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Lynella Reid-James (lay person) (term ending 2027)

- Paul Shepherd (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Sarah Lough (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Richard Gardiner (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- William Haughton (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- One position available for an Indigenous member named by the Spiritual Gathering on Indigenous Communities
- Seven vacancies

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.

- Tom MacNeil (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2028)
- Sandra Nottegar (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Chris Bennet (chair) (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Patti Rogers (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Adèle Etongue Mayer (lay person) (term ending 2027)
- Isaac Kamta (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Krista Moore (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Doris Mensah-Wonkyi (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Jim Keenan (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- One vacancy

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.

- Marlene Buwalda (lay person) (term ending 2026)
- Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Cynthia O'Connell (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)

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.

- Beth Moore (lay member) (second term ending 2026)
- Sung Ran Kim (ministry personnel) (second term ending 2027)
- Richard Gardiner (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Lorraine Diaz (ministry personnel) (term ending 2027)
- Don Gibson (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- Cynthia O'Connell (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- Florence Ibi Ekwau (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Glen Greenwood (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Earle Laycock (lay person) (term ending 2028)

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.

- Doug Reid (LLWL) (term ending 2026)
- Brian Stevens (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)
- Glen Greenwood (LLWL) (term ending 2028)
- Three vacancies

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.

- Don Ford (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Irene Green (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Jennifer Gordon (lay member) (term ending 2025)
- Monica Moore (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- Ted Reeve (ministry personnel) (term ending 2028)
- Five vacancies

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.

- 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)**
- Amber Lee Row (lay member) (term ending 2026)
- Six vacancies

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)
- Harry Ramsaran (lay member) (term ending 2027)

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.

- 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)
- Paul Rose (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Ken Clarke (lay person) (term ending 2028)
- Four vacancies

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.

- Tina Conlon (past president) (ministry personnel) (term ending 2026)
- 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 SW2025-01

SW2025-01: Broadview Subscription Challenge Campaign and Fundraising Contest Proposal Origin: Rev. Ross Carson, Retired Ministry Personnel - SWRC

What is the Issue?

The origin of the proposal, "Support for Broadview Magazine," that was presented to General Council 45 in Calgary was from Shining Waters Regional Council. There were four recommendations in the proposal which was noted as SW01. Those recommendations were the following:

Call on General Council to:

- Affirm the value and importance of Broadview as a magazine that contributes greatly to enhanced education and dialogue about important spiritual and justice issues of our day;
- Affirm Broadview Magazine as a means by which United Church people as well as others learn about the United Church and issues that require in depth ethical consideration;
- Use the 100th year of the formation of the United Church of Canada to help lead a subscription campaign and encourage United Church members and communities of faith to subscribe to this important publication; and,
- Restore funding to at least a level that supports United Church content (approximately \$80,000, not including postage), and renew advertising content.

The action of the Way Forward Committee based on its reading of the conversations held in the Discussion Groups was to support the first two bullets and delete the second two bullets and add a third bullet that read as follows:

- Take no further action on SW01 Support for Broadview for Summer 2025.

The proposal was passed after considerable discussion based on the conversation in the Discussion Groups. Those notes showed that there was concern about the affordability of the grant from the national Mission and Service Fund. The Way Forward Committee summarized those conversations as follows:

- The majority of discussion groups took issue with restoring funding to Broadview, citing financial concerns. Many believe Broadview is not a major priority for funding, and view that it is not an effective avenue for growth into areas like first third ministry and racialized and Indigenous people. Many discussion groups encouraged Broadview to explore various ways to reduce costs.

From the floor of the General Council an amendment was moved to include in the proposal from the Way Forward Committee support for a national subscription campaign for Broadview. The purpose of the amendment was to restore bullet #3 from the Shining Waters Proposal SW01 into the proposal from the Way Forward Committee. The amendment was ruled out of order. This ruling followed the assumption of the Way Forward Committee that concerns about finances extended to the energy required to lead a subscription campaign. The option of including a direct appeal to the GC45 commissioners to test their intention through a vote on the amendment was not taken. Thus, this proposal is designed to test the will of the representatives to Shining Waters Regional Council at its Fall Meeting to recommend to the other Regional Councils a Subscription Campaign Challenge and Fundraising Contest in March and April of 2026 for the Broadview media organization.

Why is this Issue Important?

This issue is important because the cost of a subscription campaign didn't imply the expenditure of much money. For example, links could be placed on the United Church website for new subscriptions, and the Moderator and Presidents of Regional Councils and Executive Ministers of Regional Councils could consider launching campaigns.

