THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Inaugural Meeting
May 23-26, 2019 at Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre
Sackville, NB

Faith Forward

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members and guests of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Regional Council 15, registered at the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre, beginning at 11:00 am.

Introduction of Annual Meeting Gathering

INTRODUCTION OF ANNUAL MEETING GATHERING

New members to Regional Councils gathered at the Regional Council Office for an orientation session and for information needed to carry out their responsibilities as members.

Gathering with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with music was led by Rick Gunn, Peter Moorhouse and Charlene Cable.

Call To Order

CALL TO ORDER

Catherine MacDonald, President of the former Maritime Conference and Acting President of Regional Council 15, welcomed members to this inaugural meeting of the Regions and called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, lit the Christ candle and Heather Donnelly, Chair of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, opened the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Place

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLACE

Catherine MacDonald acknowledged the territory on which we gather. As we gather, let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples—predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Greetings from Indigenous Guest

GREETINGS FROM INDIGENOUS GUEST

Laura Hunter, Justice, Mission and Outreach Minister, introduced Doreen Richard, member of Mount Allison Student Affairs Committee and former Indigenous Affairs Coordinator, and invited her to bring greetings. Doreen Richard brought an indigenous voice to the meeting. She spoke to the council about acknowledging white privilege; those who benefit simply through their birth. Education is key to racial equality. Doreen left the council to consider that, in this time of change, some storms come to clear a new path.

Greetings from Mount Allison University

GREETINGS FROM MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

Ryan Sargent, Manager of Housing, Conference and Event Planning at Mount Allison University, brought greetings from the university and provided information regarding accommodations and dining services for the meetings.

Introductions and Greetings

INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, welcomed all. She extended warm welcome to the council members, staff, clergy, lay, visitors, and special guests.

DRAFT

Faith March-MacCuish extended a special greeting to ecumenical guests; Rev. Deborah Blood, Rev. Jeff Murray, Rev. Dr. Dan Green, Ms. Catherine Rodd and Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett, theme speakers; Michael Dowd, Emma Seamone and Shannon MacLean, the planning committee and worship team.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS — Description of Process

Faith March-MacCuish outlined the process for the meetings this weekend. The two Regions will gather together for worship, learning and theme presentations on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday morning, Regional Council 15 will conduct its business while Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council will participate in workshops and in the afternoon the regions will switch with Regional Council 15 participating in workshops while Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters conducts its business meetings. The two regions will gather together again for the Retirees and Jubilarians banquet and the Celebration of Ministries Service.

TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE — Tatamagouche Centre

Josie Baker, Executive Director of the Tatamagouche Centre, extended an invitation for all to visit. The Centre has always been a place for members of The United Church to gather and the Centre continues to offer programs to meet the emerging needs of Communities of Faith.

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY — Atlantic School of Theology

Susan McAlpine-Gillis, Recruitment and Vocations Officer at the Atlantic School of Theology, brought greetings on behalf of Neal Bennet, President. She shared information on the campus, its programs and staffing. Special thanks were sent to Pine Hill Divinity Hall for their bursaries and other financial support and to the United Church for its ongoing support.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — President's Report

Catherine MacDonald, President, reported on her year as President. She spoke of *Courage, Creativity and Compassion*; touchstones for her ministry. She thanked the members of the regions for the opportunity to serve the wider church. This in-between time; time of change and transition, has required a great deal of work, but she expressed that it has been a privilege to serve as the last President of Maritime Conference and Acting President of the new Regional Council 15.

The President asked those gathered to take this opportunity to formally end what was; to mark the end of the Maritime Conference. At the time of the last gathering the General Council had not yet met and it was not known what the new structure and final remit decision would be. She invited the gathering to express gratitude and appreciation for those who work in the wider church and their commitment to this ministry. It is time for letting go of what was and accepting what is. Time for *faith forward*. We may not know what the future looks like, but we know that Jesus is walking with us.

THEME PRESENTER — Theme Presenter

Jim MacDonald introduced Michael Dowd, theme speaker. Michael Dowd is a TEDx speaker, author, eco-theologian, and sustainability activist.

WORSHIP — Worship

The worship team led the evening worship and memorial observance. Matthew Fillier, Adrian Hartnett-Beasley and April Hart named those to be remembered in prayer. Music leadership was provided by Rick Gunn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS — Announcements

Donna Tourneur presented the evening announcements.

