



Regional Council 15  
The United Church of Canada

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
May 28-29, 2021

REPORTS TO REGION



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:9*

As I write this report, we are coming up on our first-year anniversary of being in Covid-19 lockdown. This time last year, many of us would never have imagined all things that we've had to do this year in order to stay safe and yet continue doing what needs to be done. It has not been easy for many but we journey on.

Like many people, Zoom meetings and gatherings became my reality very quickly. After holding smaller meetings on Zoom, Regional Council 15 decided to hold our Annual Meeting in June. We were the first Region in Canada to hold their annual meeting electronically. Many Regions waited until the fall to hold their meetings in hopes that they might be able to meet in person but they had to meet virtually as well. There were a few lessons we learned but we got the job done. By the time we held our Recall Meeting in November, things ran more smoothly. I would like to thank all the staff members and members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee who helped out behind the scenes to ensure that people were heard and that the lines of communication were kept open.

The Regional Council 15 Executive met in June, October, December and March. They were all held via Zoom. I would like to thank all those who serve on the Executive for their contributions to the life and work of The United Church of Canada in Region 15. Their leadership and dedication to the work they have been given is exemplary. I have had the opportunity this year to sit in on some Division meetings where I have met the Committee chairs. Once again, we have wonderful people in leadership throughout our Region. There is so much work to do and I know the Nominating Committee has had difficulty filling positions on committees. If you are a member of the Regional Council (or not) and are not involved in a committee, please consider membership in an area that suits your interests and talents.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that I was not able to travel as much as last year. While I missed not meeting with people in person, I was able to meet more people and attend more events through tele-conferencing. I was privileged to be invited to be part of weekly check-in calls with ministry personnel in our Region during April, May and June. This not only gave me a chance to meet many of our ministry personnel but also allowed me to hear their realities, their concerns and their ideas. There have also been meetings, webinars and workshops on a regional level, tri-regional level and national level in which I have participated. I view this increased access to the people and the work of the church as a 'silver lining' to the cloud of Covid-19.

I have continued working on the Bermuda Task Force. I have enjoyed the discussion and the camaraderie that has developed with the six of us on the task force. It is regretful that I have not been able to travel to Bermuda and visit the churches there. I have appreciated the invitations to preach or send messages to churches within Region 15 celebrating special milestones. Ecumenical invitations have been limited due to Covid-19 but I did get to virtually attend the installation of the Anglican bishop in our region.

The highlight of my year was the Celebration of Ministry Service which we were able to hold on November 8 in Truro. It was indeed a privilege to ordain and recognize four people into the ministry vocation of The United Church of Canada and celebrate with them.

In closing, I would like to thank our Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish and our Regional Minister, David Hewitt for their leadership through this difficult year. They are knowledgeable in their positions and a great source for guidance. All the staff members that work in our Region enrich us with their expertise in their particular areas. Thank you to each and every one of them. As I complete my second year of my one-year term, I have so much for which to be grateful. It has been quite an experience watching a newborn Region grow and develop. We have proven that we can be flexible with our governance structure and with the way we conduct our work. Looking forward, we have committed to work on anti-racism. I urge every Community of Faith within our Region to commit to this journey. We are also engaged in a Strategic Plan which will help guide our path forward. It will be interesting to see where this work leads and how our Region continues to evolve in its mission and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Sollows  
President, Regional Council 15

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## PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING A MEETING AND DECISION-MAKING

### A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

*The 41st General Council 2012 used A Whole People's Covenant to help define the way in which the members of the General Council sought to work together. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.*

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus. We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by
- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

Today this pilgrimage will lead us to becoming a whole people. With God's help, I will leave behind what I must to make this journey. Thanks be to God.

### **Holy Manners**

*The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies*

We will

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

## GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES

- 1. Motion: A Council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of the higher court. A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.**
  - The mover reads the motion.
  - The seconder is named.
  - The mover has the privilege of speaking at the beginning and end of the discussion of their motion.
  
- 2. Discussion:**
  - Start by identifying yourself (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.
  
- 3. Amendments:**
  - Any motion to amend a motion must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.
  - Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.
  - An amendment is a suggestion to change a motion slightly by:
    - i. Removing words and replacing them with others, or
    - ii. Adding or deleting words
  - An amendment cannot change the intent of a motion.
  - When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the Council may deal with the final form of the original motion.
  - A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.
  
- 4. Amendment to the Amendment:**
  - A motion to slightly change the amendment.
  - See above
  
- 5. Voting:**
  - Voting will take place by raising hands
  - All those with voting privileges (members) are expected to indicate their vote by raising of hands.
    - i. If there is a close vote, tellers will count.
    - ii. If there is a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.
  - Ballots will be used for electing commissioners to General Council or other election as deemed necessary.

**6. Motions that Interrupt the meeting:**

**At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to:**

- Close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- Fix the time to adjourn;
- Adjourn;
- Take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- Limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- Postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- Refer the motion to another body or commission;
- Amend/change the motion; or
- Postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specific time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

**7. How to Reconsider a Motion:**

- A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.
- Only a voting member who voted “yes” for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.
- A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.
- The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed.
- A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

**8. Business Committee:**

- To sort and clarify issues when things are bogged down in procedure wrangles or wording problems.
- To deal with changes to Agenda during the General Meeting.

**9. Other:**

- Other rules of order are contained in the Manual. In general, the conduct of the business is at the discretion of the President. The President may seek the advice of the Business Table. Where the Manual is silent, Bourinot’s Rules of Order will be used.

**RESOURCE PERSONS**

President	Ms. Janet Sollows
President-Elect	Ms. Jane McDonald
Executive Minister	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Annual Meeting Planning Chair	Ms. Janet Sollows
Annual Meeting Planning Minute Taker	Ms. Jennifer Whittemore
Proposals Unit Chair	Ms. Jane McDonald
Local Arrangements Chair	Rev. Heather Manuel
Worship Planning	Ms. Jane McDonald
Head Teller	Ms. Fay Smith
Retirees & Jubilarians Banquet Host	Rev. Catherine MacDonald
Office Manager/ Admin Support (Sackville Office)	Ms. Jennifer Whittemore
Office Manager Assistant/ Admin Support (Sackville Office)	Ms. Tracey Rose
Executive Assistant (UCC Regions East)	Ms. Jennifer Taylor

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE and THEME SPEAKER**

**The Reverend Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu**  
Executive Minister - Church in Mission Unit  
The United Church of Canada

The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu is an admittand from the Reformed Church in Zambia, recently served as a member of the Global Partnership Program Team in the Church in Partnership cluster of the Church in Mission Unit, as the Regional Program Coordinator for Southern Africa & South Asia (Philippines and India).

Before joining the General Council Office staff five years ago, Rev. Ndhlovu served the Epworth Pastoral Charge in Newfoundland.

Rev. Dr. Ndhlovu has extensive ecumenical leadership and managerial experiences. He has served in diverse and varied leadership roles include: The Council of Churches in Zambia as its General Secretary, Executive staff at the All-Africa Conference of Churches, Senior lecturer and Head of Theology Department at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, and National Moderator of the Reformed Church in Zambia

He holds PHD from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; MPhil in Ecumenical Theology from the University of Dublin, Ireland; MTh in Missiology from the University of South Africa and undergraduate in Theology from Justo Mwale University, Zambia.

He has been ordained for over 33 years. One of the longest serving ministers of his denomination from Zambia.

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

**The Reverend Alan Hall**  
Executive Officer Ministry and Employment  
The United Church of Canada

A graduate of Mount Allison University and Emmanuel College, and ordained by the Maritime Conference, Alan has served The United Church of Canada in Saskatchewan, East Africa, Manitoba and Ontario.

He currently serves as the Executive Officer for Ministry and Employment for the United Church. In this role he is responsible for human resources and compensation and for the governance and administration of the pension and group health plans of the denomination. He is the registrar of and senior staff resource to the Board of Vocation.

Alan serves as the denomination's representative to, and chairs, the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy. He recently completed terms as a member of The Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board and Executive Committee and chair of the Personnel Committee.

Alan lives in the Beach neighbourhood of Toronto, cycles, lives to eat and, in a previous era, loved to travel.

## **OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

### REGION ROLL

That the Roll of Regional Council 15 be (Manual 2021 C1.1 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.

### QUORUM

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2021;

“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.”

### BOUNDS

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

### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

“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.”

### AGENDA

“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.”

### BUSINESS TABLE

That the business table be Jane McDonald, Heather Manuel, and Fay Smith.

### MINUTE SECRETARY

That the minute secretary for the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

### GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES

The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People’s Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2021 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.

### **CONSENT MOTION**

That Regional Council 15:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, June 10, 2020 (RC91-RC100) and Re-Call meeting, November 5, 2020 (RC28-RC51) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
  - a. President
  - b. Regional Executive Minister
  - c. Division of Finance and Administration
  - d. Division of Regional Services and Support
  - e. Division of Ministry Resources
  - f. Nominations
  - g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
  - a. Atlantic School of Theology
  - b. Atlantic School of Theology Senate
  - c. Centre for Christian Studies
  - d. Emmanuel College
  - e. Hunter United Church Building Fund
  - f. Office of Vocation
  - g. United Church Women
4. Receives for information the following ecumenical greetings:
  - a. The Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay MacKay, Moderator, Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, The Presbyterian Church in Canada
  - b. The Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse, Bishop, Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
  - c. The Rev. Jonna Jensen, Transitional Conference Minister, Maine Conference of United Church of Christ
  - d. The Rev. Dr. Darlene Brewer, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## EXECUTIVE MINISTER REPORT

### Reflecting on the Year

In John O'Donohue's book To Bless the Space Between Us; in one of the blessings it says: "As high over the mountains the eagle spreads its wings, may your perspective be larger than the view from the foothills".

As Regional Council members, Executive and Staff, our responsibility is to have a perspective that is larger than the view from the foothills. It is also important to know the view and the experience from the foothills in order to provide support and leadership.

This has been a difficult year for everyone. Having come through the 2019 transition year, 2020 was to be the year when all of our divisions and committees would begin their work, and design their programs through the lens of the Vision, Mission and Core Values that were approved in 2019. Just as we began to make our plans, we began to hear of a virus that was considered dangerous and highly contagious. Before we were into the first quarter of the year, we needed to close our buildings and develop a new way forward. That we did. With the support of one another, we were able to learn new ways of doing things that would take us into a place of resilience and hope. This pandemic has taken much away from us, but it has also given us new possibilities. It is important as we reflect on 2020, that we, as a church, discern about the things we have learned and wish to keep, and what things from before the pandemic do we wish to leave behind. It is also important as a region that we discern our ministry priorities through the lens of our named Vision, Mission and Core Values.

This has been a year of many ups and downs. In particular, Nova Scotians have experienced the devastating grief from the tragic deaths of the mass shooting, and the loss of life through aviation accidents. It was the worst of times, and as Nova Scotians do, everyone pulled together and supported one another through. We saw a country come together to grieve and to hold one another in care. For those of you who are on the ground and ministering in Nova Scotia, you had the heavy work of being present in the midst of complicated grief. I know there is an overall fatigue amongst our volunteers, our ministry personnel, and staff, and rightly so. This has been no ordinary year. It has been heavy and hard. It has been a year when the smallest decisions have taken so much more energy, creative thinking and time. The words *thank you* seem so inadequate to express the gratitude for everyone who has given so much of themselves to the living out of the Gospel in this time and place in our history. Well done and Thank You.

I have listed below some of the work that I, and others, have spent time with this year. If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch:

- 1) Ensuring that communities of faith and ministry personnel had the tools they needed and the information to follow the pandemic protocols. Providing information sessions as well as written material to help with the preparation of shutting down our buildings and learning new ways to be church.
- 2) Providing town hall meetings for the three regions to talk about plans and ways forward within the pandemic.

- 3) Providing information and updates for communities of faith to have information about financial programs and give assistance where needed.
- 4) Providing, through the region, tools for conducting meetings for the communities of faith. The regions have been able to provide the zoom links and conference calling numbers for communities of faith free of charge.
- 5) Providing worship services for the communities of faith to have for when the clergy are on vacation.
- 6) Thanks to the responsiveness of the committees and the staff, we have been able to respond, in this pandemic year, in a good way. As we move into our next year, our hope is that the responsiveness will continue to become timelier.
- 7) Working with the executives, divisions and committees to continue to discern their role and function.
- 8) Supporting the divisions and committees in their work.
- 9) Ensuring that regional policies are updated and that communities of faith are aware of the regional policies.
- 10) Supporting the Presidents, Annual Meeting Committees, and working to provide the online platform so that we can have our annual meetings in a good way, despite the disappointment of not being able to be together. All three regions were able to have their annual meetings and do the work that was needed.
- 11) Working with the office managers and the finance team to provide budgets for the region and the Audited Statements.
- 12) Connecting and supporting our staff through regularly planned one on one sessions (every 8 weeks) to discuss workload, well being, concerns and goals, as well as tri-regional staff gatherings.
- 13) Continuing work with the Bermuda Task Group for the Wesley Methodist Church and The United Church relationship. Working with the Task Group to develop a relationship agreement.
- 14) Engaging with the president and the executive for each region in developing the agendas. Providing educational opportunities for the executives.
- 15) Working with the Regional Ministers to assess ways to support ministry personnel and communities of faith in the Region.
- 16) Supporting Incorporated Ministries when needed, as well as being the ex-officio member of all boards.
- 17) Being the connection between the General Council and the Region, along with the staff, and to help highlight initiatives from the General Council that will help communities of faith in their ministries.
- 18) Identifying gaps - work with the executive, committees, division and staff to identify gaps that need to be addressed.
- 19) Working with the reviews and the appeals in the regions.
- 20) Asset Management- working with the office managers and the division and finance committees/teams to manage our assets both in terms of finances and staff.
- 21) Conducting follow-up on work coming from the regional council annual meeting and executive meetings.

### *Operating Fund*

Again, this year, it has been difficult to estimate the budget needed to have a full program year, as we have not had a regular year since we have become a region. We ended the 2020 year in a surplus position. The 2022 budget process is underway, and we prepared in 2020 for the cuts to Mission and Service in 2021.

### *Restricted and Unrestricted Funds*

Working with the finance committees and the office manager to provide and update the restricted and unrestricted funds. Making sure our applications for funding are updated to reflect the new structure. Evaluating the investment policy and a policy for a contingency fund.

### Staffing

We welcomed Rev. Catherine Stuart as our Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults and thank her for beginning her ministry in the midst of a pandemic. Even though she has worked for the first year in the midst of pandemic protocols, she has done a wonderful job at working to support the three regions.

All of our staff have worked hard over this past year to support our communities of faith, our divisions, and committees, our ministry personnel and our laity. I take this opportunity to thank each one of them for their continuous support, faithfulness, professionalism and ministry in the work of our Regional Council 15.

**ECUMENICAL GREETINGS****Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

The Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay MacKay, Moderator

It is indeed a pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes to you all as you come together virtually for this Annual Meeting of Regional Council 15. May God's Spirit move in your midst as you experience times of worship, decision-making, learning and fellowship together. While meeting via Zoom will lend a different ambiance to your gathering, may your connectivity be enriched and the cup of renewal for ministry be replenished.

