

The United Church of Canada  
Shining Waters Regional Council

**EXECUTIVE**

**MINUTES of Meeting held October 7, 2025** at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**PRESENT:** Tina Conlon, David Leyton-Brown, Lynella Reid-James, Paul Shepherd, Bri-anne Swan, Allan Holditch

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

**REGRETS:** Jingle Ayupan, Eric Nyarko, Thomas Shin, Daniel Reed

**GATHERING, HONOURING THE LAND AND SAFE SPACE**

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

**THANK YOU TO DEPARTING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Peter acknowledged the shift in the Executive, as this will be the final meeting before the Regional Council Meeting, where new members may be elected to join the Executive team. He acknowledged Tina's leadership with deep gratitude for all her hard work.

Peter thanked David Leyton-Brown for his service as a Co-Chair in the Transition Commission, and then President and Past President of the Regional Council but also to his extended time as President and Past President after his original time was completed. Peter shared that the region is so grateful for his wisdom and expertise. There are several members who are finishing on Executive: Daniel Reed, Allan Holditch, and Jingle Ayupan. Executive and the Regional Council are so very grateful for those who have served with faithfulness. Bri-anne Swan has agreed to continue on with Executive for a second term.

**OPENING PRAYER**

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Peter read from Psalm 100 and then led in an opening prayer.

**CHECK IN**

Executive members did a check in since last they met.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION by Paul Shepherd/Allan Holditch                      SW Exec 2025-10-07-01**  
**That the agenda for this meeting be approved, as circulated.**  
**CARRIED**

**MINUTES**

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**MOTION by Lynella Reid-James/David Leyton-Brown SW Exec 2025-10-07-02**  
**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive held on September 2, 2025 be approved, as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**E-MAIL VOTE: September 9, 2025**

*Church of the Masters Homes Corporation (CMHC)*

- Approve the request that Pacific Mountain Regional Council take over United Church of Canada Incorporated Ministry oversight of the Church of the Masters Homes Incorporated (CMHC), 3379 Lawrence Avenue East, Scarborough, in advance of the development of the property of the former Church of the Master United Church at 3385 Lawrence Ave E, Scarborough, ON M1H 1A8.

**COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MOTION by Peter Hartmans/David Leyton-Brown SW Exec 2025-10-07-03**  
**That the Executive receive the Minutes of the Pastoral Relations Commission for February through June 2025, for information.**  
**CARRIED**

**Omnibus Motion: Incorporated Ministries**

**MOTION by Paul Shepherd/Allan Holditch SW Exec 2025-10-07-04**  
**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**

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**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.***

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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**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The was no correspondence.

**SWRC EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE 2025 ONLINE RCM**

**MOTION by David Leyton-Brown/Allan Holditch SW EXEC 2025-10-07-05  
That the SWRC Executive approve the SWRC Regional Council  
Meeting Executive Accountability Report for the RCM Workbook.  
CARRIED**

**2025 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (RCM) UPDATE**

Jody and Tina shared that the planning is well underway for the October RCM. The theme and worship times are well integrated with business and overall it should be a meaningful gathering. The Celebration of Ministries Service will be both in person at Jubilee United Church and livestreamed on YouTube. Tina thanked Jody for all her script-writing and how that keeps the whole meeting on track.

**KINDRED WORKS MOTION – AURORA UC**

Jody reviewed the background around Aurora UC and their fire in 2014. They are facing challenges in completing the work on a new building. We have been working with

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UPRC, Kindred Works and TUCC to find a path forward. KW is recommending that there be a legal review prior to taking any steps.

**MOTION by Paul Shepherd/Lynella Reid-James SW EXEC 2025-10-07-06**  
**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.**  
**CARRIED**

**GC45 SUMMARIES AND UPDATE ON SEPT. 13, 2025 MEETING**

Executive discussed GC45 and Peter, Tina, and David gave a summary of their experiences. All news and summaries regarding GC45 can be found at: <https://generalcouncil.ca/news>

There was also a summary of the September 13, 2025 recall of GC45, where Commissioners dealt with the most urgent and most moved proposals (9 in total) by Commissioners.

**GCE UPDATE – DAVID LEYTON-BROWN**

David shared the GCE update he wrote with the General Secretary, Michael Blair.

**UPDATED INVESTMENT POLICY**

Executive reviewed the updated Investment Policy with Jody answering questions about changes.

**MOTION by Allan Holditch/Peter Hartmans SW EXEC 2025-10-07-07**  
**That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive approve the updated Investment Policy as presented.**  
**CARRIED**

**2026 SWRC MOTION AND BUDGET**

Jody gave Executive an update on the 2026 Draft Budget.