The Proposal:

Call on Shining Waters Regional Council to:

- Raise the number of subscriptions to the Broadview media organization from members and Communities of Faith in Shining Waters Regional Council by fifteen percent during the period March 1 to April 30, 2026;
- Challenge the other Regions to increase their subscription numbers to the Broadview media organization by fifteen percent during the same period of March 1 to April 30, 2026; and,
- Match the amount of the General Council grant to Broadview from the Mission and Service Funds by organizing a contest amongst the Regional Councils to be the first Regional Council to reach their proportion of matching the national grant amount. For example, each Regional Council would have an objective based on the national grant amount divided by the ratio of the number of households under pastoral care in a Regional Council compared to the number of households under pastoral care nationally. The contest would begin on March 1, 2026.

How Does this Proposal Help Shining Waters Regional Council to live into our Church's commitments to equity?

Broadview media organization seeks to keep its subscription rate at a level which allows access by those who have limited budgets while still selling its magazine. Broadview media organization, through its appeal to a wide audience continues to be an important voice for inclusion and diversity. A voluntary donation to support Broadview financially reflects both the heritage of a national publication and the new directions that can be taken to inform and reform life in Canada. Rev.

Trisha Elliot, Executive Director, writes, "Media organizations across our country are suffering; religious journalism in Canada is almost extinct. Broadview is the last stronghold of thoughtful, progressive, editorially independent Christian reporting in Canada. And truthfully — we're holding on by our fingernails. I worry about what it would mean if Broadview ceased to exist — not only for our staff and readers, but even more importantly for how religion is portrayed in Canada. Especially given the alt-right religious resurgence we're seeing more and more in our country and around the world. Without our voice, I fear Canadians will be left without life-giving, independent Christian media that reflects the values of Jesus: inclusivity, respect, open-heartedness, generosity, curiosity, love of neighbour, and a deep commitment to truth."

PROPOSAL TO SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL SW2025-02

SW2025-02: Provide Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Regional Council Congregations
Origin: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church

Supporting Letters: Midhurst United Church and Coldwater Eady Pastoral Charge

1. Why is This Issue Important?

At the Regional Council meeting in June 2024, a proposal was generated to provide support for communities of faith in Shining Waters Region. During discussion at the June 2024 meeting it was decided to defer the proposal to allow a study to determine the goals of Shining Waters. That study has now been done with the result that ...

“The strongest and clearest priority named was support for existing communities of faith that are congregations – particularly through financial aid, collaboration, leadership development, and practical facilitation.”

This proposal addresses that priority. It requests that 20% of revenue from property sales be redistributed annually to congregations of faith within the Region. The preference is that all congregations receive the same amount, even new churches. An alternative method would be that a percentage of that congregation’s assessment be provided. That amount could be augmented by a percentage (perhaps 5%) of the available assets of the Region which are growing rapidly. In 2024, approximately \$12.5 Million was generated from property sales and \$58.3 Million was reported under assets (see Table 3). To avoid double counting, the \$12.5 Million should be subtracted from the total assets giving \$45.8 Million for calculating the 5% levy. For 2025, that would mean \$4.8 Million distributed among the approximately 145 number of named congregations (see Table 1) or about \$33,000 each. The 20% number is modelled after a General Council proposal to allocate that percentage of property sales in Regions towards a reconciliation fund. The 5% number would need confirmation from the Finance Committee as to what is available, leaving a sustainable balance for the future. The amounts distributed would be reviewed annually based on the previous year’s financial figures.

2. Discussion/Background

Communities of Faith are required to submit each year Statistical Information Forms to the United Church of Canada. This section outlines a summary of those statistics for Shining Waters Communities of Faith for the years 2019 to 2024. They were obtained through a request to Susan Jackson, Information & Statistics Coordinator for the United Church. Table 1 shows a summary of that data with the column numbers in yellow being the same as on the spreadsheets received and the Statistical Information Forms.

In Table 1, the number of households under pastoral care (column 5), the total membership (column 16), the identifiable givers to local expenses (column 18), and the number of identifiable givers to M&S (column 19), all show a significant decline from 2019 to 2024. Interestingly, the number of people attending weekly worship (column 20), although dropping, remains fairly steady, close to 11,000, as does the amount raised by congregational givings (column 32A) at approximately \$26 million. The total amount raised (column 32D) went from a peak of \$101 million in 2023 to \$46 million in 2022. The peak total amount raised was due to \$51 million raised by Bloor Street United in 2023. The compensation paid to staff (columns 41 and 42) remained fairly steady. The number of named congregations has gone down from 167 in 2020 to 145 in 2024.