In many communities throughout Atlantic Canada there is a meaningful and supportive connection between the congregations of our two denominations. Together we serve the people of our communities in caring and compassionate ways. Together we witness to the presence of God's gracious love in all the varied circumstances of daily life. Thank you for this on-going ecumenical partnership as we endeavour to serve faithfully in Christian ministry, in our ever-changing communities and through these challenging days of the COVID pandemic.

In your gathering may the hope and peace that Jesus, the Living Christ offers our world and our lives bless you with renewed confidence, boldness and vigour. I will be supporting you in my thoughts and prayers as you meet in these days.

May the love, grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

**United Church of Christ**

The Rev. Jonna Jenson

Will bring live greetings.

**Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse, Bishop

Recorded greeting played at the meeting.

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

The Rev. Dr. Darlene Brewer,

Recorded greeting played at the meeting.

## DIVISION REPORTS

### DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Division Chair:** Jane McDonald

**Division Secretary:** Fay Smith

The year 2020 was a year that none of us are likely to forget. The pandemic created such turmoil in the way we do church and the work we are called to do. For all of the downsides that we have seen over the last year we have also seen much innovation by many and new ways of doing business. The development of virtual meetings has often freed time to spend on other tasks or with family. Our ability to gather is an important part of who we are as an organization and to share faith and community. That is a big part of what we have missed. This step back has allowed other work to take place across our committees and yet has hampered some.

#### **Division Committees**

**Property Committee:** Ron Patterson, Chair  
 Larry Evans, Vice Chair  
 Fay Smith, Secretary  
 Rev. David LeBlanc  
 Jack Logan  
 Bob McArel  
 Gary Wilkie  
 Grant MacKenzie

Our Property committee has continued to work hard over this past year. There was still significant work that the committee was called to do. Any work on renovations, repairs, grant applications for such things as Technology Grants, Hunter Fund, Faithful Footprints, Capital Assistance and others that have a connection to Region 15. All property related matters including new construction, rentals, amalgamations, closings and endings are part of the work of the diligent committee. They have done tremendous work on fine tuning the “Handbook for Communities of Faith Re: Property Matters”.

They have also worked on information related to Cemeteries for Communities of Faith as well. They have completed the inventory of all Nova Scotia UCC owned property and are collaborating with the Finance, Investment and Accountability Committee on a shared resource. There is over 250 such properties throughout our province. While able the committee met in person and then moved to virtual meetings monthly through the remainder of the year. I want to thank each individual on the Committee for a tremendous amount of work accomplished to help organize and set up processes for our property resources. Many thanks to each of you.

#### **Finance, Investments & Accountability:**

Allan Davis, Co-Chair  
 Mac MacLeod, Co-Chair  
 Michael Ball, Secretary  
 Geoff Lewis

We began 2020 believing that it was the year when we would learn what a normal full year would look like for the Region in the new church structure. Of course, that is not the way it was to be. The committee held a total of seventeen ZOOM meetings during the 2020 fiscal year. Twelve of these were regularly scheduled monthly meetings. On March 30<sup>th</sup> we held our first special meeting in response to the COVID -19 pandemic to discern how we could help our Communities of Faiths through these uncharted waters. Another special meeting was held in April with the Church Extension Board where they offered to make funds available should that become necessary. Fortunately, with the assistance provided by the federal government and funds made available by General Council we have not had to take the CEB up on their offer yet.

In August we submitted our proposed “Investment Policy Guidelines” to the Division of Finance with a request that they be forwarded to Regional Council for approval. Work is ongoing on our new fund structures guidelines and we expect to be forwarding that work to the Division soon.

In October we approved \$160,500 in Mission Support Grants to a total of ten applicants. Although this exceeded the grant from General Council, we were able cushion the shortfall from funds carried over from previous years for such a contingency. We caution our Mission Units to expect grants to continue to decrease in coming years.

Other highlights of the year included \$15,000 in seed funding for the “Association of Ministers” from the New Ministries Fund. In May we held a special meeting with Mat Whynott and Christine Stuart from the Outdoor Recreational Ministries Network to hear their plans to stay connected with campers during the pandemic. As a result, it was agreed to provide \$15,000 in funding to their Camp in a Box project. This was matched by a similar grant from “Dawning Waters”.

We are ever grateful for the support of our committee members and especially want to thank Geoff Lewis whose term is ending. Thank you Geoff!

Respectfully submitted by the Co-chairs, *Allan Davis and Mac MacLeod*

This committee has had the opportunity over the last year to support many groups through our Mission Support program. In some cases these groups may not have been able to continue the work that they do for members of our communities without that additional financial support. They are also involved in grants and loans for Communities of Faith as well as dealing with the Investments held on behalf of the Region. The Policy will give guidelines on how our funds are managed and invested. The committee also prepares the annual budget for the Region and reviews the annual financial statements and can also be called upon for advice if a Community of Faith requires it. The Budget for 2021 did have some cuts necessary although with the cut back in activity of many of our committees and the work of the Region, we feel there is sufficient funds held by the Region if we are able to return to some of our programming during the year. Much of our reserve comes from not meeting in person for our Annual Meeting last year and even this year. We all hope and pray that we can return to some sense of normalcy with the advent of the vaccination programs available to us as we move into this year. The Committee has a very dedicated group working well together for the best interest of our Region. Thanks to all of you for the hours and dedication you give to this work.

**Incorporated Ministries:**

Rev. Christine Marie Gladu, Chair  
Kevin Little, Secretary  
Brenda Munro  
Elaine Grey

I want to particularly thank Rev. Christine Marie Gladu for stepping up to be Chair of this important committee. The Incorporated Ministries Committee is responsible for ensuring oversight, leadership and guidance to organizations that are affiliated with the United Church but in themselves are incorporated organizations. For example, church camps, the Church Extension Board and community support organizations such as the Brunswick Street Mission. When Region 15 became a new entity each of these organizations were required to change their by laws and any memorandums of agreement necessary for the required relationship. Christine has set up the group so that each member does check ins with the organizations to get to know them and to raise any issues that they may be encountering and to offer any support they can. We thank those involved in this work as the arms of the United Church go farther into our communities than some realize and we are very appreciative of these organizations, the people and all of the work that they do.

**Archives, Records and History Committee:**

Joyce Wylie, Chair  
Leslie Burrows  
Ross Cameron  
Shane Doucette

The Archives Committee has had a difficult time finding its feet and direction. Joyce attended a session in London Ontario where the reorganized United Church held a National meeting of Archivists and the Committee Chairs from across the country to develop how this work will be carried out. Many suggestions were made and a Task Force was established to work on guidelines and policies that would be presented to the General Council Executive (GCE) for approval and then implementation. For many reasons that work has been stalled much of that is due to the pressures on all levels of our United Church to support our congregations and figure out how we go about being church in a pandemic era. The highest priority was keeping our Communities of Faith viable and supporting them as they processed how to be church for their members but also supportive financially for staff. The work of the Task Force unfortunately was slowed significantly and we are still waiting for the results of the work of the Task Force to go to the GCE and then disseminate to the regions across the country. These delays have not helped the moral of the committee and unfortunately our Chair Joyce Wylie has chosen to step back and allow someone else to step forward to lead this extremely important work of the Church. Without our history we cannot learn to be better in the now and the future. Thank you Joyce and your fellow committee members for continuing to support the work of Region 15 in any way you can. We hope that you will find another passion within the Region to share your talents with. We need you!

As I step away from the Chair of the Division to take on another role within the Region, I can't say enough about the dedication of the people that work within this Division. The extensive amount of time and dedication to the work that each of you have is phenomenal. I can't thank you enough for stepping up to the hard work of setting us on the right path for our newly formed Region.

Many Thanks to all,  
Respectfully Submitted  
Jane McDonald, Chair  
Division of Finance and Administration

**Budget – 2022****REGIONAL COUNCIL 15  
BUDGET**

	2021 ADMINISTRATION	2021 MISSION AND SUPPORT	2022 ADMINISTRATION	2022 MISSION AND SUPPORT
<b>REVENUE</b>				
General Council Administration Grant	\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00	
General Council Salary Grant	33,500.00		33,500.00	
General Council Cross Region Support Grant	33,500.00		33,500.00	
General Council Mission and Support Grant		\$ 239,870.00		\$ 239,870.00
Rent - Archives	930.00		930.00	
Rent - Building	3,750.00		3,000.00	
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 396,680.00</b>		<b>\$ 395,930.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL MISSION AND SUPPORT REVENUE</b>		<b>\$ 239,870.00</b>		<b>\$ 239,870.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE (Admin and Mission and Support)</b>	<b>\$636,550.00</b>		<b>\$635,800.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<b>Personnel</b>				
Regional Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 272,782.00		\$ 280,543.00	
Executive Minister and Executive Assistant Travel & Office Shared Expenses	15,000.00		15,000.00	
Regional Staff Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc.	11,280.00		11,280.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 299,062.00</b>		<b>\$ 306,823.00</b>	
<b>Governance</b>				
Regional Council Executive	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	
Regional Offices Administration	40,600.00		40,000.00	
Regional Office Rent	18,000.00		18,000.00	
Shared Services (IT)	4,000.00		4,700.00	
President's Expenses	3,000.00		3,000.00	
Audit Expenses	5,500.00		6,000.00	
User and Bank Fees	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Meeting of Regional Council	35,000.00		35,000.00	
Nominations	600.00		600.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 111,700.00</b>		<b>\$ 112,300.00</b>	
Division of Finance and Administration	1,500.00		1,500.00	
Financial Accountability and Investment	1,000.00		750.00	
Property	1,800.00		2,500.00	
Archives, Records and Histories	600.00		600.00	
Division of Regional Services and Support	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Communications	600.00		600.00	
Annual Meeting Planning Committee	800.00		600.00	
Association of Ministers	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Division of Communities of Faith Support and Nurture	1,000.00		-	
Division of Ministry Resources	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Licensing	800.00		800.00	
Future Directions	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Retirees Support	800.00		800.00	
Faith Story and Community Covenant	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Pastoral Relations	7,000.00		7,000.00	
Tri Regional Staff Committee	500.00		500.00	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,400.00</b>		<b>\$ 21,850.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 433,162.00</b>		<b>\$ 440,973.00</b>	

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15  
BUDGET**

	2021 ADMINISTRATION	2021 MISSION AND SUPPORT	2022 ADMINISTRATION	2022 MISSION AND SUPPORT
<b>MISSION AND SUPPORT</b>				
Youth Forum and Intermediates at Conference Grants		10,000.00		10,000.00
Faith Formation and Leadership Development		12,750.00		12,750.00
Children, Youth and Young Adults		8,500.00		8,500.00
Stewardship		850.00		850.00
Incorporated Ministries		680.00		680.00
Justice, Mission and Outreach		8,500.00		8,500.00
Mission Support Staff Salaries and Benefits		60,842.00		62,512.00
Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc. (Region 15 share for Youth & Justice Ministers)		13,520.00		13,520.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$ 115,642.00</b>		<b>\$ 117,312.00</b>
Mission and Support Grants Unallocated		146,215.00		122,558.00
<b>TOTAL MISSION AND SUPPORT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$ 263,857.00</b>		<b>\$ 239,870.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$697,019.00</b>		<b>\$680,943.00</b>
<b>REGIONAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>				
Accum. Excess Revenue/Expense	\$ 36,482.00		\$ 45,043.00	
Mission and Support Grants Held		\$ 23,987.00		\$ -
<b>REVENUE or (DEFICIT)</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Audited Statements – 2020**

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

REGIONAL COUNCIL 15  
Index to Financial Statements  
Year Ended December 31, 2020

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## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Regional Council 15:

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Regional Council 15 (the "Council"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Council derives revenue from fundraising activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Council. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenditures, and cash flows from operations for the year ended December 31, 2020, current assets and net assets as at December 31, 2020.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

### Other Matter

The financial statements of the Council for the year ended December 31, 2019 were audited by Winsor Coombs of Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, prior to its merger with MNP LLP. Winsor Coombs expressed a qualified opinion on those statements on May 13, 2020 for the reasons described in the Basis for Qualified opinion paragraph.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the



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aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador

May 11, 2021

*MNP* LLP  
Chartered Professional Accountants

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 431,456	\$ 79,932
Term deposits (Note 5)	1,095,409	351,878
Accounts receivable	15,064	-
Land held for resale (Note 4)	20,800	20,800
Prepaid expenses	4,946	151
Due from related parties (Note 5)	1,478	991,524
	1,569,153	1,444,285
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	148,607	148,607
	<b>\$ 1,717,760</b>	<b>\$ 1,592,892</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 10,041	\$ 5,900
Due to related parties (Note 5)	2,543	14,819
	12,584	20,719
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Operating Fund - Unrestricted	287,368	225,604
Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	1,179,384	1,111,739
Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	238,424	234,830
	1,705,176	1,572,173
	<b>\$ 1,717,760</b>	<b>\$ 1,592,892</b>

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

McDonald, Jane Elizabeth Digitally signed by McDonald, Jane Elizabeth  
Date: 2021.05.17 14:15:50 -0500 Director

 Director

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

	2019 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenditures	Net Additions	2020 Balance
Operating Fund - Unrestricted	\$ 225,604	\$ 65,870	\$ (4,106)	\$ 287,368
Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	1,111,739	-	67,645	1,179,384
Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	234,830	-	3,594	238,424
	<b>\$ 1,572,173</b>	<b>\$ 65,870</b>	<b>\$ 67,133</b>	<b>\$ 1,705,176</b>

  

	2018 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenditures	Net Additions	2019 Balance
Operating Fund - Unrestricted	\$ 209,914	\$ 15,690	\$ -	\$ 225,604
Internally Restricted Fund	577,860	41,655	492,224	1,111,739
Externally Restricted Fund	221,777	6,761	6,292	234,830
	<b>\$ 1,009,551</b>	<b>\$ 64,106</b>	<b>\$ 498,516</b>	<b>\$ 1,572,173</b>

See notes to financial statements

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grant - United Church of Canada	\$ 595,304	\$ 610,324
Miscellaneous revenue	54,071	40,949
Interest income	4,531	47,799
	<u>653,906</u>	<u>699,072</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administration	6,362	7,154
Mission and Support Services	200,216	208,154
Office operating expense	44,079	56,950
Other	28,362	14,145
Regional Council Executive	1,101	4,812
Salaries and wages	273,617	274,769
Standing Committees	34,299	68,982
	<u>588,036</u>	<u>634,966</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 65,870</b>	<b>\$ 64,106</b>

See notes to financial statements

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

	2020	2019
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 65,870	\$ 64,106
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(15,064)	-
Land held for resale	-	(20,800)
Accounts payable	4,141	5,901
Prepaid expenses	(4,795)	(151)
	(15,718)	(15,050)
Cash flow from operating activities	50,152	49,056
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Long term investments transferred in	-	(148,607)
Cash flow from (used by) investing activity	-	(148,607)
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Advances from related parties	977,770	(976,705)
Net assets transferred from Maritime Conference	-	431,690
Unrestricted funds transferred from Maritime Conference	-	147,863
Received from presbyteries for internally restricted funds	-	439,997
Internal transfer to Learning Grants program	-	(10,000)
Net additions from internally restricted fund	67,645	492,224
Net additions from externally restricted fund	3,594	6,292
Transfer from operating fund to church properties	(4,106)	-
Cash flow from financing activities	1,044,903	531,361
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>1,095,055</b>	<b>431,810</b>
Cash - beginning of year	431,810	-
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,526,865</b>	<b>\$ 431,810</b>
<b>CASH CONSISTS OF:</b>		
Cash	\$ 431,456	\$ 79,932
Term deposits	1,095,409	351,878
	\$ 1,526,865	\$ 431,810

See notes to financial statements

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL**

Regional Council 15 is a Council of the United Church of Canada. Its principal activities include the provision of services to the pastoral charges affiliated with the United Church of Canada in Nova Scotia and Bermuda.

