

# ***Choosing Celebration***



## ***Re-Call of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting***

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

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing**

***Record of Proceedings***

***November 5, 2020***

REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 Re-Call Meeting

Regional Council Executive

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| President.....                                 | Ms. Janet Sollows         |
| President Elect.....                           | Ms. Jane McDonald         |
| Past President .....                           | Rev. Catherine MacDonald  |
| Executive Minister.....                        | Rev. Faith March-MacCuish |
| Division of Finance and Administration.....    | Ms. Jane McDonald         |
| Division of Regional Services and Support..... | Mr. Donald Morrison       |
| Division of Ministry Resources.....            | Ms. Anne Cameron          |
| Nominations.....                               | Rev. Alicia Cox           |
| Staff Committee Liaison.....                   | Rev. Lesley Hamilton      |
| Member at Large.....                           | Mr. Peter Hardy           |
| Member at Large.....                           | Mr. Max Martin            |
| Member at Large.....                           | Ms. Shannon MacLean       |
| United Church Women Representative.....        | Ms. Deborah Hawkins       |

**SESSIONS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**

| <u>YEAR/PLACE</u>              | <u>PRESIDENT</u>         | <u>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</u>      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019 – Sackville, NB           | Rev. Catherine MacDonald | Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish |
| 2020 – Virtual Meeting         | Ms. Janet Sollows        | Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish |
| 2020 – Virtual Re-Call Meeting | Ms. Janet Sollows        | Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish |

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - VOLUME 2**

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 Re-Call Meeting 2020**

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Regional Council Executive.....                             | i         |
| Sessions of the Regional Council.....                       | ii        |
| Roll of Regional Council 15.....                            | iv        |
| Minutes- Re-Call of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting..... | RC28-RC51 |

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLLMinistry Personnel

|                              |                         |         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Anderson, Kathleen           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Anderson, Kathryn            | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Anderson, Krista             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Anthony, J. Peter            | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Antle-Brison, Florence       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Archibald, A. Fred           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Aven, Katherine              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Aylward, Janice              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth   | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Ball, Leslie                 | Indeterminate           | Active  |
| Bartlett, I. Ross            | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Bent, Barbara                | Applicant               | Active  |
| Bentley, Morley              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Biggar, Robert               | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Blois, Janet                 | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Brown, James                 | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Brown-Hewitt, Robyn          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Burke-Cole, Kymberly         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Burns, Helene                | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Burrill, Gary                | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Bursey, Jeffro               | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Caines-Corkum, A. Grace      | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Caldwell, Blake              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Campbell, Rachel             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Carruth, Graeme              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Carruthers, Sandra           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Chant, Jeffrey               | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Chapman, Robert              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Chisholm, James              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Chisholm, M. Dale            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Chisholm, Susan              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Church, Bonnie               | Candidate               | Active  |
| Churchill, Gloria            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Clark-Ettinger, W. Martin    | Candidate               | Active  |
| Cleary, Heidi                | Candidate               | Active  |
| Cleveland-Thompson, Trent    | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Clifton, Lydia               | Candidate               | Active  |
| Colbourne, Heber             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Cole, Tony                   | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Constable, Alexander         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Corbett, J. Raymond          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Cornelius, Marjory           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Corrigan, Nancy              | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Cox, Alicia                  | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Cox, Kevin                   | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Cox, Sandra                  | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Crawford, M. Dale            | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Crocker, E. Lorraine         | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Crowley, Karen               | Applicant               | Active  |
| Crozman, Randall             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Crump, Judith                | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Cumming, G. Paul             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Curlett, Kimberlea           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Danaher, Corrine             | Applicant               | Active  |
| Danaher, David               | Applicant               | Active  |
| Darby, Betty                 | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Darby, H. Allen              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Davies, Elizabeth            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Davis, Christina             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedMinistry Personnel - continued

|                         |                         |         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Davis, S. Allison       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Daye, Russell           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Dean, M. Kathleen       | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Den Draak, Hubert       | Diaconal Minister       | Active  |
| Doucette, Shane         | Applicant               | Active  |
| Drysdale, William       | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Duggan, Emily           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Dunnett, Cynthia        | Applicant               | Active  |
| Edsall, Holly           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Elliott, Waldo          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Elsworth, Derek         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Etter, Alison           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Ettinger, Jay           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Evans, Jennifer         | Candidate               | Active  |
| Feltmate, Dana          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Fennell, Robert         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Ferrier, Heather        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Fevens, Cory            | Applicant               | Active  |
| Fillier, Matthew        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Fillmore, Karen         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Finlayson, John         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Forbes, James           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Fram, Stephen           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Fraser, Heather         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Fraser, Meredith        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Gamble, K. Ruth         | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Gardner, Robert         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Gibson, William         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Gillis, William         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Gladu, Christine        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Godin, Rosemary         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Golding, A. Gail        | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Gregan, J. Ivan         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Griffin, Joan           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Gunn, Daniel            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Gunn, Richard           | Candidate               | Active  |
| Hagerman, Holly         | Candidate               | Active  |
| Hamilton, Lesley        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Hamilton Dowell, Pamela | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Handcock, Sean          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Hann, David             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Harding, Russell        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Harrison, Andrea        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Harrison, Ian           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Harrison, Mary          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Harrison, W. Lawrence   | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Hart, April             | Candidate               | Active  |
| Hart, David             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Harty, Rosemarie        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Haylock, Mary           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Hemming, Heather        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Henderson, Michael      | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Hennigar-Shuh, John     | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Hewitt, David           | Diaconal Minister       | Active  |
| Hogan, Elizabeth        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Hoganson, Anne          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Hooton, Katherine       | Applicant               | Active  |
| Huestis, Lorna          | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Ihasz, Louis            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Ihasz, Vincent          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued

**Ministry Personnel** - continued

|                         |                         |         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Innes, F. Marion        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Irving, Sandra          | Candidate               | Active  |
| Jarvis, W. Wayne        | Designated Lay Minister | Active  |
| Jenkins, Foster         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Johnston, Ralph         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Kean, Wendy             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Kempt, Dianne           | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Kennedy, Phillip        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Kennedy, Valerie        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Kerr, Gerald            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Kierstead, Emily        | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| King-Darby, Susan       | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Kingsbury, Valerie      | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Latimer, Robert         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Lawrence, Donna         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| LeBlanc, David          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Little, Kevin           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Llewellyn, Hallett      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Lloy, Marion            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Logan, Katherine        | Applicant               | Active  |
| Lohnes, Sharon          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Lovelace, Donna         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Lutes, David            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Lynch, Karen            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacAlpine-Gillis, Susan | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacAskill, Lorraine     | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacCuish, Laurie        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacCulloch, Lynda       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacDermid, Mary         | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| MacDonald, A. Ross      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacDonald, Catherine    | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacDonald, Daniel       | Candidate               | Active  |
| MacDonald, Donald       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacDonald, Iain         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacDonald, Neil         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacDonald, R. Marilyn   | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacDougall, Gary        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Mack, A. Robert         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacKenzie, Bruce        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacLachlan, David       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacLean, Alexander      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacLean, Angela         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| MacLean, David          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacLean, Glenn          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacLean, Leland         | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| MacLean, Shannon        | Candidate               | Active  |
| MacLennan, William      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacLeod, Carolyn        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacLeod, Victor         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacNeill, Kenley        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacPherson, Donald      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacQueen, Donald        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| MacVicar, R. Diane      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Mailman, Debra          | Applicant               | Active  |
| Manchester, R. Joseph   | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Manuel, Heather         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Marple, Meredith        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Marple, Norman          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Martin, Maxwell         | Candidate               | Active  |

