

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday January 15, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday January 15, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Isaac Kamta, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Carolyn Harding, Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko,

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Welcome

Patti Rodgers led the commission in a time of worship. There was a time of check in. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Patti Rodgers gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Agenda

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2025-01-15-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 15, 2025 be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Amy Lee / Trevor Brisbin **SW-CFC-2025-01-15-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 20, 2024 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... approves the organ renovation at Eglinton St. George's United Church, Toronto.

...approves the sale of 31/33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto by the Trustees of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church to Destiny & Dominion Word Ministries for a purchase price of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) with a completion date of December 20, 2024.

...approves the request from St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$17,696 from restricted funds for additional renovation work in their chancel.

...approves the request of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto for an increase in the loan from the TESP-MCF in the amount of \$90,000, bringing the total loan to \$450,000, secured against the Dewi Sant Welsh church building situated on Melrose Avenue.

The Regional Staff Lead (Jody Maltby) made the following decision; N/A

Isaac Kamta joined the meeting

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON FUNDING PRIORITIES

At our regional meeting in June 2024, the Executive was directed to create an ad hoc committee to conduct a region-wide consultation about regional ministry and funding priorities. We are reaching out to commissions & committees, communities of faith, recipients of grants approved by Shining Waters, TUCC and PTCC for your feedback. In consultation with a number of groups the committee has identified a number of priorities and we are seeking your feedback to help the Regional Council identify funding priorities. The deadline to submit your response is January 30, 2025. <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/governance/swrc-review-of-ministry-priorities/>

Jody conducted a thorough review of the document and offered a detailed explanation of all the key points. Following a discussion with the Commission about their preferred approach for distributing the points, it was decided to prioritize giving the communities of faith a voice in the process, allowing the Commission to proceed accordingly once the report has been complete by the ad hoc committee

BUDGET

Communities of Faith Commission and Affirming Ministry

The Commission approved the budgets for the community of faith and affirming ministries, with the understanding that these budgets have already been approved by the executives

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Isaac Kamta

SW-CFC-2025-01-15-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Shining Waters Regional Council Communities of Faith Commission Draft Budget 2025

CARRIED

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2025-01-15-04

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Shining Waters Regional Council Affirming Ministries Draft Budget 2025

CARRIED

Diane Matheson-Jimenez joined the meeting

Jody and Diane provided an update on the progress and future plans for clusters and collaborations in Simcoe and York. They shared that they had engaged Jill Strap and Daniel Reid (The Toronto United Church Council) to lead discussions in the Caledon and North Brampton areas. Diane outlined how the cluster budget has been allocated for hospitality, keynote speakers, and facilitators. They also highlighted the creation of a rural ministries network and a property network, both available through Church X, as well as the tech network and the hybrid worship network

Diane Matheson-Jimenez left the meeting
Shawn Redden left the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Community of Faith Updates

BAYVIEW UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO

Jody provided an update on the sale of Bayview United Church, which has since amalgamated with Cumber Avenue. She proposed a plan for distributing the funds received, after covering associated costs, with principal payments directed to Cumber Avenue and interest payments split between Cumber Avenue and Shining Waters Regional Council.

MOTION by Krista Moore / Trevor Brisbin

SW-CFC-2025-01-15-05

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the distribution of funds received after costs from the sale of Bayview United Church as follows: that principal payments received be allotted to Cumber Avenue United Church, Toronto and that interest payments received be apportioned between Cumber Avenue United Church and Shining Waters Regional Council in accordance with the mortgage balance due to each party.

CARRIED

WEST HILL UNITED CHURCH, SCARBOROUGH

They are requesting that the amount allocated to the Regional Council, as outlined in the property policy, not be required. The information they shared in the spring did not meet the Commission's expectations; however, they have since provided the requested information, which was shared with the Commission.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Isaac Kamta

SW-CFC-2025-01-15-06

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council requires the 10% contribution to the Shining Waters Regional Council Indigenous Ministries and Justice Fund as per regional policy when the mortgage comes due this year, and approves the request of West Hill United Church to set aside the 10% contribution to the Shining Waters Regional Council grants program;

- that this 10% will be invested as a restricted fund;
- that West Hill United Church may access the interest income from the fund;

- that should West Hill United Church cease to exist as a congregation of the United Church of Canada, these funds will come to the Shining Waters Regional Council grants program.

CARRIED

1 ABSTENTION

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH, MARKHAM – Tom MacNeil

The listening team, formed in the fall, met in person with Ebenezer United Church in Markham in November, followed by a follow-up session shortly after. The report was shared with the Commission, and a verbal summary was presented during the meeting before the recommendations were shared with Ebenezer. Questions were raised and addressed. Since this is a report rather than a review, the Commission does not have the authority to mandate that the Community of Faith follow the recommendations.

Trevor Brisbin left the meeting

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – February 19th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 12:00 p.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday February 19, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday February 19, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Amy Lee, Adèle Mayer, Sandra Nottegar, Eric Nyarko

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Welcome

Krista Moore, acting chair in Chris absence opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Isaac Kamta led the commission in a time of worship, gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region. There was a time of check in.

Agenda The Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 19, 2025 was approved by consensus

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... approve the sale of Westmount United Church, the legal description of which is: LT 59 RCP 1707 Orillia; Orillia and the municipal address of which is 23 Westmount Dr S, Orillia, ON L3V 6C8 pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Westmount United Church as seller and Daniel B. Artenosi Professional Corporation as the buyer, at the price of \$1,900,000 with a closing date of June 30, 2025

.. approves the request from Richmond Hill United Church to obtain a bridge loan of \$200,000 for a three-year term from Toronto United Church Council to support their plan to become a performing arts centre.

The Regional Staff Lead (Jody Maltby) made the following decision; N/A

***YOUTH FORUM DELEGATES TO GC44** ~ Jody Maltby on behalf of Shawn Redden

Six applications were received for the four available positions. Due to some regions being unable to fill their allocated spots, Shining Waters was granted permission to allow all six applicants to attend. In addition, the two Commissioners selected to represent Youth/Young Adults in Shining

Waters, Sarah Jane Wetelainen and Mary Owusu Adwoa, have been invited to participate in the Youth Forum at the General Council and are included in the six spots allocated to Shining Waters. One of the applicants is a former Leadership Animator with the General Council Office (GCO) from last summer and is currently serving on the Youth Forum Planning Team. All applicants represent three congregations: Uganda Martyrs, Ghana Calvary Methodist, and Ministère Protestant Francophone de Toronto. Each regional council is being asked to provide \$300 per delegate toward the cost of Youth Forum. This will come from the Youth budget.

UPDATE ON THE \$20 000 GROWTH PLAN ~ *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Diane shared that both the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters regions have each been awarded \$20,000 in grant funding from the Growth Department to support communities of faith. She outlined three key priority areas for the funds: assisting communities welcoming newcomers and immigrants, fostering renewal and sustainability efforts, and promoting collaboration and clustering initiatives. The grants will be allocated in four \$5,000 installments, with some flexibility. An application form is currently being developed, and once submitted, the Communities of Faith Commission will review the applications and determine the recipients.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

***DOWNSVIEW UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO** ~ *Jody Maltby*

The commission reviewed the contribution agreement between Downsview United Church and Kindred Works. Kindred Works agrees to prepare a Development Plan. If the plan is approved by the congregation, the congregation will take the necessary steps outlined in the agreement to contribute the property to a newly formed limited partnership for development. The intention is to sever the property, retaining ownership of the original church building within the congregation.

***CALEDON EAST UC, CALEDON / KNOX UC, CALEDON** ~ *Jody Maltby*

The commission received a request from Caledon East United Church and Knox United Church, Caledon to dissolve their collaboration agreement. Each congregation has provided a motion requesting the dissolution of the agreement. Both congregations are involved in the Caledon King conversation being hosted by TUCC and expect to continue in ministry in some form.

