

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the  
Communities of Faith Commission  
Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 via Zoom. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

**Regrets:** Adèle Mayer, Doris Mensah-Wonkyi, Krista Moore, 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. Sandra Nottegar then led the commission in a time of worship.

**Agenda**

that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 be approved by consensus with the agreed-upon amendment of New Hope United Church, Vaughn APS.

**Minutes**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 be approved by consensus

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

*.... approves the sale of the property at 3150 Lloydtown-Aurora Rd, King, ON for a sale price of three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) with a completion date of August 12, 2026.*

**PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR POLICY – Eun-Joo Park**

Eun-Joo raised the absence of a pastoral charge supervisor policy within Shining Waters, and the Commission agreed on the importance of developing one to ensure greater clarity, consistency, and support for both ministry personnel and lay leaders. The Communities of Faith Commission and the Pastoral Relations Commission will collaborate on creating a standardized policy. It was noted that such a policy would benefit not only ministry personnel but also provide clearer guidance for lay members involved in supervisory roles. Key considerations include defining roles and responsibilities, addressing existing inequities, and recognizing that supervisors also serve as trustees. The group also recommended reviewing policies from other regions as potential models.

Jim Keenan and Chris Bennett volunteered to work on the policy from the Communities of Faith Commission's perspective.

**PROPERTY POLICY** – *Chris Bennett & Jody Maltby*

The [Property Policy](#) was shared. The Commission discussed the need to develop clearer language and a framework to guide property-related decisions, particularly around assessing viability, aligning with regional priorities, and managing proceeds from property sales. Jody and Chris presented key questions to support this work, including how to define and evaluate congregational viability without relying on rigid metrics, and whether the Commission is prepared to make difficult decisions when ministries are not sustainable. There was broad agreement that viability must be thoughtfully assessed using both qualitative and quantitative indicators, while maintaining pastoral sensitivity in conversations with congregations. The importance of aligning decisions with regional funding and ministry priorities—such as outreach, reconciliation, and equitable resource sharing—was emphasized. The Commission also discussed the role of endowments, including concerns about funds being held in perpetuity without accountability, and the need for ongoing review and oversight. Flexibility within policy guidelines was identified as important, alongside clear communication of the Commission’s role in balancing the needs of individual congregations with the wider mission of the Church. Overall, the discussion highlighted the need for a consistent, transparent, and values-based approach to property decisions, with further work to refine guiding questions and criteria. Chris and Jody will revise the property policy document based on the Commission's feedback and bring it back to the next meeting.

**Community Ministry Fund** – *Jody Maltby*

Will be added to the April agenda

**Congregational Funding Program** – *Jody Maltby*

Will be added to the April agenda

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES**

**Uganda Martyrs United Church, North York** – *Kim Uyede-Kai*

The Commission was updated on Uganda Martyrs United Church, a newcomer congregation in Toronto facing serious financial challenges, including unexpected utility bills and ongoing building maintenance issues. To remain sustainable, the congregation will end its half-time pastoral position and shift to pulpit supply and lay-led ministry while continuing pastoral care internally. Short-term financial support and grants are helping sustain operations. The Commission noted that, for this community, the church building serves as a vital safe space and community hub, and praised the congregation’s resilience in navigating these difficulties.

**Knox United Church, Agincourt** – *Eun-Joo Park*

The Commission reviewed a proposal from Knox United Church to create a Chinese Ministry Coordinator position, funded through a heritage fund totaling \$625,000. Concerns were raised that potential candidates may not be fully aware of the position’s limited five-year funding timeline and about the legal implications of accessing the capital fund. The Commission agreed that Knox United should consult a lawyer to address these issues before proceeding. Eun-Joo will meet with Knox United Church to gather background information on the heritage fund, determine who

established the endowment, confirm whether legal consultation has taken place and verify that candidates understand the funding comes from a capital fund with a fixed timeline.

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

The Commission reviewed and approved a motion to authorize the sale of the property. Regional staff, Jody Maltby, is authorized to give final approval for any minor or technical revisions required, provided that the revisions are approved by TUCC and legal counsel and that the purchase price remains unchanged. The sale is being managed by TUCC, with Heather Keechee, overseeing the transaction. The minor negotiations primarily involve routine adjustments, such as standard United Church sale clauses and a possible slight change to the closing date to allow the congregation time to vacate the building. This approval was expedited due to the timing around Holy Week and Easter, while the Agreement of Purchase and Sale (APS) is still being finalized.

**MOTION** by Jim Keenan/ Isaac Kamta

**SW-CFC-2026-03-24-01**

that the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, approves in principle the Agreement of Purchase and Sale of 9100 Jane Street, Vaughn, ON by New Hope United Church to MMPP Investments Inc, for five million four hundred thousand dollars (\$5,400,000) with a completion date of August 3, 2026, and authorizes the regional staff lead to give final approval as may be required provided that (1) the revisions are approved by TUCC and legal counsel; and (2) the purchase price is not amended.

**CARRIED**

**1 ABSTAINED**

Please note that the Communities of Faith Commission will not receive any requests for approval of property matters or governance documents between March 27 and April 6, 2026, so that the members of the commission may focus on Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

**NEXT MEETING** Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2026 5:00pm, Patti Rodgers will provide worship.

**CLOSING** Chris Bennett concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.