

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday February 24th, 2026**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday February 24th, 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, Patti Rodgers

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

Regrets: Adèle Mayer, Doris Mensah-Wonkyi,

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. Krista Moore then led the commission in a time of centering.

Agenda

that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 24th, 2026 be approved by consensus.

Minutes

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated January 27th, 2026 be approved by consensus with the agreed-upon amendments.

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

.... approves the constitution of St. Paul's United Church, Orillia dated March 2026 with the recommendations as outlined in accompany documentation with special attention to the clarification of full membership

.... approves the resubmission of the constitution of Knox United Church, Agincourt dated October 7, 2025

... approves the constitution of Grace United Church, Brampton dated 2026 with the recommendations as outlined in accompany documentation.

... approves the capital budget of Metropolitan United Church for 2026 in the amount of \$660,237.

.... approves the request of York Pines United Church to list the property at 3150 Lloydtown-Aurora Rd. King, ON for sale with Maria Ongaro (ReMax Hallmark York Group) as the agent to manage the selling of the building and property at a listing price of \$2,700,000

AFFIRMING MINISTRIES 2026 BUDGET – Shawn Redden

The [2026 affirming ministries budget](#) was shared, explaining its allocation and expenses

Criteria for Staff Approvals within Affirming budget:

- ✓ The Minister for Justice and Faith Formation may approve expenses that fall within approved budget lines
- ✓ The Minister for Justice and Faith Formation will consult with the GTA Affirming Pride Network for budget requests under subline ‘Other’
- ✓ The Minister for Justice and Faith Formation will consult with the Staff Lead for the Community of Faith Commission and the Community of Faith Commission if expense requests will exceed Affirming Ministry budget.

MOTION by Daniel Reed / Tom MacNeil

SW-CFC-2026-02-24-03

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Affirming Ministries 2026 budget.

CARRIED

YOUTH COMMITTEE MANDATE – Jody Maltby

Since the last Commission meeting, the timeline for the focus group has been adjusted due to limited date availability in March (given March Break and Easter) and a desire to deepen understanding of the GCO Toward 2035 plan—particularly its implications for First Third Ministry over the next three years—before finalizing focus group content. This will help ensure alignment with the Toward 2025 plan referenced in the regional motion. Alana Martin of the GO Project has been contracted to co-facilitate the session with staff member Shawn Redden and to contribute research on emerging trends in the United Church related to children, youth, and young adults; associated costs will be covered through the Faith Formation budget. The in-person focus group, titled “Reimagining Ministry Intergenerationally,” will be held in late April, and an Expression of Interest form will be circulated to gather a diverse group of 10–12 participants.

Key dates below:

- **February 24:** CFC reviews draft mandate
- **February 25–March 12:** Expressions of Interest received
- **By March 20:** Participants selected; date and location confirmed
- **April 18 or April 25:** Focus group meeting
- **Late April–Early May:** Drafting of final mandate
- **May 26:** CFC approval of mandate
- **June–Early September:** Nomination period
- **By October:** Committee convenes

PROPERTY POLICY – *Jody Maltby*

The **Property Policy** was shared. A discussion was held regarding the need to review and potentially update the property policy to ensure it accurately reflects the region’s intent and does not inadvertently exacerbate inequities, particularly in relation to large property transactions and leases. It was agreed that Chris and Jody will prepare a set of questions to help guide the review of the policy.

CAMPING Memorandum of Understanding with TUCC – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

The camping MOU was presented for informational purposes, with an explanation of its role in clarifying the relationship between Shining Waters and the Toronto United Church Council. The importance of maintaining clear boundaries and accountabilities within the partnership was emphasized. Additional context was provided regarding the development of the MOU, including input from camp leadership and consultations at the national level related to intergenerational ministry strategy.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

North Bramalea United Church, Brampton – *Mastard Sakala*

A report was provided on North Bramalea transition to New Beginnings, with plans to use both names concurrently until January 2027, after which the new name will be fully adopted.

Kearney (Emsdale) United Church, Huntsville – *Mastard Sakala*

Details were provided regarding the amalgamation of Harmony United Church and Sprucedale United Church, which had already effectively merged and sold their property

MOTION by Krista Moore / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2026-02-24-04**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the amalgamation of Harmony United Church and Sprucedale United Church, to be called Sprucedale United Church, as of June 1, 2026, on and subject to the terms and provisions of the Merger Agreement as presented.
CARRIED

MOTION by Krista Moore / Jim Keenan **SW-CFC-2026-02-24-05**
that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the distribution of funds received from the sale of Harmony United Church.
CARRIED

Concerns were raised about a critical article in Broadview Magazine regarding Kindred Works. It was acknowledged that there have been some growing pains; however, continued confidence in the partnership was expressed, noting that the organization is still learning and has been helpful in various projects. It was suggested that we could invite representatives of Kindred Works to a future meeting to discuss concerns.

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

CLOSING Chris Bennett concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