***COLDWATER EADY UNITED CHURCH, COLDWATER** ~ *Jody Maltby*

The commission received a request to approve the severance of the property housing the manse from the property housing Coldwater United Church in anticipation of possibly selling the manse in the future. There is presently no plan to sell the manse. Proceeds from a future sale would belong to the Pastoral Charge for so long as it continues to exist.

***RICHMOND HILL UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO** ~ *Jody Maltby*

The commission received a request to approve the sale of the manse of RHUC as part of a multi-year plan to develop a Centre for Community and the Arts. The loans group approved a loan from TUCC and a component of the plan is to sell the manse in the future to help repay the loan and also fund the project. Regional approval of the listing/selling price will still be required at the time of sale as per the regional property policy.

MCKELLAR-DUNCHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE, DUNCHURCH ~ *Jody Maltby*
Jody provided an update on the vision work that has happened at McKellar-Dunchurch which resulted in a congregational decision last August to move the part-time ministry in July 2025. A letter was received asking questions about United Church polity and process. Jody will respond.

EBENZER UNITED CHURCH, MARKHAM ~ *Eun-Joo Park*

The listening team, formed in the fall, met in person with Ebenezer United Church in Markham in November, followed by a follow-up session shortly after. The report was shared with the Community of Faith. The Community of Faith responded to the report and all recommendations were rejected. Since this is a report rather than a review, the Commission does not have the authority to mandate that the Community of Faith follow the recommendations. The listening team will draft a response to Ebenezer United Church regarding their rejection of the listening team's report.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

South Simcoe United Churches Cluster promoting Rural Ministry

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Yf6lZqYddOa912FfKdDZUIG0nTgIIXI/view?usp=sharing>

* As the Communities of Faith Commission did not have quorum during this meeting, the following motions will be presented for action by e-vote.

NEXT MEETING – March 19th, 2025 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING The meeting closed at 11:00 a.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday March 19, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday March 19, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Andrea Allan, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Mastard Sakala, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Adèle Mayer, Eric Nyarko, Eun-Joo Park

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Welcome

Chris Bennet opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Sandra Nottegar led the commission in a time of worship, gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region. There was a time of check in.

Welcome to new staff Rev. Andrea Allan & Rev. Mastard Sakala [Welcoming our Newest Staff Members, Pastoral Relations and CoF Support](#)

Agenda

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Krista Moore **SW-CFC-2025-03-19-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 19, 2025 be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Amy Lee **SW-CFC-2025-03-19-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 15, 2025 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2025-03-19-03**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 19, 2025 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

...ratify the following names who have been selected as Youth Forum delegates from Shining Waters Region to General Council 45:

- *Mariana Muhumuza (Youth Forum Leadership Animator; Uganda Martyrs United Church)*
- *Cedrick Kalaki (Ministère protestant francophone de Toronto)*
- *Daniella Idan (Ghana Calvary Methodist United Church)*
- *Nicole Atuhairwe (Uganda Martyrs United Church)*
- *Prim Nakajubi (Uganda Martyrs United Church)*
- *Ange Merveille Nameni Kuenzob (Ministère protestant francophone de Toronto)*

...approve the cost of \$300 per delegate from Shining Waters Region to General Council Youth Forum be covered from the Youth budget.

...approves the Contribution Agreement between Downsview United Church, Kindred Works, the United Property Resource Corporation and Shining Waters Regional Council.

...approves the dissolution of the Collaboration Agreement between Caledon East United Church and Knox United Church, effective February 28, 2025 with thanks for the ongoing ministry of both congregations.

...approves the request of Coldwater Eady Pastoral Charge to sever the property containing their manse, located at 10 Craddock Street, Coldwater from the property containing the Coldwater United Church, located at 14 Harriet Street, Coldwater so that if directed in the future, and after seeking approval of Shining Waters Regional Council or its successor, the Board of Trustees of Coldwater United Church can sell the manse property

...agrees in principle with the plan of Richmond Hill United Church to sell its manse as part of its plan to create a Centre for Community and the Arts

The Regional Staff Lead (Jody Maltby) made the following decision;

...approves the request of Knob Hill United Church to remediate the washroom on Floor 1 and make it an accessible washroom at a cost of \$67,518, with the understanding that all costs of this work are the responsibility of Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church

A Theological Reflection on Church Property - Jody Maltby

A document created by Daniel Reed, Associate Director of Mission, Property & Finance at the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), was received and discussed in terms of its various potential uses. The document was seen as a helpful tool for congregations facing property-related decisions.

Update United Church Canada Strategic Plan - Jody Maltby

Jody offered a short presentation on the Interim Internal Report “Toward 2035”. Members of the commission offered some feedback. Jody will follow up to see if the feedback can still be submitted.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, Toronto - *Jody Maltby*

Trinity St. Paul's is in the process of establishing a not-for-profit organization and intends to place its property into a trust. This trust will lease the property to the not-for-profit, which will then sublease space to the congregation, as well as to other tenants.

Methodist Church of Zimbabwe Canada - *Kim Uyede-Kai*

The Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, with congregations in both Toronto and Edmonton operating as a two-point charge under a single minister, is exploring the possibility of joining the United Church of Canada. This process presents unique challenges, particularly due to differing regional policies and time zones.

National Korean UC Network - *Kim Uyede-Kai*

The UCC Korean Network is requesting a grant to support their General Meeting and the UCC Centennial Celebration, scheduled for May 13-15, 2025, at Willowdale-Emmanuel United Church. This in-person gathering will provide numerous opportunities for personal, community, and organizational growth. By uniting diverse members of the UCC Korean Network, the event aims to strengthen connections, spark innovative ideas, and inspire meaningful action within the community. This request will also be shared with the Intercultural Diversity Commission

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-03-19-04

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the grant request up to \$2,500, pending review of the contribution from the Intercultural Diversity Commission for the 2025 UCC Korean Network General Meeting and the UCC Centennial Celebration.

CARRIED

Joint Meeting CFC /PRC - *Jody Maltby*

The date of the Joint Meeting of CFC / PRC will be held on Tuesday September 23, 2025. Patti Rodgers offered [Bond Head United Church, Bond Head](#). This will be confirmed.

Let's Connect Webinar - *Diane Matheson-Jimenez on behalf of Eun-Joo Park*

Join staff from the Canadian Shield and Shining Waters Regional Councils as they explore collaborative opportunities through an asset-based approach. In this session, they will focus on the unique gifts and skills within our communities of faith, looking ahead to exciting possibilities for collaboration. **Thursday March 26th, 2025** [Together We Thrive: Strategies for Effective Collaboration](#) **Wednesday May 28th, 2025** Best Practices When Leasing Your Church Building" with Jody Maltby, SWRC Finance and Property Minister, and Daniel Reed, Associate Director, Mission Property and Finance with the Toronto United Church Council. Webinar themes coming this fall: Transitional Ministry in **September** and Mission and Service in **November**. More details as they become available

Admission Task Group - *Jody Maltby on behalf of Eun-Joo Park*

At the February Pastoral Relation Commission meeting, a motion was made to the Executive to support Unity UC Vasey with a one-time grant of \$5,000 to assist with the start-up costs for their new minister, who arrived in Canada through the Admission process. This unexpected expense arose when Unity Congregation invited Rev. Muvundu from Zimbabwe, and the cost had not been anticipated. The Executive later approved this request. This led the Pastoral Relation Commission to consider developing a policy on Best Practices for welcoming admission ministers from outside Canada to the Shining Waters Region. Recognizing that this involves more than just pastoral relationships, it was proposed that the task group include representatives from three commissions: the Pastoral Relations Commission, the Communities of Faith Commission, and the Intercultural Diversity Commission, with Eun-Joo Park providing support. The group will also engage with the search team to outline best practices for welcoming an admission minister. Chris Bennett and Sandra Nottegar have volunteered to participate in the admission task group to develop best practices for welcoming admission ministers from outside Canada.