Regional Council 15 is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and not subject to income tax.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Fund accounting

Regional Council 15 follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The Operating Fund accounts for the Council's delivery of services and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

The Internally Restricted Fund consist of funds maintained by the Regional Council for various purposes and are restricted in their purpose and cannot be used for general operations of the Council.

The Externally Restricted Fund consist of funds restricted outside of the Regional Council to be used for specific purposes and cannot be used for general operations of the Council. These funds include the Bequest Fund and the Special Fund. The Bequest Fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenditures related to the assets bequeathed to the Council. The Special Fund report the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures related to the Council's funds that have been set up for specific purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short-term deposits. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

Investments

Long term investments, which consist primarily of mutual funds, term certificates and cash are carried at market value.

Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year in which the contribution is received or receivable. All restricted contributions for which there is no specific restricted fund are recognized as revenues when the related expenses are incurred in the general fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the general fund when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonable estimated and receipt is reasonably assured.

Investment income earned on restricted investments is recognized as revenue as it is earned in the appropriate fund. Other investment income is recognized in the general fund statement of operations.

*(continues)*

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Post retirement benefit plan

The employees of the Council participate in a define benefit plan administered and held nationally by The United Church of Canada. The Council is not responsible for the obligations due for the employees under this benefit plan.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealised gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

**3. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS**

The investments are investment certificates issued and held in trust by Financial Services, Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada.

	2020	2019
Investment - interest for distribution as bursaries for ministerial candidates		
Aitken Memorial Trust	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Vera Dickey Bequest	8,807	8,807
Wesley Memorial United Church	1,000	1,000
	<b>12,307</b>	<b>12,307</b>
Investment - interest for distribution as support for special projects		
MacRae Belliveau	4,070	4,070
William A. Crawford Trust	988	988
Metzler Bequest	411	411
Annie V. King Bequest	23,000	23,000
Guy R. King Bequest	75,331	75,331
J. Oscar Young Bequest	19,500	19,500
Edith MacPherson Bequest	5,000	5,000
Edward Jost Bequest	8,000	8,000
	<b>136,300</b>	<b>136,300</b>
	<b>\$ 148,607</b>	<b>\$ 148,607</b>

**4. LAND HELD FOR RESALE**

The Council received an unrestricted contribution of land which had a fair market value of \$20,800 when received. The transaction was measured and recognized based on the fair market value and the value was included in other revenue on the statement of revenue and expenses when received.

The Council has listed the land for sale and, as such, it is classified as land held for resale on the balance sheet.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

**5. TERM DEPOSITS**

	2020	2019
Fixed income	\$ 1,000,586	\$ 301,586
Cash	1,228	-
Mutual Funds	93,595	50,292
	<b>\$ 1,095,409</b>	<b>\$ 351,878</b>

**6. DUE TO/FROM RELATED PARTIES**

	2020	2019
Current portion due from related party Due from Regional Council 14	\$ 1,478	\$ 991,524

	2020	2019
Current portion due to related party First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	\$ 2,543	\$ 14,819

Advances from related parties are non-interest bearing and have no set repayment. These related parties are Regional Councils of the United Church of Canada.

**7. COVID 19**

Since March 12, 2020, the outbreak of the novel strain of coronavirus, specifically identified as "COVID-19", has resulted in a widespread health crisis that has affected economies and financial markets around the world resulting in an economic downturn. This outbreak may cause the cancellation of operating events and increased government regulations or interventions, all of which may negatively impact the operations or financial condition of the Council. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is unknown at this time and is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of these developments.

**8. VARIOUS FUNDS ANNUAL SURPLUS**

These amounts represent the excess of revenues over expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2020 related to those specific funds as disclosed in schedules 1 and 2.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2020**

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**9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Council considers any contract creating a financial asset, liability or equity instrument as a financial instrument. The Council's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and investments.

The Council initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value adjusted for transaction costs. Transaction costs related to financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are recorded in the statement of revenues and expenditures on initial measurement. The Council subsequently measures all of its financial instruments at amortized cost.

The risks that arise from financial instruments include liquidity risk, market risk and interest rate risk. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Council is not exposed to other price risks arising from financial instruments.

**Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Council is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its payments of expenditures.

**Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency rate risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Council is mainly exposed to interest rate risk.

**Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Council manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Council is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its long-term investments.

**10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The following is a summary of the Council's related party transactions:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
United Church of Canada General Council <i>(Governing body of the Council)</i>		
Grants - United Church of Canada less amount deferred for		
Mission and Support grants unexpended	\$ 595,304	\$ 610,324
Office operating expense	18,000	18,000

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

**11. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The Council receives 100% of its operating funds under a grant from the United Church of Canada. If this situation should change in the future, management is of the opinion that continued viable operations would be doubtful.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
**SCHEDULE OF INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**SCHEDULE 1**  
11

	Balance Opening Jan. 01/20	Additions in the year	Deductions in the year	Net Additions	Balance Ending Dec. 31/20
Archives	\$ 8,657	\$ 24,291		\$ 24,291	\$ 32,948
Association of Ministers	4,000	15,000	2,944	12,056	16,056
Building Maintenance	60,973	137	-	137	61,110
Camping Ministry	87,948	-	22,662	(22,662)	65,286
CLG Projects	1,649				1,649
Discretionary Funds	619,515		11,000	(11,000)	608,515
UCC Emergency Fund	696	-	-	-	696
Church Properties	1,914	4,106	6,020	(1,914)	-
Halifax Presbytery Innovation New Church	104,228	5,977	32,953	(26,976)	77,252
Halifax Revitalization and New Ministry	68,080	49,384	53,772	(4,388)	63,692
Internship Sites	37,000	-	5,000	(5,000)	32,000
Learning Grants	13,469	4,553	300	4,253	17,722
Mission Support Grant	70,676	85,696	700	84,996	155,672
Intermediates at Conference	1,175	-	-	-	1,175
Cashed Investment Funds	-	13,852	-	13,852	13,852
UCC Disaster Relief	100	-	-	-	100
Youth Forum Fundraiser	1,291	-	-	-	1,291
Youth Opportunities	30,033	-	-	-	30,033
Youth Social Justice Development	335	-	-	-	335
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,111,739</b>	<b>\$ 202,996</b>	<b>\$ 135,351</b>	<b>\$ 67,645</b>	<b>\$ 1,179,384</b>

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15  
SCHEDULE OF EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**SCHEDULE 2  
12**

	<u>Balance Opening Jan. 01/20</u>	<u>Additions in the year</u>	<u>Deductions in the year</u>	<u>Net Additions</u>	<u>Balance Ending Dec. 31/20</u>
Bequest Funds	\$ 148,607			\$ -	\$ 148,607
Special Funds	79,932	7,634	4,040	3,594	83,526
Sydney Presbytery Student Funds	6,291	-	-	-	6,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 234,830</b>	<b>\$ 7,634</b>	<b>\$ 4,040</b>	<b>\$ 3,594</b>	<b>\$ 238,424</b>

**Regional Council 15****Funds**

Balances as at January 1, 2021

<b>W. E. “Ed” Aitken (1997)</b> .....	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$892.02</b>
*Support of ministry candidates.	
*See “Application for Vera Dickey Bursary Assistance & Rev. W.E. Aitken Memorial Fund” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf_263">https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf_263</a>	
<b>William A. Crawford (1935)</b> .....	<b>\$987.50</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$794.53</b>
*For any purpose the Region deems wise*	
*Unrestricted*	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Vera Dickey Bequest (1989)</b> .....	<b>\$8,806.77</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$2,568.40</b>
*Support of ministry candidates	
*See “Application for Vera Dickey Bursary Assistance & Rev. W.E. Aitken Memorial Fund” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf_263">https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf_263</a>	
<b>Generosity Fund</b> .....	<b>\$1,212.99</b>
* For Ministry Personnel who have emergency situations that are not covered by other funds.	
* Please contact the Regional Minister.	
<b>J. Gorham Estate</b> .....	<b>\$2,607.61</b>
*To support United Church of Canada work in Nova Scotia.	
*Contact the Regional office for more details.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Edward Jost, Senior, Bequest (1984)</b> .....	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$2,201.64</b>
*To support needy missions in Nova Scotia with no mission to receive aid, from these funds, after having been established ten years.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	

<b>Annie V. King Bequest (1960)</b> .....	<b>\$23,000.00</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$11,222.86</b>
*Interest to be used for United Churches in Nova Scotia as the church may determine.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Guy R. King Bequest (1973)</b> .....	<b>\$75,330.71</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$22,384.22</b>
*Interest to be used for United Churches in Nova Scotia as the church may determine.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Lisson/Robb Fund for Social Ministry</b> .....	<b>\$557.53</b>
*For use in social ministry; to be decided by the Region.	
*Contact the Regional office for more details.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Mary MacRae-Belliveau</b> .....	<b>\$4,070.28</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$7,576.25</b>
*To assist Lay Ministers In Training (LMIT) and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) on their educational journey.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Edith MacPherson Bequest (1983)</b> .....	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$4,130.35</b>
*Interest from this fund to be used to assist small United Churches in Nova Scotia.	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Metzler Bequest (1902)</b> .....	<b>\$411.00</b>
<b>Amount available</b> .....	<b>\$198.47</b>
*For the cause of Christ*	
*Unrestricted*	
*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <a href="https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/">https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/</a>	
<b>Personnel Emergency Reserve</b> .....	<b>\$19,698.82</b>
* For Ministry Personnel who have emergency situations that are not covered by other funds.	
* Please contact the Regional Minister.	

**Wesley Memorial Fund (Aitken/Dickey) .....\$1,000.00**  
**Amount available .....\$430.14**

\*To offer financial assistance to theology students in the region.

\*See “Application for Vera Dickey Bursary Assistance & Rev. W.E. Aitken Memorial Fund” at the following link: [https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf\\_263](https://ucceast.ca/56579-vera-dickey-bursary-assistance-rev-w-e-aitken-memorial-fund/#gf_263)

**James Oscar Young (1967) .....\$19,500.00**  
**Amount available .....\$7,050.57**

\*Anywhere within the Region

\*For some purposes to be determined by the Region for its benefit.

\*Unrestricted\*

\*See “Bequest Fund Application” at the following link: <https://ucceast.ca/56551-regional-council-15-bequest-fund-applications/>

**Camping Ministry .....\$65,285.95**

\*Support to camping ministries within the Region.

\*Contact the Regional office for more details.

**Internship Sites.....\$32,000.00**

\*To support educational site ministries throughout the Region.

\*See “Funding for Ministry Learning Sites Application” at the following link: <https://ucceast.ca/regional-council-15/funding-ministry-learning-sites-2/>

**Youth Opportunities.....\$30,032.50**

\*To foster spiritual growth and faith development by providing financial assistance to youth and young adults in the Region enable them to participate in expressions of Christian faith and gatherings of the wider church, primarily, but not limited to, participating in national and international events or ministries.

\*See “Youth Opportunities Fund” at the following link: <https://ucceast.ca/56539-regional-council-15-youth-opportunities-fund/>

**Incorporated Ministries Reporting**

	Name	Constitution/ Bylaws	GC Admin Approval	Liability Insurance	Directors Annual Report	Last Financial Report	Corporation Filing	Charitable Filing	Date of last visit	List of Directors
NS	Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp	2011	-	2021	2020	2020	-	2020	-	2020
NS	Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche Centre)	Revised 2013	-	2021	2020	2020	2020	-	-	2020
NS	Brunswick Street Mission	2015	-	2021	2020	2020	-	2020	-	2020
NS	Church Extension Board - Region 15	Revised 2016	January 7, 2020	2021	2020	2020	2021	-	-	2020
NS	North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre	1996	-	2021	2020	2020	-	2020	-	2020
NS	Pine Hill Divinity Hall (AST)	Revised 1986	-	2021	2020	2020	-	-	-	2020
NS	Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp	Revised 2003	October 30, 2019	2021	2020	2020	2021	-	-	2020
NS	St. Paul's Family Resources Institute	1985	-	2020	2020	2019	-	2019	-	2020
NS	United Church Camp Meeting Association (Berwick Camp)	1885	-	2021	2020	2020	-	2020	-	2020

**List of Incorporated Ministries Directory****Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp**

Jim Allen

Susan Calpin

Pamela Carter

Isabel Fearon

Margaret Lee

Carol McKnight

John Mckoy

Janice Noble

Jayme Sabarots

Steven Smith

**Atlantic Christian Training Centre (Tatamagouche Centre)**

Amy Brierly

Robyn Brown-Hewitt

Michael Henderson

Laura Hunter

Lauren King

Margie MacIntyre

Charlie Greg Sark

Angela Simmons

Marney Simmons

Sam Sternberg

Kendi Tarichia

**Brunswick Street Mission**

Grace Beazley (Chair)

Heather L. Bagnell (Chair)

Wayne A. Marsh

Susan Margaret MacQuarrie

Dr. Margaret Casey

Margaret Casey

Sandra Keefe (Treasurer)  
 Geoff Lewis  
 Richard Gunn

Sandra A. Nicholas, ex officio  
 Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, ex officio

### **Church Extension Board - Halifax Presbytery**

Alan Ellis  
 Diana Dalton  
 Ron Cochrane  
 Helen Dixon  
 Rev. Roland Murray

Murdock Morrison  
 Don MacKay  
 Don Stonehouse  
 Gary Schmeisser

### **North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre**

Gordon MacAskill  
 Sam Schwartz  
 Betty Kemp  
 Gordon McKeen  
 Brigit Hurst  
 Carl Day  
 Helen Carpenter  
 Martin Walker

Lynn Loder  
 Dale Knox  
 Sylvia Anthony  
 Sarah MacKay  
 Tom Clarke  
 David Kaiser  
 Gerry Irwin  
 Emmett Austin

### **Pine Hill Divinity Hall (AST)**

Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett  
 Ms. Louisa Duck  
 Rev. Lesley Hamilton  
 Rev. Dr. Susan McAlpine-Gillis  
 Rev. Keith MacPherson  
 Rev. Dr. James Shaffner  
 Mr. Bob Carter  
 Heather Donnelly  
 Rev. Roger Janes  
 Mr. Ross MacIntosh

Rev. Michael Mugford  
 Rev. Catherine Stuart  
 Mr. Dan Wellwood  
 Dr. David Griffiths  
 Mr. Kevin Latimer  
 Mr. Malcolm 'Mac' MacLeod  
 Emma Seamone  
 The Rev. Yvette Swan  
 Linton Worrall  
 Brenda Munro

### **Sherbrooke Lake United Church Camp**

Denise L. Beaulieu  
 Ross S Blakeney  
 Morgan M.M. Book  
 (Lorraine) Helen L. Burch  
 Alexandra E. Butler  
 Chloe A. Clark  
 Sandra L. Creaser

Kelly D. Moores  
 (Vivian) Leslie R. Moores  
 Shyanne F. W. Mossman  
 Susan Parks  
 Dawn M. T. Pelley  
 Norman W. Phinney  
 Terry A. Skidmore

Julia S.A. Lawrence  
 Jack Logan  
 Ondra MacLean  
 Meagan MacPherson

Amy K. Slater  
 Jillian P. Vardy  
 Roland Walker  
 Rachel E. Wamboldt

**St. Paul's Family Resource  
 Institute**

Donna G. Martin  
 Ronald E. Buckley  
 Rev. Anne E. Hoganson  
 Elaine Amirault  
 June Bates

Bruce Holland  
 Bernadette Maillett  
 Lynn O'Hearn  
 Marea Prowse  
 Betty Anne Wells

**United Camp (Berwick)**

Christine Crooks  
 Susan MacAlpine-Gillis  
 Peter Johnston  
 Wendy Levo  
 Anne Levo-Harrop  
 Janet Sollows  
 Michael Johnston

Tara Ann Gourson  
 Sara Campbell  
 Ivan Norton  
 Ted Tupper  
 Kim Young  
 Anne Montgomery  
 Faith March-MacCuish, ex officio

**Incorporated Ministries Reports to Region**

**Pine Hill Divinity Hall**

Pine Hill Divinity Hall (PH), The United Church of Canada (UCC) Founding Party of Atlantic School of Theology (AST) supports United Church of Canada members pursuing study and training for ministry through its endowment fund. Specifically, we do this by financially assisting members of UCC preparing for ordered ministry at AST and supporting AST in offering high caliber theological education that meets the standards required by The United Church of Canada.