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedMinistry Personnel – continued

|                           |                         |         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| McCarthy, Wayne           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McCulloch-Taylor, Shelagh | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McCurdy, Brenda           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| McDonald, G. Curtis       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McEwen, Neil              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| McFadden, L. Joanne       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| McIntosh, J. Allan        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McKay, Brenda             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McKillop, S. Elroy        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| McNamara, Constance       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Meredith, Richard         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Mills, Norma              | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Mills, Robert             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Mills, Stephen            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Moore, Roger              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Moore, L. Vivian          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Morash, Brenda            | Applicant               | Active  |
| Moriarty, Mary-Beth       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Morrison, Donnie          | Indeterminate           | Active  |
| Morrison, Sandra          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Moses, John               | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Mugford, Michael          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Mullin, Selina            | Candidate               | Active  |
| Murray, Donald            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Murray, Gordon            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Murray, Roland            | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Myles, S. Marlyne         | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Nelson, Penny             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Nicholson, Carolyn        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Norton, Ivan              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Ohr, Karen                | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| O'Neill, Shirley          | Applicant               | Active  |
| Organ Montford, Craig     | Candidate               | Active  |
| Orton, Debra              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Pace, Eric                | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Palmer, Carolyn           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Pardy, Dana               | Candidate               | Active  |
| Parsons, A. John          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Pearce, Karen             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Pearen, Natasha           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Peddie Peters, Mavis      | Candidate               | Active  |
| Pelley, Wilfred           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Perry, Judith             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Phillips, P. Nicholas     | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Pick, Donna               | Applicant               | Active  |
| Pick, Shelley             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Pilsworth, Douglas        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Pitter, Andriel           | Applicant               | Active  |
| Plant, Margaret Ann       | Designated Lay Minister | Active  |
| Power, Jennifer           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Price, Nancy              | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Ralph, Karen              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Reaburn, Sarah            | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Redden-Smith, Sheila      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Reid, Herbert             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Reid, Martin              | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Reppert, Wade             | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Riches, Arlene            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Ritchie, Nancy            | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Roach, Duncan             | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Robinson, Leslie          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedMinistry Personnel – continued

|                       |                         |         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Robson, Tamsin        | Applicant               | Active  |
| Ross, Karen           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Rumscheidt, H. Martin | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Rushton, Simpson      | Designated Lay Minister | Active  |
| Rutherford, Alice     | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Sagar, Margaret       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Sangster, Annika      | Diaconal Minister       | Active  |
| Sanson, Margaret      | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Schurman, Wayne       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Sellsted, Donald      | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Selwyn-Smith, Keith   | Designated Lay Minister | Retired |
| Settle, Lester        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Shaffner, W. James    | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Shaw, Ronald          | Candidate               | Active  |
| Shaw, Sally           | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Sheremeta, Krystal    | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Simmons, Cyril        | Indeterminate           | Active  |
| Simms-Mills, H. Jean  | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Simpson, Lee          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Smith, Carol          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Smith, Glennis        | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Smith, Greta          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Smith, Peter          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Smith, Wayne          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Smithers, Caitlin     | Applicant               | Active  |
| Snow, Ebbie           | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Snyder, Frederick     | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Spears, Glendon       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Steele, David         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Stewart, Douglas      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Stright, Jeanne       | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Taylor, Mary          | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Thompson, Edward      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Tingley, Diane        | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Tingley, Jocelyn      | Applicant               | Active  |
| Tourneur, Donna       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Vincent, M. J. Boyd   | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Walker, Brent         | Candidate               | Active  |
| Webber-Cook, James    | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Wentzell, Brian       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Whent, Thomas         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Whitney-Latham, Nancy | Designated Lay Minister | Active  |
| Whyte, Mary Lynne     | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Wilson, E. Ellen      | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Wilson Wynne, Carolyn | Diaconal Minister       | Retired |
| Winton, Linda         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Wiseman, Keith        | Candidate               | Active  |
| Woods, Thomas         | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Woodworth, Alfred     | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Worrell, Linton       | Candidate               | Active  |
| Wright, Heather       | Ordained Minister       | Active  |
| Wynne, Joseph         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Yates, Linda          | Ordained Minister       | Retired |
| Zinck, Robert         | Ordained Minister       | Retired |

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedElected Lay Members

|                     |                                   |                          |                                 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Algar, Rosemary     | North Highlands                   | Ambler, Don              | Bedford                         |
| Ball, Michael       | Shelburne                         | Betts, Patricia          | Halifax: St. Andrew's           |
| Birch, Liz          | Margaree                          | Boulger, Sean            | Middleton                       |
| Brennan Alpert, Pat | Halifax: St. John's               | Brown, Wendall           | Waverley                        |
| Burrell, David      | Pictou                            | Butts, Arlene            | Donkin-Morlen-Birch Grove       |
| Cameron, Ross       | Sydney: Trenton-First United      | Canning, Jack            | Westville                       |
| Canning, Pamela     | Westville                         | Carrigan, Pat            | Salt Spgs, Scotsburn-Lyon's Brk |
| Carson, Dorothy     | Cobequid                          | Cochrane, Norma          | Glace Bay: Newsom               |
| Collins, Joan       | William Black Memorial            | Connelly, John           | Crossroads                      |
| Corkum, Bill        | Lahave-New Dublin                 | Creaser, Blake           | New West Pine                   |
| Crowley, Karen      | New Glasgow                       | Curtis, Kathy            | Three Harbours                  |
| Curtis, Sandra      | North Highlands                   | Danaher, David           | Noel                            |
| Dauphinee, Beverley | Halifax: Hope                     | Davis, Allan             | New Glasgow                     |
| Dicks, Nancy        | New Glasgow                       | Dixon, Helen             | Dartmouth: Woodlawn             |
| Dodge, Doris        | Walton                            | Dodson, Margaret-Anne    | Pictou                          |
| Doucette, Shane     | Musquodoboit Harbour              | Ellsworth, Henry         | Sackville: Knox                 |
| Fanning, Cora       | Dartmouth: Port Wallis            | Flemming, Michele        | Lower Musquodoboit              |
| Fletcher, Bruce     | Kennetcook-St. Paul's             | Forbes, Marg             | Bridgewater                     |
| Gould, Alice        | Walton                            | Gunn, Sharon             | Salt Spgs, Scotsburn-Lyon's Brk |
| Handrigan, Nancy    | Orchard Valley                    | Harding, Paula           | Truro: Bible Hill               |
| Harris, Carol       | Eastern Guysborough               | Hartnett-Beazley, Adrian | Wesley                          |
| Hayew, Judy         | Sackville: Knox                   | Hennigar, Sandra         | Crossroads                      |
| Hill, Rena          | Bedford                           | Hoeg, Marlene            | Hopewell-Eureka-East River      |
| Holborn, David      | Annapolis-Granville               | Isenor, Margaret         | Sydney River-United Protestant  |
| Jamieson, Gina      | Three Harbours                    | Jensen, Arthur           | New Germany                     |
| Kay, Peter          | Stellarton                        | Kingsbury, Kaleigh       | Truro: First United             |
| Lahey, Susan        | Milford-Gay's River-Lantz         | Langill, Darria          | Coldstream                      |
| Langille, Lynn      | Salt Spgs, Scotsburn - Lyon's Brk | Langley, Anna            | Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's     |
| Leonard, Beverley   | West Bay                          | Lewis, Geoff             | Halifax: Hope                   |
| Logan, Jack         | Bridgewater                       | MacDonald, Heather       | Oxford-Thomson                  |
| MacDonald, Murdock  | St Ann's Bay                      | MacDonald, Shauna        | Dartmouth: St. James            |
| MacGillivray, Joan  | Antigonish                        | MacInnis, Janice         | Sydney River-United Protestant  |
| MacIntyre, Margie   | Whycocomagh-E. Lake Ainslie       | Mackay, Donald           | Sydney: United Heritage         |
| MacKenn, Bill       | Cornwallis                        | MacKenzie, Grant         | Halifax: Bethany                |
| MacLaren, Dan       | Liverpool                         | MacLean, Catherine       | Glace Bay: Chalmers-Warden      |
| MacLeod, Joan       | River John-West Branch            | MacLeod, Malcolm         | Dartmouth: Port Wallis          |
| MacMullin, Norman   | Baddeck: Greenwood                | Martell, Beulah          | Hopewell-Eureka-East River      |
| Matheson, Audrey    | Halifax: Fairview                 | McDonald, Jane           | Orchard Valley                  |
| McElhiney, John     | Truro: First United               | McEwan, Nelson           | Port Hastings                   |
| McFadgen, Stacy     | Glace Bay: Knox                   | McKay, Kathy             | Halifax: St. Paul's             |
| McLearn, Heather    | Halifax: Rockingham               | McLearn, John            | Halifax: Rockingham             |
| McNairn, Nancy      | Petite Riviere                    | Melanson, Shelley        | Yarmouth                        |
| Messenger, Sally    | Lawrencetown-Lake Echo            | Miner, Gail              | Sackville: Knox                 |
| Moore, Norma        | Harmony-Camden                    | Moorhouse, Peter         | Bedford                         |
| Morris, Jeanette    | McCully                           | Morrison, Brenda         | Sydney River-United Protestant  |
| Morrison, Donnie    | Sydney River-United Protestant    | Morrison, Jack           | Lockeport                       |
| Muir, Gerald        | Westville                         | Munro, Brenda            | Halifax: Rockingham             |
| Munroe, Kelvin      | Clyde-Carleton                    | Nauss, Joan              | Riverport                       |
| Nimmo, Sandra       | Bedford                           | O'Connell, Trudi         | Brookfield                      |
| Oliver-Snair, Joyce | Port Hawkesbury: St. Mark's       | Orlando, Tony            | William Black                   |
| Parks, Kevin        | Halifax: St. Andrew's             | Parsons, Wanalda         | Truro: Brunswick St-North River |
| Patterson, Helen    | Walton                            | Patterson, Ron           | Amherst: Trinity-St. Stephen's  |
| Phillips, Roberta   | Margaree                          | Radford, Wanda           | Port Hastings                   |
| Rafter, Tanya       | Waverley                          | Reid, Ian                | St. Luke's                      |
| Roche, Lawrence     | Dartmouth: Stairs Memorial        | Rowat, Jayme             | Blue Rocks-Stonehurst           |
| Sandeson, Laurie    | Clifton                           | Scherzinger, Linda       | Halifax: St. Andrew's           |
| Schnare, Cheryl     | Sambro-Jollimore                  | Scopie, Jim              | Cumberland                      |
| Semple, Stuart      | Three Harbours                    | Shaw, Ron                | Dartmouth: Grace                |
| Sheppard, Roberta   | Glace Bay: Knox                   | Skidgmore, Terry         | Kingston                        |
| Smith, Fay          | Truro: Brunswick St-North River   | Smith, Vera Faye         | Brookfield                      |