**MOTION by Allan Holditch/Bri-anne Swan SW EXEC 2025-10-07-08**  
**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 than the December Executive Meeting.**  
**CARRIED**

Allan and Bri-anne are willing to move and second the motion regarding the 2026 Budget for the Regional Council Meeting in October.

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT (APPENDIX A)**

Peter shared his Executive Minister Report with Executive.

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**MOTION by Paul Shepherd/David Leyton-Brown SW EXEC 2025-10-07-09**  
**That the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive receive the**  
**Executive Minister Report.**  
**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Paul shared a reflection about the Thanksgiving lectionary about the story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers and only the “foreigner” coming back to Jesus to thank him for healing them. Paul invited members to reflect on what we can learn from “outsiders” on the nature of gratitude.

Tina the meeting closed at 2:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom  
**Joint Executive Meeting** - Tuesday, December 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Executive Minister Report - Shining Waters Regional Council  
October 2025**

**GC 45:**

The GC45 in-person meeting in Calgary in August had many successes. The meeting continued into September and our CSRC proposal was considered in at that online recall of GC45. I am grateful for the leadership of all our Commissioners. The meeting days were long with very full agendas. For a summery of our Canadian Shield Regional Council Proposal along with other GC Proposals please see below link:

<https://generalcouncil.ca/news/gc45-recall-meeting-sept-13-2025>

The CSRC Commissioners will meeting in the next week to plan a townhall meeting for October 16, 7:00 -8:30 p.m., to discuss GC45 and answer questions.

Our new Moderator Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. See link a 3-minute video introduction:

<https://www.youtube.com/@unitedchurchcda>

**Toward 2035:**

The Funding for Towards 2035 was passed a General Council. The following proposal was passed:

*GC45 WF33: GCE04 Funding Strategic Growth Initiatives for Summer 2025*

Most groups supported this proposal, naming the priority of pursuing growth in a variety of expressions, including creating new ministries and renewing and strengthening existing communities of faith. Some groups were curious about how to ensure that this work does not only occur in some parts of the country but is present in all Regional Councils. Other groups name the importance of ongoing reporting. This reporting already occurs in the annual strategic plan reporting and in the General Secretary's reporting to the General Council Executive. As in other proposals about allocating resources, participants name the continuing value of global partnership in our Mission and Service giving. Therefore, the Way Forward Team proposes:

- That, in response to GCE04 Funding Strategic Growth Initiatives, the 45th General Council, 2025 Authorize 10% of Mission & Service givings over the course of the 2025-2028 triennium as follows - 5% in 2026, 7.5% in 2027 and 10% by 2028 - be earmarked for new, renewing and emerging ministries, and
- direct the General Secretary to develop and communicate the criteria and process for how the funds will be expended, and direct the General Secretary that implementation should:
  - include initiatives from all three streams of the growth initiative – renew, create, invite;
  - consider setting proportional targets for diverse intercultural ministry expressions;
  - consider accessibility and engagement by rural, remote and other communities;
  - Prioritize First Third Ministry;
  - Consider equity across Regional Councils; and,
  - invite Regional Councils to identify resources within their bounds (e.g., revenues from property, sales or bequests) which they can use to

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contribute to regional initiatives.

The United Church of Canada is currently working on an update for its strategic plan called Towards 2035 to be circulated. In the near future, a completed version of a Congregational tool kit will be shared with Communities of Faith. We completed a joint Townhall Meeting for the evening of June 17, to present and get feedback for the material. The townhall meeting was very well attended. In addition, following General Council in Calgary, the UCC hosted a special meeting of key leaders from across the UCC to continue the conversation around the Towards 2035 conversation. SWRC and CSRC folks gathered during lunch to discuss our Regional Councils specifically. We look forward to continuing the conversation at our Regional Council Executive with a special joint meeting of our Executives (SWRC and CSRC) in December of 2025, with additional conversations at the Commission level.

**Staff Update:**

I wanted to share up coming retirements: Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, Senior Governance Support Lead and my direct supervisor, will retire Spring 2026 and Alan Hall, Executive Minister for Shared Services will retire December 2025. I have been approved for a Sabbatical in advance of C-S's retirement, January 2026 - March 2026. Jody Malby and Diane Matheson-Jimenez will provide coverage. Diane has been approved for a Sabbatical for Summer 2026 and Jody and I will cover.

**The Shining Waters Regional Council Review of Funding:**

At our October 2025 Regional Council Meeting, will receive the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee. Below is a summary of the 6 Recommendations with a link to the final report received in June 2025. We give thanks for the incredible work of the ad hoc committee throughout this past year.

*6 Recommendations:*

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
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>