

# *Faith Forward*



## **Inaugural Meeting**

**Regional Council 15**  
**The United Church of Canada**

Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre  
Sackville, NB

Record of Proceedings – Volume 2

May 23-26, 2019



REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 Spring Meeting 2019

Regional Council Transition Executive

Acting President..... Rev. Catherine MacDonald  
Executive Minister..... Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

Commission Members

..... Rev. Krista Anderson  
..... Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett  
..... Ms. Anne Cameron  
..... Rev. Alicia Cox  
..... Mr. William Drysdale  
..... Rev. Derek Elsworth  
..... Rev. Alison Etter  
..... Ms. Ruth Gamble  
..... Ms. Elaine Gray  
..... Mr. Peter Hardy  
..... Ms. April Hart  
..... Rev. David LeBlanc  
..... Mr. Max Martin  
..... Ms. Jane McDonald  
..... Mr. Donald Morrison  
..... Ms. Fay Smith  
..... Rev. Carol Smith  
..... Ms. Janet Sollows  
..... Rev. Donna Tourneur  
..... Ms. Joyce Wylie

Inaugural Meeting, May 23-26, 2019 at Tantramar Veterans Memorial Centre, Sackville, NB

Rii

SESSIONS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 15

YEAR/PLACE

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY

2019 – Sackville, NB

Rev. Catherine MacDonald

Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - VOLUME 2**

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 Spring Meeting 2019**

Regional Council Transition Executive .....	Ri
Sessions of the Regional Council.....	Rii
Regrets and Permission to Leave Early of Regional Council 15 .....	Riv
Minutes- Transition Commission .....	TC1-TC62
(Pages TC1-TC46 approved throughout the year)	

**REGIONAL COUNCIL REGRETS**

**Ministry Personnel**

Aylward, Janice  
Churchill, Gloria  
Gegan, J. Ivan  
MacDonald, Marilyn  
Moores, L. Vivian  
Sagar, Margaret

Caines-Corkum, Grace  
Corrigan, Nancy  
Hann, David  
McCarther, Wayne  
Phillips, Nick  
Selwyn-Smith, Keith

Chisholm, Susan  
Godin, Rosemary  
Lloy, Marion  
Mills, Norma  
Ritchie, Nancy  
Webber-Cook, James (Jim)

**Non-Ministerial**

Cochrane, Norma  
Dickinson, Karen  
Ellsworth, Henry  
Hardy, Peter  
Hirtle, Glenda  
Jensen, Arthur  
Geoff Lewis  
MacLeod, Malcolm  
Morrison, Brenda  
Phillips, Roberta  
Stiles, Joan  
Street, Beverley

Sydney - Glace Bay  
Chignecto - Southampton  
Halifax - Sackville  
Bermuda - Hamilton  
South Shore – New West Pine United Church  
South Shore – New Germany  
Halifax - Hope  
Halifax – Dartmouth: Port Wallis  
Sydney – Sydney River  
Inverness-Guysborough - Margaree  
Truro - Upper Londonderry  
Valley - Kingston

**Requests to Leave Early**

Anderson, Kathleen  
Drysdale, William  
Henderson, Kenneth  
Lynch, Karen

Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth  
Forbes, David  
Keller, Jane  
Macdonald, Iain

Cochrane, Norma  
Gunn, Sharon  
Lawrence, Donna  
Smith, Vera Faye

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**

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 the 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, 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.

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.



**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 (OV)**Office of  
Vocation

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 Finmore (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. Shannon 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**

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**

Catherine MacDonald, Regional Council Acting President, called the meeting to order and constituted the council for the business that shall properly come before it.

Welcome

**WELCOME**

Catherine MacDonald welcomed everyone to this inaugural meeting of Regional Council 15 and opened the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledging the Territory

**ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY**

The Acting President began the meeting by acknowledging the territory on 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/Peter Smith)

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

**CARRIED**

Nominations

**MOTION:** (Alison Etter/Stephen Mills)

That the Nominations for President and President-Elect be closed.

**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.

This included work 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/Mike Mugford)

That the Regional Council Executive be asked to complete any remaining work from the Transition Commission.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Joan Griffin)

That the Regional Transition Commission be disbanded with thanks at the conclusion of these meetings at the Celebration of Ministries service.

**CARRIED**

The commission members were thanked and disbanded with prayer.

### **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

Governance  
Structure

Ross Bartlett and Krista Anderson presented the new governance document to the council. They introduced the document as a living document. One that we need to live into and breathe the spirit into. Nominations will now be looking for volunteers to participate in this new structure. Questions were taken from the floor; asking for clarification of committees and new roles and responsibilities and also offering thanks to the committee. Members expressed hope that the structure will be revisited at the next meeting to truly determine if the document is working. It was acknowledged that the relationship with Bermuda is not yet determined. There was also a concern raised about the number of committees and the number of volunteers needed.