Governance Task Group - *Jody Maltby*

Tom MacNeil, a valued member of the Governance Task Group, will be on sabbatical beginning in September 2025. We invite you to consider joining the task group during his absence. The informal meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th, and Wednesday, November 13th. Contact staff support for the task group Eun-Joo Park epark@united-church.ca or Andrea Allan AAllan@united-church.ca if you are interested.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – April 23rd, 2025 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:45 a.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday April 23, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday April 23, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Trevor Brisbin, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Mastard Sakala

Regrets: Andrea Allan, Amy Lee, Adèle Mayer, Krista Moore, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Welcome

Chris Bennett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There was a time of check in. Tom MacNeil led the commission in a time of worship, 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.

Agenda

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Trevor Brisbin **SW-CFC-2025-04-23-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 23, 2025 be accepted as circulated with minor adjustments to the order of items to improve the overall flow of the meeting.
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2025-04-23-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 19, 2025 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the release of the second installment of the loan between Birchcliff Bluffs United Church and the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund in the amount of \$75,000

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the loan application of Forest Hill United Church, Toronto to Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$45,000.00 for a 10-year term

Approvals of Regional Staff Lead;

...approves the request of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$6,798.43 from the Amalgamation Account for the purchase of the TV monitors and wiring, the installation of which was previously approved in December 2024.

Churches, Land and Community – Jody Maltby

The following information is shared for informational purposes only. The Canadian Coalition for Reimagining Church, Land, and Community is hosting a two-day gathering at Wycliffe College, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders — including church leaders, urban planners, architects, developers, and government partners. The event is designed to inspire collaboration, meaningful dialogue, and innovative thinking around the stewardship and future use of church properties in Canada.

Trustees for Property - Jody Maltby

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2025-04-23-03**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council appoint Jody Maltby, Diane Matheson and Chris Bennett as Trustees for Yearley Union Cemetery, Pt. Lt. 9, Con.13, Stisted Ward, Town of Huntsville, ON and remove any Trustees previously named by former congregation(s) that have ceased to exist.
CARRIED

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2025-04-23-04**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council remove Janet MacDonald as a Trustee for the following properties with thanks for her service, appoint Diane Matheson and confirm Chris Bennett and Jody Maltby as Trustees:

- a) Coulson United Church, 343 Horseshoe Valley Road West, Oro Township, Oro-Medonte
- b) Dunkerron United Church, 4324 3RD Line, Bradford, West Gwillimbury Township, ON
- c) Guthrie United Church, 59 Line 4 North, Oro-Medonte, ON
- d) Hobart United Church, 4590 Line 6 North, Oro Township, Oro-Medonte, ON
- e) Little Brick Church, 402 Ridge Road West at Line 6 S, Oro Station, Oro-Medonte, ON
- f) Newton Robinson United Church, Highway 27 at 10th Line, Bradford, West Gwillimbury Township, ON
- g) Peaches United Church, 10762 McCowan Road, Markham, ON
- h) Ramona United Church Cemetery, 1974 Concession Road M&N, Severn Bridge, ON
- i) Salem United Church, 12295 Innis Lake Road, Caledon East
- j) Trillium United Church, 60 Richmond Street, Caledon (Mono Mills), ON
- k) Wexford Heights United Church Cemetery, 2102 Lawrence Ave E, Scarborough, ON

CARRIED

The motions below update those previously made on December 16, 2020 due to the retirement of Janet MacDonald as Finance Administrator

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2025-04-23-05

that if a pastoral charge closes without naming a Board of Trustees to deal with remaining property, the chair of the Communities of Faith Commission, the Regional Staff Lead, Finance and Property Minister and the Community of Faith Support Minister are automatically trustees. **CARRIED**

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2025-04-23-06

that in accordance with The Manual (2025) section G.3.3.4c, if a congregation finds themselves with only one or two trustees or without any trustees for any reason, the chair of the Communities of Faith Commission, the Regional Staff Lead, Finance and Property Minister and the Community of Faith Support Minister are automatically trustees and will serve along with the remaining trustees until the full number of trustees has been appointed. **CARRIED**

Camping and Accreditation Visit Team

Two Shining Waters camps—Camp Scugog and Sparrow Lake Camp—are scheduled for accreditation visits in 2025. The process will be coordinated by Shawn Redden and Diane Matheson-Jimenez. Each camp will be evaluated by a three-person accreditation team composed of Shawn Redden (Faith Formation Minister), Rafael Torres (TUCC Director of Property Services), and one volunteer. Several volunteer candidates are currently being considered; however, if the Commission has additional suggestions, names can be forwarded to Shawn Redden at sredden@united-church.ca

2035 Report follow-up - Jody Maltby

The Commission received an update on the General Council’s strategic vision document and plans for an upcoming town hall meeting. Jody clarified that the document remains in draft form and is scheduled to be presented to General Council for approval this summer. The role of the General Council Executive was to finalize the draft document, which will be publicly available mid-May. The commission discussed the possibility of hosting a town hall in June to review the document more broadly. This timing would coincide with the presentation of the recommendations to SWRC Executive regarding the review of ministry and funding priorities. During the discussion, members raised concerns about maintaining neutrality, leading to a consideration of whether the commission or the Executive should host the event. It was agreed that we would ask the Executive to host the town hall, while the commission may assist in shaping the questions for discussion. Jody confirmed she will share the commission’s feedback with the General Council Executive.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, Toronto - Jody Maltby

Trinity St. Paul's United Church is working with Kindred Works on a plan to place their property in a land trust which will lease it to a newly formed not-for-profit, the Trinity St. Paul Centre. The goal is to relieve the congregation of property management responsibilities, access broader funding opportunities, and engage more deeply with the wider community. Any property of the corporation, should it dissolve, will remain vested in the United Church of Canada.

MOTION by Trevor Brisbin / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-04-23-07

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Articles of Incorporation for Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Toronto ON.

CARRIED

West Hill United Church, West Hill - Jody Maltby

The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed plan for the disbursement of funds from the sale of West Hill United Church. This decision marks the conclusion of a process that has been ongoing since late 2020.

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Patti Rodgers

SW-CFC-2025-04-23-08

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council takes the following actions:

- Approves the plan for disbursement of funds from the sale of West Hill United Church, 62 Orchard Park Drive, Scarborough as presented with \$2,742,548 restricted as per the regional property policy. The congregation may use the annual interest from the investment of the restricted funds. Regional approval is required to access restricted capital.
- Approves the request of West Hill United Church to submit their contribution of \$304,728 to the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Fund in installments.

CARRIED

National Korean UC Network - Jody Maltby

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council has approved a grant of \$2,000.00 to the UCC Korean Network centennial event. Along with the grant of \$500.00 from the Intercultural Diversity Commission, this totals \$2,500.00 from Shining Waters Regional Council to meet the budget request of the UCC Korean Network event.