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**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued

**Elected Lay Members**

|                           |                               |                   |                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sollows, Janet            | Yarmouth                      | Stewart, James    | Onslow-Belmont                  |
| Stewart, Sheila           | Berwick Trinity               | Thomson, Mary     | Coldstream                      |
| Tomsons, Sandra           | Mulgrave                      | Touesnard, Edwina | St. Peter's-Grand R-Loch Lomond |
| VanSchaick, Sheila        | Boularderie                   | Varnes, Craig     | Sydney Mines                    |
| Vinqvist-Tymchuk, Melinda | Orchard Valley                | Weagle, Isabel    | Petite Riviere                  |
| Wells, Betty Ann          | Dartmouth: Port Wallis        | Wellwood, Murray  | Elmsdale                        |
| Wilkie, Gary              | Amherst: Trinity-St. Stephens | Winton, Linda     | Kingston                        |
| Wootton, Ann              | Elmsdale                      | Wylie, Joyce      | Dartmouth: St. James            |
| Zinck, Corrine            | Bridgewater                   | Zwicker, Barry    | Dartmouth: Woodlawn             |

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued

**Appointed Members**

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cameron, Anne   | Division of Ministry Resources Chair |
| Hardy, Peter    | Executive Member at Large            |
| Hawkins, Debbie | United Church Women Representative   |

**Corresponding Members**

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Hall, Alan            | GCO Representative |
| Hunter, Laura         | staff              |
| March-MacCuish, Faith | staff              |
| Richardson, Andrew    | staff              |
| Rose, Tracey          | staff              |
| Stuart, Catherine     | staff              |
| Taylor, Jennifer      | staff              |
| Whittemore, Jennifer  | staff              |

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
Annual Meeting Recall  
November 5, 2020 at 6:00pm via video conference

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
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Annual Meeting Recall  
November 5, 2020 at 6:00pm via video conference

**Choosing Celebration**

**Registration****REGISTRATION**

Members of Regional Council 15 registered online for the November 5, 2020 Annual Meeting Recall. In preparation for the recall meeting, the Executive offered a webinar so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about the proposals that will require decision making at the recall meeting.

**Attendance****ATTENDANCE** - Appendix A

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

**Regrets****REGRETS** - Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

**Gathering****GATHERING**

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 5:30pm for members to test connections and to gather.

**Call to Order****CALL TO ORDER**

Janet Sollows, President of Regional Council 15, called the meeting to order and welcomed members to this virtual recall meeting of the regional council.

**Acknowledgement  
of Place****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLACE**

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the territory on which we gather. May we live with respect on this land, and work towards living in right relations as we gather in peace and friendship with all people. The President invited all who are gathered to use the chat box to enter all the traditional lands on which we are gathered. We are all treaty people.

**Welcome****WELCOME**

The President introduced Alan Hall, Executive Officer, Ministry and Employment, joining the meeting as representative of the General Council Office, and offered a special welcome to those being ordained and recognized this weekend at the Celebration of Ministry Service.

**Opening  
Worship****OPENING WORSHIP**

The President invited members to join in the opening worship. The four celebrants, Daniel MacDonald, Shannon MacLean, Mavis Peddie Peters and Marty Clark-Ettinger, who are being ordained and recognized at the upcoming Celebration of Ministry Service, led the council in worship, scripture, and prayer in keeping with the theme *Choosing Celebration*.

**In Memoriam****IN MEMORIAM** – Appendix C

The in-memoriam prayer, scripture reading, and slideshow presentation was led by the President, Janet Sollows.

**PROCEDURAL MOTIONS****Procedural  
Motions**

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister presented the opening procedural motions.

**MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Catherine MacDonald)

That the Roll of Regional Council 15 be (Manual 2019 C.1.1 and C.1.2):

The members of the Order of Ministry and other Ministry Personnel who are:

- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay Members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their community of Faith.

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2019;

"The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and that there be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose."

"That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space."

"That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; the active and retired Lay Overseas Personnel; ecumenical delegates and observers; the President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate); and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council."

"That the agenda as printed and distributed be adopted as the agenda for this meeting Regional Council 15, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined, by the Council."

That the business table be Jane McDonald and Catherine MacDonald.

That the minute secretary for the Regional Council recall meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2019 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. Bourinot's Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix.

Guidelines for discussion, the speaker will:

- Start by identifying them self (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- All discussion should be directed to the President.
- Each person may address the President only once about a motion, except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- That the initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three minutes.
- That all subsequent speakers limit their time to two minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
- All discussion should be clear and concise and deal only with the motion

**CARRIED**

Introduction of  
Celebrants**INTRODUCTION OF CELEBRANTS**

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister introduced those being ordained and recognized at the upcoming Celebration of Ministry Service. He offered congratulations to all the celebrants, especially in these uncertain times when the global pandemic has made for a very different celebration service. Daniel MacDonald, Shannon MacLean and Mavis Peddie Peters will be ordained and Marty Clark-Ettinger will be recognized as a Designated Lay Minister on November 8, 2020 at First United Church, Truro, NS. The students offered thanks for the opportunity to greet the council, gratitude for their journey, and invited everyone to watch the live stream of this milestone event.

General  
Secretary**GENERAL SECRETARY**

The General Secretary, Nora Sanders, shared opening remarks via video message. She thanked the region for its support and encouragement throughout her career, and especially in this time of unexpected change. She reminded us that blessings can be found in change and that God is with us. We are not alone.

Reports**REPORTS****MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Catherine MacDonald)

That Regional Council 15 receive the report of the Moderator and General Secretary for information.

**CARRIED**Justice, Mission  
and Outreach**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Anne Hoganson, Chair of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee introduced the council to the work of the committee. The committee works as a joint committee with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge regional councils. All members are invited to join in the work of the committee and connect with others who use this network to "be the church". The council is reminded that the committee has a page on the regional website.

Lenora Timmons, Atlantic representative on the Refugee Advisory Group was invited to share an update. Kathryn Anderson, co-chair of the Ecological Crisis Group, spoke to the council about the global climate crisis and caring for God's creation. Some of the work of the committee is growing through ecumenical work, such as *For the Love of Creation*, a series of guides to facilitate group conversation on climate change. The council are invited to check out Faithful Footprints; a program of the United Church. Penny Nelson introduced the council to an emerging anti-racism network, which has grown in response to the book study *White Fragility*.

The committee invited all members to connect with the committee and ask for support for communicating information to their congregations, and thanked the council for the opportunity to present.

Proposals**PROPOSALS**

Jane McDonald introduced the proposals coming for decision to the Regional Council. The six (6) proposals were introduced at the November 3, 2020 webinar where members had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification.

Proposal 1 -  
Review of the  
Green Shield  
Benefits Plan  
with respect to  
Retirees  
Benefits**PROPOSAL 1 – Appendix D**

The proposal *Review of the Green Shield Benefits Plan with respect to Retirees Benefits* was received from the Retiree Support Committee of the Division of Ministry Resources. The proposal asks for action by the General Council to direct the Pension and Benefits department to review the Green Shield Plan with The United Church of Canada with particular attention to the retiree plan. The proposal is in response to the growing concerns about the coverage and rising costs of the plan. Discussion of the motion took place. It was agreed to add ministry personnel and employees to the review.

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal *Review of the Green Shield Benefits Plan with respect to active ministry personnel, employees and retirees benefits* and refers it to the General Council Executive.

**CARRIED****PROPOSAL 2** – Appendix E

The proposal *Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children* was received from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The proposal asks Region 15 to: share worship, educational and advocacy resources with church leaders and members; encourage highlighting the need to protect the human rights of Palestinian children; and suggest they join with other churches and justice seeking organizations in actively lobbying the Canadian government to ensure the human rights of Palestinian children are protected.