**MOTION:** (Krista Anderson/Ross Bartlett)

That the draft Governance document v1.21 be approved as a living document for Regional Council 15, to be brought back for evaluation and review at the 2020 annual meeting of Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

### **MISSION, VISION AND VALUES**

Mission, Vision  
and Values

Carol Smith reported on the work of the committee to develop a mission and visioning statement, and core values for the future of the Region. The committee met on March 19, 2019, facilitated by Laura Hunter. The committee worked to develop a document that would inspire and guide the regional council as we move forward. The members were invited to discuss in table groups how the statements capture who we are as a Regional Council, how the communities of faith are supported by the statements and what is the response to the statements. Responses from table groups were collected to be shared with the Executive.

### **NAMING THE REGION**

Naming the  
Region

April Hart and Derek Elsworth led the council members in a discussion about naming the Regional Council. The Commission of Regional Council 15 wanted the opportunity to live into the new structure and consult the Regional Council members before choosing a name and are asking the members to suggest names that will be voted on by the council.

**MOTION:** (Ross Bartlett/Kim Curlett)

That any final decision on naming the region be deferred until the matter of the relationship between Bermuda and the United Church is resolved.

**CARRIED**

Adrian Hartnett-Beasley from Bermuda spoke on the motion to defer the naming. He expressed the opinion that naming is healthy way to build identity. He felt that the deferring of the decision of naming can actually be seen as additional pressure on Bermuda to make its decisions, based on the fact that the region is not moving forward on some of their business while waiting for decisions from Bermuda.

Nominations**NOMINATIONS**

Alison Etter presented the nominations report. She thanked those who have come forward and completed expressions of interest. She invited members to prayerfully consider serving in the new structure. She highlighted the names that have been approved by the Executive.

**PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL COUNCIL**President of  
Regional Council

There are (two) 2 nominees for President. The nominees, Penny Nelson and Janet Sollows, were each given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the council. Voting took place. The President for Regional Council 15 for 2019-2020 is Janet Sollows.

**MOTION:** (Stephen Mills/Michael Ball)

That the ballots for the election of the president be destroyed.

**CARRIED**Proposals**PROPOSALS**

Ross Bartlett introduced a proposal *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. Questions were taken from the floor, and after discussion, including a request to deal with the proposal actions in separate motions, the following motions were made:

**MOTION:** (Penny Nelson/Anne Hoganson)

That the Regional Council direct the Executive Minister of Region 15 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 clergy and licensed lay worship leaders with Region 15.

**CARRIED****MOTION:** (Penny Nelson/Anne Hoganson)

That the Regional Council direct the Executive of Region 15 to support clergy and congregations within Region 15 to engage in the important ministry of racial justice by financially subsidizing clergy participation in the Tatamagouche Centre's racial justice training program to be of equal cost to the United in Learning racial justice webinar training.

Motion to  
Amend**MOTION:** (Ross Bartlett/Mike Mugford)

That the motion be amended to include "in Regional Budget"

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Penny Nelson/Anne Hoganson)

That the Regional Council direct the Executive of Region 15 to include in the Regional Budget to support clergy, licensed lay worship leaders and congregations within Region 15 to engage in the important ministry of racial justice by financially subsidizing clergy participation in the Tatamagouche Centre's racial justice training program to be of equal cost to the United in Learning racial justice webinar training.

**TABLED**

After more discussion, it was felt that additional time was required to further research costs and gather information before making a decision.

Motion to Table

**MOTION:** (Ian Reid/Mary Taylor)

That the motion be tabled.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Penny Nelson/Anne Hoganson)

That we as Region 15, affirm our commitment 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.

**CARRIED**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

President-Elect

There were two (2) nominees for President-Elect. Jane McDonald and David LeBlanc introduced themselves to the members. Voting took place.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

Regional  
Council  
Executive

**MOTION:** (Alison Etter/Alicia Cox)

That the slate of officers for 2019-2020 Regional Council Executive be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Nominations  
Committee

**MOTION:** (Alison Etter/Ruth Gamble)

That the Nominations Committee be Alicia Cox, Tony Orlando, Rachel Campbell and Angela MacLean.

**CARRIED**

**HOW WE MEET**

How We Meet

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 Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters 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:** (Stephen Mills/Joyce Wylie)

That Regional Council 15 have full annual meetings for the next three years (2020, 2021, 2022) and that the Executive be asked to assess the way in which we will meet in the future; with any changes to be approved by the Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

The Executive Minister shared that for 2020, the Executive did not have a recommended motion on how to meet and asked for a motion from the floor.

**MOTION:** (Stephen Mills/Tony Orlando)

That Regional Council 15 meet separately in 2020.

**TABLED**

It was agreed that this vote take place by ballot.