Dentonia Park United Church, Toronto Knob Hill United Church, Scarborough - Diane Matheson-Jimenez on behalf of Eun-Joo Park

Diane presented a complex situation involving two communities of faith, Dentonia Park and Knob Hill, who are considering collaboration. There is concern about whether the two communities have the resources they need to proceed with this process. Diane sought guidance from the commission on how to best support these communities, considering their viability and sustainability. The commission discussed the challenges of balancing autonomy with accountability, the need for clear direction, and the importance of understanding the unique circumstances of each community. Calin has offered to provide support and guidance to Dentonia Park and Knob Hill United Churches as they explore their future options

Taiwanese United Church, Toronto - *Jody Maltby*

The commission made the following decision which enables the Taiwanese-speaking congregation to invest their building fund in a property that supports their ministry vision and meets their current needs. As long as the purchase price does not exceed the approved amount and they work with a real estate agent and lawyer, they are not required to return with an agreement of purchase and sale for approval. This is in line with the regional property policy related to selling a manse, which takes into consideration the quick turn-around that is needed in housing sales.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Isaac Kamta

SW-CFC-2025-04-23-09

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Taiwanese United Church, Toronto to purchase a townhouse to be used as an income property, provided the cost does not exceed \$1.1M inclusive of land transfer tax and legal fees and provided they work with a real estate agent and lawyer.

CARRIED

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – May 21st, 2025 9:30 a.m.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 12:00 p.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday May 21, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday May 21, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Krista Moore, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden

Regrets: Andrea Allan, Trevor Brisbin, Amy Le, Tom MacNeil, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Adèle Mayer, Sandra Nottegar, Mastard Sakala, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield

Welcome

Chris Bennet opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There was a time of check in. Chris Bennet led the commission in a time of worship, gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Agenda The agenda of the meeting of The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 23, 2025 was approved by consensus with the removal of Forest Hill United Church, Community of Faith updated.

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the capital budget of Metropolitan United Church for 2025 in the amount of \$460,450

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the loan application between Islington United Church and Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$300,000 for a 10-year term at an interest rate of 0% for the first five years and 1% per annum thereafter.

... that the Communities of Faith Commission approve the lease agreement between St. Paul's United Church, Brampton and Harvest Worship Centre for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025 at a rental rate of \$10,021 per month.

... that the Communities of Faith Commission approves the renewal of the loan between Lansing United Church, Toronto and TUCC dated July 1, 2025 in the amount of \$1,070,766 for a three-year term.

Approvals of Regional Staff Lead;

... approves the loan application of Willowdale Emmanuel United Church to Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) in the amount of \$50,000 to support their Supervised Ministry Education for two years, with a repayment period of 10 years, funds to come from the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Fund.

Report on Affirming Ministries – Shawn Redden

Recap at the in-person meeting Fall 2024 I indicated I would develop a plan for Affirming Ministries. (Presently, there is no committee for Affirming Ministries and the aspect of supporting networks does relate to the mandate of the Community of Faith Commission)

We acknowledged:

- Presently there is no formal affirming team or committee within the Regional Council structure.
- Strong network in the GTA that meets regularly but with no accountability or authority within the structure
- No visible engagement with Affirming Ministries north of the 407 within this GTA focused network
- No details of budgeted expenses or accountability within the \$10,000 Affirming budget

Fall 2024

- Updated the [LIST & MAP](#) on the Regional website of Affirming CoF (Celio and Shawn)
- Last updated in 2022; previously 33 as of July 2020 to 48 as of December 2024
- Includes 14 Affirming CoF North of the 407
- Reviewed the Shining Waters Affirming Action Plan (2020) to identify present status on items
- Identified gaps related to supporting networks and need to clarify what is regional work as an Affirming Region, and what is related to supporting affirming ministries within the Region generally.
- Budget (presented to CFC in January 2025)
- Distinguishes between expenses related to the Region being an Affirming Ministry (membership in Affirm, AGM, events planned as a Regional Affirming Ministry, etc.), and support for Affirming work across the Region (networks and communications).

Regional Affirming Ministry

Outstanding questions: annual celebration service of Region as an Affirming Ministry. Initial service held online March 2021; subsequent ones were hosted in-person at a church in the GTA. GTA network decided not host or plan one in 2025. Perhaps we acknowledge at the Regional AGM. Regional committee or team to work with Staff person. TBD

Networks

The GTA Affirming Pride Network is strong and is under the leadership of co-chairs Brad Inglis and John Joseph Mastandrea. Staff attend periodically to facilitate communication.

North of the 407: Staff have invited all 14 congregations to gather to explore what is needed in terms of developing and supporting clusters among Affirming ministries north of the 407. Two meetings have been held to date with six of the 14 congregations represented. Another meeting is

planned for September, and additional effort will be made to encourage the remaining eight congregations to attend.

Many of these congregations feel more isolated in this work. Their affirming teams are often small. For those who have been affirming for some time, they articulate a need to reinvigorate discussion, education and awareness around emerging affirming issues in their congregations. There is a real yearning to connect with other Affirming Ministries and share ideas and resources, as well as collaborate on potential events and projects. The long-term goal seems to be to try and develop stronger links in the smaller geographical areas (*ie: Muskoka, Simcoe, and York regions*) and then maybe a larger North of the 407 network a few times a year.

Affirm United will be launching a 'Re-affirm' program so that may have some helpful resources for these congregations. I will continue to stay in touch with Affirm to learn more.

Communications

We are trying to publish Affirming News at key moments in the calendar year, including the weeks leading up to PIE Day, and Pride season (*May-August*). A recent learning includes the fact that it is often it is lay people involved with the affirming work in congregations, and few of them are subscribed to the Regional Council mailing list. I am working with Celio and Donna to create Mailchimp lists of people who sign up for just one kind of communication (*ie. Affirming News*) but do not necessarily receive all the regional mailings.

I am working with Rob Smith (*Staff Lead in Canadian Shield for Affirming Ministries*) and maximize staff time in order to create an Affirming News mailing for Canadian Shield. We are also trying to extend invitations to both Regions for special online events. For example, the Canadian Shield Affirming Resource Team hosts an Affirming Town Hall each year, and this January extended the invitation to Shining Waters to join the presentation on Rural Pride.

2035 Report follow-up - Jody Maltby

Toward 2035 - A Town Hall Conversation - Shining Waters and Canadian Shield Regional Councils will be holding a joint gathering to discuss the recent Toward 2035 report from General Council. We hope you can join the discussion on June 17, 2025, follow the [LINK](#) for more info.

Churches, Land and Community – Jody Maltby

Jody provided an update from a recent conference focused on church land and community. She highlighted the Christian Reformed Church's Heart Exchange program and their spiritual covenant with Indigenous communities. She also noted the ongoing tension discussed at the conference between developing church land for affordable housing and maintaining support for existing ministry work.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Shawn Redden left the meeting

Eun-Joo Park joined the meeting

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto - *Eun-Joo Park*

A proposal was shared that outlines a collaborative model for the Downtown East Community Ministry Collective between Regent Park Community Ministry (RPCM) and Saint Luke's United Church. It builds upon the unique strengths and shared mission of both ministries to foster a more impactful and sustainable faith-based presence in the Downtown East neighbourhood of Toronto. St. Luke's is informing the Commission about their collaboration with the Region Park Community ministry, focusing on downtown outreach ministry and seeking the Commission's blessing on such an endeavour. St. Luke's is also working with Rosedale United Church, for future collaboration. Saint Luke's is collaborating well with Region Park Community Ministry and neighboring downtown churches

Dentonia Park United Church, Toronto Knob Hill United Church, Scarborough

Eun-Joo provided a report on Dentonia Park, a congregation that has faced significant challenges following the death of their minister in July 2024. Challenges include very limited membership, technological barriers, and organizational difficulties. Jody clarified that if the Commission wishes to take action, it can initiate a review of a congregation if specific concerns are identified. Such a review would require following appropriate procedures and ensuring that affected members have a voice in the process. As a next step, Eun-Joo will attend the June 1st meeting of the Dentonia Park congregation to engage in conversation about their current status and potential future options. She will bring a report back to the Commission following that meeting.