Proposal 2 -  
Protecting the  
Human Rights  
of Palestinian  
Children

**MOTION:** (Anne Hoganson/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal *Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children* and

- a) Recognizing that Sunday, November 15, 2020 has been designated "Children's Sunday", the Sunday closest to November 20, when the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child was ratified in 1989, and recognizing there are worship resources on the United Church website for this Sunday, including resources about work for Palestinian children's rights, asks the Executive to share worship, educational and advocacy resources with church leaders and members. Encourage highlighting the need to protect the human rights of Palestinian children, and suggest they join with other churches and justice seeking organizations in actively lobbying the Canadian government "to ensure the human rights of Palestinian children are protected by instructing a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza." This action supports the Recommendations of the MP group that visited Palestine and Israel in 2018 and the Parliamentary petition #2667 sponsored by MP Paul Manly.
- b) In the short term the goal is to end the abuse of these children. International civil society has agreed that children aged 12-17 under detention are not to be subjected to any form of abuse. Israel has signed on to a number of international conventions regarding the treatment of children, including the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and 1984 Convention Against Torture. The Israeli military system in the Occupied Territories needs to adhere to the standards of these International conventions in their treatment of children.
- c) The longer term goal is to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Child detention is a key strategy of the Israel Defense Forces to maintain and deepen the Israeli occupation. It disrupts family and community life, and deters Palestinian youth from developing the capacity to provide leadership and gaining the skills for a vibrant Palestinian civil society. Ending the occupation is key to justice and equality for Palestinians. An end to Israeli occupation will end these child detention abuses.

**CARRIED****PROPOSAL 3** – Appendix F

The proposal *Anti-Racism* was received from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The proposal asks Region 15 make a clear statement committing Region 15 to the ongoing work of becoming anti-racist, and that Region 15 commit to learning, listening, and action to oppose racism and specifically anti-Black racism within our denomination, our Region, and our Communities of Faith, and continue to support the emerging anti-racism network.

Proposal 3 -  
Anti-Racism

**MOTION:** (Anne Hoganson/Jane MacDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal Anti-Racism and calls on the Executive to:

- a) Make a clear statement committing Region 15 to the ongoing work of becoming anti-racist, and that Region 15 commit to learning, listening, and action to oppose racism in all its forms and specifically anti-Black racism within our denomination, our Region, and our Communities of Faith.
- b) Assist the Regions East Anti-Racism Network in developing an Affirming Ministry-like process that facilitates Communities of Faith and Region 15 in actively and publicly working toward being an anti-racist church.
- c) Continue to provide staff support to the emerging Regions East Anti-Racism Network through the Regional Minister for Justice.
- d) Mandate the Racial Justice training program for Regional Council Executive members.
- e) Engage in a review of all policies, practices, and procedures of Region 15 using the lens of being an anti-racist church; report the finding to the Regional Council Executive and direct the Executive Secretary to implement changes.

**CARRIED**

Proposal 4 -  
Implementation  
of Missing and  
Murdered  
Indigenous  
Women and  
Girls Report

**PROPOSAL 4** – Appendix G

The proposal *Implementation of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report* was received from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The proposal asks Region 15 to write the Prime Minister to press the government for urgent priority to be given to the completion of a National Action Plan for the implementation of the 231 (two hundred and thirty-one) recommendations in the report from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

**MOTION:** (Anne Hoganson/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal Implementation of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report and calls on the Executive to:

Write a letter to the Prime Minister as follows:

- a) To press Prime Minister Trudeau (copies to the Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister - Carolyn Bennett, Indigenous Services Minister - Mark Miller, the Premier of New Brunswick – Blaine Higgs, New Brunswick Minister of Aboriginal Affairs -Arlene Dunn, and MPs and Senators from the Region) for a public inquiry into the separate recent fatal shootings of indigenous persons, Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi in New Brunswick in June of 2020, during the provision of policing services by Edmundston and RCMP police forces. This could contribute to the National Action Plan by providing insights into how, in the New Brunswick context, such services could be remodelled by engaging the wisdom and experience of the indigenous community to avoid such devastating outcomes in future. This might also provide a model for other provinces.
- b) To press the government for urgent priority to be given immediately to the completion of a National Action Plan for the implementation of the 231 Recommendations in the report from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls "Reclaiming Power and Place".
- c) To commit to a date for completion of the National Action Plan before the end of 2020, making allowance for the challenges of operating in COVID conditions, but with a creative problem-solving spirit so as not to allow these challenges to become a barrier to Plan completion.
- d) To develop the Plan by drawing on the resources of Indigenous leaders such as the Native Women's Association of Canada and other Indigenous experts, and working in partnership with them to establish priorities, set out practical actions, assign responsibilities to settler and indigenous agents for specific actions and fund the necessary work, communications and travel. (Noting that the 'urgent discussion on systemic racism in health care' convened by the government on October 16th 2020, while appropriate in the short term, in no way relieves the need for a comprehensive, integrated Action Plan addressing the 231 recommendations, as all of the aspects of violence against indigenous women and girls are inter-related.)

**CARRIED**

**PROPOSAL 5** – Appendix H

*Opposition to Equating Criticism of Israel's Unjust Actions with Antisemitism.* The proposal asks that Regional Council 15 communicate to its members The United Church of Canada policy on antisemitism and criticism of Israel; encourage members to speak up with others for justice, equity and human rights for Palestinians and all other oppressed peoples; and confirm of the importance of all nations abiding by international law, and to let them know that in interfaith or anti-racism work, it is not helpful to use, support, endorse or encourage others to endorse the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Proposal 5 -  
Opposition to  
Equating  
Criticism of  
Israel's Unjust  
Actions with  
Antisemitism

**MOTION:** (Anne Hoganson/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal *Opposition to Equating Criticism of Israel's Unjust Actions with Antisemitism* and call on the Executive to:

Communicate with its members:

- a) The UCC policy on antisemitism and criticism of Israel; encouragement to speak up with others for justice, equity and human rights for Palestinians and all other oppressed peoples; and confirmation of the importance of all nations abiding by international law.
- b) Let them know that in interfaith or anti-racism work, it is not helpful to use, support, endorse or encourage others to endorse the IHRA definition of antisemitism. For more reasons and for a better, more appropriate definition, go to: [www.noihra.ca](http://www.noihra.ca)
- c) The results of a recent survey of Jewish Canadians done by Ekos research which showed that approximately 60% (sixty) of Jewish Canadians do not see criticism of Israel as antisemitic in and of itself, and half believe that accusations of antisemitism are "often used to silence legitimate criticism of Israeli policies."
- d) The understanding that antisemitism is one of the forms of racism, prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and xenophobia all of which are part of systems of oppression fed by individual and collective attitudes and actions against which we are called to confess, struggle against and transform into open, welcoming attitudes and diverse communities of inclusion and equity.

**CARRIED**

**PROPOSAL 6** – Appendix I

The proposal *Responding to our Global Partner Kairos Palestine* was received through the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The proposal asks for action by General Council as an ecumenical partner to stand in solidarity with their suffering and listen to the cries for peace by taking action on the requests from Kairos Palestine. Anne Hoganson, Chair of Justice, Mission and Outreach spoke to the motion, outlining the call to action.

Proposal 6 -  
Responding to  
our Global  
Partner Kairos  
Palestine

**MOTION:** (Anne Hoganson/Jane McDonald)

That Regional Council 15 supports the proposal *Responding to our Global Partner Kairos Palestine* and refers it to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council.

**CARRIED**

**CLOSING MOTION**

Closing  
Motion

**MOTION:** (Faith March-MacCuish/Catherine MacDonald)

That the recall meeting of the second annual meeting of Regional Council 15 be closed;

that the Regional Council Executive be give the power to act for the Region in all matter except those excluded by the Manual 2019; and

that the Third Annual Meeting of Regional Council 15, be held on May 27-30, 2021 in Sackville, New Brunswick, if possible.

**CARRIED**

Adjournment

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Closing Prayer

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION**

Benediction

Catherine MacDonald, Past President, closed the meeting with prayer.