PH continues to prosper with an active Board of lay and clergy, supported by our executive director. Our Board has representation among Regional Council 15, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and First Dawn Eastern Edge Council.

Members provide representation on Finance, Bursary or Nominating committees. The Chairs of each Committee form PH Executive who may make decisions on behalf of the Board. United Church faculty have been capably represented by the Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine Gillis on the PH Board.

PH is also responsible for finding UC representation on the AST Board. David Griffiths serves as Past President and the Rev. Roger Janes continues to represent First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. Alumnus the Rev. Yvette Swan and Mr. Kevin Latimer continue to serve and new on the AST Board to represent Pine Hill is Mac MacLeod, serving on the AST Audit Committee.

Students on the Board this year were well represented by 2021 graduate Emma Seamone who brought much wisdom regarding the Summer distance program to the PH Board for four years. For the past two years on-campus MDiv. students have been represented by Linton Worrall. Feedback from students is essential to the work of the PH Board.

The Founding Parties meet twice a year with PH hosting the Fall 2020 meeting virtually this year. There is representation from PH, University of King's College, the Anglican Dioceses of NS & PEI and Fredericton, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax & Yarmouth on the board. UCC Executive Minister the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish is present when possible.

Pine Hill supports the part-time position of UC chaplain, the Rev'd Wendy Kean, as well as full-time position of the UC Formation Director, the Rev'd Dr. Ross Bartlett and Executive Director, Brenda Munro.

Due to Covid, all courses have been changed to on-line courses which has been beneficial to students living far from campus. Unfortunately, the Summer Distance program did not allow for on-campus learning and the comradery living in community normally affords. Although, because AST has had a Distance learning program for so long, full on-line teaching was normative to many. Support of 49 students in the M. Div. degree at AST resulted in payments of over \$140,000 in tuition fees 2020-2021. Three Seeker Bursaries were awarded that reimburses two credits to students at AST in degree or diploma program. Two Promise Bursaries were awarded to UC members nominated by their church recognizing excellence in leadership. Support of one United Church of Christ student in Maine, USA continues.

PH continues to partner with AST considering any proposals in which the two can enhance learning opportunities for our students. PH answered the call from AST Student Union to support a Virtual Food Bank. Students having trouble with grocery expenses during Covid applied through the AST Student Union for this assistance.

PH offers Bursary opportunities to AST UC graduates. The Annual Continuing Education bursary of up to \$4,500 was awarded in February 2021. The Tri-Annual PH Alumni Association Scholarship of \$7,500 was not awarded this year due to lack of applications but will be offered again in February 2022.

PH fully supports the Lecture series offered by AST in 2020-2021 including a 4-part series October on 'Leadership in Challenging Times' and a Nicholson Lectures Webinar series Spring 2021 investigating "*Decolonizing Theology*".

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Taylor, Rev'd Dr. Capt.  
Board Chair

## **DIVISION OF REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT**

The mandate of this division is to provide oversight, leadership and guidance to Communities of Faith within the Region.

The membership of the division committee is:

Chair, Donnie Morrison

Secretary, Mike Henderson

Communications Chair, Kevin Cox

Faith Formation and Leadership Development Chair, Kim Curlett

Justice, Mission and Outreach Chair, Anne Hoganson

Stewardship Chair, Shauna MacDonald

Children, Youth and Young Adult Chair, Paige Fraser

Regional Council Annual Meeting Planning Chair, VACANT

Association of Ministers Chair, Ross Bartlett

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish is our Staff Support.

Since we reported to the last Region 15 Annual Meeting, the Division has met by teleconference on May 15, 2020, October 8, 2020, Nov. 26, 2020 and February 17, 2021. A teleconference meeting is planned for April 28.

After a change to the Governance structure of the Region last year, the Association of Ministers Committee has been added to this division, giving us a total of seven committees. In the course of the year, we were sorry to accept Mat Whynot's resignation as chair of the Children, Youth and Young Adult Committee and welcomed Paige Fraser in that capacity.

We are very thankful for the support and encouragement of the Executive Minister to the Division as our Staff Support. Not only is Faith the Staff Support for the Division, she is Staff Support for the Communications and Annual Meeting Planning Committees.

We are also thankful for the dedication of the Support Staff who work with other Division committees: David Hewitt (FFLD & AMC), Catherine Stuart (CYaYA), Laura Hunter (JMO) and Roger Janes (Stewardship).

As the Division Chair, I offer my gratitude to our Secretary, Mike Henderson, and to the many individuals who share their gifts and passion with Region 15 through the Division committees. Their examples of discipleship are humbling.

Unfortunately, this quote from my report for AGM 2020 still holds true: "While travel and gathering restrictions are in place due to COVID 19, some of our plans have been put on hold or adjusted, but the Division carries on planning and adjusting."

The **Communications Committee** expects to release soon the first edition of a regional newsletter. The Chair has 10 articles ready to be published. The Newsletter will contain stories and articles on diverse topics such as congregations, books and poetry.

The **Annual Meeting Planning Committee** is without a Chair as we plan for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Nevertheless, the committee, building on their experience from our first-ever virtual meeting last year, has developed a plan for this year that will be more comprehensive and just as well-organized. The theme will be Beacon of Hope.

Submitted by Donnie Morrison, Chair

### **Association of Ministers Committee Report for Annual Meeting**

As an Association of Ministers within Region 15 we affirm the following: Ministry is a Gift, Calling, Profession, and a Job. In the past year the Association of Ministers Committee (AMC) has continued to work to build a foundation for an organization that will promote those crucial values. The AMC is made up of Lori Crocker DM, Bill Drysdale DLM, Rev. Linda Yates (secretary); Rev. Ross Bartlett (chair). In addition, a volunteer advisory team has been working on this project.

In the past year we have:

- Identified four key pillars for the Association’s work
  - Community; Advocacy; Renewal; and Education
- Supported ministry personnel through a widely utilized Facebook page
- Engaged with the General Council office to clarify the status of clergy in relation to matters of human rights
- Launched a website
- Begun a membership drive
- Contracted with Jeff Chant to help advance our objectives
- Explored the implications of incorporation
- Created a new logo and title “The Association of United Church Clergy” (aUCC)
- Held our first annual Education and Renewal event with special resource people Janice MacLean and Kevin Parks
- Began to consult clergy on issues that are pressing for them
- Created some written resources to help clergy understand how the polity of the UCC works when a person is disciplined.

Membership in the Association is open to: Diaconal, Designated Lay, and Ordained ministers (active, retired and retained on the roll) and candidates currently serving in appointments. In the past year we have seen continued evidence of isolation and new pressure on ministry personnel, exacerbated in part by the elimination of Presbytery as a regular form for interaction, support, and unity. The absence in our polity of a voice or advocacy for clergy is increasingly evident. So, we remain convinced of the need for an Association within the United Church.

We continue to encourage collegial support amongst clergy and are eager to work with any ministers who are seeking to build community with peers. We have deliberately structured our organizational model to adapt to wider membership when other Regions begin to experience a desire for an Association.

The aUCC would like to express our sincere appreciation to all ministers for their work in this time. You are creative, caring, innovative, and solid. Our church is blessed by your service.

Yours in ministry together

Rev Dr Ross Bartlett

Chair Region 15, Association of Ministers Committee

### **Justice, Mission and Outreach (JMO) Committee Report, April 2021**

JMO is a committee of the Division of Regional Services and Support, which in turn is a division of the Region. Committee membership includes the chairs of the working groups and members at large. JMO's mandate is "to seek to live, not just as individuals but as community. We are called by Christ to love and serve others, to seek justice, to live with respect in creation, to work with faith communities to act with compassion in a timely manner in our neighbourhoods and in the world."

### **Ecological Justice Working Group**

This a new JMOC Working Group with members from both Region 15 and the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. Our mandate is to take a lead in education, action and policy development with an emphasis on climate justice and extractive resources. We hosted a summer 2020 online book study *Climate Church, Climate World*, by Jim Antal, which received a very positive response. From those who attended, a "network" has emerged who Laura Hunter keeps informed. We continue to urge churches to support Faithful Footprints, the energy-saving project housed in NS with the Ecology Action Centre. We have been encouraging local churches to participate in Faithful Climate Conversations, sponsored by For the Love of Creation, a faith-based initiative for climate justice. EJWG is sponsoring one of these conversations, to take place on Earth Day, April 22nd, designed for people who have rarely talked about climate change and its relationship to faith in a group setting and are seeking an encouraging first step. We spread the word through Region 15 of a worldwide Green Faith inter-faith initiative, [Sacred People, Sacred Earth](#) on March 11th. Several churches shared their positive experiences in a follow-up Zoom call. Gail Wylie represents EJWG in opposing the development of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors, possibly in New Brunswick and also liaising with the United Church nationally re the National Level re nuclear arms issues. In addition, we work with the United Church nationally for more than a decade on the establishment of an Ombudsperson for Mining Justice with investigative powers. The office of a Canadian Ombudsperson for Mining Justice has been established, but very sadly has been given no powers. We are delighted that Rev. Elisabeth Bachem is replacing Kathryn Anderson as Co-Chair, representing Region 15. We welcome new members and, if this is your passion, please be in touch with Elisabeth at [eli.bachem@gmail.com](mailto:eli.bachem@gmail.com).

### **Just Peace for Palestine and Israel Working Group**

Throughout the past year, Just Peace members have been engaged in many campaigns, actions, solidarity and educational opportunities. See Appendix A for details.

### **Refugee Working Group**

Group convenor Lenora Timmons reported that the Covid pandemic has resulted in a backlog of applications and resettlements. Two families are in the settlement phase in her area. Her community will sponsor a fourth family. As of November 2020, all agents were working from home and only accepting digital applications. With the current backlog of unsubmitted applications, it was unknown if new applications would be the list for 2021 or 2022. There are now delays because of COVID. A lot of refugees are in countries that are not open to immigration to Canada causing a backlog for refugees who were granted permanent residency months ago. Lenora plans to take another 10-week course on refugees.

### **Indigenous Concerns and Relations**

JMO offers support to Indigenous fishers, particularly last fall as they faced violence and challenges to their treaty rights. A statement of support was crafted for the Regions. A call went out to invite people to explore how to support the Indigenous Fishers. Over half of the people who showed up were from faith groups. Out of that, a small group went to show support as an interfaith delegation. Justice staff person Laura Hunter and JMO chair Anne Hoganson were part of the delegation.

### **Guaranteed Income Network**

This network is growing as local clusters and individual communities of faith engage in the United Church's guaranteed livable income campaign, including writing to and/or meeting with government representatives, engaging through worship and prayer, holding vigils, and sharing on social media.

### **Anti-Racism Network**

The Anti-Racism network facilitated an online book study in summer 2020 using the book "White Fragility", and is currently planning to prepare a short book study for Pastoral Leaders regarding "micro-aggressions", another book study with a wider lens, and a film/movie study process through which people could watch a movie and then come together for discussion. Members have participated in a variety of local actions and campaigns.

### **Podcast – "Making Hope Visible"** *(on your favourite app, including Spotify, Apple and Google podcasts)*

Conversations about justice, faith, and action. Host, Laura Hunter, sees acting for social change as a spiritual practice. She talks to people who are working for justice, love, and peace in their neighbourhoods and around the world. Together they make sense and meaning of what we do in and through and around communities of faith. This podcast is created primarily for and with those interested in the Justice, Mission and Outreach networks of the Atlantic Regions of the United Church of Canada. But more importantly as a way for connecting people, community, good works, and good ideas. If these things are important to you join Laura and her guests as they reflect on the spiritual journey of Making Hope Visible.

### **Partnerships:**

JMO contributes \$300 annually toward our partner group Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence (BTS) Network's Topacio Reynoso Youth Award. *This award was created to*

*honor the memory and resistance of Topacio Reynoso Pacheco. At 16 years old, Topacio was an artist, activist, and human rights defender in Mataquescuintla, Jalapa, Guatemala. She was a co-founder of the Mataquescuintla youth movement to resist the Escobal mine, a Canadian mining project. As a leader of the resistance, Topacio used art, music, and poetry to organize a community of youth passionate about the protection of their community and territory.*

The Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee of Regional Council 15 believes that God is calling us to be aware of what is possible for our world and for the people in it, and to participate in building just and peaceful communities, local and global. If you feel the Spirit nudging you toward the work of justice, you are warmly invited to visit the website (<https://ucceast.ca/justice-mission-outreach-2/>), or contact Anne Hoganson ([annehoganson@gmail.com](mailto:annehoganson@gmail.com)) or Laura Hunter at the Regional office to learn how you can become involved.

Submitted by Anne Hoganson, Chair

## Appendix A

### **Just Peace for Palestine and Israel Working Group:**

#### **I. Campaign for Palestinian children's human rights**

1. There was a very active, cross Canada fall 2020 campaign, sponsored by The United Network for Justice and Peace for Palestine and Israel (UNJPPI), working to protect Palestinian children's human rights. A Parliamentary e-petition, sponsored by MP Paul Manley, was promoted widely throughout the country and through churches in Region 15. Many of us were among the 2,454 citizens who signed Parliamentary e-petition 2667 which called on the Government of Canada "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". The petition was presented to the House of Commons by MP Paul Manly on November 20th, International Children's Day.
2. The proposal to Region 15 at the fall Recall meeting re "Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children" asked that Region 15 prepare and send resources for worship, education and advocacy for the human rights of Palestinian children and that member churches be encouraged to celebrate "Children's Sunday" on a Sunday close to International Children's Day focused on the Palestinian children's rights. Resources were prepared and sent to member churches and to other regions and churches as well. Many churches did celebrate Children's Sunday and made use of the resources to raise awareness of the situation of Palestinian children and their need for protection and rights.
3. Members of the Working Group, Doug Rigby and Linda Scherzinger created a zoom workshop about the Palestinian Children and their need for protection and human rights. The workshop was presented twice and was well received and promoted further by some who attended.
4. The Government's response to Petition e-2667 was tabled in the House of Commons late January 2021. You can see it together with the full Petition e-2667 on the House of Commons website at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2667>

5. We are continuing our Canada, Stand Up for Children's Rights Campaign because we strongly believe that the Government's response does not relate in a direct, knowledgeable, concerned way to what we know to be documented: daily, extreme abuses of the Palestinian children's human rights. Nor has the remedy the petition proposed of a Special Envoy been adequately addressed.