DRAFT

Friday, May 24, 2019

Gathering with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

WORSHIP

Worship

Heather Donnelly welcomed everyone to the meetings. Faith March-MacCuish lit the Christ candle.

Youth Forum

YOUTH FORUM

After worship, the Youth Forum and Intermediates at Regional Council joined the gathering.

Theme I

THEME I

Catherine MacDonald welcomed the theme presenter, Michael Dowd, who spoke to the theme *Faith Forward*. Speaking to the gathering, he encouraged us to live in right relations going forward and expanded on his theme *The Future is Calling us to Greatness*. Michael Dowd invited us to think about the big picture; what is inevitable, what is futile and what is urgent. He explained that there are five stages of awakening: Dead Asleep, Awareness of one fundamental problem, Awareness of many problems, Awareness of interconnection of many problems, and Awareness that our predicament encompasses all aspects of life. Time was offered for table group discussion and the council members were invited to submit questions that would be answered by video. Michael Dowd will be also offering a workshop session on Saturday.

Staff Introductions

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, introduced the staff; Kendall Harrison, David Hewitt, Laura Hunter, Lauren King, Jennifer Taylor, Jennifer Whittemore, Sarah Wallace, Tracey Rose and Leona Laundry and explained their roles and responsibilities in this new structure. The Executive Minister also introduced Andrew Richardson and Roger Janes, General Council staff who are deployed to the eastern regions of the United Church.

Marlene Trenholme was welcomed. Faith March-MacCuish presented her with a certificate for her 23 (twenty-three) years with The United Church of Canada and thanked her for her work with the Maritime Conference. Laura Hunter was invited to read a poem, prepared for Marlene Trenholme for the occasion.

Office of Vocation

OFFICE OF VOCATION (OV)

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister, addressed the council. The Office of Vocation is part of the national church, with staff deployed to the regions. The Office of Vocation is responsible for the standard of training and accreditation of ministry personnel. The OV also works to determine fitness and readiness of students for ordination and recognition; and works to determine standards within the nationally set policies. The Office of Vocation works closely with the Regional Minister in each region. Questions were taken from the floor, and members were invited to contact the Office of Vocation with any further questions.

20x60

20x60

Members of the council were invited to share announcements and events from their congregations and communities of faith.

Lunch and Grace

LUNCH AND GRACE

Heather Donnelly led the council members in singing *God Bless to us our Bread.*

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Pastoral Relations

Kendall Harrison, Regional Minister for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and David Hewitt, Regional Minister for Regional Council 15 spent time explaining the pastoral relations processes in the new system and ChurchHub.

The Regional Minister is the first point of contact for any pastoral relations process. Policies are in development, and new forms are being developed; we are in the midst of change. The best advice is to be in touch right away before assuming that old processes are still in place. Generally speaking, the terminology and personnel, structures and committees have changed, but we have combined resources and can benefit from shared staff. Many of the pieces of work remain the same, however we have new processes, such as the Living Faith Story as a tool for planning and vitality and the report now being a profile on ChurchHub.

A presentation was provided on how to access ChurchHub and the information contained on the site for both Ministry Personnel and Communities of Faith. Members were also directed to The United Church of Canada website for additional training. The Regional Ministers invited questions from the floor and also provided their contact information for additional support.

MILITARY CHAPLAINCY MESSAGE

Military Chaplaincy Message

Capt. Keith Gale, Military Chaplain, was introduced. Military chaplains live and work with their unit; in the field and at the base. This is an important ministry which is both challenging and rewarding. Capt. Gale thanked the United Church for preparing him for accepting all faiths, diversity of culture and gender, and the tools to move into his role as chaplain; ministering to those who are struggling with faith in a very real way because of what they see and what they do in service.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations

Alison Etter reminded the council members that both regions are seeking nominees for both president and president elect. Nominations will close at 9:00pm on Friday. Please give serious, prayerful consideration to service to the wider church.

GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

General Council Executive Representatives

A video message was played from the Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott bringing greetings from the General Council Office. The Moderator asks that we join in celebrating the changes happening in the United Church and reach out in our Communities of Faith to support and encourage each other. The General Council Office and Rt. Rev. Dr. Bott send their payers and support.