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Janet Sollows  
President

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Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

Appendix AATTENDANCE

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ambler, Don                  | Anderson, Kathleen E.           |
| Anderson, Kathryn J.         | Anderson, Krista                |
| Anthony, J. Peter            | Antle-Brison, Florence A.       |
| Ashby, Michèle               | Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth      |
| Ball, Michael                | Betts, Patricia (Trish)         |
| Boulger, Sean                | Brown, Wendall                  |
| Brown-Hewitt, Robyn L.       | Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie F. |
| Burke, Kymberely (Kym)       | Burns, Helene F.                |
| Cameron, K. Anne             | Cameron, Ross                   |
| Canning, Jack                | Canning, Pamela                 |
| Carrigan, Pat                | Carson, Dorothy                 |
| Churchill, Gloria E.         | Clark-Ettinger, Marty           |
| Cochrane, Norma              | Corrigan, Nancy E.              |
| Cox, Alicia                  | Crawford, M. Dale               |
| Crocker, E. Lorraine (Lori)  | Crowley, Karen                  |
| Curllett, Kim                | Curtis, Sandra                  |
| Davis, Allan                 | Doucette, Shane                 |
| Duggan, Emily M.             | Elsworth, Derek G.              |
| Fanning, Cora                | Fillier, Matthew W. H.          |
| Fram, Stephen D.             | Gamble, K. Ruth                 |
| Gladu, Christine Marie       | Gegan, J. Ivan                  |
| Griffin, Joan B.             | Gunn, Rick                      |
| Gunn, Sharon                 | Handrigan, Nancy                |
| Hann, David N.               | Hardy, Peter                    |
| Harris, David                | Harrison, Ian W. M.             |
| Harrison, Mary Jolynn        | Hart, April                     |
| Hartnett-Beasley, Adrian     | Hawkins, Debbie                 |
| Hayes, Judy                  | Henderson, Michael              |
| Hennigar, Sandra             | Hewitt, David W.                |
| Hinds, Tim                   | Hogan, Elizabeth A.             |
| Hoganson, Anne               | Holborn, David                  |
| Isenor, Margaret             | Jarvis, W. Wayne                |
| Jensen, Arthur               | Kempt, Dianne E.                |
| Kennedy, Phillip M.          | Kerr, Gerald                    |
| Kingsbury, Valerie L.        | Lahey, Susan                    |
| Langill, Darria              | Langille, Lynn                  |
| Lewis, Geoff                 | Lohnes, Sharon M.               |
| Lovelace, Donna              | Lynch, Karen A.                 |
| MacAskill, Alice             | MacDonald, Catherine A.         |
| MacDonald, Daniel            | MacDonald, Murdock              |
| MacDonald, Shauna            | MacGillivray, Joan              |
| MacInnis, Janice             | MacIntyre, Margie               |
| Mackay, Donald               | MacLean, Angela                 |
| MacLean, Catherine           | MacLean, Glenn M.               |
| MacLean, Shannon L.          | MacLeod, Malcolm (Mac)          |
| MacQueen, Donald M. A.       | Marple, Meredith J.             |
| Matheson, Audrey             | McCurdy, Brenda                 |
| McDonald, Jane               | McEwen, Neil A.                 |
| McFadgen, Stacy              | McKay, Kathleen (Kathy)         |
| McNairn, Nancy               | McNamara, Constance A.          |
| Miner, Gail                  | Moore, L. Vivian                |
| Moriarity, Mary-Beth         | Morrison, Donald                |
| Mugford, Michael G.          | Muir, Gerald                    |
| Nauss, Joan                  | Nelson, Penny                   |
| Nimmo, Sandra                | Orlando, Tony                   |
| Pardy, Dana                  | Parks, Kevin                    |
| Parsons, Wanalda             | Pearen, Natasha                 |
| Peddie Peters, Mavis J.A.    | Penney, Cindy                   |
| Plant, Margaret Ann (Maggie) | Reaburn, Sarah L.               |
| Roche, Lawrence              | Sagar, Margaret E.              |

Appendix A - continuedATTENDANCE - continued

Sandeson, Laurie  
Scherzinger, Linda  
Semple, Stuart  
Smiley, Gary  
Smith, Fay  
Smith, Vera Faye  
Sollows, Janet  
Steele, David  
Stewart, Sheila  
Timmons, Lenora  
Touneur, Donna E.  
Varnes, Craig  
Weagle, Isabel  
Whyte, Mary Lynne  
Woods, Thomas R.  
Yates, Linda

Sangster, Annika  
Sellsted, Donald E.  
Shaw, Sally A.  
Smith, Carol  
Smith, Peter A.  
Smith, Wayne  
Sollows, Steen  
Stewart, James  
Taylor, Mary E.  
Touesnard, Edwina  
Van Schaick, Sheila  
Vinqvist-Tymchuk, Melinda  
Webber-Cook, James W.  
Winton, Linda J.  
Wylie, Joyce  
Zinck, Corrine

Hall, Alan (GCO Rep.)  
March-MacCuish, Faith (staff)  
Rose, Tracey (staff)  
Taylor, Jennifer (staff)

Hunter, Laura J. (staff)  
Richardson, D. Andrew (staff)  
Stuart, Catherine T. (staff)  
Whittemore, Jennifer (staff)

Appendix BREGRETS

Ashley, Bette  
Bartlett, I. Ross  
Brennan-Alpert, Patricia  
Chant, Jeffrey M. J.  
Cox, Sandra  
Davis, Christina  
Dodson, Margaret Anne  
Ellsworth, Henry  
Fennell, Robert C.  
Flemming, Michele  
Gardner, Robert  
Hamilton, Lesley A.  
Harding, Paula  
Hart, David  
Kean, Wendy  
Lawrence, Donna  
MacDonald, Heather  
MacLeod, Joan  
McElhiney, John  
Messenger, Sally  
Mills, Stephen  
Phillips, P. Nicholas  
Rafter, Tanya  
Ross, Karen  
Scobie, Jim  
Tomsons, Sandra  
Winn, Krista Elizabeth  
Worrell, Linton

Aven, Katherine (Katie)  
Birch, Elizabeth  
Butts, Arlene  
Chisholm, Susan  
Curtis, Kathy  
Dixon, Helen  
Drysdale, William N.  
Etter, Alison  
Ferrier, Heather  
Fraser, Heather G.  
Gillis, William M (Bill)  
Handcock, Sean  
Harding, Russell  
Jamieson, Gina  
Kingsbury, Kaleigh  
MacMullin, Norman  
MacLaren, Dan  
Manuel, Heather  
McFadden, Joanne  
Mills, Norma  
Norton, Ivan  
Phillips, Roberta  
Roach, Duncan  
Schnare, Cheryl  
Tingley, Mary  
Wilkie, Gary  
Wootton, Ann  
Zwicker, Barry

Appendix CIN MEMORIAM

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reverend William Donald Bardwell     | March 17, 2020    |
| Reverend George Edward Barrett       | July 17, 2019     |
| Reverend Morris Aulden Barss, Jr.    | April 4, 2020     |
| Reverend Carman G. Burns             | May 31, 2020      |
| Reverend John Anthony "Tony" Gazzard | February 14, 2020 |
| Mr. Stewart Hudson                   | May 28, 2019      |
| Reverend William Robert "Bob" Hussey | January 19, 2020  |
| Reverend David Neil MacNaughton      | October 31, 2020  |
| Ms. Helga Irene Mills                | November 1, 2019  |
| Mr. John Charles Pearce              | June 6, 2019      |
| Reverend A. John Roberts             | February 9, 2020  |
| Reverend Galen Smith                 | October 3, 2019   |
| Reverend Gordon Kennedy Stewart      | May 9, 2020       |
| Hon. Reverend Ralph Laird Stirling   | March 2, 2020     |
| Reverend Dr. Charles Swan            | October 13, 2019  |
| Ms. Christine Lea "Chris" Urquhart   | June 3, 2019      |

Appendix DPROPOSAL 1**Proposal 1**

**Proposal Name:** Review of the Green Shield Benefits Plan with respect to Retirees Benefits

**Origin:** Retirees Support Committee/Division of Ministry Resources

1. **What is the issue?** - Health Care coverage for retirees of the United Church of Canada.
  - a. Retirees have concerns regarding the current health care plan coverage.
  - b. Is there a plan that might better serve retirees?

**We believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to:**

Engage the topic of a review of the current Green Shield plan for retirees.

