

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday January 27th, 2026**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday January 27th, 2026 via Zoom. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

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

Staff: Kathleen Jones, Jody Maltby, Shawn Redden, Mastard Sakala, Kim Uyede-Kai

Regrets: Adèle Mayer, Doris Mensah-Wonkyi, Patti Rodgers

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. Isaac Kamta then led the commission in a time of centering.

Agenda

MOTION by Isaac Kamta / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2026-01-27-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 27th, 2026 be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Krista Moore / Jim Keenan **SW-CFC-2026-01-27-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated November 25th, 2025 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

.... approves the plan of the congregation of Sandhill United Church for distribution of 10% of the funds from the sale of the building, after holding and disposal costs, as follows:

- *Bethel Hospice – one fifth (1/5th)*
- *Providence Cemetery – one fifth (1/5th)*
- *Caledon East United Church – one fifth (1/5th)*
- *Caledon Community Centre – one fifth (1/5th)*
- *Knox United Church – Caledon Village – one fifth (1/5th)*

... approves the loan of \$121,153 for operational funding between New Hope United Church and TUCC with the understanding that the building located at 9100 Jane St, Vaughan will be sold. This is added to existing loans for a total of \$280,408.44 with terms as outlined in the reporting letter of November 28, 2025.

... approve the renewal of the loan from TUCC to Metropolitan United Church, Toronto in the amount of up to \$2,807,421.52 for a term of two years beginning March 1, 2026 with an interest rate of 4% or the Bank of Nova Scotia three-year rate (maximum 6%), whichever is the higher on the date of the renewal.

SPECIAL REGIONAL MEETING

Jody presented decisions from a special regional meeting, highlighting upcoming work related to grant programs, collaboration, and educational opportunities. The list of all motions can be found here [*Motions-for-Regional-Meeting-2025-12-09.pdf](#).

In preparation for an early April meeting convened by General Council—bringing together regional council and GCO staff discuss Toward 2035 priorities—Jody and Shawn had preliminary conversations related to the creation of a committee related to First Third (children, youth, young adults and families). Two immediate priorities were identified: first, drafting a mandate for the proposed committee, and second, gathering feedback on that mandate through a focus group. An initial draft mandate will be prepared and brought to the commission for consideration at the February meeting. Subject to approval, a focus group of approximately twelve participants will be convened in early March to review the draft mandate and provide feedback, including input on possible terms of reference.

A call for expressions of interest for the focus group is expected to be circulated before the end of February, with care taken to avoid scheduling conflicts such as March Break and Holy Week. Feedback from the focus group will inform contributions to the post-Easter April meeting. Following that meeting, the commission will revisit the draft mandate and terms of reference, with the intention of finalizing them and beginning recruitment for members of the focused committee, ensuring all work remains aligned with the Toward 2035 vision of an intergenerational church.

2026 Communities of Faith BUDGET DISCUSSION

The 2026 budget was shared, and a discussion was held regarding its contents. The grants and funding page is being updated to include more information about available opportunities, including time-sensitive grants and small grants from various commissions.

<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/communities-of-faith/grants-and-funding/>

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar

SW-CFC-2026-01-27-03

That the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Shining Waters Regional Council Communities of Faith Commission Draft Budget 2026

CARRIED

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

College Street United Church, Toronto – *Jody Maltby*

The Commission received an update that College Street is considering selling their current property to find a space better suited to their ministry, which focuses on community outreach, affirming ministry, and harm reduction. They are exploring options such as a café-style space and potential partnerships with other ministries. No formal request to list the property has been made yet; this was provided as an informational update.

Kearney (Emsdale) United Church, Huntsville – *Jody Maltby*

The Commission received an update on the Emsdale pastoral charge. Following the sale of the Harmony property in Kearney as part of the planned amalgamation with Sprucedale, the trustees inquired about policies or restrictions on spending the sale proceeds. The commission confirmed that a proposal for the disbursement of funds is required. Trustees have discussed potential uses, which appear appropriate, but detailed plans are still pending. Additionally, follow-up on the amalgamation plan is ongoing. A full presentation on both the fund disbursement and the amalgamation plan is expected at the February meeting.

St. Luke's United Church, Toronto – *Jody Maltby*

The Commission was updated on St. Luke's property development in partnership with Kindred Works. Due to COVID-related delays and budget challenges, the property was placed in the regional trust to help cover costs, with the expectation that future development income would reimburse the trust while supporting the congregation's ministry. A study by Kindred Works later revealed significant asbestos and mold issues, creating challenges in addressing building safety while keeping the food and out-of-the-cold programs operational. Although there was brief disruption to worship and office access, no programs were closed, and the congregation has returned to the chapel.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Members shared good news stories from various communities of faith.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday February 24th, 2026 5:00pm

CLOSING Chris Bennett concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.