Jane McDonald and Kate Rodd, addressed the council. Kate Rodd, Executive Minister of Communications at General Council Office offered congratulations to the two regions gathered for embracing the changes in the church and accomplishing a great deal of work to date, culminating with this inaugural gathering.

Jane McDonald, General Council Executive member, is currently serving a 6 (six) year term on the General Council Executive. The Executive reflect the diversity within the United Church and oversee key points for The United Church of Canada, including guiding principles and vision in this new structure, faith formation, mission support and indigenous rights. She thanked the council members for their support and provided contact information for any communities of faith who have issues to bring to the national church.

HOW WE MEET

How We Meet

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, asked for discernment and feedback to have a conversation about the possibilities of future gatherings. Discussions should consider the financial implications of gatherings, as well as core values and priorities as two different regions develop new governance and structure.

Other topics for consideration include how to host the Celebration of Ministries Service and issues related to timing. Finally, consideration needs to be given to the youth and how they are to be included in the future. The Executive Minister suggested that the council members take table group time to have open discussion; allowing all opinions to be heard and being considerate to those with different opinions. Table groups were asked to make notes of their discussions and submit them, so that the Executive would have feedback for future directions for Regional Council meetings.

Many options exist for meetings, as the new Manual only requires that Regional Councils meet annually. This can be a meeting of full membership, or a meeting of the Executive; as determined by the Regional Council. Meetings may take place jointly, separately, through technology or a combination of all.

Questions and comments were taken from the floor, and discussion and decisions will continue when the Regional Councils meet individually for their own business.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donna Tourneur read the afternoon announcements.

Grace and Supper

GRACE AND SUPPER

Grace was offered by Rick Gunn.

Gathering with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

THEME II

Theme II

Heather Donnelly, Chair of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, introduced theme presenter Emma Seamone. Emma Seamone offered an indigenous voice, discussing the history of the Wabanakis and illustrating their traditional territory. Christian settlers throughout history have failed to see how our lives brought suffering to the indigenous people. In order to live *Faith Forward* we need to recognize that we settle on these lands based only on the generosity of the indigenous people in spite of the toxic relationship with settlers.

Emma left the council with the message to learn to listen to understand. Our future faith looks like us loving each other more than we love power.

ORDINANDS

Ordinands

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister, introduced the ordinands who will be ordained during the Celebration of Ministries Service on Sunday. The ordinands Alice Finnemore (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), Christine Gladu (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), John Peter Anthony (Regional Council 15), Katherine Aven (Regional Council 15), Kimberlea Curlett (Regional Council 15) and Angela MacLean (Regional Council 15) were invited to address the council members. The members showed their appreciation and congratulations to the ordinands and Ruth Kennedy, President of the United Church Women, made a presentation to each of the ordinands.

20x60

20x60

Members of the council were invited to share announcements and events from their congregations and communities of faith.

Theme III

THEME III

Catherine MacDonald, Acting President of Regional Council 15, introduced Shannon MacLean and welcomed her as the next theme speaker. Shanon spoke of her life; living without judgement; being a woman of faith with passion; forcing herself to consider how she would like to be remembered. She asked the council to consider how you would live your life faith forward and what imprint you want to have on the world.

The commandment to love one another is the centre of the Christian life we are all called to. Shannon shared her life's journey and some of the lessons learned about life, God and the freedom to express her true self. Shannon's son shared the theme presentation with her, speaking of his journey, his appreciation for his mother and the courage to live faith forward; sharing and putting love first. The video *Dream God's Dream* was played and the presentation concluded with the challenge to think about the questions: how are you living your faith now and what can you do to live faith forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Announcements

Donna Tourneur presented the evening announcements.

Saturday, May 25, 2019

WORKSHOPS Workshops

Workshops were offered to members of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council on Saturday morning, beginning at 9:00am.

LUNCH AND GRACE Lunch and Grace

GATHERING WITH MUSIC Gathering with Music

Gathering with music was led by Rick Gunn.

OPENING WORSHIP Opening Worship

Matthew Fillier and April Hart led the opening worship and lighting of the Christ candle. Those to be remembered in prayer were named and the story *The Raven* was shared.

CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL Constitution of the Regional Council

Heather Donnelly, Chair of Regional Council, called the meeting to order and constituted the regional council for the business that shall properly come before it.