Table 2 shows the 2024 percentile values of the 145 Region’s Congregations for the number of weekly Sunday attendees and the total funds raised. It shows that 25% of the congregations had 25 people or less attending each week with a total revenue of approximately \$100,000. These congregations cannot support a full-time minister with all the other costs involved including benefits, expenses of the minister, and the normal operating costs of a church. The recommended minimum ministerial salary percentage increases for 2019 (1.6%), 2020 (1.9%), 2021 (2.2%) and 2022 (1.3%) were reasonable. However, those increases have risen in 2023 (3.4%), 2024 (6.3%) and 2025 (3%) making it likely that more than 25% of Shining Waters Region’s congregations will not be able to afford a full-time minister. This will have consequences across the Region. Because of the increase in housing

costs, the Cost-of-Living allowances are also increasing placing additional stresses on congregations as is the recently approved increase in the Assessments on Congregations by General Council.

Table 3 show a summary of the financial information for the Region, as obtained from the T3010 information posted, and publicly available on the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Web site. The jump in total assets from 2022 to 2023 is probably due to different reporting procedures. However, in 2023 a total income of \$9.7 Million was reported to CRA but \$3.2 Million was given for 2023 at our 2024 Region Budget meeting. Despite these problems, it is assumed that the CRA numbers are correct, especially for 2024. The bottom line from Table 3 is that the Region is doing well financially and quite capable of giving back funds to Region Congregations. Just as an example, the \$58.3 Million in 2024 assets when distributed across all the Region Congregations, would amount to \$400,000 per congregation!

Table 4 shows the funds given to other Registered Charities from 2019 to 2024, as shown on the CRA Web site from information provided by the Region's T3010 form. This Table is provided for two main reasons. First, it shows that the Region has shifted to providing help to Charities across the Region. In our 2024 proposal, it was indicated the Region was preferring Metropolitan Toronto Charities. Although this table does not include funds supporting Outreach Ministries, change appears to have taken place. Second, it provides an illustration of how centralized funding decisions are made in the Region. Most are made secretly. One proposal for helping struggling congregations is for a Region committee to gather proposals and fund those that are deemed better. However, the additional bureaucracy, committee biases which are unavoidable, the secrecy, and the difficulty of struggling congregations to write good proposals makes this a poor method of operating.

3. Equity and Consultation

This proposal treats all existing congregations the same, regardless of their size, their spiritual direction, and their location. All congregations should work within the framework and established practices/commitments on equity of the United Church of Canada.

An earlier version of this proposal was discussed at the June 2024 Region Meeting. This specific proposal has been recently circulated, with short notice, to congregations in the North Simcoe Rural Cluster, the South Simcoe Cluster, and those that have participated in recent Cluster meetings in the Barrie/Orillia area. Supporting letters have been received from the governing bodies of Midhurst United Church and Coldwater Eady Pastoral Charge.

4. How Should the Region Respond?

The future for many communities of faith in Shining Waters Region is uncertain. Declining numbers of adherents/members and falling revenue challenge many. This problem should be addressed in a practical manner. The main purposes of this document are to outline the problem and suggest a possible solution. That solution involves moving funds from the control of the Region Executive to individual congregations.

This proposal requests that 20% of revenue from property sales be redistributed annually to congregations of faith within the Region. That amount could be augmented by a percentage (perhaps 5%) of the available assets of the Region which are growing rapidly. In 2024, approximately \$12.5 Million was generated from property sales and \$58.3 Million was reported under assets (see Table 3). To avoid double counting, the \$12.5 Million should be subtracted from the total assets giving \$45.8 Million for calculating the 5% levy. For 2025, that would mean \$4.8 Million distributed among the approximately 145 number of named congregations (see Table 1) or about \$33,000 each. The amounts distributed would be reviewed annually based on the previous year's financial figures.

All congregations would be treated equally, regardless of size, since smaller communities of faith probably have greater need. Some threshold should be set to qualify congregations, and it is suggested that they have at least 10 regular Sunday Worshipers. For 2024, this would disqualify three of the 145 congregations. New or proposed congregations would also qualify subject to Region Executive approval. Each receiving congregation would decide whether to use the funds for operating expenses or, if it is not needed, to distribute the funds to a local

registered charity. The Region should track, on an annual basis, how the funds are being used. If a congregation needs more funds, a special request could be made to the Region Executive.