## **II. Visit/presentation by Daoud Nassar, Tent of Nations**

Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian and director of the Tent of Nations environmental and peace farm, was originally to visit our area in person. Since that was not possible, he presented a very informative and inspiring brief program by zoom on November 7th. Steve Berube and Linda Scherzinger were on the planning team and still plan that he will come to visit in our region as soon as such travel is permitted.

## **III. Advent and Christmas**

1. Many churches in our region promote and sell Advent Peace boxes and Zatoun olive oil, soap and za'atar herbs especially at pre-Christmas sales. That was not possible because of covid-19 restrictions. Zatoun responded to the situation by sending items directly to homes or churches. Sales remained strong from many loyal supporters. We also learned that because of covid-19 travel restrictions there were no international volunteers helping to protect the farmers and their families and their trees. Attacks by settlers were much worse during the fall harvest season for that reason. The farmers count on our support and solidarity especially at such times.
2. Anne Hoganson is now the representative for Canada on the International Coordination Committee for [Global Kairos for Justice](#) (Kairos Palestine global partners). In the lead up to Advent, Anne shared: Kairos Palestine Christmas Alert 2020 urging Christians to spread the good news of peace and to see God's image in all of humanity.
3. Christmas messages by Palestinian Christian leaders were made available by Canadian Friends of Sabeel and shared with Region 15.

## **IV. Easter**

1. Last Easter, our partners at Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) offered us the opportunity to tune in virtually to a Holy Saturday service in Palestine. This year, FOSNA once again hosted a virtual Easter service alongside Palestinian Christians at 12:PM EST on Saturday, April 3, 2021. We promoted this opportunity and members of Region 15 participated in this inspiring service.
2. Anne Hoganson shared the Kairos Palestine Easter Alert 2021 inviting us to join in their prayers and meditations of the season.

## **V. Ongoing opportunities to learn and to advocate for justice and peace**

1. All of the 'justice' issues are related. We are invited to be alert to make connections. Kairos Halifax hosted a zoom by [Christian Peacemaker Teams](#), "Settler Colonialism: from Turtle Island to Palestine" to highlight and learn more of the similarities in both examples. There are certainly issues of racism in what is happening in Israel / Palestine and serious issues and injustices related to impacts of climate change and environmental racism.
2. Every Tuesday at 12 noon Atlantic Time Palestinian Christians host a zoom webinar focused on a different issue/topic each week. The name of this campaign is [Kumi Now](#), based on the New Testament scripture story of Jesus healing the daughter of Jairus. Others told Jairus that the situation was hopeless and futile since the child was already declared dead. Jesus went to see and to heal her anyway. He spoke to the girl in Aramaic, the ordinary language of the day as he said to her, "Talitha, Kumi" which means, "Little girl,

rise up.” And she got up and began to walk. Despite the apparently hopeless situation of Palestinians in our day, it is time for liberation – time to awaken and to take action. We are encouraged to sign up, to learn from this series of webinars and to take action in solidarity with Palestinians who may appear to have no hope for a new life of justice and peace.

– Linda Scherzinger, co-chair Just Peace for Palestine and Israel Working Group

### **Faith Formation & Leadership Development Committee**

The Faith Formation and Leadership Development (FFLD) committee met virtually in June, September, October, November, January, February, March, and April 2020/21. On many occasions we were joined by the division Chair (Donnie Morrison) and the Regional Minister (David Hewitt). The team was grateful for their presence with us.

### **Committee Terms**

Currently our members are:

Chair (1 yr 2020-2021 did not reoffer) **Kim Curlett** (2nd term), [kimcurlett@gmail.com](mailto:kimcurlett@gmail.com)

Vice-Chair (2 yr 2019-2021 TBD): **Kevin Parks** [joyfulnoise@saintandrewshfx.ca](mailto:joyfulnoise@saintandrewshfx.ca)

Secretary (3 yr 2019- 2022): **Heather Ferrier** [hferrier@outlook.com](mailto:hferrier@outlook.com)

Member (3 yr 2019-2022): **Carolina Tucker** [carolina\\_tucker@hotmail.com](mailto:carolina_tucker@hotmail.com)

Member (3 yr 2019-2022): **Karen Crowley** [karencrowley26@eastlink.ca](mailto:karencrowley26@eastlink.ca)

Member (2 yr 2020-2023): **Sharon Lohnes** [revsharonbeacon@eastlink.ca](mailto:revsharonbeacon@eastlink.ca)

Additional Members for next year welcome with 3-year commitments. Members and officers may re-offer when their term is complete. Terms start and end based on the date of Regional annual meeting.

This year we were limited on what and how we could offer, but we did accomplish a number of significant actions. Like many committees (we expect), our conversations were led by the pandemic that we are currently living under.

### **Survey**

We finalized a survey and reviewed the results in June and these results helped us to consider what is expected of us going forward.

### **Facebook Page**

This page has been active as it develops. Thanks to Heather Ferrier for her work to keep this page alive.

### **Events Offered**

In January 2021, Sharon Lohnes offered a successful Two-Part Lenten Planning workshop to 18 participants from all four Atlantic Regions. This is an event that will take place again. Kim Curlett provided technical support for this ZOOM meeting.

Dave Hewitt offered well attended M&P workshops for the region and Catherine Stuart will be offering training in future for youth lay leadership.

**Upcoming Events**

- Carolina Tucker is working on developing/researching programming for lay leadership in the Region.
- Sharon Lohnes is developing another planning session, this time using the Narrative Lectionary.
- Heather Ferrier and Carolina Tucker is offering a Zoom Eastertide book study starting on April 11, 2021.
- Carolina Tucker working on the “Keeping Connected” newsletter with the communications team.
- Kevin Parks continues to be our “go to” connections to music leadership in the church. Kevin and Sharon Lohnes have been in conversation about what might be offered via this committee.

**Finally**

I (Kim Curlett), will be leaving this committee following my term at the end of May and moving to another committee as a member. Thank you to this team and to the Division for trusting me with this first leadership role at a Regional level. This was a valuable and enlightening experience as we all work together to develop this new model for the wider church. I wish you all well going forward and hope you will call on me if there is a need to help with projects and events in the future. Blessings as you continue this work and special thanks to Kevin Parks who agreed to co-chair with me this past year and to Heather Ferrier who keeps us all on track with her detailed minutes.

Faithfully submitted on behalf of our committee and in the name of Jesus Christ,  
Rev. Kim Curlett Co-Chair, Faith Formation and Leadership Development  
April, 2021

**Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee met via Zoom for the first time in November 2020. Currently, we are a committee of 4.

Time was spent discussing goals for this committee. Defining who we are and what we are hoping to accomplish going forward.

Our hope as a committee will be to get the word out to the Communities of Faith about all aspects of Stewardship. Roger Janes, Stewardship and Special Gifts Officer for Region 15 has offered his assistance along with his wealth of knowledge to this committee.

The Stewardship Committee is hoping to reconnect with each Community of Faith. As Covid19 does not seem to be going anywhere, anytime soon, we may be doing everything virtually with as many churches as possible. We will be discussing options in upcoming meetings.

Committee members are discussing the mandate of the committee and whether it can be improved.

Yours In Christ,  
Shauna MacDonald, Chair  
Stewardship

**Children, Youth and Young Adult Committee**

**Committee Members:** Paige Fraser, Chair; Terry Skidgemore, Secretary; Catherine Stuart, Staff Support; April Hart, Caitlin Smithers, Dana Pardy, Penny Nelson and James O Connell.

In 2020, Region 15's Children, Youth and Young Adult committee (CYaYa) said goodbye to our former chair, Mat Whynot and welcomed a new chair, secretary and committee members. 2020 was a year of navigating support for churches, camps and children and youth programs as they pivoted and adapted to the change, challenge and opportunities the pandemic brought. Region 15's CYaYa committee offered support for our local United Church Camps, Sherbrooke Lake Camp and Camp Kidston, as they adapted and offered a Camp in a Box program, as well as virtual programs and innovative drop-in programs. We also offered financial support for Ukulele Church, a program facilitated by Catherine Stuart and Linnea Good, which offers virtual Sunday School through music and storytelling. We supported the ongoing work of Youth Forum which was hosted virtually in 2020.

Looking ahead to 2021 we look forward to continuing to support communities of faith in prioritizing the voices of children, youth and young adults. We hope to answer the call to be an anti-racist committee and church by participating in and sharing anti-racism training and resources. Our committee has been working on developing a contact list of point people for Children, Youth and Young Adult ministry in all Region 15 Communities of Faith, so we can best serve these groups with resources, programs and support.

Submitted by Paige Fraser, Chair

**DIVISION OF MINISTRY RESOURCES**

The mandate of this Division is to provide leadership, oversight and guidance to the activities of the Committees that support Human and Ministry Resources in Region 15.

The five Committees of this Division are Faith Story and Community Covenant, Future Directions, Licensing, Pastoral Relations and Retiree Support.

The members that serve on this Division are Anne Cameron, Chair; Nan Corrigan, Secretary; Heather Fraser, Chair of Faith Story and Community Covenant; Carol Smith, Chair of Future Directions; John Moses, Chair of Licensing; Tom Woods, Chair of Pastoral Relations and Ruth Gamble, Chair of Retiree Support. Region 15 Staff Support are David Hewitt and Faith March-MacCuish.

The Division of Ministry Resources met regularly during the year. These meetings were by Zoom. The five Committees of this Division are actively carrying out their mandate according to the Governance Handbook for Region 15. A reminder that the list of Pastoral Charges/Faith Communities and Ministry Personnel can be found on the Region 15 website([ucceast.ca](http://ucceast.ca)). Information on the Division and its Committees can also be found on the Region 15 website.

Special thanks and appreciation to our Region 15 support staff - Faith March-MacCuish, David Hewitt, Jennifer Whittemore and Tracey Rose. Thank you to the members of the Division for your commitment, time, leadership and patience. Our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Committees and the Liaisons who work on the behalf of this Division and Region 15. Special thank you and appreciation to our secretary, Nan Corrigan, who will complete her term as secretary of this Division. You will be missed!

Let us continue our journey in faith trusting where the Holy One will lead us!

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Cameron, Chair

### **Faith Stories and Community Covenants Committee Annual Report**

Faith Story and Community Covenant moved this year to the Division of Ministry Resources, a realignment that allows the Region to do the same work with one less Division. Our work lies mainly in the connections between Communities of Faith and the Region when Communities are not in a Pastoral Relations Process. Things weren't made any easier by Covid, which put any plans for face to face meetings on hold.

We began in the fall by inviting the Rev. Ivan Gregan to do some brainstorming with us to decide what parts of the work to do. We decided to take on two projects this year. The first was to provide a liturgy for a covenant between the Regions and the Communities of Faith, to be included in worship at the Regional Annual Meeting, and also used in Communities of Faith on the same week as the Annual Meeting. (I will include that prayer at the end of my report, for your use in your Community of Faith). This is a simple and worshipful way to remind us in a pandemic year that we are a covenant people, in community with many others who we don't always see, but are always there.

The second project was to provide a Self-Assessment tool for Communities of Faith in the Region. According to the Manual, instead of site visits every three years, each Community of Faith is asked to provide an Annual Self-Assessment, with the format left up to the Region. This wasn't something assigned to any of the Committees in the Region 15 structure, but it seemed like a natural fit for our Committee. We asked each of the Divisions and Committees within the Region to contribute questions for this year's Self-Assessment, which we are making available to Communities of Faith on the Region 15 website.

You should already have received a letter from the Region about how to find the form and fill it out. We are asking every Community of Faith to please submit by 30 June 2021. Your help is very much appreciated.

In addition to these projects, we continue to encourage all Communities of Faith to send Annual Reports to Tracey Rose at the Regional Office. Annual Reports are used from time to time in the work of Committees, and they are required to be kept in Archives as a record of our history as a denomination.

We have also received a few Faith Stories from Communities of Faith. All Communities of Faith should have a Living Faith Story which describes their mission and ministry focus, and are asked to review it regularly. For the past two years, Pastoral Relations has been assisting CoFs in their process to create a Living Faith Story. In the next year, we will be looking into providing educational opportunities to help CoFs develop their Faith Stories without the time pressure of a Pastoral Relations process.

We have done all this work with a small group of people and through a number of changes of personnel. We have three new members to replace two who have left, and have room for one or two more. In particular, we would love to have some lay people to join us, to contribute that perspective to our work. If you are interested in helping faith communities discern their mission in the world, this might be the Committee for you.

I leave you with this prayer for all our covenants in the name of the one who walked this way of faith before us, Christ Jesus. Blessings on you wherever that road might take you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Fraser, Chair, Faith Stories and Community Covenant Committee

***A Covenant Prayer:***

Christ's body is composed of many parts. Christ has many ministries. Some are easy, others are difficult. Some bring honour, others bring reproach. Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

***To be said in the Communities of Faith (in unison):***

**We the people of X Pastoral Charge / Incorporated Ministry / Community of Faith** renew our covenant of mutual responsibility with **Region 15 of the United Church of Canada**

We will seek after God in all we say and think and do and live in communion with God and each other.

We will search for what God wants through Prayer, in Scripture and by fellowshiping with each other as we listen to God through many media.

We will celebrate God's Presence in worship, music, life passages, and Sacraments.

We will invite others to join us in our journey with God.

We will do all things for the glory of God and the good of God's World.

We give ourselves to God and rededicate ourselves to live in covenant as the people of God and the Living Body of Christ.

To God be all glory, praise, honour and thanksgiving, now and forever, Amen.

**Future Directions Committee Annual Report**

Last April the Future Directions Committee started off by moving to a different division. We are now part of the Division of Ministry Resources.

Shortly following last year's annual meeting, our committee took part in organizing an event to consider the long term future of Region 15 and how we might proceed with responding in a positive way to the many challenges and the hopes of the communities of faith in Region 15. The event

was held on Zoom, May 20 and 27. Eric Tusz-King facilitated the two meetings and we thank him for his leadership. As a result of the two meetings, the Executive of the Region struck a task group to work on a Strategic Plan.

The Future Directions Committee as a whole agreed to serve on this task group, with the addition of two members from the Executive: Leslie Hamilton and Shannon MacLean. Jeff Chant took on the role of Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

It was decided by the Future Directions Committee to put our other duties on hold and concentrate on the development of a Strategic Plan for Region 15. Our staff support, Regional Minister David Hewitt, has kept us informed on any matters related to our FD work during this time period and we thank him for his support and guidance.

The Future Directions Committee members have faithfully attended the meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee. We have had six meetings, one in person, the rest on Zoom. The result is a draft report which Jeff has recently presented to the Region 15 Executive for study and feedback.

Now that a draft of the Strategic Plan is in the hands of the Executive, the Future Directions Committee will be resuming regular meetings and moving forward with our duties. We are off to a good start within the Division of Ministry Resources in terms of sharing information and ideas with the other committees in the division. Thanks to Anne Cameron, chair of the Division of Ministry Resources, for her leadership and her frequent calls to check in with us between meetings.