**2. This issue is important for us:**

- a. We believe this to be a justice issue
- b. We believe God is asking us to support each other, especially those ministry personnel, secretarial staff, custodial staff who have retired within the United Church of Canada and those who will retire
- c. We believe those with health concerns, who are on a retirement income need to be treated fairly with respect to the cost and return of benefits
- d. We believe that the current policy does not meet the needs of those who are retired
- e. The cost of current policies with the coverage offered is problematic for our retirees
- f. We believe it is time for a review of the Benefits Policy we have with Green Shield

**3. Principals informing this issue include lived experiences from our Retirees of which we have been supporting:**

- a) Expensive for very little benefit
  - b) Dental claims are slow to be processed, causing late fees
  - c) Dental care is minimalist; Half of dental work is not covered
  - d) 90- day prescription renewals outdated – extra trips to pharmacy inconvenient
  - e) Prescriptions are staggered, not always good for people who live a distance from the pharmacy
  - f) Coverage is abysmal, and once retired, after giving of themselves for years, we are cut off from any coverage for counselling services
  - g) No coverage for prescribed glasses
  - h) Coverage for general overall health (chiropractor, naturopath, osteopath, message therapy, foot care) is barely covered
  - i) Raising a granddaughter who has left home for university is no longer covered on my policy
  - j) Inconsistencies with regard to orthotics and physiotherapy – sometimes covered, sometimes not
  - k) Inconsistent with hearing aid coverage
  - l) Concern about coverage caps
  - m) Feeling as though we are on our own once retired, living with illness with less coverage; also creating a jump in certain prescriptions
  - n) Wanting the benefits of changing Options 1 and 2 without so many restrictions
  - o) Wanting the United Church of Canada to be more lenient in releasing people from the Green Shield Plan
-

Appendix D - continuedPROPOSAL 1 - continued

- p) Green Shield is not user friendly
- q) Concern after making the difficult decision to remove family from plan and still having to pay for the full coverage for the plan
- r) Concerns regarding medical coverage – will it continue for the survivor after the policy holder passes, even if both are pensioners – (they have a family plan)

**2. How might General Council respond to the issue?**

We call on General Council Executive to direct the Pension and Benefits department of General Council to review the Green Shield Plan with The United Church of Canada with particular attention to the retiree plan; developing a strategy to address the concerns raised.

**3. There are no previous proposals, motion or action regarding this present proposal.**

Appendix E

PROPOSAL 2

**Proposal 2**

**Title:** Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children

**Origin:** Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Regional Council 15

**What is the issue?**

United Church of Canada Global Partner Kairos Palestine has called all levels of the church that recognize the urgent requirement for decisive action regarding the denial of Palestinian rights "...to actively lobby the Canadian government to employ political, diplomatic and economic means to stop Israel's violations of human rights and international law"

We believe that God is calling us in Region 15 to listen and respond to the pleas of the direct descendants of the first followers of Jesus, the Palestinian Christian community, by providing resources to raise awareness of its member churches of the need to protect Palestinian children's human rights and resources to actively lobby the Canadian government to stop Israel's violations of Palestinian children's human rights and international law.

**Why is this issue important?**

Children are in a central role throughout Biblical scriptures:

"Or what (parent) of you, if (your child) asks for bread will give a stone? Or if one asks for a fish, will give a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:9-11

"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but Him who sent me." Mark 9:35-37

In the parable of the unjust judge, Luke 18:1-8 the "widow" represents the most oppressed and vulnerable segment of society as she persists in pleading for the judge to "grant me justice from my oppressor." It is persistence and justice that eventually bring peace to both the judge and the widow.

Love for God is inseparable from love for neighbour. Few of our neighbours are quite so vulnerable as children, who cannot fend for themselves. Children are totally dependent on adult caring and protection. Too many children's hopes and dreams for a full life have been betrayed – certainly that is true for the Palestinian children born and living under military occupation or in Israel.

".....When did we see you in prison?" Matthew 25:39

Children growing up in the Occupied Palestinian Territories live under a military occupation. Their day-to-day reality includes home and school demolitions, water rationing, the loss of family land, checkpoints and military gates, night raids, detentions and imprisonment.

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Appendix E - continuedPROPOSAL 2 - continued

Each year, between 500 to 700 Palestinian children are detained and prosecuted in Israel's military court system. Children in detention face widespread abuse: in 2013, a report by UNICEF found that the "ill-treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized throughout the process, from the moment of arrest until the child's prosecution and eventual conviction and sentencing." Amnesty International has reported that children face torture in detention, including "beatings, painful shackling and sleep deprivation."

Palestinian children also face severe risks to their health and safety. During Israel's 2014 military offensive on Gaza, 547 Palestinian children were killed, and 1,000 were left permanently disabled. Between 2018 and 2019, Israel's use of force against the Great March of Return protests in Gaza killed 46 children, injured 8,800, and left 22,500 in need of psycho-social support. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, children report frequent harassment and violence from settlers, and are traumatized by terrifying Israeli night raids.

These children's voices and stories need to be heard to challenge our political leaders, church leaders and neighbours to grow a groundswell of care and protection for the rights of these vulnerable children.

**How might Region 15 respond to the issue?**

- a) Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> has been designated "Children's Sunday", the Sunday closest to Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> when the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child was ratified in 1989. There are worship resources on the UCC website for this Sunday including about work for Palestinian children's rights. Region 15 can share worship, educational and advocacy resources with church leaders and members, encourage highlighting the need to protect the human rights of Palestinian children, and suggest they join with other churches and justice seeking organizations in actively lobbying the Canadian government "to ensure the human rights of Palestinian children are protected by instructing a Special Envoy to promote, monitor and report on the human rights situation of Palestinian children living in the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza." This action supports the Recommendations of the MP group that visited Palestine and Israel in 2018 and the Parliamentary petition #2667 sponsored by MP Paul Manly.
  - b) In the short term the goal is to end the abuse of these children. International civil society has agreed that children aged 12-17 under detention are not to be subjected to any form of abuse. Israel has signed on to a number of international conventions regarding the treatment of children, including the 1989 *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and 1984 *Convention Against Torture*. The Israeli military system in the Occupied Territories needs to adhere to the standards of these International conventions in their treatment of children.
  - c) The longer term goal is to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Child detention is a key strategy of the Israel Defense Forces to maintain and deepen the Israeli occupation. It disrupts family and community life, and deters Palestinian youth from developing the capacity to provide leadership and gaining the skills for a vibrant Palestinian civil society. Ending the occupation is key to justice and equality for Palestinians. An end to Israeli occupation will end these child detention abuses.
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Appendix FPROPOSAL 3**Proposal 3**

**Name:** Anti-Racism

**Origin:** Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Regional Council 15

**1. What is the issue?**

The United Church of Canada has started work to become an anti-racist denomination. This work, however, cannot solely be done at a national level—it requires engagement from our Region, as well as our local Communities of Faith and individual members.

**2. Why is this issue important?**

- The current context of anti-Black, anti-Indigenous, and anti-Asian racism that manifests itself against Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour requires the followers of Jesus to make clear commitments to contribute to a just and equitable church and world. *A Song of Faith* reminds us that Jesus “crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender” and that we are “a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world.”
  - Region 15 has its own history of perpetrating racism within our church and society, as well as living into the practices of anti-racism. In this time, we are called to repent of our racist sins and live into the call of Jesus to “seek justice and resist evil” in our words and actions.
  - Author Ibram X. Kendi describes the meaning of becoming an anti-racist organization and society. He is a Black American historian, award-winning scholar, and the author of the book *How to Be an Antiracist*. Kendi shares that when people deny the reality of racism, then people allow racism to persist. Through being passive, or through inaction, systemic racism is upheld. Instead, anti-racism requires concrete action. The United Church’s anti-racism policy also states this: “Even though by action we may not have been racist, by inaction we have helped sustain a social climate where racism can occur.” Kendi, along with other anti-racist activists, clearly names that action against racism must be intentional: people must be actively anti-racist.— *Working Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination*
  - In June 2020, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council received a proposal entitled “Towards an Anti-Racist Denomination” that called on The United Church of Canada to take concrete action to denounce racism and become actively anti-racist in its policies, procedures, and practices in all levels of the church. The proposal was referred to the General Council Executive, which informed the proposal GCE 22 “Commitment to Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination” that went before the annual online GC 43 meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Both of these proposals demonstrate a deep desire and commitment from the wider denomination to become anti-racist. This work, however, cannot be done solely at a national level. Becoming an anti-racist denomination requires the engagement of our Region, our Communities of Faith, and individual members.
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Appendix F - continuedPROPOSAL 3 - continued**3. How might the Region respond to the issue?**

- a) Make a clear statement committing Region 15 to the ongoing work of becoming anti-racist, and that Region 15 commit to learning, listening, and action to oppose racism in all its forms and specifically anti-Black racism within our denomination, our Region, and our Communities of Faith.
- b) Assist the Regions East Anti-Racism Network in developing an Affirming Ministry-like process that facilitates Communities of Faith and Region 15 in actively and publicly working toward being an anti-racist church.
- c) Continue to provide staff support to the emerging Regions East Anti-Racism Network through the Regional Minister for Justice.
- d) Mandate the Racial Justice training program for Regional Council Executive members.
- e) Engage in a review of all policies, practices, and procedures of Region 15 using the lens of being an anti-racist church; report the finding to the Regional Council Executive and direct the Executive Secretary to implement changes.