Korean Network Annual Meeting - *Eun-Joo Park*

Eun-Joo shared that this year marks two significant milestones: the 100th anniversary of The United Church of Canada and the 60th anniversary of the Korean United Churches within the denomination. To commemorate these occasions, many Korean UCC clergy and members gathered last week to celebrate and give thanks for the life and work of the Church, and to recognize the meaningful role played by the Korean community. Eun-Joo expressed that it was a joy to be among fellow Korean UCC members and noted that she was honoured to facilitate a storytelling circle where participants shared their personal journeys and reflections.

Admission Task Commission Update - *Eun-Joo Park*

The Admission Task Group will present their work to both the Pastoral Relations Commission and the Community of Faith Commission during the in-person meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING – June 18th, 2025 9:30 a.m. Patti Rodgers will provide the opening worship.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Wednesday June 18, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday June 18, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Krista Moore, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden, Mastard Sakala, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Andrea Allan, Trevor Brisbin, Adèle Mayer, Sandra Nottegar

Welcome

Chris Bennet opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There was a time of check in. Patti Rodgers led the commission in a time of worship, gave an acknowledgement of the land and acknowledged our commitment to being a safer place for all people to gather and participate in our Region.

Agenda

MOTION by Amy Lee / Krista Moore **SW-CFC-2025-06-18-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 18th, be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Isaac Kamta **SW-CFC-2025-06-18-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 23rd, 2025 and May 21st, 2025 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$43,771 from the Amalgamation Fund to replace their boiler.

Approvals of Regional Staff Lead;

.... the Staff Lead approved a grant of \$600 to Uganda Martyrs United Church, Toronto to assist several lay leaders to attend the Festival of Faith; from the budget line "Lay Leaders and Lay-led Congregations" as per the terms of the budget approved at the January meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF AD-HOC COMMITTEE – *Jody Maltby*

Jody presented a summary of six recommendations, developed through extensive consultation conducted throughout 2024-2025. The committee focused on six key areas; supporting existing communities of faith, community ministries, regional needs, youth engagement, Indigenous relations, and the development of a strategic plan. The Commission expressed gratitude for the committee's work and agreed to develop a plan in September to implement this work and engage additional volunteers.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES INITIATIVE– *Patti Rodgers*

Patti provided an update on the work of the task group for the Community Ministries Fund. The group has been working with a fundraising consultant and, while there have been some good learnings, they have realized that the United Church is a different context for raising funds than other not-for-profit organizations. The task group has developed their own plan for promoting the fund along with a better understanding of community ministry and how it might be engaged in different local contexts. The initiative will include the development of a liturgy and presentation, with an emphasis on building relationships and community engagement rather than solely focusing on fundraising. It was noted that it will be important to partner with the Social and Ecological Justice Commission. The task group are considering the idea of creating a Community Ministry Day, to be held in the fall. They hope to have time on the agenda for the upcoming annual meeting.

GROWTH GRANTS - *Jody Maltby*

A new growth grant program was announced, offering up to \$5,000 for congregations engaged in work with new Canadians, visioning initiatives, or collaborative ministry. A total of up to \$20,000 in funding is available through the General Council Growth Department.

TOWARD 2035 TOWN HALL CONVERSATION UPDATE - *Jody Maltby*

The commission discussed the town hall meeting on June 17th where the General Council strategy Toward 2035 was shared by Cam Fraser, Director of Growth and Ministry Development for the United Church. The recording, PowerPoint presentation, and notes from the June 17th Town Hall, will be available on the website soon.

Shawn Redden left the meeting

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Eun-Joo Park joined the meeting

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Dentonia Park United Church, Toronto Knob Hill United Church, Scarborough - *Eun-Joo Park*

There is nothing significant to report, as the meeting scheduled for June 1st did not proceed as planned. A tentative date for the next meeting has been set for June 29th. The Commission will become more actively involved with this community of faith, providing guidance to help them move forward. Staff will bring forward recommendations to the Commission in September.

Harmony United Church, Kearney – *Jody Maltby*

The Commission approved the sale of the Kearney property in anticipation of them moving towards an amalgamation, with proceeds to be determined.

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2025-06-18-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Harmony United Church, of Emsdale Pastoral Charge to list their property, located in Kearney, ON, for sale with listing agent Jessica Brown of Thompson Real Estate for a list price of \$229,000.

CARRIED

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

SUMMER BREAK FROM E-VOTES

It was agreed that the Commission will pause e-voting from July 28, 2025, to August 8, 2025. Commission members were encouraged to stay attentive to any email votes prior to these dates.

NEXT MEETING

In Person Joint Meeting with PRC September 23rd, 2025 Bond Head United Church

<https://bondheadunitedchurch.ca/home/>

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 11:20 a.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Pastoral Relations Commission and Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025**

The Pastoral Relations Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met for a hybrid (in-person and online) joint meeting with the Communities of Faith Commission, on **Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025** at Bond Head United Church, 4221 Simcoe County Rd 88, Bond Head. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present In person: Lorraine Diaz, Richard Gardner, Carolyn Harding, William Haughton, Isaac Kamta, Calin Lau (General Council Staff), Deirdre (Dee) Lawrence, Lawrence Nyarko, Robin Pilkey, Patti Rodgers

Present Online: Andrea Allan (Regional Staff), Chris Bennett, Cameron Fraser (General Council Staff), Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Regional Staff), Beth Moore, Sandra Nottegar, Rob Smith (Regional Staff), Kim Uyede-Kai (Regional Staff)

Staff: Celio de Andrade Santos Jr, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Eun-Joo Park, Donna Rutz

Regrets: Barbara Hendren, Sung Ran Kim, Amy Lee, Tom MacNeil, Adèle Mayer, Krista Moore, Shawn Redden (Regional Staff), Mastard Sakala (Regional Staff), Kim Uyede-Kai (Regional Staff)

Welcome, Constituting the Meeting and Worship

Chris Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting, gave an acknowledgement of the land and led a time of worship.

Joint Commission Conversation - *Lawrence Nyarko*

Lawrence provided an overview of the meeting agenda, highlighting the key topics to be addressed and the intended flow of the discussion. The agenda included updates from various subcommittees, policy reviews and ongoing initiatives. Lawrence noted the importance of staying on track to ensure all items could be addressed within the allotted time.

Report from Admissions Task Group - *Eun-Joo Park and Lawrence Nyarko*

Eun-Joo and Lawrence presented the document Pastoral Relations Commission: Best Practices in Welcoming Admission Ministers. This policy outlines recommended guidelines for congregations engaging in an admission appointment, with a focus on key areas such as preparing the community of faith, housing, and hospitality. The document was reviewed, and several suggestions for revisions were made. It was proposed that the title be updated to: Pastoral Relations Commission and Communities of Faith Commission: Best Practices in Welcoming Admission Ministers, to reflect the shared responsibilities of both commissions. The finalized document will be made available on both the PRC and CFC webpages. Each commission will review and approve the document separately.

Rob Smith left the meeting

Equity Update / Negotiation Handbook - *Eun-Joo Park and Lawrence Nyarko*

A document titled "A Guide to Compensation and Negotiation for Ministry Personnel within Shining Waters Regional Council", prepared by a subgroup of the Pastoral Relations Commission (William Haughton, Robin Pilkey, and Liz MacKenzie), was shared and discussed. The guide outlines a step-by-step process for ministry personnel to follow when negotiating compensation with a community of faith—starting from the moment they are offered a call or appointment and have discerned a sense of call to that ministry. It was noted that this document will be forwarded to the Office of Vocation for potential distribution to other Regional Councils.