WELCOME Welcome

Heather Donnelly welcomed everyone to the court for this inaugural meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and opened the meeting with prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY Acknowledging the Territory

The Chair began the meeting by acknowledging the territory in which we gather. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this land.

CONSTITUTIONAL MOTIONS Constitutional Motions

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented the Constitutional Motions, as outlined on page 9 of the Reports to the Region.

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Richard Bowley)

That the Constitutional Motions be accepted as presented in the Reports to the Region.

CARRIED

NOMINATIONS Nominations

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Betty-Jean Friedman)

That the nominations for president and president-elect be closed.

CARRIED

Agenda

AGENDA

MOTION: (Emma Seamone/John Wilson)

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Governance Structure

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Sheila Gallant introduced the court to the new governance document and discussion took place to clarify structure. Sheila Gallant asked that the council endorse the document; understanding that it is a living document and open to change as the council deems necessary.

MOTION: (Wayne Dickieson/Brian DeLong)

That the governance structure document be endorsed by the Regional Council.

CARRIED

President

PRESIDENT

There are (four) 4 candidates for President. The nominees, Deborah Ambridge Fisher, Sheila Gallant, Tara Ann Gourson and Audrey Lounder each were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the court. Voting took place. After the first round there was no clear majority. The second vote was for Deborah Ambridge Fisher, Sheila Gallant and Audrey Lounder. There was still no clear majority and another vote took place with Sheila Gallant and Audrey Lounder. The President for the Fundy St. Lawrence Regional Council for 2019-2020 is Audrey Lounder.

MOTION: (John Roy/Michelle Armstrong)

That the ballots be destroyed and the vote be unanimous.

CARRIED

Regional Transition Commission

REGIONAL TRANSITION COMMISSION

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented the report of the Regional Transition Commission. The Commission were tasked with the mandate to function as Executive from January 1, 2019 until the Regional Council forms a new executive at the inaugural meeting; and to make the decisions necessary to allow immediate functioning of the new Regional Council; such as budgets, staffing, shared staffing, property matters, the planning of the inaugural meeting of the regional council and any unfinished business from presbyteries and conference; including Mission Support Grants. A Memorandum of Understanding was put in place to address shared staff and services among the three regions.

The Executive Minister introduced the members of the Commission and thanked them for their work in completing these difficult tasks.

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Kyle Grant)

That the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council endorse the work of the Commission and the new Executive be asked to complete any remaining work from the Transition Commission.

CARRIED

Kevin Dingwell, a member of the Commission, thanked Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, for her work and leadership during the transition.

DRAFT

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Dennis Livingstone)

That the Regional Transition Commission be disbanded with thanks and appreciation for all of their work and that the disbanding come into effect at the conclusion of these meetings at the Celebration of Ministries service.

CARRIED

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, led the council in a prayer for the disbanding of the commission.

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES

Financial and Mission Services

Kimberley Douglass, Chair, presented the budget for 2020. At this point, it is unknown what the actual expenses for 2019 will be, therefore very few changes have been made in the 2020 budget. A surplus of $37,000 (thirty-seven thousand) is shown, which may be used to fund any new applications received for mission support.

MOTION: (Pix Butt/Jane Johnson)

That the Finance and Mission Committee be directed to add a separate line item in the budget for Youth Forum and Intermediates at Regional Council, and that discussion take place with the Youth and Young Adult Minister to determine this amount.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Kimberley Douglass/John Roy)

That the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council endorse the 2020 budget.

CARRIED

MEETING MOVING FORWARD

Meeting Moving Forward

Faith March-MacCuish introduced the discussion regarding meetings moving forward in the new structure. The Executive Minister presented the process for discussion. The Regional Council Executive recommends that the regional council have full meetings for the next three years and that the Executive then be directed to assess the ways in which the Region will meet in the future. If the regional council agrees then we will have to decide on how we meet in 2020, ie. whether the Regional Council meets together with Regional Council 15 or separately (different date and place).

The Executive Minister shared that the table groups had given some good suggestions for moving forward and that the Executive and annual planning committee would need time to go through the suggestions.

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Audrey Lounder)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council have full annual meetings for the next three years (2019, 2020, 2021) and that the Regional Council Executive assess the way we will meet in the future with any changes to be approved by the Regional Council.