Appendix G

PROPOSAL 4

**Proposal 4**

**Proposal Name:** Implementation of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report

**Origin:** Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Regional Council 15

**Issue:**

The proposed National Action Plan to implement the June 2019 Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was promised for June 2020 and is now 5 months overdue with no federal government commitment to a new date for the Plan.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition calls us to do justice through a process of confession, lament and repentance. Hearing the heart-rending stories of indigenous families and survivors has brought the settler community in Canada to knowing and confessing the truth of how our biases and systems are complicit in this tragedy. In reflecting and relating to the trauma we have heard, we began the painful awareness and sorrow of lament in relating to the impact of these injustices on the indigenous community. Without a prompt, clear, and integrated practical plan to address the 231 Recommendations in the report, however, we will have made no progress in our repentance i.e., by changing our ways and our unjust systems. For the healing and trust of both settler and indigenous communities, we need urgently to have an action plan and to begin to follow through those actions, in order to move forward on this justice story with real repentance.

**Background:**

The Government of Canada held a nation-wide inquiry into 'Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' beginning with Terms of reference announced in August 2016 and ending in publication of the full report in June 2019. This included three intensive Truth Gathering phases where voices of 1,484 family members and survivors, 83 expert Knowledge Keepers and Officials and 819 artists shared their story and insights.

The Report containing 231 recommendations, also referred to as 'calls for justice' falls into 18 themes that cover the need for public education and cross-jurisdictional action planning against violence but also a range of culturally-appropriate direct services to respond to underlying factors. These service recommendations include: relationships with- and accountability of- policing services; alternatives such as community and restorative judicial models; and a variety of programming dealing with root causes – e.g., related to safe housing, culturally appropriate health, mental health and child/family services, and bridging education to reduce the indigenous employment gap.

A National Action Plan which was promised by the Government of Canada for June 2020, the one-year anniversary of the Report, has been delayed with no extension date given. The reason for the delay given by Prime Minister Trudeau and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett, is that while they have been working on the calls to justice over the past year, "the COVID-19 crisis has delayed the work by our partners and us on progress".

The Native Women's Association of Canada, in the absence of a plan, held roundtable discussions with Indigenous women to understand their priorities and in May 2020 sent the federal government

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Appendix G - continuedPROPOSAL 4 - continued

a list of eight measures as a basis for a plan. There is also concern that COVID restrictions may leave indigenous women even more exposed to violence at this time.

In June 2020 the death of Chantal Moore a Tla-o-qui-aht woman from BC living in New Brunswick who was killed by Edmundston police during a 'wellness check' and the video of abusive treatment of Joyce Echaquan by Hospital staff in Joliette Quebec at the time of her death, are shocking reminders of the urgent need for an Action Plan and for specific work to begin without delay to end the violence and death affecting members of the indigenous community in greater numbers and particularly affecting the women.

In the mean time, no progress on a plan is evident and questions in the House of Commons continue to elicit defensive responses with assurances that unspecified work is going on. At ceremonies in memory of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in October 2020, the lack of an Action Plan, or any evidence of addressing the 231 recommendations or of responding to the priorities set out by NWAC, was raised as a puzzling concern and a source of sadness and deep disappointment.

**How the Regional Council might address the issue:**

The JMO Committee proposes that the Region 15 Council seek to address this issue by writing a letter: to the Prime Minister as follows:

- a) To press Prime Minister Trudeau (copies to the Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister - Carolyn Bennett, Indigenous Services Minister - Mark Miller, the Premier of New Brunswick – Blaine Higgs, New Brunswick Minister of Aboriginal Affairs -Arlene Dunn, and MPs and Senators from the Region) for a public inquiry into the separate recent fatal shootings of indigenous persons, Chantal Moore and Rodney Levi in New Brunswick in June of 2020, during the provision of policing services by Edmundston and RCMP police forces. This could contribute to the National Action Plan by providing insights into how, in the New Brunswick context, such services could be remodelled by engaging the wisdom and experience of the indigenous community to avoid such devastating outcomes in future. This might also provide a model for other provinces.
- b) To press the government for urgent priority to be given immediately to the completion of a National Action Plan for the implementation of the 231 Recommendations in the report from the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls "Reclaiming Power and Place".
- c) To commit to a date for completion of the National Action Plan before the end of 2020, making allowance for the challenges of operating in COVID conditions, but with a creative problem-solving spirit so as not to allow these challenges to become a barrier to Plan completion.
- d) To develop the Plan by drawing on the resources of Indigenous leaders such as the Native Women's Association of Canada and other Indigenous experts, and working in partnership with them to establish priorities, set out practical actions, assign responsibilities to settler and indigenous agents for specific actions and fund the necessary work, communications and travel.

(Noting that the 'urgent discussion on systemic racism in health care' convened by the government on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, while appropriate in the short term, in no way relieves the need for a comprehensive, integrated Action Plan addressing the 231 recommendations, as all of the aspects of violence against indigenous women and girls are inter-related.)

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Appendix HPROPOSAL 5**Proposal 5**

**Proposal Name:** Opposition to Equating Criticism of Israel's Unjust Actions with Antisemitism\*

**Origin:** Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Regional Council 15

**What is the issue?**

Some Canadians, including members of the United Church of Canada, are aware of ways in which the state of Israel oppresses and abuses the human rights of Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territories and blatantly disregards international law, but they hesitate and are afraid to speak up or to get involved in this justice issue because they do not want to be labeled and accused of being "antisemitic".

There are currently real instances of antisemitism in Canada/North America which are of serious concern. These are dangerous examples of racism against Jewish people. As any other form of racism, they must be condemned and perpetrators held accountable. However, both the government of Israel and Zionist groups throughout the world, including Canadian organizations such as B'nai Brith Canada and The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), are using society's legitimate concern about antisemitism to redefine antisemitism to include criticism of Israel and of the Zionist ideology behind it. The accusation of "antisemitism" is being used as a weapon against individuals or groups that attempt to criticize unjust policies of the state of Israel and to speak up for the human rights of Palestinians. The goal is to suppress, and even criminalize, criticism of Israel and support for Palestinian rights. This represents a threat to the struggle for justice and human rights in Israel/Palestine as well as to curtail academic freedom, freedom of expression and the right to protest.

**Why is this issue important?**

The state of Israel, like any other nation, is a member of the international community of nations and has legal obligations to conduct itself according to international law. When it does not respect the human rights of those living under its military occupation and live up to its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN Resolutions, or the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it needs to be held to account. Criticism of Israel may or may not be antisemitic. It is not "the new antisemitism" and should not be treated as such. Canadians live in a democracy with the right and duty to call out racism and abuse of human rights and to ask our government officials to do the same within Canada or the international community without fear of reprisals or having their reputation sullied.

One of the primary vehicles that Israel and its supporters are using to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism (IHRA-WDA). An international campaign is underway to have this definition adopted by all levels of government and other public institutions and included as part of all university codes of conduct. The definition itself is vague and does not provide an adequate objective standard with which to identify antisemitic incidents or antisemitic speech. It does, however, include 11 examples of antisemitism 7 of which equate criticism of Israel with antisemitism. The examples are being taken up by advocates of the definition as absolute litmus tests of "the new antisemitism".

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Appendix H - continuedPROPOSAL 5 - continued

The United Church of Canada has a policy statement on the issue of equating criticism of Israel with antisemitism. In 2003, "Part One: Statement on United Church-Jewish Relations Today" was approved at the 38<sup>th</sup> General Council of The United Church of Canada. That Statement has a section on "Antisemitism and the State of Israel" in which it says, "Since attacks on the Jewish state can arise readily from antisemitic motives, some persons have argued that Christians at least, because of their highly compromised past, should refrain from criticizing Israel at all. But this position is untenable, although Christians must take special pains not to forget this past and its ideological legacy. As a modern nation-state, Israel, like all nation-states, is subject to the moral ambiguities of power which, by definition, is never innocent and never can be innocent. Even if Israel is conceived in religious and theological terms, as, for example, belief in a land promised by God to the Jewish people, this fact remains true. Indeed, the faith component makes criticism even more necessary because of the dangers of self-righteousness inherent in any religious nationalism."

"The problem is to distinguish legitimate criticism from illegitimate assaults driven by a concealed prejudice. Certain signs indicate the difference. Criticisms of Israel that dwell on its Jewish identity rather than the exigencies of power as the cause of its real or imagined misdeeds are highly suspect. Any attempt to demonize Israel as intrinsically evil and thus a nation unlike other nations (although all nations are guilty of evil deeds) betrays its true nature. ...." "Legitimate criticism, on the other hand, concerns itself with specific policies and actions on the part of Israeli leaders and governments, as well as the enduring problems and tensions of Israeli society. Legitimate criticism is always able to distinguish between a regime and a people, between what is transient and what is enduring in the history of a particular country."