Cameron Fraser joined the meeting online

Cam Fraser joined the meeting online

Rob Smith joined the meeting online

Towards 2035 Discussion - *Calin Lau and Cameron Fraser / Jody Maltby and Chris Bennett*

Cam Fraser, Director of Growth and Ministry Development, presented data on national and regional demographic trends, with a focus on the Shining Waters region. He highlighted significant declines in church membership and worship attendance from 1992 through projected figures for 2035, including a 90% decrease in Sunday school participation. While these figures are not meant to serve as exact predictions, Cam emphasized their value in illustrating long-term trends and informing strategic decision-making. He encouraged a shift away from maintaining structures built for a larger church, urging leaders to focus instead on the core mission and values of the United Church. Calin Lau, Growth Animator, shared updates on several ongoing initiatives designed to support and renew communities of faith, including the 100 Tables Campaign and the Strengthening Invitation Grant. These initiatives use data-informed tools to help congregations become more inviting and engaged, with particular attention to emerging communities of faith, both online and in-person. Calin also noted ongoing collaborations with ethnocultural networks as part of broader efforts to foster inclusion and diversity. Cam further explained the structure and goals of the Growth and Ministry Development team, highlighting key success indicators such as increased member engagement, collaborative ministry models, and growing diversity within the church. During the discussion, concerns were raised about the disconnect between national-level strategies and the practical needs of local congregations. Some commission members expressed frustration over the lack of useful, applicable resources from the national church. Cam acknowledged this feedback, affirmed the importance of understanding local successes, and committed to improving alignment between national efforts and regional realities.

Blessing - *Lawrence Nyarko*

The meeting concluded with a moment of reflection and a blessing, offered in a spirit of gratitude and community. Participants took a moment to acknowledge the meaningful discussions and collaborative efforts shared throughout the session. Following the blessing, arrangements were confirmed for lunch. Attendees were invited to continue their conversations informally over the meal, fostering further connection and fellowship.

Lunch Break

The joint commission gathering broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and then reconvened separately.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Community of Faith Commission
Tuesday September 23, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on **Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025** at Bond Head United Church, 4221 Simcoe County Rd 88, Bond Head The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

Present In person: Carolyn Harding, Isaac Kamta, Calin Lau (General Council Staff), Patti Rodgers

Present Online: Andrea Allan (Regional Staff), Chris Bennett, Amy Lee, Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Regional Staff), Sandra Nottegar

Staff: Celio de Andrade Santos Jr, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby

Regrets: Tom MacNeil, Adèle Mayer, Krista Moore, Eun-Joo Park (Regional Staff), Shawn Redden (Regional Staff), Mastard Sakala (Regional Staff), Kim Uyede-Kai (Regional Staff)

Welcome

Chris Bennet opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Agenda the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 23rd, 2025, be accepted by consensus with the removal of one community of faith update and addition of community ministries update

Minutes the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated June 18th, 2025 was approved by consensus

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the lease agreement between St. James United Church, Toronto and Switzer-CARTY Transportation Inc, with a term beginning July 15, 2025.

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the amended agreement of purchase and sale of Westmount United Church, the legal description of which is: LT 59 RCP 1707 Orillia; Orillia and the municipal address of which is 23 Westmount Dr S, Orillia, ON L3V 6C8 pursuant to an agreement between the Trustees of Westmount United Church as seller and Daniel B. Arsenosi Professional Corporation as the buyer, at a price of \$1,100,000 with a closing date of September 30, 2025, a lease date of July 15, 2025, with the following terms of lease agreement:

- The lease is in effect from July 15th through September 30th, during which time the buyer shall assume responsibility and costs for all utilities and full insurance coverage.*

- *The buyer shall also indemnify the seller of any and all liability related to their use of the property during the lease period.*
- *The buyer shall be entitled to sub-lease the property to a third party.*
- *The buyer shall be responsible for care and maintenance of the property and shall not demolish any buildings or structures on the property.*

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the quote from A1 Junk Removal and Recycling in the amount of \$4,366.30 to address concerns raised in the order from the City of Orillia and that we request a copy of the City's final inspection indicating the Order's requirements have been met. The cost of the work will be recovered from the sale of the property.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Agreement of Purchase and Sale between The Corporation of the City of Barrie and The Trustees of the Allandale Congregation of the Methodist Church (Burton Avenue United Church) for a corner of property located at 37 Burton Avenue, Barrie, for the sale price of \$1,840.00 with a closing date as agreed to by the Buyer and the Seller and that is no later than the 60th day following final execution by the Buyer, and that the funds received by the sale may be used toward the operations of the congregation.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of North Bramalea United Church, Brampton, for a growth grant of \$5,000 to support their project for visioning and strategic planning for sustainability and growth: "Church Name Change to New Beginnings United Church"

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the resignation of Beverly Brandt, Joe Davis, Ruth Leistner, Dianne Sheppard, Jackie Whiston and Rev. Jim Keenan (Pastoral Charge Supervisor) as Trustees for Westmount United Church, Orillia, with thanks for their many years of faithful service, and appoints Chris Bennett, Diane Matheson and Jody Maltby as Trustees; and authorizes the Trustees to act in the completion of the sale of Westmount United Church, located at 23 Westmount Drive South, Orillia to Daniel B. Artenosi Professional Corporation for the sum of one million one hundred thousand dollars (\$1,100,000) with a completion date of September 30, 2025.

.... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the sale of 31/33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto by the Trustees of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church to Destiny & Dominion Word Ministries for a purchase price of Four Million Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500,000.00) with a completion date of October 22, 2025.

Approvals of Regional Staff Lead:

... approve the request from St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough to access \$4,633 from the Amalgamation Fund to cover unexpected costs related to the boiler replacement.

...approve the request from St. Paul's United Church, Orillia, for a \$200 grant in support of their upcoming cluster gathering.

DEBRIEF THE JOINT MEETING

The committee reviewed the recent Joint Commission Meeting, expressing appreciation for the well-organized sessions and valuable content. During the "2035" debrief, members noted concerns about the disconnect between national and regional levels, the challenges of data-driven discussions, and the need for more in-person engagement.

Q2 FINANCIAL REPORTS - Jody Maltby

The commission reviewed the 2025 quarterly financial statements, with Jody highlighting commission budgets and emphasizing the importance of promoting available funds. Members agreed to revisit potential expenditures at the next meeting.

ASSESSMENTS DISCUSSION - Jody Maltby

Concerns were raised about congregations behind on their assessments. The group discussed balancing financial accountability with support for struggling communities and agreed to continue exploring policies and oversight in future meetings.

REQUEST FROM NOMINATIONS - Jody Maltby

The Nominating Committee proposed moving Communities of Faith Commission (CFC) meetings to the evening to encourage broader participation among members who may have daytime commitments. The group expressed strong support for this suggestion, recognizing that evening meetings could improve accessibility and attendance. It was agreed that the commission would explore scheduling options for evening meetings. Kathleen was assigned the task of creating a Doodle poll to gather members' availability and identify suitable dates for the proposed change. The results of the poll will be reviewed at the next meeting to finalize the new meeting schedule.

GROWTH GRANTS - Jody Maltby

The commission discussed strategies for managing growth grants more effectively, including the creation of a spreadsheet to track supported projects and the establishment of clear funding cycles with associated deadlines. To streamline the approval process, it was agreed that going forward, the Governance Task Group would handle growth grant approvals through e-votes. This approach aims to improve oversight and ensure timely decisions regarding grant distribution.