The members of the Future Directions Committee members are: Alison Etter, Catherine MacDonald, Jeff Chant, Don Sellsted, with Staff Support David Hewitt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Smith, Chair

### **Licensing Committee Annual Report**

Although 2020 was a year of restricted mobility and almost non-existent in-person meetings, the Licensing Committee was able to continue its work online.

We held two Zoom meetings on January 21 and September 18.

Much of our work consists of reviewing applications for licensing or relicensing of Lay Worship Leaders and interviewing the applicants. We also receive and review applications for sacramental elders and conduct appropriate interviews. Quite often pastoral charges request sacramental privileges for student appointees or Designated Lay Ministers and this also requires review of applications and interviews.

The applications for licensing and re-licensing of Lay Worship Leaders are on the Region 15 website. There are currently 16 Licensed Lay Worship Leaders within Region 15. It would seem that a number of people who held licenses from various presbyteries did not seek re-licensing under the new governing structure. Please note that all licenses issued by presbyteries have now expired. We would encourage any of you who are still leading worship for compensation to apply to Region 15 for licensing. There are plans for a refresher event (not training) in Tatamagouche in September if pandemic conditions permit.

To see a list of currently-licensed LLWLs in Region 15, please follow this link:  
<https://2nzmqb15rsia42ye60q9xk0j-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Current-LLWL-With-Region-15-Website-List-FEB-3-2021.pdf>

The membership of the Region 15 Licensing Committee in 2020: Helene Burns, Dale Crawford, Hubert den Draak, Dave Forbes, Joan Griffin, Wayne Jarvis, Faith March-MacCuish (staff), John Moses (chair). I want to thank everyone for their perseverance during these challenging times.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Moses, Chair

### **Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report**

This committee met a total of 10 times since the last annual meeting and continues to meet on a monthly basis to deal with the ongoing changes in Pastoral Relationships. There continues to be a strong trend in Ministry personnel being appointed to Pastoral Charges as many are parttime and fewer going the route of Call. The pandemic seems to have added an extra level of stress in some Pastoral Charges, with a noticeable uptick in people seeking changes in Pastoral Relationships. Perhaps this is the greatest loss in our new governance structure where the ability to keep abreast of what is going on in our Pastoral Charges, both emotionally, spiritually and financially has been diminished and left to our Regional ministers to decipher. Many thanks to our regional minister and liaisons who now have those conversations which at times can be difficult. All of these changes, calls, appointments, motions made at each of our meetings can be found on the e-announcements sent out from Reg 15 office, the first week of each month. Thanks to David Hewitt, our regional minister, for sending these along. Members of this Committee are: Sean Boulger-Middleton, Sheila Stewart-Berwick, Jennifer Robarts-Advocate, and Rev. Tom Woods-Berwick.

Also, David includes some recent and encouraging initiatives this past year:

1. 7 out of 12 invited pastoral charges have selected representatives to participate in an initial Zoom webinar with respect to part time ministries on the South Shore. The webinar will take place on Saturday, January 23.
2. Riverport Pastoral Charge has initiated a conversation with the 11 congregations in Lunenburg County about possible collaboration. A first meeting was held in Riverport on January 13, and a next meeting has been scheduled for Bridgewater on February 10.
3. Regional Ministers David Hewitt, Heather Sandford and Kendall Harrison are cooperating on a webinar workshop for M&P Committees on managing conflict. Over 30 people are registered for the webinar to take place on February 20.
4. Regional Minister David Hewitt has had a couple of conversations with Lisa Vaughan, Parish Vitality Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island regarding the possibility of Ecumenical cooperation in local congregational ministry. We have identified several places in the province where ecumenical cooperation might be feasible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Woods, Chair

### **Retirees Support Committee Annual Report**

The Retirees Support Committee created a proposal to be sent to the General Council Executive – ‘Review of the Green Shield Benefits Plan with respect to Retirees Benefits.’ We were grateful for the input from the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Regional Minister, prior to submitting our document.

Living Skies Regional Council, Saskatchewan also submitted a proposal.

A letter was received from The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary General Council, dated February 8, 2021, stating that a review of the plans provisions and prospective service providers is scheduled to be undertaken in 2022. The Executive decided not to initiate an earlier review in 2021 as proposed.

As Region 15, the Retirees Support Committee meets via email, and a general email is sent to the Retirees listed in our Data Base about every two months. Many people respond, grateful for the connection. Several share their concerns, frustrations with various issues. I respond, suggest, as I’m able, and seek help if the need arises. The challenges are many and varied for Retirees.

The image of cluster gatherings is off in the distance at the current time, with Covid-19 still very evident in our areas.

We celebrate those lives that are no longer with us, their Spirit gives us hope and guidance, going forward.

If you are not currently receiving our emails as a retired ministry personnel, secretary, and custodial staff, please get in touch with me as seen below.

Wanalda Parsons is our Secretary. Wanalda sends sympathy cards, thinking of you cards etc., to those of Region 15, as the calls or emails come to her for action.

Our committee consists of Wanalda Parsons, Glenn MacLean, David Hann, Linda Winton, and David MacLean when called upon, and myself as Chair, and we are a member of the Division of Ministry Resources.

Respectfully submitted,  
K. Ruth Gamble, Chair, Retirees Support Committee – 902-660-2699 or via email at [kathjohngamble@gmail.com](mailto:kathjohngamble@gmail.com)

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Committee Members:** Tony Orlando (Secretary), Rev. Angela MacLean, Sue Lahey

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year for many of us, and the Nominations committee was no exception. Over this past year, the nominations committee has met almost monthly, in

addition to many emails and phone calls, to continue the difficult task of filling our committees. This has been a difficult task. Due to the pandemic, we've had many resignations this past year. About half of the members whose terms were finished this year were unable to renew for various reasons. This has resulted in a number of vacancies still being listed, as you will note in the directory. The directory is constantly being updated as members accept positions to fill these vacancies.

If you haven't been contacted about taking on a role in a committee, you are encouraged to contact us! You do not need to be the Regional Representative of your Community of Faith in order to sit on a committee. Anyone participating within a United Church in the region is eligible to be a member of a committee. You are invited to fill out the Volunteer Interest Form on the Region 15 website, or by contacting our chair, Rev. Alicia Cox at [aliciadawncox@msn.com](mailto:aliciadawncox@msn.com).

I would also encourage you to check the directory on the website to ensure that your contact information is correct, and to sign up for the weekly newsletter to ensure that you receive any of our calls for new committee members and other positions. These are our two main ways of contacting you!

The Nominations Committee has also been working on the nominations process for General Council commissioners and the President-elect this year. We are delighted that we were able to elect 9 of our 15 commissioners at our 2020 meeting, and are hoping to be able to elect the remaining commissioners and alternates at our 2021 meeting.

To all of those who have taken on the important work of our region, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the ministry within the bounds of Region 15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Alicia Cox, Chair of Nominations

## **DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Terms lengths are normally three years, renewable for one year.*

*An effort will be made to stagger the terms.*

### **Regional Executive**

Executive Minister

President

President-Elect

Past President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

Ms. Jane McDonald (2022)

To Be Elected

Ms. Janet Sollows (2022)

Chair of the Division of Finance and Administration

Chair of the Division of Regional Services and Support

Chair of the Division of Ministry Resources

Chair of Nominations Committee

VACANT

Mr. Donnie Morrison (2022)

Ms. Anne Cameron (2023)

Rev. Alicia Cox (2022)

Staff Committee Liaison

Rev. Derek Ellsworth (2022)

Members at Large

1. Mr. Peter Hardy
2. Mr. Max Martin (2022)
3. Rev. Shannon MacLean (2022)

UCW Representative Debbie Hawkins

### **Nominations Committee**

Chair Rev. Alicia Cox (2022)

Secretary Mr. Tony Orlando (2022, FINAL)

Members

1. Ms. Sue Lahey (2023)
2. Rev. Angela MacLean (2022)

### **Division of Finance and Administration**

Chair VACANT

Secretary Ms. Fay Smith

### **Financial Accountability and Investments Committee**

Chair Mr. Allan Davis

Vice Chair Mr. Mac MacLeod (2023)

Secretary Mr. Michael Ball (2022)

Members

1. April Hart (2023)
2. VACANT

### **Incorporated Ministries Committee**

Chair Rev. Christine Marie Gladu

Secretary Ms. Elaine Gray

Members

1. Ms. Brenda Munro (2022)
2. Rev. Kevin Little
3. VACANT

### **Property Committee**

Chair Mr. Larry Evans (2022)

Secretary Ms. Fay Smith (2023)

Members

1. Mr. Rob McArel (2022)
2. Rev. David LeBlanc (2023)
3. Jack Logan (2023)
4. Grant MacKenzie (2022)
5. Bruce Baxter (2024)

**Archives, Records, and History Committee**

Chair VACANT

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Ms. Heather MacLean
2. Lesley Burrows
3. Mr. Shane Doucette
4. Mr. Ross Cameron

**Division of Regional Services and Support**

Chair Mr. Donnie Morrison (2022)

Secretary Rev. Mike Henderson (2023)

**Communications Committee**

Chair Rev. Kevin Cox (2022)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Rev. Kym Burke-Cole
2. Mr. Ron Shaw
3. Mr. Jack Morrison

**Faith Formation and Leadership Development**

Chair Kevin Parks (2022, FINAL)

Secretary Rev. Heather Ferrier (2022)

Members

1. Rev. Sharon Lohnes (2023)
2. Ms. Carolina Tucker (2022)
3. Ms. Karen Crowley (2022)

**Child, Youth, and Young Adult Committee**

Chair Ms. Paige Fraser (2023)

Secretary Ms. Terry Skidgmore (2022)

Members

1. Mr. James O' Connell (2023)
2. Rev. Penny Nelson (2022)
3. Ms. Dana Pardy (2022)
4. Ms. April Hart (2023)
5. Ms. Caitlin Smithers (2023)

**Stewardship Committee**

Chair Ms. Shauna MacDonald (2023)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Ms. Margaret Ann Dodson (2022, FINAL)
2. Cora Fanning (2022)

**Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee**

Chair Rev. Anne Hoganson (2022)

Joint Secretary Mr. Jim Wicks (FSLDW)

Members

1. Ms. Kathryn Anderson, Diaconal Minister (2023)
2. Ms. Linda Scherzinger (2022)
3. Ms. Lenora Timmons (2023)
4. Rev. Penny Nelson (2023)
5. Ms. Bev MacDonald (2022)
6. Mr. Art Jensen (2023)
7. Ms. Sandra Tomsons (2023)
8. Rev. Kim Curlett (2024)

**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

Chair VACANT

Secretary VACANT

President of the Region Ms. Jane McDonald

Designated Individuals:

1. Rev. Heather Manuel (Local Arrangements)
2. Fay Smith
3. Ms. Janet Sollows (Past President)
4. Teresa McDonnell

**Association of Ministers Committee**

Chair Rev. Ross Bartlett (2022)

Secretary Rev. Linda Yates (2022)

Members

1. DM Minister-VACANT
2. DLM Minister-VACANT

**Division of Ministry Resources**

Chair Ms. Anne Cameron (2023)

Secretary Janet Sollows (2024)

**Pastoral Relations**

Chair Rev. Tom Woods (2022)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Jennifer Robarts (2022)
2. Sheila Stewart (2022)
3. Sean Boulger (2023)

**Licensing Committee**

Chair Rev. John Moses (2022)

Secretary VACANT

Diaconal Minister Hubert den Draak, Diaconal Minister (2022, FINAL)

Designated Lay Minister Ms. Dale Crawford, DLM (2022, FINAL)

Qualified Supervisor Rev. Helene Burns (2022)

Members

1. Mr. David Forbes (2022)
2. Rev. Joan Griffin (2022, FINAL)

**Faith Story Community Covenant Committee**

Chair Rev. Heather Fraser (2022)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Rev. Ian Harrison (2024)
2. Rev. Wayne Smith (2023)
3. Rev. Daniel MacDonald (2024)

**Future Directions Committee**

Chair Rev. Carol Smith

Secretary Rev. Catherine MacDonald

Members

1. Rev. Don Sellsted
2. Rev. Jeff Chant
3. Rev. Alison Etter

**Retiree Support Committee**

Chair Ms. Ruth Gamble, DLM (2022)

Secretary Wanalda Parsons (2023)

Members

1. Rev. Linda Winton (2022)
2. Rev. Glenn MacLean (2023)
3. Rev. David Hann (2023)

**Other Appointments****Region 15 Representatives to the Staff Support Committee**

1. Rev. Derek Ellsworth (Liaison to the Executive) (2022)
2. Rev. Donna Tourneur (2024)

**Affirming Ministries Working Group**

Chair Rev. Ivan Gregan

Secretary Rev. Mary Jo Harrison

Members

1. Ms. Shannon MacLean
2. Ms. Sandra Nimmo
3. Rev. Mike Henderson
4. Mr. Marty Clark-Ettinger, DLM
5. Ms. Shelby Ryan

**Representative to Atlantic School of Theology Senate**

1. Mavis Peddie-Peters (2023)

**Representative to Brunswick Street Mission Board of Directors**

1. Rick Gunn (2023)

**Representative to Tatamagouche Centre Society**

1. Allan McIntosh

**TRI-REGION STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

It seems that the last year and a half have morphed into one big segment of time that straddles the end of 2019 to the present day. This accountability report is supposed to cover the calendar year 2020 but we realize now that in the Fall of 2020, when we were supposed to report on 2019 as that meeting was our postponed annual meeting, we included much of what had happened in 2020 as well. So, for those keen readers who might feel as if they have read some of this information before, you may very well have. The following is our report for the calendar year 2020.

We continue to live into our new reality as regions and the shared work we are about as the three Atlantic Canadian (and Bermuda) Regions of the United Church of Canada. The Tri-Region Staffing Committee continues to work through understanding its role and especially feel the growing pains as we continue to try and determine what our role is and what the expectation is for the work we are called to do. There were four committee meetings held in 2020.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by all three of our Regions was updated and approved by all three regions in the Winter of 2020. The Staff Committee will recommend updates and changes, as needed, to the Executive. The changes for 2020 were made to include the new staff person for Children, Youth and Young Adults and an update to the language for the cell phone use as a reimbursement of expenses for a percentage of the cost of cell phone up to \$65.00 per month, rather than cell phone allowance.

As stated in the Terms of Reference, this committee's responsibility is to:

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this model, including how the cost-sharing arrangements are working and help to identify improvements in this arrangement from time to time
- Share experiences and insights about transitional work, including the possibility of any other shared projects.
- Provide support for all staff employed by the Regions and work with the Executive Minister in regards to working conditions and responsibilities.

Much of our time together as a committee has been spent in reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference and discerning our role. We struggle as a committee to clearly define our role. Some interpret it as being a resource, simply being a bridge between the staff and the regions as we interpret the system for staff and report back to the regions as to whether the staffing model we have is effective. Others of the committee see our Staff Committee role as

more one of support to staff and even to advocate for them and in no way meant to act in a supervisory or bureaucratic role.

The direct supervision of staff is the responsibility of our Executive Minister, who herself is supervised by the UCC's General Secretary. We do act as a sounding board and place of consult for the Executive Minister as she keeps us apprised of her oversight of staff but staff issues remain the purview of the staff members' immediate supervisor. When we met with the staff, they helped us, as a committee, to see that they do not expect us to be a place of pastoral care for them but that our offering of support in a more general sense would be welcome. So, we have come to understand that our primary role is supporting the Executive Minister in her role.

