SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING
October 24-25, 2025

The annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on October 24-25, 2025 and it was online via video conference (Zoom). The theme was *Sanctuary Towards a Kindom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation.*

FRIDAY, October 24, 2025

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 12:00 p.m. to begin the annual meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. President Maria Christina (Tina) Conlon, welcomed all those participating, introduced herself and Jody Maltby, who is acting as Executive Minister on Peter Hartman's behalf, as he sent his regrets for the meeting.

Tina Conlon gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement. She introduced Wayne Monague, who offered an opening ceremony and teaching to begin the time together.

President Tina constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ, and as the United Church gathered together, to deal with such business as should properly come before the Council.

Diane Matheson-Jimenez gave an orientation to how the group will be together during the meeting, and the BRAVE slide was shared.

Tina Conlon led the participants through a test motion and vote.

Opening Motions

MOTION by Jody Maltby/Nenke Jongkind SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-01
That the following enabling motions be adopted,

a) Roll of the Regional Council: that the roll of Roll of the Regional Council shall consist of:
- **All ministry personnel within the geographic bounds served by Shining Waters Regional Council (Basis of Union 6.2.1);**
- **Ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call (Basis of Union 6.2.2);**
- **Lay members elected by the Community of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible (Basis of Union 6.2.3);**
- **Additional lay members as determined by the Regional Council if necessary, to respect a balance of ministry personal and lay members who are not ministry personnel in the membership of the Regional Council (2024 Manual C.1.2.b).**

(The President and Secretary of the SWRC United Church Women (UCW) or their designates, former Lay Moderators, past Lay Toronto Conference and SWRC Presidents, and current General Council Lay Commissioners [if they are not already representing

their local congregation as a Regional Council Representative] shall all be voting members of the Regional Council)

b) Bounds of the Regional Council Meeting: that the bounds of the Regional Council meeting for voting purposes shall be the Zoom Meeting ID: 874 8460 6322 when in session; that the Shining Waters Regional Council hold a Celebration of Ministry Service including admission and ordination to the Order of Ministry of The United Church of Canada on Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. to take place at Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Drive, North York, ON M3A 2J5 to fulfil its responsibility to ordain those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for ordination and commissioning, and admit those whom the Office of Vocation has confirmed as having completed all the requirements for admission, and whom the Regional Council has confirmed have a covenantal relationship in place with a community of faith.

c) Agenda: that the Agenda as posted to the regional website be the order of business, subject to those changes that are recommended by the President.

d) Minutes: that the Minutes of the meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council held June 7-8, 2024 and November 12, 2024 be approved as circulated.

e) Accountability reports: that the reports as presented in the Resource Book be accepted for information.

f) Adjournment of Sessions: that the President have the authority to recess the Regional Council when business, as ordered, is completed, until the next order of the day.

g) Corresponding Members: that corresponding members shall be official guests of the Regional Council. Their names shall be included in the Record of Proceedings (2025 Manual C.1.5).

h) Commitments: that the regional council participants commit/covenant to honour the Holy Manners printed in the Resource Book and commit to our regional council's commitments around equity, justice and anti-racism through both conversation and actions. If there is failure to honour these commitments, individuals may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the President.

i) New Business & Nominations: Nominations and items of New Business shall be given to the President by 12:00 p.m. on October 24, 2025.

Procedural

1. The procedural and prayer microphone shall be the zoom chat box.

2. Any handouts must be authorized by the President.

3. The Parliamentarian shall be Beth Moore.

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4. **The President will present proposals. The President may, at their discretion, invite an individual to verbally introduce a proposal for up to five minutes. The President will invite prayerful discernment and discussion on the wisdom of the proposal. When the President discerns that the sense of the meeting is such that we are ready to hear a motion on the proposal, they will invite the presenter to move the motion. Once the motion has been moved and seconded, Rules of Debate and Order shall be followed.**

5. **At the discretion of the President, microphone time for each speaker will be limited to 1½ minutes per proposal and 1½ minutes per motion with the exception of the mover (who may speak at the beginning and end of a motion).**

6. **Microphone time may be reduced at the discretion of the President in 30-second increments when any item of business exceeds 20 minutes.**

7. **The normal voting procedure shall be a show of hands using the RAISE HAND icon found at the bottom of the participants panel or *9 for those on the phone. If two people are joined from the same household, one person will vote with the Raise Hand icon and the second will type Yes or No in the chat. Those who wish to abstain will type ABSTAIN in the chat. Where a secret ballot is required, ballot sheets will be provided through the Regional Council website.**