**How might Region 15 respond to the issue?**

Region 15 can seek to respond to this situation by communicating with its members:

- a) The UCC policy on antisemitism and criticism of Israel; encouragement to speak up with others for justice, equity and human rights for Palestinians and all other oppressed peoples; and confirmation of the importance of all nations abiding by international law.
- b) Let them know that in interfaith or anti-racism work, it is not helpful to use, support, endorse or encourage others to endorse the IHRA definition of antisemitism. For more reasons and for a better, more appropriate definition, go to: [www.noihra.ca](http://www.noihra.ca)
- c) The results of a recent survey of Jewish Canadians done by Ekos research which showed that approximately 60% of Jewish Canadians do not see criticism of Israel as antisemitic in and of itself, and half believe that accusations of antisemitism are "often used to silence legitimate criticism of Israeli policies."
- d) The understanding that antisemitism is one of the forms of racism, prejudice, discrimination, bigotry and xenophobia all of which are part of systems of oppression fed by individual and collective attitudes and actions against which we are called to confess, struggle against and transform into open, welcoming attitudes and diverse communities of inclusion and equity.

*\*There is no integrity to the word Semitism (or Semite) unless one adopts the pseudo-science that divided Europeans into opposing races, Aryans and Semites and coined the word in the 1870's imperial Germany. The true political meaning of antisemitism is "I am against the Jews." To spell the word with a hyphen is to lend respectability to racial ideas that they do not deserve.*

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Appendix IPROPOSAL 6**Proposal 6**

**Proposal Name:** Responding to our Global Partner Kairos Palestine

**Origin:** Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Regional Council 15

**1. What is the issue?**

Our Palestinian partners are calling on the United Church of Canada and other ecumenical partners to be in solidarity with their suffering and to listen to their cries for a just peace by taking action on the requests from Kairos Palestine.

We believe that God is calling us to engage with the pleas of the direct descendants of the first followers of Jesus, the Palestinian Christian community, and to respond to their requests that our denomination through study, action and advocacy help shed light on the reality of the tragedy and ongoing and deepening oppression.

**2. Why is this issue important?**

The United Church of Canada recognizes that, “we are not alone.” Inherent within our creed is our support for solidarity with partners in Canada and beyond. Unfortunately, as one of our Global Ecumenical partners pointedly reminded the Commissioners to GC 42 after it failed to address global partners concerns, the United Church needs the international ecumenical community. Further, the United Church has a responsibility to recognize its responsibility to stand in solidarity with global partners. (i)

We have also come to more fully understand the influence that those who hold power exercise in the media. We realize that often the cries of God’s people for justice who are marginalized are often overwhelmed by those who benefit from oppression. Jeremiah warned against those who say, “Peace, peace,” when there is no peace. (Jeremiah 6:14) We believe, as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, that there cannot be lasting peace without justice. This is evidenced in our work for justice for the First Nations people of Canada and our anti-racism work.

Further, as Rev. Dr. Munter Isaac has pointed out, our faith in North America is actually rooted in the first followers of Jesus who were Palestinian Christians. (ii)

Many who have travelled to Palestine, including over 25 Ecumenical Observers, appointed by the denomination are gravely concerned that the plight of the Palestinian people is at a critical point. The State of Israel’s adoption of the Nation State Law in 2018 legalized institutional racial discrimination in Israel and the Palestinian territories that further deprive Palestinians of their rights to life, livelihood, and a future in their homeland.

Recent acts of the U.S. administration have supported Israel’s ongoing illegal seizures of land taking and attaining control over the entire territory of Palestine. These include the 2018 move of its embassy to Jerusalem, its announcement in 2019 that the U.S. government no longer deems West Bank settlements to be “inconsistent with international law,” and the 2020 “Peace to Prosperity” plan.

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Appendix I – continuedPROPOSAL 6 - continued

Fueled by U.S. support and emboldened by the silence of the international community, the state of Israel has continued the expansion of illegal settlements. Daily, Israel continues to violate international law and the Geneva Conventions through its attacks on and control over the Palestinian people including children.

Since the 1967 illegal occupation, successive governments of Israel have made it clear through their actions that the state has no intention of honouring their obligations as an occupying power under the Geneva Conventions. Nor do they seek to protect the rights of the Palestinian people guaranteed under the UN Human Rights Charter to dignity, self-determination, and the fundamental human rights including the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

It is time for the United Church, in light of these events, to recognize what Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu stated in an open letter to the General Council 41, “I saw the marks of apartheid in the policies of the Israeli government continued to the present day. The Palestinians are forced to live in segregated areas, often relocated to less desirable land so Jewish settlers can live in fine red ceramic-roofed houses with paved roads while most Palestinians live in squalor in villages and refugee camps. Water is diverted to settlers so that they can have nice green lawns, irrigated fields and community swimming pools while Palestinians endure shortages and dusty roads. I have looked at this and seen the ugly face of apartheid and the racism within it.” (iii) It must be noted that the situation of the Palestinians has deteriorated significantly since then.

United Church partner, Kairos Palestine, calls on churches and all followers of Jesus to take decisive action. “The very being of the church, the integrity of the Christian faith, and the credibility of the Gospel is at stake. We declare that support for the oppression of the Palestinian people, whether passive or active, through silence, word or deed, is a sin. We assert that Christian support for Zionism as a theology and an ideology that legitimize the right of one people to deny the human rights of another is incompatible with the Christian faith and a grave misuse of the Bible.”

They further call upon churches, “to engage in a process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this oppression. We call on churches to reflect on how their own traditions can express the sacred duty to uphold the integrity of the church and the Christian faith concerning this issue. We cannot serve God while remaining silent about the oppression of the Palestinians.”

Around the globe, many other churches and ecumenical organizations have recognized that this is a time of crisis for Palestinians and have taken strong stands in solidarity with their cry for hope. This includes the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) that in 2017 affirmed “that with respect to the situation of injustice and suffering that exists in Palestine, and the cry of the Palestinian Christian community, that the integrity of Christian faith and praxis is at stake.”

Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice, a worldwide coalition born in response to the Kairos Palestine “Moment of Truth: a word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering,” have asked the global churches to stand in solidarity with the proposals that are listed in the next section.

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Appendix I – continuedPROPOSAL 6 - continued

- (i) Rev. Philip Peacock, World Council of Reformed Churches, Executive Secretary for Justice and Witness
- (ii) Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac is the pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. He also serves as Academic Dean of Bethlehem Bible College. In addition, he is the director of the “Christ at the Checkpoint” conference, and is a board member of Kairos Palestine.
- (iii) The General Secretary refused to circulate the letter formally because it came in after the proposal was received. Copies of the letter were distributed to all of the table groups at GC 41.

**3. How might the General Council respond to the issue?**

We request the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council to direct the General Secretary, General Council to respond affirmatively to the call to action by the Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, Kairos Palestine and the Global Kairos Network by implementing the call to action issued in July 2020:

- a) Initiate processes at all levels of the church that recognize the urgent requirement for decisive action regarding the denial of Palestinian rights and the misuse of the Bible directed toward helping United Church members better understand the injustice faced by Palestinians.
- b) Provide resources for study and discernment at all levels of the church and all United Church theological schools with respect to theologies and understandings of the Bible that have been used to justify the oppression of the Palestinian people. Help identify theologies that prophetically call for an inclusive vision of the land for Israelis and Palestinians, as well as Canadian First Nations, affirming that the creator God is a God of love, mercy and justice; not of discrimination and oppression.
- c) Affirm the Palestinians’ right to resist the occupation, dispossession, and abrogation of their fundamental rights.
- d) Endorse the 2005 Palestinian call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) that provides a framework for direct political advocacy as nonviolent means to end occupation and oppression. (The purpose of BDS is not to punish or isolate Israel. It is rather to exert pressure on Israel to comply with international law, and to call upon its government and its people, in the spirit of the Word of God, to enter into the ways of justice and peace, thereby affirming its own rights as well as the rights of the Palestinian people.)
- e) Actively lobby the Canadian government to employ political, diplomatic and economic means to stop Israel’s violations of human rights and international law. Also, develop resources that assist denominational members to also call for justice for Palestinians with political leaders.
- f) Oppose antisemitism by working for justice against anti-Judaism, racism and xenophobia; oppose the equating of criticism of Israel’s unjust actions with antisemitism.
- g) Support initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians and interfaith partnerships that combat apartheid and occupation and create opportunities to work together for a common future of mutual respect and dignity
- h) Develop and publicize recommendations for tours of Palestine and Israel to help United Church members see the reality in the Holy Land with compassionate eyes for the suffering of Palestinians.

Kairos Palestine/Global Kairos for Justice Cry for Hope – <https://www.cryforhope.org/>