We attempt to meet with all staff annually via technology. Just to be able to put a face and voice to a name and to be able to be present to one another helps us, as a committee, feel our way into what is expected of our role. Each staff person is given the opportunity to speak about their role as well as the benefits and challenges they have encountered as they live into their new roles in this new system. As we continue to find our way into this new system as church, not having committee positions fully filled with volunteers means an extra burden for staff and we ask all church people in our regions to prayerfully discern where they might offer their gifts in serving in roles that are not filled. The new technologies and work commitments also means that we try to be clear in offering support to our staff. Especially now through this time of pandemic where they were working from home for much of 2020 and then shifting back to in-office and facing especially trying times as they figure out roles and responsibilities, we are thankful for the ministries all of the staff carry out for and with us. We also had one staff member in the Sackville office on maternity leave, which ended in June of 2020.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Catherine Stuart to the Children, Youth and Young Adult Minister position, who began work mid-Winter 2020. As a result of her entering the hiring process, Rev. Scott Stuart, her husband, who represented Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters on this committee, stepped aside and we are pleased to welcome Rev. Debbie Aitken as his replacement on this committee. We also thank Rev. Paul Vardy for his time spent as one of the members from First Dawn Eastern Edge Region as we now welcome Mr. James Evans to membership from FDEE.

Instead of naming a permanent secretary for this committee, we decided amongst ourselves that the three members who are responsible for reporting back to their regions, and thereby sit on those executives, would rotate quarterly the responsibility of note-taking, producing minutes of our committee meetings and writing the Executive reports for each of the regions.

As we continue to live into our role on this committee, we consider the possibility of having committee members paired up with individual staff as a check-in and support. We sent cards of support to our staff in Spring 2020 in light of the difficulties of and new realities Covid-19 had placed on them, as well as the tragedies experienced in and by the people of Nova Scotia especially. A meaningful virtual Christmas celebration with staff was held in December, with thanks to Reverend Faith. Boxes were mailed or delivered to each staff person. A Zoom party was organized where games were played, snacks enjoyed and boxes opened. Gift certificates to local restaurants were included in the gift boxes.

We are so very blessed with all of the staff who serve us so faithfully in our three Atlantic Regions. Especially through this pandemic time, they have continued to do their work virtually and in very different and creative ways. The Zoom platform is being used, creatively, by staff to connect to people in the Regions, but in some pastoral relations work where it was deemed necessary, staff have met face-to-face, following all public health guidelines. We especially thank Catherine who has lived into her new role completely virtually and has managed to acquaint herself with those she serves and has been a great resource virtually. We ask that you hold them all in your prayers as they serve Christ's church in their roles and support them in whatever capacity you are able, including offering yourselves to serve on committees so that the workload is shared and our staff do not have to carry the function of our system on their own.

Faith also reported about her work as part of the leadership team of the national church. The new General Secretary Michael Blair has now introduced the opportunity for the Executive Ministers to meet one-on-one with him, as opposed to as a group, and this seems to be a positive change as unique concerns to the Regions she serves can then be discussed directly with him.

It was discussed how the pandemic and its various restrictions has been hard on many congregations. There is a sense of anxiety/angst amongst some clergy about entering the second year of not meeting in-person, and what this may potentially mean in terms of attendance when congregations will once again be able to gather in person. Faith was applauded by committee members for her timely diligent support to the Regions on these matters.

The Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee annual budget is \$1,500 per year with that shared between the 3 regions at \$500 each.

We pray that God will continue to guide our work and help us to be of the best service we can possibly be.

Faithfully Submitted by the Tri-Region Staff Support Committee

Rev. Lesley Hamilton, Region 15 Reporting Member

Rev. Derek Ellsworth, Region 15

Rev. Paula Gale, First Dawn Eastern Edge Region Reporting Member

Mr. James Evans, First Dawn Eastern Edge Region

Ms Martha Vickers, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Reporting Member

Rev. Debbie Aitken, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Tri-Region Executive Minister

## OTHER REPORTS

### Atlantic School of Theology

As it did for every other organization under the sun, 2020-21 brought many challenges for Atlantic School of Theology. The shift to online-only learning in our summer, fall, and winter terms required us to stretch and grow our technological and pedagogical muscles. Our students also worked with great faith and diligence to adapt.

It was especially difficult for those with pastoral charge and family responsibilities, or with healthy challenge. We're very proud of them and grateful for them. We all did our best to support one another and to keep in touch. Nothing about "ALL THIS" has been easy! Yet we persevere, in the hope that our attention to and cooperation with God's leading will help us to make good decisions and to continue to serve faithfully.



AST's total enrolment was down slightly, to about 180 students, but the total number of courses taken by those students was up. We decided to wind down our Diploma in Youth Ministry program due to a lack of demand, but we are about to launch our new Diploma in Missional Leadership. The first cohort of this part-time program will begin in June and travel together as learners for two years. Warm thanks to the General Council Office and the United Church Foundation for their support and partnership in this new initiative.

After 12 years of exemplary teaching, research, and leadership, Rev. Dr. Susan Willhauck has decided to retire at the end of June. We shall miss her very much! She has been a very inspiring and encouraging professor and colleague. In July, we will welcome Drs. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, Andrew O'Neill, and Evangeline Kozitza Dean into tenure-track faculty positions. We're excited about what each of them will bring (and continue to bring) to AST's mission of learning and faith.

With lockdowns and limited movement the norm in so many places, we offered several series of online Continuing Education programming, including "Field Notes" and "Decolonizing Theology." As the summer term approaches, we will once again have all our courses online. Several of them are available to lifelong learners, including "Transitional Ministry Skills," "Mysticism and Monasticism in Context," "Evangelism Rediscovered," "Dying, Death, and Bereavement," and more. We would be delighted to welcome you to these online programs in June and July of this year. Similarly, we invite you to discover our emerging Leadership Learning Initiative and its promising array of programming.

It is an honour to share the work of theological education with the many supervisors and lay support teams who work with our students across Canada and beyond. As one of the theological schools of The United Church of Canada, we remain committed to sharing in mission with all the congregations, regions, and the General Council. Thank you for your support and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell

Academic Dean

[www.astheology.ns.ca](http://www.astheology.ns.ca)

### Atlantic School of Theology Senate

It has been my honour and pleasure to serve as the representative for the United Church of Canada, on the Atlantic School of Theology Senate.

Because of the Covid 19 Pandemic, all three of the meetings I have attended during the school year of 2020-2021, have been online through zoom: October 28 '20, Feb 3 '21 and April 28 '21. As a recent graduate of AST, it is a pleasure to renew acquaintances with faculty as well as to meet and serve with senators I had not previously met.

The following is a summary of some of the discussions we have had and decisions that were made:

#### Atlantic School of Theology programming & courses

##### Students:

- In Graduate Programs - During this Winter Semester, there have been 40 Full Time and 72 Part Time
- In Adult Education Diploma Programs for the same period there have been 67 students

##### Courses:

- All courses have been offered online only
- Staff and faculty have worked primarily from home, the library has been mostly open for limited hours.

Note: The Diploma in Youth Ministry has been discontinued, as of February, with assistance extended to those currently enrolled to enable them to complete.

##### Convocation:

The graduates of 2019-2020 were acknowledged last spring, but there was not a convocation held. Unfortunately, with the Pandemic still active there will again be no live convocation again this year. However, there *will* be a pre-recorded ceremony for graduates of both years on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. The link for this service will be made available on the AST website, [astheology.ns.ca](http://astheology.ns.ca).

NOTE: *David Suzuki* will receive an honorary doctorate from AST, and will deliver the keynote address at the Convocation.

##### Faculty:

There are at present, 10 core faculty and 12 sessional instructors, as well as numerous instructors for Continuing Education courses.

Warm and hearty congratulations are extended to Dr. David Csinos on being granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, and to Dr. Daniel Driver on being granted tenure and promoted to Full Professor.

Drs. Evangeline Kozitza-Dean, Susan MacAlpine-Gillis, and Andrew O'Neill will over the next months be taking up tenure-track faculty positions.

##### At Present:

*Learning Leadership Initiative:* This is an AST Senate initiative. It involves a 3-year plan, developing innovative leadership programming. Its focus is to reach a wider circle of participants than the AST courses reach. Several workshops have already successfully taken place, including:

- Leading from the Inside Out
- Black Women in Leadership
- A Conversation with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

This initiative is still under discussion.

There are 40 *Summer Distance students* who will be taking courses either online or as hybrid. Technology has been up-graded in 3 locations to allow for the hybrid course possibility.

*Weekly Chapel services* are held online, Thursdays at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend these. They have been a successful and appreciated online service.

*Accessibility Committee* – this committee has been struck and is working to move forward in making the AST campus accessible to all, both physically and educationally.

Progress is being made to meet all required standards for the *Association of Theological Schools*, due November, 2022.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the UCC Representative on this body. This completes the first of a 3-year term.

Rev. Mavis JA Peddie Peters

### **Centre for Christian Studies - 2020** **A Year of Imagining Everything Differently**

**Pandemic** - The pandemic (re)shaped everything in 2020...

#### **Spring - onset**

With the pandemic onset in Canada, within days we went from wondering whether our plans would be impacted to making the decision to move all circles and events online. Our staff began working from home as cities shut down. It was a time of enormous uncertainty. Students and staff plunged into online life. Our spring learning circles were creatively and quickly adapted for online gathering. Our Banquet and Annual Service of Celebration in person events were cancelled, and graduation instead marked with a Virtual Tea.



#### **Summer – space to breathe**

Online learning continued with the Relationship learning circle. Our Learning on Purpose circle was cancelled; and new students were invited to participate in a LOP-Lite orientation program. Woodsworth House re-opened to staff.

#### **Fall – second wave**

Staff continued to flex working from home or at the school. Our learning circles continued to be online, including: Integration Year, Ministry as Listening, Eco-Justice, Ministering by Word and Example. Some students proceeded with field placements, while others focused on external courses, which were widely available online.

**Progress** – Sometimes just pressing on felt like progress, but we did more...

#### **Education**

We continued to innovate online pedagogy. In April we held a series of pandemic responsive workshops on topics such as Online Annual Meetings and Trauma Informed Pastoral Care. We held 10 Learning Circles online, including three new one circles: Power and Privilege Circle, Eco-Theology Circle and Ministering by Word and Example Circle. We continued with free-of-charge

public workshops with our CCS Fridays series, exploring topics including Queer Biblical Interpretation, Apocalypticism and (the still popular) Online Annual Meetings. Members of our learning community presented and participated at conferences including the Christian Left Conference (Emmanuel College), Competency Based Theological Education Conference (Competency Based Education Network) and Liberating Our Bodies: Sexual Politics, Queer Resistance and Religious Alliance Today (Jakarta Theological Seminary).

### **Justice**

2020 started with Indigenous blockades of rail lines that brought an early silence Winnipeg from absent railcars. A deeper silence accompanied the first months of the pandemic, along with stark truths about who was vulnerable in our society. The silence was broken in the summer by Black Lives Matter protests raging against George Floyd's murder. CCS renews our affirmation that Black Lives Matter, our commitment to right relationship with Indigenous Peoples and stands against anti-Asian racism and violence.

### **Transformation**

In the midst of change, challenge and response, we learned more about the resilience of field based education – students have continued to learn with local committee and in local context, including field education. Our networks of connection were strong and flexible enough to hold us together through isolation. We found this to be true for our staff team as well – practices of connection with out-of-province staff proved invaluable when everyone was dispersed and isolated at home.

Our new social media partnership with Strategic Charm has refreshed our online presence, connecting us with old friends and reaching new folks.

One of our actions arising from our commitment to #BlackLivesMatter has been revising assigned reading lists with an anti-racist, decolonial lens. We are more stringently assessing the whiteness of our assigned authors, and making changes, circle by circle.

**Planning** - while trying to plan for the future in 2020 often felt like gazing into a foggy crystal ball, some things became crystal clear...

### **Recruitment**

Theological schools can no longer rely on a steady intake of students being identified and encouraged through denominational processes of call and discernment. We will be moving forward with hiring a part time Recruitment Coordinator in 2021 to connect with potential diploma, certificate and continuing education learners.

### **Sustainability**

A longterm future for the Centre must include financial sustainability. Denomination funding is decreasing. CCS donors remain committed to diaconal education, and blessed us with extraordinary generosity in 2020. Our investment in Development education resulted in large fundraising increases.

### **Partners**

We are blessed with collaborative, generative partners, including:

- Anglican and United Churches
- Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
- Anglican Deacons
- Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean

Diaconal Mentors, Field Placements, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members,  
 Council and Committee volunteers  
 St Andrew's College  
 St Stephen's College  
 Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre  
 Strategic Charm (social media managers)

**Our Year Book, Financial Statements and Annual Report may be found at:**  
<http://ccsonline.ca/event/ccs-annual-general-meeting-2021/>



**EMMANUEL COLLEGE**  
 OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Spring 2021

Dear Friends,

I pray for God's blessings on your regional meeting and bring greetings from Emmanuel College. As the end of my term as Principal approaches, I write to share some exciting developments at the College.

The COVID-19 pandemic has handed us the unexpected opportunity to dive head-first into online teaching and learning. We are currently discerning a distance model for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program, which may interest candidates in your region, for whom moving to Toronto would have been an obstacle. Students starting the program this fall can expect access to online courses, with opportunities for community and spiritual life both online and in person. Our John W. Billes Grant affords 100% tuition support for United Church of Canada members enrolled full-time in the MDiv and engaged with the candidacy pathway process. We also offer ample bursary support, which has been bolstered during the pandemic by Annual Fund gifts from generous alumni donors.

Emmanuel College recruits and educates leaders to be attuned to the changing context and mission of the church in Canada. We have broadened ways that courses, continuing education, and community life implement the calls to action delineated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the appointment of Jonathan Hamilton-Diabo as Special Advisor on Indigenous Issues and teaching- stream Assistant Professor of Theology, the College now offers courses on Indigenous theological worldviews; Indigenous ways of relating to faith, church, and the community; and the legacy of residential schools. We have also increased the presence of Indigenous Elders in ceremonies and as guest lecturers. New Canadian faculty have joined us, with expertise in postcolonial and decolonial theories and practices. As a result, we have instituted an

innovative curricular requirement in Coloniality and Power for all basic degree students. Our pluralistic context and our multireligious Master of Pastoral Studies program also enhance the MDiv. Students become more deeply rooted in their own religious and spiritual traditions as a result of engaging one another across difference. Each of these distinctive emphases prepares our UCC candidates for contemporary ministries.

Our continuing education partnerships with the United Church emphasize leadership in diverse settings. We are currently co-sponsoring a multi-year Innovative Ministry project with the Toronto United Church Council. In early March, General Secretary Michael Blair delivered our Gandier Lecture, addressing the current reality of anti-black racism, the church's historic complicity with practices of exclusion, and the UCC's commitment to transformative discipleship as the beloved community. This summer, our Centre for Religion and Its Contexts will gather a preaching symposium, and we will also host the second annual Christian Left Conference with Trinity St. Paul's UCC, EDGE, and other sponsors. Please consider joining us at these events, online and free of charge. Future initiatives will integrate the training of candidates for ministry with workshop opportunities for ministers, including a series of workshops that draw on the College's strengths in mental health education.