8. **In the case of limited time for business, items will be dealt with in the following order: Nominations, Reports requiring a decision of the Regional Council, Reports for Information, and Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council.**

9. **Correspondence to the Regional Council Meeting will be referred to the Regional Council Executive.**

CARRIED

Introductions

President, Tina Conlon shared that the theme, "Sanctuary: Towards a Kindom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation" was a two-year theme gave the opportunity to hear many perspectives and reflect deeply on issues connected to sanctuary, including displacement, housing, reparations, restoration and reconciliation. Tina extended thanks to the planning team which consisted of Rev. Emily Gordon, Rev. Julia Yun Jung Kim, herself and staff members Kim Uyede-Kai and Rev. Shawn Redden.

Tina also made a number of introductions, including the chaplains, Parliamentarian, General Council representative Jennifer Henry, and Shining Waters and the General Council staff. President Tina offered thanks to the staff and volunteers at Jubilee United Church, Toronto who are hosting the Celebration of Ministries Service on Sunday, beginning at 3 p.m.

Worship and Theme Time Reflection

A time of worship and reflection on the theme Sanctuary: Towards a Kindom of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation and was led by Emily Gordon, Shadia Qubti, Christy Kumar Thangaraja and Tina Conlon.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

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The new United Church of Canada Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, brought greetings via video.

Accountability Reports
The President called for questions related to the Accountability Report of the Executive.

Theme: Global Kindom
The second theme time centred around welcoming a panel of people who helped reflect from their lived experience the Global Kindom. Leadership included Kim Uyede-Kai, Won Hur, Joy Vicente, and Richard Choe. Delegates moved into breakout rooms to discuss questions posed. Some breakout group responses were shared with the court during the question and answer period in the main meeting room.

In Memoriam
Eun-Joo Park and Lawrence Nyarko led an in-memoriam worship service remembering the congregations that have closed, disbanded or amalgamated, and remembering those who have gone before us.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

Recommendations from The Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities
The Regional Council considered the recommendations from the review of ministry and funding priorities that was conducted over the past year by an Ad hoc Committee appointed by the Executive.

> **MOTION by Daniel Reed/Gloria Tozek SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-02**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities, adopts the recommendations it contains, and refers the recommendations to the Executive for implementation.**

After extensive discussion, the decision was made for President Tina Conlon, Acting Executive Minister Jody Maltby, Parliamentarian Beth Moore, and Executive Admin Susan Whitehead to move into a breakout room to discuss a point of order and returned to the meeting with a procedural motion.

> **MOTION by Jeanette Schieck/Victoria Stuart SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-03**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council postpone the discussion and decision on the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities, until after the presentation of the proposal SW2025-02 Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations.**
> **CARRIED**

Theological Reflection
Rev. Mastard Sakala offered a Theological Reflection after the first day of the meeting.

Blessing and Adjournment
President Tina Conlon offered a blessing and declared the meeting adjourned to reconvene at 12:00 p.m. on October 25, 2025.

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SATURDAY, October 25, 2025

Words of Welcome

President, Maria Christina (Tina) Conlon, welcomed participants to the second day of the Shining Waters Regional Council Meeting. She gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement and gave a reminder of the Holy Manners and process discussed on the first day of the meeting.

President Tina reminded the court that the discussion and decision on the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities has been postponed until after the presentation of proposal SW2025-02: *Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations* and therefore, the Agenda has been adjusted.

Worship

Emily Gordon led the meeting in worship.

Business Section: Proposals to Shining Waters Regional Council

Ross Carson presented proposal SW2025-01: *Broadview Subscription Challenge Campaign and Fundraising Contest.*

> **MOTION by Ross Carson/Gail Hamblin SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-04**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2025-01: *Broadview Subscription Challenge Campaign and Fundraising Contest,* as presented.**
> **CARRIED**

George Isaac presented proposal SW2025-02: *Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations.*

> **MOTION by Hewitt Homes/David Leyton-Brown SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-05**
> **That the Shining Waters Regional Council postpone the motion vote on SW2505-02 until after the discussion on the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities.**
> **CARRIED**

The court returned to the discussion on the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities and then voted on the SW2025-01: *Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations* Proposal.