CARRIED

A great deal of discussion took place on this topic. Many resources are shared and a great deal of history, connection and worship happens together, however in the new structure meeting separately offers new opportunity to develop a new identity and vision.

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Deborah Ambridge Fisher)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Regional Council 15 meet together for the 2020 annual meeting.

CARRIED

It was requested that voting take place by secret ballot.

MOTION: (Brian Curtis/Richard Boulter)

To hold the decision of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council vote until Regional Council 15 has had the opportunity to have conversation and vote.

CARRIED

President-Elect

PRESIDENT-ELECT

There were two (2) nominees for President-Elect; Tara Ann Gourson and Sheila Gallant. Ballots were distributed and voting took place. The President-Elect for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council for 2019-2020 is Sheila Gallant.

MOTION: (Tara Ann Gourson/Dennis Livingstone)

That the ballots be destroyed and the results be unanimous.

CARRIED

Nominations

NOMINATIONS

MOTION: (Jane Johnson/Emma Seamone)

That the nominations report be accepted as presented in the Reports to the Region.

CARRIED

Proposal

PROPOSAL – Appendix A

A proposal came forward from the joint Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee: *Toward Deepening Intercultural Leadership (Appendix A);* calling on the General Council and Office of Vocation to endorse the *Building Bridges* Program at the Tatamagouche Centre as an alternative for the mandatory training for clergy and licensed lay worship leaders of the region, and to seek ways to find funding to support participation.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Emma Seamone)

That the proposal *Toward Deepening Intercultural Leadership* be referred to Executive for action.

CARRIED

Closing Motions

CLOSING MOTIONS

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Kyle Grant)

That the inaugural meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council be closed at the conclusion of the Celebration of Ministries Service and that the next meeting be held in 2020 at a time and place to be determined by the Executive.

CARRIED

DRAFT

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Lori-Beth Sheffield-Bowles)

That the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2019.

CARRIED

SUPPER AND GRACE

Supper and Grace

BANQUET

Banquet

A banquet celebrating the retirees and jubilarians was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Sackville at 5:00pm on Saturday, May 25, 2019. The theme of the banquet was *Turning Points*.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

RETIREES AND JUBILARIANS

Retirees and Jubilarians

Richard Bowley introduced those celebrating retirements and anniversaries to the council members during the evening gathering of the Regional Councils.

Retirees
Debbie Aitken, Gerald Blaquiere, Robyn Brown-Hewitt, Nan Corrigan, Beverley Daley, Martin Dawson, Rosemary Godin, David LeBlanc, Heather MacDougall, Gary MacDougall, Kevin MacKenzie, Norma Mills and Wayne Reppert.

Jubilarians
Robert Latimar (65), Henry Tye (65), Fred Archibald (60), Robert Hutcheson (60), Louis Ihasz (60), Ralph Johnston (60), Keith Rogerson (60), Colin Grant (55), Foster Jenkins (55), Emily Keirstead (55), Victor MacLeod (55), Carolyn Palmer (55), Ronald Porter (55), Donald MacQueen (50), Roland Murray (50) and Alfred Woodworth (50).

REPORT FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Report from Ecumenical Guests

Ross Bartlett introduced Rev. Deborah Blood of the United Church of Christ, Maine Conference. Rev. Blood thanked the council for inviting her to share in these meetings and offered prayers and support to the regions as they move forward. She left the council to ponder the question *What would you do if you were brave?*

WORSHIP

Worship

The Youth and Intermediates at Regional Council led the council in evening worship.

INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL LEADERS

Introduction of Regional Leaders

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish announced the newly elected regional leaders:
President of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council: Audrey Lounder; President Regional Council 15: Janet Sollows; President-Elect of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council: Sheila Gallant; President-Elect of Regional Council 15: To be announced in the next session of business.

COURTESIES

Courtesies

Donna Tourneur gave the evening announcements and offered thanks to the gathering through presentation of a poem; including thanks for all who attended, worked and planned the regional meetings. Good night was wished to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, as Regional Council 15 continued with remaining business.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Celebration of Ministries

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

The Celebration of Ministries worship service and communion was held at Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre, Sackville, NB, at 10:00am. The Acting President of Regional Council 15, the Rev. Catherine MacDonald, was guest preacher.