St. Matthew's United Church, Toronto

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Carolyn Harding

SW-CFC-2025-09-23-01

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of St. Matthew's Untied Church, Toronto, for a growth grant of \$5,000 to support their project as a community hub with a view to increase room donations to ensure their future viability.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES UPDATE – Patti Rodgers

As previously reported in June, the Task Group decided not to continue with the consultant for fundraising and awareness around community ministries. In August, Patti met with the community ministers to develop a new approach. One key initiative is the creation of a "Community Ministry

Sunday,” similar to Camp Sunday, aimed at raising awareness of community ministries. A draft liturgy template for this day has been developed. Additionally, plans are underway to produce promotional videos to be shared on YouTube and distributed to congregations. There is also a proposal to offer in-person presentations, where representatives would visit congregations to share videos, lead the liturgy, and discuss ways churches can engage with community ministries locally.

Collier Street United Church, Barrie – Jody Maltby

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-09-23-02

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Letter of Intent between Collier Street United Church, Barrie and A Good Life Group.

CARRIED

There was a question raised about whether the property will continue to be vested in the United Church. The commission didn't feel this prevented their approval at this step but the question will be included in the letter to the congregation and Jody will follow up.

Harmony United Church, Kearney – Jody Maltby

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Carolyn Harding

SW-CFC-2025-09-23-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the sale of Knox United Church, located at 11 King William Street, Kearney, Ontario to 1000009974 for the sale price of \$185,000 with a completion date of September 15, 2025.

CARRIED

Bloor Street United Church, Toronto – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Carolyn Harding

SW-CFC-2025-09-23-04

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Intentional Interim Ministry recommendation to extend the Intentional Interim Ministry of Rev. Douglas DuCharme at Bloor St. United Church, Toronto for two more years to end no later than December 31, 2027.

CARRIED

St. James United Church, Etobicoke – Diane Matheson-Jimenez

MOTION by Amy Lee / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-09-23-05

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Intentional Interim Ministry recommendation for an extension of the Intentional Interim Ministry of Rev. Richard Choe at St. James United Church, Etobicoke from Jan 2026 to June 30, 2027.

CARRIED

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday October 15th, 2025 9:30am. Patti Rodgers will provide opening worship.

CLOSING Chris Bennett offered a closing blessing, and the meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Wednesday October 15th, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Wednesday October 15th, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Carolyn Harding, Amy Lee, Sandra Nottegar, Patti Rodgers

Staff: Andrea Allan, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Mastard Sakala

Regrets: Isaac Kamta, Tom MacNeil, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Adèle Mayer, Krista Moore, Eun-Joo Park, Shawn Redden, Kim Uyede-Kai

Guest: Deb Carpenter (York Pines United Church) & Sheryl Sinka (King City United Church)

Welcome

Chris Bennett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There was a time of check in. Patti Rodgers led the commission in a time of worship, 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.

Agenda

The Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 15th, 2025 was approved by consensus with the addition of Hillside Methodist Church, Scarborough and community ministries task group video.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Meeting Communities of Faith Commission & Pastoral Relations Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated September 23rd, 2025 was approved by consensus

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

... that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the renovation of the Heritage Hall Tower of Ebenezer United Church, Markham, at a cost of \$396,291, funds coming from congregational reserves, redemption of \$125,000 from the Investing In Ministries Fund, and a \$75,000 loan from the Toronto Southeast Presbytery Major Capital Fund, previously approved by the Regional Staff Lead on February 20, 2024.

...that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve an increase of \$96,932.09 to Kimbourne Park United Church's loan facility, bringing it from \$324,000 to \$420,932.09 on the existing terms.

Approvals of Regional Staff Lead;

... approve the request from Chapel in the Park United Church, Toronto to access \$17,240.07 from your manse fund for capital repairs.

Deb Carpenter joined the meeting - York Pines United Church

Sheryl Sinka joined the meeting - King City United Church

York Pines United Church / King City United Church, York – *Jody Maltby, Andrea Allan*

The Commission reviewed a proposal from York Pines and King City United Churches concerning their planned merger and the potential sale of York Pines' property. Representatives from both communities of faith attended the meeting to present the proposal, with the aim of finalizing the merger by December, enabling joint worship services to begin in January. The initiative is driven by declining attendance and a shared commitment to securing full-time ministry. Financial considerations were also discussed, including property sales and the establishment of an endowment fund. A letter will be prepared to York Pines and King City regarding their merger proposal, indicating approval in principal with the expectation that final numbers will be determined after an agreement of purchase and sale.

Deb Carpenter left the meeting - York Pines United Church

Sheryl Sinka left the meeting - King City United Church

ASSESSMENTS DISCUSSION - *Jody Maltby*

The commission addressed the issue of unpaid assessments, agreeing to review the annual reports of congregations in arrears to better understand the reasons for non-payment and to explore possible support strategies. An updated list of communities of faith in assessment arrears will be provided for 2024

BEST PRACTICES IN WELCOMING ADMISSION MINISTERS POLICY - *Sandra Nottegar*

A policy update regarding the welcoming and guidance of new ministers was discussed, focusing on establishing clear expectations and practices for both the congregation and the incoming minister.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Amy Lee

SW-CFC-2025-10-15-01

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Best Practices in Welcoming Admission Ministers.

CARRIED

REQUEST FROM NOMINATIONS DISCUSSION - *Jody Maltby*

The Nominating Committee proposed shifting Communities of Faith Commission (CFC) meetings to the evening to accommodate members with daytime commitments and encourage broader participation. Following discussion, it was agreed that meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m., beginning November 25, 2025.

GROWTH GRANTS

The commission approved a \$5,000 request for a community program from Davenport Perth United Church, Toronto asking them to provide a detailed budget breakdown of how the funds will be spent.

Davenport Perth United Church, Toronto

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-10-15-02

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of Davenport Perth United Church, Toronto, for a growth grant of \$5,000 to support their project as they grow the mission of Spanish-speaking people with the expectation that a budget will be provided showing how the \$5,000 will be spent.

CARRIED

ABSTAINED 1

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Hillside Methodist Church, Scarborough – *Jody Maltby*

MOTION by Carolyn Harding / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-10-15-03

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the resignation of David Hope and Sandy Massaroni as Trustees for the Hillside Methodist Church Cemetery, Scarborough, with thanks for their many years of faithful service, and appoints the chair of the Communities of Faith Commission (Chris Bennett), the Regional Staff Lead (Jody Maltby) and the Communities of Faith Minister (Diane Matheson) as Trustees.

CARRIED

Nobleton United Church, Nobleton – *Mastard Sakala*

After a congregational meeting, Nobleton United Church has voted to close, with a potential change in the closing date from May 14th 2026 to the end of June 2026. We are waiting for final details to be resolved and confirmed by the congregation before giving approval.

North Bramalea United Church, Brampton – *Mastard Sakala*

The church has requested a name change from North Bramalea United Church to New Beginnings United Church. Three key reasons were presented:

1. **Geographic Relevance:** The name North Bramalea is no longer geographically accurate, as the city is now known as Brampton, and the church is no longer located in the northern part of the city.
2. **Reflecting Current Identity:** The existing name no longer reflects the church's context or mission. The congregation feels the name should align with their present reality and spiritual direction.
3. **Symbol of Renewal:** The proposed name, New Beginnings United Church, represents the congregation's focus on healing, hope, and the transformative work of God within the

church and surrounding community. They desire a name that resonates with the renewed life and ministry taking place.

MOTION by Amy Lee / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2025-10-15-04

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request from North Bramalea United Church to formally change its name to New Beginnings United Church, effective June 30th, 2026, as discerned and affirmed by the congregation through a congregational meeting held on September 28, 2025, where the motion was passed with a 90% majority

CARRIED

Harmony United Church, Kearney – Jody Maltby

The Commission approved the sale of Harmony United Church in October with a closing date of September 15th, 2025. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the closing date has been rescheduled to October 14th. To secure this new date, they requested an additional \$10,000 deposit, which has since been received. A follow up voicemail this morning states that an extension has been requested again.