> **MOTION by George Isaac/Gail Birkett SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-06**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council adopt the proposal SW2025-01: *Financial Assistance to Shining Waters Congregations,* as presented.**
> **DEFEATED**

The discussion again returned to the report and then proceeded to the vote on motion SW RCM 2025-10-24-25-02.

> **MOTION by Daniel Reed/Gloria Tozek SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-02**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities, adopts the recommendations it contains, and refers the recommendations to the Executive for implementation.**

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Amendment: by Daniel Reed/Gloria Tozek
That Shining Waters Regional Council accepts the report from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities.
CARRIED

Amendment by: Jeannette Schieck/George Isaac
To separate the recommendations from the report; vote on the report and then speak to the recommendations.

Amendment by: Patti Rodgers/Deborah Hart
That from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities, we adopt the recommendations not related to congregational grants and refer them to the Executive for implementation.

Amendment: Lisa Walter/Nenke Jongkind
That the recommendations for the strategic plan be separated.

Amendment: Patti Rodgers/Deborah Hart
That Shining Waters Regional Council establish a Congregational Mutual and Accompaniment process, guided by the *Macedonian witness of shared generosity and common flourishing* (2 Corinthians 8:1–15), through which congregations may request support in conversation with the Region/Regional leadership when additional resources are needed to sustain or strengthen Ministry.
Process:
Congregations will not submit grant applications. Instead, congregations may enter a mutual-discernment conversation with the Region to:

- **Name the context and ministry need,**
- **Explore sustainability and potential partnerships,**
- **Identify the level of support required,**
- **And discern how the wider Region may accompany them spiritually, relationally, and financially.**

After an extensive discussion, the decision was made to postpone the discussion and action on the Review of Ministry and Funding Priority recommendations.

MOTION by George Isaac/Brad Inglis SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-07
That the SWRC postpone the discussion on all Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities recommendations for up to two (2) months and request the Executive provide financial reporting to support the decision-making process and hold a special meeting.
CARRIED

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

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Theme Presentation 3: Reflections on the Apology to 2SLGBTQIA People and Communities
President Tina invited Kim Uyede-Kai, David Hallman, Hyerim Park, and Nan Hudson help reflect on the Apology to 2SLGBTQIA People and Communities that was offered at the General Council meeting this summer. Delegates moved into breakout rooms with the panellist of their choosing.

The meeting took an all-purpose break.

SWRC Annual Affirming Ministries Service
As Shining Waters became an Affirming Ministry on March 14, 2021, this service was our Regional Council's celebration and commitment to being an Affirming Ministry.

Referral of Financial Report, 2026 Draft Budget and Nominations Report

> **MOTION by Victoria Stuart/Jeannette Schieck SW RCM 2025-10-24/25-08**
> **That the Shining Waters Regional Council refer the Financial Report and 2026 Draft Budget to the special meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council within 2 months; and, refer the Nominations Report to the Executive, for decision.**
> **CARRIED**

General Council Report
Jennifer Henry and Allyce Mutungi shared a report from the General Council 45 Meeting.

New Business
Eric Nyarko, President-Elect, took the Chair while President Tina stepped out of the Chair for the discussion.

Theological Reflection
President Tina returned to the Chair and introduced Rev. Mastard Sakala to offer a Theological Reflection after the second day of the meeting.

Courtesies and Adjournment
The President gave a blessing and declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Celebration of Ministries Service
Shining Waters Regional Council held a Celebration of Ministries Service at Jubilee United Church in North York.

President Tina Conlon presided assisted by Acting Executive Minister, Rev. Jody Maltby. Liturgists Rev. Lawrence Nyarko, Rev. Won Hur, and Rev. Lauren Hodgson, provided leadership.

The liturgists gave an Acknowledgement of the Land. The Scripture readings were from 1 King 17:1-16 and Isaiah 59:9-15. Rev. Brian McIntosh delivered the message.

The service recognized and celebrated those ministry personnel that have retired since the last regional council meeting and those ministry personnel marking a significant anniversary of their entry into ministry within The United Church of Canada.

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Christopher Fraser, Laura Gallagher-Doucette, William Gardner, Krista Moore, and Andrea Wheaton were ordained to the order of ministry. Robert Murdock was commissioned to the order of ministry. Nestor Medina was admitted to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

Communion was served by the liturgists, the new ministry personnel and others.

The Rev. Brian McIntosh gave the commissioning and blessing.

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