Such financial assistance would help many congregations that are struggling. It would send a message that the Region recognizes the problem and wants to help. It also allows a more equitable distribution of funds to charities across the Region, and in some cases might even stimulate more donations.

2024 Statistics Shining Waters Region

	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%
Percentile of Sunday Attendees	15	25	48	90	159.8
Percentile of Total Funds Raised	\$17,000	\$102,110	\$199,022	\$408,197	\$859,709

Table 2: Percentiles of number of Sunday attendees and total amount of funds raised by congregations during 2024. For example, the median or 50 percentile values are 48 attendees and \$199,022.

Shining Waters Registered Charity Reports (T3010) from 2020 to 2024						
Category in T3010	T3010 #	2020 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$
Number of Full Time Positions	310/315/320	9	9	9	7	6
Number of Part Time Positions	370	15	22	19	18	11
Total Compensation	390	1,241,390	1,247,346	1,287,988	1,224,417	1,185,645
To Registered Charities		190,000	412,550	354,937	122,777	570,350
Proceeds from Disposition of Assets	4590	0	1,759,348	0	8,148,875	12,494,080
Total Income	4700	1,175,253	2,699,428	850,888	9,738,274	17,475,115
Total Expenses	5100	1,900,785	2,122,356	2,236,167	2,649,758	3,592,994
Total Assets	4200	3,349,752	4,304,071	3,075,326	43,614,178	58,330,859

Table 3: Information from Shining Waters Registered Charity Reports, available online from CRA, from 2020 to 2024.

Donations to Registered Charities 2020-2024

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Name of Charity	Location					
CANADIAN FOOD GRAINS BANK	Winnipeg					54,829
BETHEL HOSPICE FOUNDATION	Ingelwood					36,553
CALEDON COMMUNITY SERVICES	Bolton					54,829
CALEDON MEALS ON WHEELS	Bolton					73,106
S.H.A.R.E. AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION	Bolton					36,553
HEADWATERS HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION	Orangeville					21,931
WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM	Brampton					21,931
GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION	Georgetown					21,931
BOSTON MILLS CEMETERY	Caledon					25,587
MARIPOSA HOUSE HOSPICE	Severn					15,980
ORILLIA SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	Orillia					15,980
THE SHARING PLACE	Orillia					15,980
GREEN HAVEN SHELTER FOR WOMEN	Orillia					15,980
ORILLIA CHRISTIAN CENTER	Orillia					15,980
ALPHA KOREAN UNITED CHURCH	North York	25,000	9,000	9,000		3,000
FILIPINO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	North York	40,000	30,000		7,000	50,000
FRED VICTOR CENTRE	Toronto		15,000			41,200
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA GO PROJECT	Bracebridge					20,000
MOORELANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES	Toronto		6,000			5,000
CHAPEL IN THE PARK	Toronto				24,000	24,000
DAVENPORT PERTH COMMUNITY MINISTRY	Toronto			30,004	21,516	
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA GO PROJECT	Oro-Medonte		20,000	20,000	20,000	
JANE FINCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY	Toronto			33,174	24,700	
CALEDON EAST UNITED CHURCH	Caledon				5,561	
RONCESVALLES UNITED CHURCH	Toronto			23,000	20,000	
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA	Etobicoke			161,905		
ST ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH	Georgetown		141,306	66,306		
STONEGATE COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL MINIS	Etobicoke			8,000		
BARRIE FOOD BANK	Barrie			1,774		

IOOF SENIOR HOMES	Barrie			1,774		
CAMP AHSUNYOONG CORPORATION	London	30,000	30,000			
LAKE SCUGAG UNITED CHURCH CAMP	Toronto	20,000	20,000			
SIMCOE PRESBYTERY CAMP	Alliston	20,000	20,000			
HEART LAKE UNITED CHURCH MINISTRY	Brampton	10,000				
SPARROW LAKE UNITED CHURCH CAMP	Toronto	25,000	25,000			
ISLINGTON UNITED CHURCH		20,000				
CUMMER AVENUE UNITED CHURCH	Toronto		10,000			
GOOD TREE KOREAN	Toronto		25,000			
GRACE UNITED CHURCH	Brampton		20,000			
GHANA CALVARY METHODIST UNITED CHURCH	Toronto		31,244			
MINESING UNITED CHURCH	Minesing		10,000			
	Totals	190,000	412,550	354,937	122,777	570,350
<p>Table 4: Summary of Donations made to Registered Charities by Shining Waters from 2020 to 2024 as obtained from T3010 reports on CRA Website. More funds were donated to Outreach Ministries but not as separate Registered Charities.</p>						