Many members took the opportunity to come to the microphones to discuss the matter. The topic was an emotional one and many opinions were shared on meeting separately, together, and with youth. Voting commenced. Members registered some confusion about what they were voting on, the voting process and time constraints. After much dialogue, the following motions were made:

Motion to Table

**MOTION:** (Linda Yates/Ross Bartlett)

That voting be tabled until an additional meeting session of the Region at the end of business today.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Penny Nelson/Michael Mugford)

That the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

Agenda

**AGENDA**

**MOTION:** (Derek Elsworth/Mary Taylor)

That the agenda be tabled to the evening session.

**CARRIED**

Lunch and Grace

**LUNCH AND GRACE**

**WORKSHOPS**

Workshops were offered to members of Regional Council 15 on Saturday afternoon, beginning at 2:00pm.

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 Retirees and Jubilarians

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

**RETIREEES AND JUBILARIANS**

Richard Bowley also 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.

RetireesJubilarians

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).

JubilariansREPORT 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?*

Report from Ecumenical GuestsWORSHIP

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

WorshipINTRODUCTION 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.

Introduction of Regional LeadersCOURTESIES

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.

CourtesiesWELCOME

Catherine MacDonald, Acting President, welcomed Regional Council 15 members back to an evening session and opened the meeting with a scripture reading. Faith March-MacCuish lit the Christ candle. The Acting President noted that the council has reconvened so that voting can take place and the agenda be finished. The Acting President ruled the early vote out of order and declared that having completed discussion, a vote would now take place.

WelcomeHOW WE MEET

MOTION: (Linda Winden/Peter Smith)

That the motion that was tabled be lifted.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Stephen Mills/Tony Orlando)

That Regional Council 15 meet separately in 2020.

DEFEATED

Voting took place by secret ballot.

There was general agreement that the results of the ballot be held so that the results could be announced at the same time to both regions.

How We Meet

**MOTION:** (Adrian Harnett-Beasley/Penny Nelson)

That results of the Regional Council 15 vote be shared with the council.

**CARRIED****MOTION:** (Shane Doucette/Sharon Lohnes)

That the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED****President-Elect****PRESIDENT-ELECT**

The President-Elect for 2019-2020 is Jane McDonald.

**MOTION:** (Phillip Kennedy/John McFayden)

That the ballots for president-elect be destroyed.

**CARRIED****Division of  
Finance and  
Administration****DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The 2020 budget for Regional Council 15 was presented by Jane McDonald. The expenses for 2020 for salaries and benefits have been increased by 1.9% (one point nine) for cost of living. Committee and Division budgets have generally remained the same as 2019, as well as Mission Support allocations. It was noted that applications have not yet been received for 2020. A \$29,226.13 (twenty-nine thousand, two hundred and twenty six dollars and thirteen cents) deficit in administrative expenses is projected in 2020. The surplus for 2020 is expected to be approximately \$2,800 (twenty eight hundred).

**Budget 2020****MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Audrey Matheson)

That the proposed budget for 2020 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED****Closing Motions****CLOSING MOTIONS****MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Wendell Brown)

That the inaugural meeting of Regional Council 15 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****MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2019.

**CARRIED****Adjournment****ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed all business, the Acting President declared the meeting adjourned.

**Closing Prayer****CLOSING PRAYER**

The Acting President closed the meeting with prayer.

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE**

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 the guest preacher.

Celebration of  
Ministries  
Service

**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.

Ordinations

**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 meetings with a commissioning and benediction.

Installation of  
Presidents

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

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

Commissioning  
and Benediction

---

Catherine MacDonald  
Acting President

---

Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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.”<sup>1</sup>

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 43<sup>rd</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup> <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 clergy. with Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region.
- Direct the Executive of Region 15/Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to support clergy and congregations within Region 15/ Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region to engage in the important ministry of racial justice by financially subsidizing clergy participation in the Tatamagouche Centre’s racial justice training program to be 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?**

**Appendix B****REGRETS AND PERMISSION TO LEAVE EARLY****Regrets were received from the following lay members to the annual meeting for Regional Council 15**

Nora Cochrane, Karen Dickinson, Henry Ellsworth, Peter Hardy, Glenda Hirtle, Arthur Jensen, Geoff Lewis, Malcolm MacLeod, Brenda Morrison, Roberta Phillips, Joan Stiles, Beverley Street

**Regrets were received from the following Ministry Personnel to the annual meeting for Regional Council 15**

Janice Aylward, Grace Caines-Corkum, Susan Chisholm, Gloria Churchill, Nancy Corrigan, Rosemary Godin, J. Ivan Gregan, David Hann, Marion Lloy, Marilyn MacDonald, Wayne McCarther, Norma Mills, L. Vivian Moores, Nick Phillips, Nancy Ritchie, Margaret Sagar, Keith Selwyn-Smith, James (Jim) Webber-Cook

**Requests to Leave Early – Regional Council 15**

Kathleen Anderson, Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings, Norma Cochrane, William Drysdale, David Forbes, Sharon Gunn, Kenneth Henderson, Jane Keller, Donna Lawrence, Karen Lynch, Iain Macdonald, Vera Faye Smith



