SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING
December 9, 2025

The Special Recall Regional Council Meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council took place on December 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. and it was online via video conference (Zoom).

Words of Welcome, Opening of Meeting and Constituting the Council

Shining Waters Regional Council gathered via Zoom video conference at 7:00 p.m. to begin a special meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council. President Eric Nyarko, welcomed all those participating, introduced himself and Jody Maltby, who was acting as Executive Minister on Peter Hartmans' behalf, as he is on leave.

Eric Nyarko gave an acknowledgement of the land and a safe space statement.

President Eric 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.

Introduction

Eric introduced the Parliamentarian, David Leyton-Brown.

Presentation of the Financial Report

The Ad Hoc Committee deemed it helpful to understand our financial context before considering the recommendations from the Review of Ministry and Funding Priorities. Jody Maltby presented the Financial Report to the region.

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 in three (3) sections.

Priority #1, Part A & B

> **MOTION by Sarah Lough/Daniel Reed SW RCM 2025-12-09-01**
> **That Shining Waters Regional Council establish a pilot granting program in 2026 for congregations within Shining Waters to access program grants and capital grants of up to $10,000, such program to follow the Funding Principals and application process as circulated, with a budget of up to $300,000 to come from the Jubilee Designated Fund, and that the pilot granting program be evaluated and refined into an ongoing program for 2027.**

DRAFT

Amendment: Hewitt Homes/Ross Carson

MOTION by Sarah Lough/Daniel Reed
That Shining Waters Regional Council establish a ~~pilot~~ granting program in 2026 for congregations within Shining Waters to access program grants of up to $10,000 and capital grants of up to ~~$10,000~~, $50,000, such program to follow the Funding Principals and application process as circulated, with a budget of up to ~~$300,000~~ $750,000 to come from the Jubilee Designated Fund, ~~and that the pilot granting program be evaluated and refined into an ongoing program for 2027.~~
Defeated

MOTION by Sarah Lough/Daniel Reed SW RCM 2025-12-09-01
That Shining Waters Regional Council establish an ~~pilot~~ Inaugural granting program in 2026 for congregations within Shining Waters to access program grants and capital grants of up to $10,000 such program to follow the Funding Principals and application process as circulated, with a budget of up to $300,000 to come from the Jubilee Designated Fund, and that the ~~pilot~~ Inaugural granting program be evaluated and refined into an ongoing program for 2027.
CARRIED

MOTION by Sarah Lough/Daniel Reed SW RCM 2025-12-09-02
That Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions to support congregations:

a) Develop and deploy regional resources, including staff and financial resources, to support and encourage formal collaboration and amalgamation processes in congregations.

b) Encourage and support congregations to gather with one another in informal clusters that provide community and support.

c) With gratitude for work that has already taken place, deepen and intensify educational opportunities for congregations and other communities of faith.

d) Develop a communication strategy to help disseminate information to the appropriate people within congregations and other communities of faith, including but not limited to, email and social media campaigns, twice yearly workshops to inform congregations of funding opportunities and a webpage that provides additional information on funding opportunities.
CARRIED

Priority #2

MOTION by Gloria Tozek/Allyce Mutungi SW RCM 2025-12-09-03
That Shining Waters Regional Council facilitate a strategic conversation in the Greater Toronto Area, to consider how property assets and other resources can support viable ministry, particularly for marginalized

DRAFT

communities, and that the conversation be co-facilitated by a facilitator exterior to the United Church and a facilitator from within the United Church to provide a collaboration between the perspective of the inner workings of the United Church and the objectivity of an outside perspective. CARRIED

Priority #3-6

MOTION by Daniel Reed/Allyce Mutungi SW RCM 2025-12-09-04
That Shining Waters Regional Council take the following actions:
1. To ensure there are Sufficient Funds for Regional Needs and Grants
a) Rename the Regional Fund the Regional Reserve Fund to help distinguish it from the Regional Fund housed at PTCC.
b) Review and update the policies for the Regional Reserve Fund and the Right Relations and Indigenous Ministry Fund.
c) Increase the cap on the Regional Reserve Fund to ten million dollars ($10,000,000).
d) Revise the Regional Property Policy with respect to distribution of funds from the sale of property so that all property sales within the region include a contribution to the Indigenous Ministry and Justice Fund and a contribution to regional granting programs, with sufficient funds available to top up the Regional Reserve Fund and funds designated for grants.
e) As part of a communication strategy, help communities of faith to access other grant opportunities and loans available through the UCC Foundation, TUCC, the United Church Capital Assistance Program, and other funding sources.

2. To engage with Children, Youth and Young Adults:
a) Create a focused committee, supported by the Justice and Faith Formation Minister, to develop a plan that coordinates with the work of Toward 2035 and that includes support for spiritual formation within United Church camps.
b) Continue to offer annual program grants for camps and other programs for children, youth and young adults through an open granting process.

3. To work toward Right Relations with, and Justice for, Indigenous Peoples:
a) Explore what it means to engage in living in right relations with Indigenous peoples, and respond positively and meaningfully to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle Calls to the Church.
b) Encourage and support Communities of Faith in exploring what it means to live in right relations at a local level.
c) Continue to offer supportive funding to Indigenous Ministries within the region and wider where appropriate from the Indigenous Ministries and Justice Fund
d) Change the language in the Regional Council Policy from Mission to Vision to align with the language of the General Council and in acknowledgement that missional language is a tool of colonization. Work

DRAFT

toward the de-colonization of the structure, policies and practices of Shining Waters Regional Council.

4. Develop a strategic plan for Shining Waters Regional Council that aligns with our Vision and with the strategic plan of the General Council: Towards 2035.
CARRIED

2026 Draft Budget

MOTION by Ann Hawkins/Nenke Jongkind SW RCM 2025-12-09-05
That Shining Waters Regional Council approve the 2026 Draft Budget, as presented.
CARRIED

Blessing and Adjournment
President Eric Nyarko offered a blessing and declared the meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

DRAFT