

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the
Communities of Faith Commission
Tuesday April 28th, 2026**

The Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council met on Tuesday April 28th, 2026 via Zoom. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chris Bennett, Jim Keenan, Tom MacNeil, Sandra Nottegar, Daniel Reed, Krista Moore, Patti Rodgers, Doris Mensah-Wonkyi,

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

Regrets: Isaac Kamta, Adèle Mayer

Guest: Calin Lau – Growth Animator Shining Waters & Canadian Shield
Martin Bartosek & Mariann Gordon – New Hope United Church, Vaughn

Welcome

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

Agenda

MOTION by Tom MacNeil / Sandra Nottegar **SW-CFC-2026-04-28-01**
that the Agenda of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated April 28th, 2026 be accepted as circulated
CARRIED

Minutes

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Krista Moore **SW-CFC-2026-04-28-02**
that the Minutes of the meetings of the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council dated March 24th, 2026 be approved as circulated
CARRIED

The Commission made the following decisions by email vote;

..... approves the constitution of St. Paul’s United Church, Scarborough dated November 2025 with the recommendations as outlined in accompanying documentation and on the condition that they add a secretary to their council membership as per section B.7.6.2 of the Manual

Martin Bartosek & Mariann Gordon join the meeting

New Hope United Church, Vaughan – *Jody Maltby in Andrea Allen absence*

The Communities of Faith Commission received a preliminary presentation from New Hope United Church regarding the sale of their church property and proposed restructuring of their ministry. Representatives Martin Bartosek and Mariann Gordon outlined the rationale for the sale, citing increasing condominium fees, and reported that the property sold for \$5.4 million, with the closing scheduled for August 18. The congregation plans to rent future space and reinvest proceeds into community-based ministry, supported by updated mission and vision statements. New Hope requested consideration of a reduced contribution of 5% to Indigenous Ministries rather than the standard 10%. Commission members discussed policy implications related to Indigenous Fund contributions, the regional granting program, and broader property sale requirements. Appreciation was expressed for the thorough presentation. No decisions were made, and further discussion and clarification will be brought to a future meeting.

Martin Bartosek & Mariann Gordon left the meeting

Walk Humbly Resource – *Diane Matheson-Jimenez*

Diane Matheson-Jimenez introduced a new resource titled *Walk Humbly*, developed as a worship-based approach to strategic planning. The resource is designed to support congregations in engaging visioning and planning work through structured worship experiences and is currently being piloted with two congregations.

Proposed Mandate Affirming Committee – *Jody Maltby & Shawn Redden*

The Commission approved the proposed mandate for the Affirming Ministry Committee. The mandate establishes a regional committee to support and coordinate affirming ministry work, provide guidance and resources to Communities of Faith, and offer a structured approach beyond existing affirming clusters

MOTION by Patti Rodgers / Daniel Reed

SW-CFC-2026-04-28-03

the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Affirming Ministry Committee Policy

CARRIED

Pastoral Charge Supervisor Policy – *Eun-Joo Park*

The Commission reviewed proposed updates to the Pastoral Charge Supervisor policy. Eun-Joo presented revisions based on feedback from the Pastoral Relations Commission, including clarification that the pulpit supply rate applies on a monthly basis rather than per meeting, and additional clarification regarding sacramental privileges for SME candidates. Concerns were raised about financial implications for congregations, particularly those experiencing financial strain. The Commission agreed that further revisions are required, including consideration of an evaluation and review process for ongoing supervisor appointments, before the policy is brought back for approval at a future meeting.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH UPDATES

Jim Keenan left the meeting

St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough – *Eun-Joo Park*

The Commission approved a request from St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough, to withdraw capital funds to cover the costs associated with hiring a minister. The withdrawal will support the creation of a half-time intergenerational ministry position, intended to complement the existing half-time position at Birchcliffe United Church.

MOTION by Krista Moore / Tom MacNeil **SW-CFC-2026-04-28-04**
the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough, to withdraw capital funds of \$55,000 from the Endowment Fund held by the Toronto United Church Council to cover the cost of hiring an intergenerational minister for 1 year.
CARRIED 1 ABSTAINED (Daniel Reed)

The Commission approved an Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) request from St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough. The IIM (Jim Keenan) will support the congregation during a period of transition and is aligned with the creation of a half-time intergenerational ministry position, intended to complement the existing half-time position at Birchcliffe United Church.

MOTION by Sandra Nottegar / Patti Rodgers **SW-CFC-2026-04-28-05**
the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the Intentional Interim Ministry recommendation to extend the Intentional Interim Ministry of Rev. Jim Keenan at St. Paul's United Church, Scarborough for one more year to end no later than August 31, 2027.
CARRIED

Jim Keenan joined the meeting

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

The Commission approved a request from Knox United Church, Agincourt, to use heritage funds to support its Chinese ministry on a time-limited basis.

MOTION by Daniel Reed / Jim Keenan **SW-CFC-2026-04-28-06**
the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council approves the request of Knox United Church, Agincourt, to withdraw capital funds of up to \$25,000 per year to cover the cost of hiring a Chinese Ministry Coordinator for 5 years.
CARRIED

NEXT MEETING Tuesday May 26th, 2026 5:00pm. Tom MacNeil will offer a time of worship.

CLOSING Chris Bennett concluded with a closing blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.