Collier Street United Church, Barrie – Jody Maltby

It was confirmed that the original approval letter clearly stated the expectation that the property would remain vested in the United Church. Follow-up conversations were held to clarify concerns around property ownership, governance, and what happens in the event of a dissolution of the new body. The response indicated that these details would be defined later in the joint venture agreement, based on negotiated terms between the partners. However, no direct answer was provided at this stage. Concerns were raised, including that another region had approved a similar arrangement. It was reiterated that this region has been intentional since March about ensuring property remains vested in the United Church. If that condition cannot be met, approval may not be granted. Jody to follow up with Collier Street United Church regarding property ownership requirements in their development project.

Westmount United Church, Orillia – Jody Maltby

Jody confirmed that Westmount's sale had successfully closed, and the funds had been received.

Aurora United Church, Aurora – Andrea Allan

Aurora United Church is facing significant challenges with their construction project due to funding issues. Andrea and Jody are working with UPRC, Kindred Works and TUCC to find a path forward for the congregation.

New Hope United Church, Vaughn – Andrea Allan

New Hope United Church cannot afford their current building and is exploring options to continue as a congregation. The Commission agreed to further review the lease proposal from New Hope before making any decisions.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith including a video from community ministries task group.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday November 25th, 2025 5:00pm

CLOSING Chris Bennett expressed his gratitude to departing commission members Amy Lee and Carolyn Harding, acknowledging their dedicated service. He concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

DRAFT

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday November 25th, 2025**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday November 25th, 2025 via Zoom. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Isaac Kamta, Jim Keenan, Krista Moore, Sandra Nottegar, Daniel Reed,

Staff: Andrea Allan, Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Tom MacNeil, Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Adèle Mayer, Doris Mensah-Wonkyi, Eun-Joo Park, Mastard Sakala, Shawn Redden, Patti Rodgers

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield
Gloria Tozek, AdHoc Committee Member

Welcome

Jody Maltby opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There was a time of check in. Krista Moore then led the commission in a time of centering.

Agenda

The Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 25th, 2025 was approved by consensus

Minutes

The Minutes of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated October 15th, 2025 was accepted by consensus

Gloria Tozek joined the meeting

MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE

Representatives from the Ad Hoc Committee on funding and ministry priorities joined the meeting. At the 2025 Regional meeting, a proposal to give more funds directly to each congregation was discussed but ultimately turned down. The committee's report was accepted, but members of the region asked for more discussion on how funds would be distributed. A granting process had been planned, but the committee said more work was needed and requested that these plans be included in the 2026 budget. The Ad Hoc Committee would like to work with the Grants Committee and the Communities of Faith Commission on the granting process. They hope to provide a clear overview of what the process will look like at the regional meeting on December 9, 2025. The plan is to treat 2026 as a pilot year, with a set amount of funds allocated. The process would then be evaluated and refined before being fully re-designed for 2027. The grants would be intended for congregations pursuing specific initiatives—such as starting a new youth program, launching a

seniors' program, developing community outreach, or completing major projects like repairing a roof, rather than supporting day-to-day operating costs.

Gloria Tozek left the meeting

2025 Communities of Faith BUDGET DISCUSSION

The 2025 budget was shared, and a discussion was held regarding its contents. It was noted that greater effort is needed to raise awareness of the smaller grants currently available. The commission will need to decide whether to maintain the existing priorities for 2026—allowing time to assess the impact once these funds are more actively promoted—or to revisit the priority-setting process. No revisions were made to the budget at this time, and it will be brought forward for approval at the January 2026 meeting.

GROWTH GRANTS

The commission approved a \$5,000 request from St. Paul's United Church, Orillia to provide funds for their New Land Trust Model – First Phase. Under the proposed model, responsibility for the building would be transferred to Shining Waters Region through a land trust agreement. The Region would then lease the facility to the new entity for an annual fee. St. Paul's congregation would become a tenant, holding a lease for the specific times and spaces needed for worship and other activities.

St. Paul's United Church, Orillia

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Jim Keenan **SW-CFC-2025-11-25-01**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of St Paul's United Church, Orillia, for a growth grant of \$5,000 to support growth and sustainability, in service and engagement with the wider community.
CARRIED
ABSTAINED 1

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church and Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto – Jody Maltby

The most recent agreement of purchase and sale for Dewi Sant Welsh has closed. Back in June 2022 a motion of the commission approved the amalgamation of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church to be effective upon the sale of the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church property. One of the terms of the amalgamation is that the Welsh Ministry be maintained at Timothy Eaton Memorial for a period of time and if that stops, the funds being used to support it would then be transferred back to the Region.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Isaac Kamta **SW-CFC-2025-11-25-02**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the amalgamation of Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church and Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, as of December 31, 2025

Aurora United Church, Aurora – *Jody Maltby*

Aurora United Church is facing significant challenges with their construction project due to funding issues. Andrea and Jody are working with UPRC, Kindred Works and TUCC to find a path forward for the congregation. Kindred Works commissioned a legal review of the contracts after Aurora reached a point of having no remaining funds and the contractor indicated that work would stop, leaving the building unenclosed. The review determined that the contracts did not contain any clause allowing Aurora to withdraw unless the contractor was in default—which they were not, as they had fulfilled all contractual obligations to date.

North York Korean United Church, Toronto – *Jody Maltby*

In 2022, concerns were brought forward, while the congregation was engaged in a ministerial search process. These concerns related to the congregation’s limited understanding of United Church policies. In response, the Commission decided to initiate a required listening process rather than conduct a formal review, and the congregation’s search process was suspended. The work has been done and a report has been received, which recommends lifting the suspension on the ministerial search and authorizing the congregation to begin a formal search process.

MOTION by Daniel Reed / Isaac Kamta

SW-CFC-2025-11-25-03

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approve the request of North York Korean United Church, Toronto to lift the suspension of the ministerial search at North York Korean United Church. and authorize and approve the initiation of a formal search process for a minister at North York Korean United Church
CARRIED

New Hope United Church, Vaughn – *Jody Maltby, Andrea Allan*

The congregation anticipates that their current minister will submit his resignation, as the broader collaboration they belong to will conclude at the end of this year. To avoid requiring the congregation to hold a meeting to request his departure, he has offered to step down voluntarily. The congregation has also decided to sell their building and relocate to a rented space. However, because their members come from a wide geographic area, they hope to rent close to their current location—an option that is financially challenging. They have approached TUCC for a loan to help cover operating expenses throughout the sale process, including the consulting fees associated with developing a new ministry plan.

Nobleton United Church, Nobleton – *Jody Maltby*

It was previously reported that the congregation had voted to close. They have since revisited that decision and are now choosing to pursue an amalgamation instead. The congregation will be supported through the process, and a recommendation will be brought forward once the work is further along.

Northern York Collaborative – *Kim Uyede-Kai, Andrea Allan*

There is hope that the congregations could collaborate to hire a single full-time minister to serve them collectively. While some members are supportive of the idea, a few congregations are not on board. These congregations are reluctant to contribute financially, as their resources are limited, and they question the value of hiring a minister they would see only infrequently. Many see pulpit supply as a more cost-effective option. As a result, progress has been slow. The discussions have

been heavily focused on financial concerns, leaving little time or energy to explore other ways of collaborating or supporting their ministries.

TASK GROUP UPDATE

Governance Task Group - approve (new and/or updated) constitutions, collaboration agreements & living faith stories - Tom, Daniel, Adèle, Doris

Lease Task Group - approve lease agreements (new and/or updated) -Patti, Krista, Jim

Loans Task Group - approve loans and renovation requests - Isaac, Sandra, Chris

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday January 27th, 2026 5:00pm

CLOSING Chris Bennett concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.