Ordinations

Ordinations

Alice Finnemore (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), Christine Gladu (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), John Peter Anthony (Regional Council 15), Katherine Aven (Regional Council 15), Kimberlea Curlett (Regional Council 15) and Angela MacLean (Regional Council 15) were ordained as ministers in The United Church of Canada.

Installation of Presidents

Installation of Presidents

Audrey Lounder was installed as President of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Janet Sollows was installed as President of Regional Council 15. The new Presidents thanked Heather Donnelly and Catherine MacDonald for their year of service to the regions, and closed the inaugural meetings with the commissioning and bendiction.

Commissioning and Benediction

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

The new Presidents closed the 2019 spring meeting of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Regional Council 15.

Heather Donnelly
Chair

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

DRAFT

Appendix A

PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL: Toward Deepening Intercultural Leadership

Origin: Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee of Region 15/ Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region

1. **What is the issue?** *(describe in broad terms)*
   In light of the discussions on racism experienced within our denomination that developed at the 43rd General Council in Oshawa, the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committees of Region 15 and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region believe the Holy Spirit is calling our Regions to:
   - Affirm our commitment as Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to living into interculturalism and racial justice within all levels of our ministries (at the congregational and regional levels) in practical ways.
   - Support congregations to engage in this important ministry by supporting clergy within Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to access transformative, denominationally-approved in-person intercultural and racial justice training that is especially pertinent to life in the Maritime regions.

2. **Why is this issue important?** *What are the key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues? What is the history/background of this issue? What are the principles informing this issue? What would be the implications of taking no action on this issue?*

According to the United in Learning website, "Racial justice training for **all active ministry personnel** was mandated at the 39th General Council 2006. The proposal came out of a long history of the United Church's engagement with issues of social justice [such as being called to respond to the pain and injustices caused by racism, both in our communities of faith and in wider society]. In 2000, the United Church adopted its Anti-Racism Policy statement; racial justice training is one effort to help the church continue to live out its principles."[1]

Currently, this five-hour training program is offered via a two-day, online course through the United in Learning program. However, in light of the discussions on racism that developed at the 43rd General Council, the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committees of Region 15 and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region feel it is important that a more robust, interactive and in-person racial justice training would be beneficial to leaders in the church.

As people striving to follow in the love and Way of Jesus Christ, we are living in a time when it is critical that communities of faith stand up against racism and oppression and live into the call to become intercultural communities. To do this, it is critical that clergy have a deep understanding of racism, privilege and white supremacy, as well as how to help create brave spaces of inclusion.

It is the opinion of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committees that in-person racial justice training delivered by leaders experienced with the local context would be more challenging and transformative for participants than an online course because participants would be able to go

[1] https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/rj-workshop (Accessed 29 March, 2019).

Appendix A - continued

PROPOSAL - continued

a better understanding of how to live out racial justice in practical ways and would therefore be better equipped leaders for our communities in this time.

Furthermore, we already have a Maritime-based training centre in our midst that is a national and denominational leader in racial justice and anti-oppression training. The Tatamagouche Centre has been a leader in racial justice work in our denomination and within the Maritimes since 1992. The Centre currently offers the "Building Bridges" program, which is an in-person racial justice and anti-oppression training program grounded in the experiences of people based in the Maritimes, which would be more beneficial for Maritime-based clergy responding to local and regional issues and needs.

In addition to this, by supporting the Tatamagouche Centre through promoting its "Building Bridges" program as an alternative to the online racial justice training for clergy, Region 15 and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region would continue the important work of economically supporting Maritime workers contracted and employed through the Tatamagouche Centre, as well as ensuring that expert, excellent racial justice facilitation can continue to happen within the Maritimes.

1. **How might the Council of Action respond to the issue?** *Name a possible response that the Council of action might consider:*
   - Direct the Executive Minister of Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to send a letter of support to the Office of Vocation requesting that they endorse the Tatamagouche Centre's "Building Bridges" program as a recognized and acceptable racial justice training for those requiring mandatory training. with Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region.
   - Direct the Executive of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to seek a means of financially subsidizing the participation of those requiring mandatory training in order to make the Tatamagouche Centre's racial justice training program of equal cost to the United in Learning racial justice webinar training.
   - Affirm our commitment as Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to living into interculturalism and racial justice within all levels of our ministries (at the congregational and regional levels) by prioritizing the development of programs, practices, and concrete goals - including education on white privilege.

4. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Council of Action: *Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?*