Our faculty contribute theologically to the United Church of Canada. We are thinking through emergent theological issues that matter to congregations and their ministers. Recent publications include Pamela McCarroll's volume, *Christian Theology after Christendom: Engaging the Thought of Douglas John Hall*; and *Postcolonial Preaching: Creating a Ripple Effect* by Timothy Eaton Memorial Church Professor of Preaching, HyeRan Kim-Cragg. Our faculty and students continue to join your congregations as guest preachers via Zoom.

Looking back over my three years as Principal, I have been grateful to participate in each of these facets of our engagement with the United Church of Canada. I look forward to new ways of connecting after June 30, under the leadership of our soon-to-be-announced Interim Principal. On a personal note, I look forward to continuing my journey as a member of the Emmanuel College faculty and as a person in ministry in the Admission process with the UCC.

This concludes my report to you as Principal, but it is not "goodbye." Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Michelle Voss Roberts Principal and Professor of Theology

### **Hunter United Church Building Fund**

The year 2020 saw less building activity, no doubt, because of the pandemic. We were able to financially assist Nova Scotia United Churches as they dealt with building repair emergencies or made necessary renovations to their church buildings to meet new challenges in their respective ministries. From steeples to solar panels, our churches continued to be beacons of light in our communities; and the Trustees of the Hunter Church Building Fund were pleased to be able to offer financial assistance with these projects.

Normally, the Trustees would meet in person in May, October, and December. In 2020, we met in June and December, via Zoom.

Ms. Louise Gosbee retired at the completion of her term and we thanked her for her many years of service. Ms. Darria Langill of Truro became our newest trustee, beginning in 2021.

At the request of the Executive Minister of the UCC Eastern Region, the trustees approved a \$100,000 short term note to Region 15 to secure loans to United churches who might have financial needs caused by the pandemic. As of the spring of 2021, a loan request was not forthcoming.

We received grant applications after they were reviewed by Region 15's Property Committee. Appreciation to Mr. Ron Patterson, Chair of Region 15 Property Committee, for his close liaison with our Secretary. Understandably, the pandemic brought fewer applications to the Board. Eight grants were approved during the year 2020 totaling \$144,000.00 (one hundred forty-four thousand dollars.)

Application forms for Hunter Grants can be obtained by going to the Region 15 Web Page (applications). The Property Committee, (a sub-committee of the Finance Committee) receives and reviews all applications before they are forwarded to the Secretary of the Hunter Fund.

An audited Financial Statement for 2019 was satisfactorily completed by William Foster, CPA, of Dartmouth.

Applications, both Regular and Special, will continue to be received and considered for the year 2021. We recognize the many challenges that congregations are facing in these unprecedented times and would encourage Nova Scotia churches to make an application through Region 15's Property Committee.

#### Trustees:

Mr. Ross Hallett, (Chair)

Rev'd Trent Cleveland-Thompson, (Secretary)

Ms. Sandra Barss

Rev'd Kevin Cox

Rev'd Vincent Ihasz

Rev'd Elroy McKillop

Mr. Charles Baxter, (Treasurer)

Ms. Louise Gosbee (Retired May 2020)

Ms. Darria Langill (Jan 2021)

Rev'd Helene Burns

Rev'd Derek Ellsworth

Rev'd Angela MacLean

Rev'd Carol Smith

Respectfully Submitted,

Trent Cleveland-Thompson, Secretary

Hunter United Church Building Fund

### **Office of Vocation**

As usual it has been another busy year as Office of Vocation Minister. I have the privilege of working with members of the Atlantic Candidacy Board who work diligently and faithfully to support applicants and candidates as they enter the Candidacy Pathway. The board continues to meet and conduct interviews on line using Zoom, which has proven to be a very useful tool. On average the board has done six interviews per month. Currently there are 30 candidates in the three Atlantic Regions (9 from FSLDW, 15 from region 15 and 6 from FDEE) There are 2 Diaconal candidates, 8 DLM candidates and 20 in the ordained stream. As well there are currently 5 applicants seeking suitability as candidates.

Recently the members of the board were saddened at the death of Rev. Yvette Swan, who provided gentle wisdom and leadership to our work. We are truly grateful for our ministry with us. We extend condolences to her family and congregations.

The members of the Atlantic Candidacy Board are:

Sally Shaw (Chair)

Brenda Andrews (Secretary)

Jane Johnson

Kevin Cox

Simbarashe Mazhara

Elizabeth Stevenson

Ettie Gordon-Murray

Sheila Gallant

Margaret Ann Plant

Annika Sangster

Adekunle Adeniyi

The other half of my work has been around supporting the accreditation of ministry personnel and supporting remedial processes. This includes writing numerous letters of good standing, assisting ministry personnel as they attempt to navigate their way around Church Hub, and ensuring that they have completed their mandatory training and completed their annual declaration as required by General Council. I also taught, along with my BC colleague Brenda Fawkes, an online version of Ministry of Supervision which attracted over 40 highly competent ministers from across the country who are interested in this important ministry. Since the last AGM I have supported two clergy as they made their way through the remedial process. I have had opportunity to talk to numerous clergy about the struggles and joys of living out their vocation in this pandemic year. I continue to be impressed by the leadership, ingenuity, creativity and faithfulness of our ministry personnel, who do ministry in the most difficult of times. We are well served in our regions.

It is my continued privilege to work as your Office of Vocation Minister, please be in touch if I can assist you in any way.

Andrew Richardson

### Maritime United Church Women

We have lived through a pandemic year, and it has affected everything that we do. Its impact has been felt in UCW circles as well.

Thank you to Ruth Kennedy who represented the Maritime UCW at both Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW) and Region 15 from the time of the new structure until Nov. 17, 2020 when she stepped down as president of Maritime UCW. Elaine Burrows became president, and Debbie Hawkins and Marilyn Bubar became Co-Vice Presidents. Elaine Burrows agreed to represent Maritime UCW at Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region, while Debbie Hawkins represents the UCW in Region 15.

The MUCW executive met on March 23, 2020 and November 17, 2020 and March 27, 2021 each time by Zoom. We have an executive of 10. Each of the 14 districts either has an executive or a representative who is supposed to be in contact with UCW units in her area. FSLDW has the following districts: Chignecto, Miramichi, Northwest NB, PEI, St. Croix, and Saint John. Region 15 has the following districts: Bermuda, Inverness-Guysborough, Halifax, Pictou, South Shore, Sydney, Truro, and Valley.

UCW groups in FSLDW gave \$49,517 to Mission and Service in 2019. Region 15 gave \$79,007 to Mission and Service in 2019. Nationally, UCW units gave \$1,020,034 to Mission and Service in 2019. The 2020 Mission and Service figures are not yet available.

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Water has 145 units with around 1352 members. Region 15 has 96 units and around 992 members. We are still waiting to hear from at least another 56 units that have not sent in their statistics nor paid their dues. Please see that this gets done. It is expected that dues will be paid. There is \$1.00 for National UCW, \$3.00 for the Maritime UCW, and the fee that is set by the local district. Each group needs money to function and to carry on its work. We also need contact information for each group. There were probably UCW groups who missed out on the first ever Maritime UCW Zoom call on April 19<sup>th</sup> because they have not submitted their contact information.

There was no Cookie Cottage at Berwick Camp for 2020, nor will there be one in 2021.

We are working on improving **communication** for members. The “Keeping in Touch” flyer which used to come out in the info packs to the congregations has been discontinued by the national church. A National UCW committee has taken on the task of producing the “Keeping in Touch” UCW leaflet. The first one came out in March 2021.

The “**MUCW Newsletter**” which has only been available by mail can still be purchased, but now has been put on the UCW page on the Regional website. It can be read there, or members can print off their own copy. It comes out three times a year.

To find the UCW page on the FSLDW and Region 15 web page, look under ministries. Click on it and you will find UCW at the bottom. Click on it. We are trying to keep this information up-to-date.

You will find 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary news, Maritime UCW newsletters, Keeping in Touch, UCW facebook page, Minutes, Handbooks and Study Guides, the October 2020 Tatamagouche fundraising letter, and Women for Change- Zambia poster. Other items will be added as they come in.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee for “**Continuing in Hope**” is planned for July 11-15 2022 in Sydney, Cape Breton. The committee has met numerous times by Zoom since we began planning this major event. Details about the event can be found on the FSLDW and Region 15 website under ministries/UCW. Registration will go live the end of September 2021.

The **National UCW** meeting was held by Zoom this year. Four members (Elaine Burrows, Ruth Kennedy, Debbie Hawkins and Marilyn Bubar) attended the five day event from September 28 to October 2 from 2 p.m. AST till 4 p.m. AST. It was much more fun to travel to Toronto to the Queens of the Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, ON and meet all the regional UCW presidents from across the country to share worship, meetings, meals, and social times. However, by Zoom we were able to cover the needed business.

For the first time a **Zoom call** was organized for the Maritime UCW members on **Monday morning April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Around 90 members and guests were present. Time was spent introducing members of the executive, and hearing how the fourteen districts across the two regions were doing during the pandemic. The national UCW president, Beulah Hayley, sent greetings, and the National UCW treasurer Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle co-hosted the event. Sharon Moyse led the group in worship.

**Margie MacIntyre** spoke to the group about ongoing projects at the **Tatamagouche Centre**, and how UCW donations are making a difference in their offering of hospitality to the groups who use their space. [ww.tatacentre.ca](http://ww.tatacentre.ca)

**The Rev. Janet Stobie**, the author of a number of books including “Dipping Your Toes” in planning Small Group Devotionals spoke to us about her ministry through her books. She is a writer, family counsellor, and an inspirational speaker who lives in Peterborough, Ontario, [www.janetstobie.com](http://www.janetstobie.com)

Our third guest was **The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu**, Global Partnership Program coordinator, South East Asia/Southern Africa, Church in Partnership for the United Church of Canada. His presentation (power point) brought us a lot of useful information about the UCW's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary project “Women for Change – Zambia.” 1-800-268-3781, Ext. 4056

**Ruth Kennedy**, chair of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held in Sydney, Cape Breton from July 11-15 2022 with the theme “Continuing in Hope” updated the group with a slide presentation. After a closing prayer, the discussion continued till 12:30 p.m.

We will be having another Zoom call for Maritime UCW members this fall, probably sometime in October, but the time will be organized differently. We may add chat rooms so UCW members and small groups can talk to each other.

Thank you to Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters and Region 15 for their financial support for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2022 by providing funding for the bookstore representative to come from NL, and to stay at a local hotel during the week long event.

Maritime UCW groups continue to be active in many different ways in spite of a world-wide pandemic.

Elaine Burrows, FSLDW UCW Representative  
Debbie Hawkins, Region 15 UCW representative

### **Jubilarians**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Anniv</b>
<b>2020</b>	
The Rev. Robert E. Chapman	50
The Rev. Elizabeth J. Davies	50
The Rev. William M. Gillis	50
The Rev. Russell L. Harding	50
The Rev. John E. Hennigar-Shuh	50
The Rev. A. Ross MacDonald	55
The Rev. Dr. J. Allan McIntosh	55
The Rev. Thomas G. Whent	55
The Rev. Morley P. Bentley	60
The Rev. Heber G. Colbourne	60
The Rev. J. Raymond H. Corbett	60
The Rev. Eric W. Pace	60
The Rev. Herbert W. Reid	70
<b>2021</b>	
The Rev. R. Diane I. MacVicar	55
The Rev. Dr. Norman C. Marple	55
The Rev. Duncan E. Roach	55
The Rev. Neil F. MacDonald	60
The Rev. S. Elroy McKillop	60
The Rev. Waldo G. C. Elliott	65
The Rev. Donald F. Murray	65
The Rev. Lester M. Settle	65
The Rev. Edward P. Thompson	70

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**Retirees**


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**2020**

The Rev. Florence A. Antle-Brison  
 The Rev. David J. H. Hart  
 Norma Mills, DLM  
 Nancy Whitney-Latham, DLM  
 The Rev. Dr. Linda M. B. Yates

**2021**

The Rev. L. Vivian Moores  
 The Rev. Sandra L. Morrison  
 The Rev. Lesley J. (Lee) Simpson

**MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES****Dr. Margaret Muir Arklie**

1939-2020

Margaret passed away in QEII Health Sciences Centre on November 28, 2020, after a brief illness. She was a daughter of late Douglas and Emma Arklie and also predeceased by sisters, Evelyn and Joan (of Newton Avenue, Halifax). Margaret grew up in Halifax and enjoyed summers at their cottage in Masons Point. She had a career in nursing that stretched over 37 years. She studied in Halifax, Calgary, Boston, Scotland and Austin, Tex., where she achieved her Doctor's degree. Most of Margaret's work and teaching was at Dalhousie University from where she retired in 1997. Margaret was a avid knitter, seamstress, quilter, enjoyed singing in numerous choirs, and played the hand bells. She enjoyed many trips traveling throughout Europe and other parts of the world. She was an active member of St. Mathews United Church on Barrington Street where she served on many committees, including church treasurer for 12 years amongst many lifetime friends and colleagues. Margaret is survived by her brother, Doug (Sheila) and nephews, Jeffrey (Cathy), Andrew, and Stephen (Belinda); great-nieces and nephews Carleigh, Cody, Cole, Cearstyn, and Charlotte. As well as various cousins across Canada. Margaret has been cremated under the direction of J.A. Snow Funeral Home, 339 Lacewood Dr., Halifax. Thanks to the staff at Parkland at the Gardens and doctors and nursing staff at the QEII hospital. There will be a Celebration of Life in St. Mathews United Church on Barrington Street at a later date when it is safe due to COVID-19.

**The Reverend Garth Caseley**

1941-2021

Died on April 21, 2021 at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital. He was born in 1941, son of Leaman and Fern Caseley of Kelvin Grove, PEI. He is survived by his spouse Lucille (Smith), son Lt. Col. Dale (Jen) Caseley (Ottawa) and daughter Heather (Bruce) Caseley (Brookfield, NS), three grandchildren, Jessica Caseley (Vancouver), Joshua Caseley (Ottawa), and Alex Termeer

(Brookfield, NS). Garth has five siblings, Joan (Keith) Sudsbury, Roger (Elaine) Caseley, Rowan (Melissa) Caseley, Stuart (Patsy) Caseley, all of PEI, and Wendall (Lynn) Caseley (Halifax, NS). Garth was educated at Kelvin Grove School, Kensington High School, Prince of Wales College, Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. He was ordained by The United Church of Canada, Maritime Conference in 1965. Throughout his career he served pastoral charges in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, retiring from Mount Royal United Church, Moncton, NB in 2001 when he and Lucille moved to Fredericton, NB. Following retirement he continued a volunteer ministry to churches and pastoral charges of several denominations and nonprofit charitable organizations and foundations, including designing and maintaining the Maritime Conference website for a number of years. Due to Covid restrictions a family celebration of Garth's life will be held in the future.

### **Mr. David Eagles**

1944-2020

David Eagles of Moncton passed away on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at The Moncton Hospital. He was the son of the Late Harry and Elaine (Anderson). He will be dearly missed by his loving wife Carol (Kaye); children Beth Eagles (Dwayne Engelmyer) of Burns Lake, BC, Brian Eagles (Diane Wilson) of Enfield, NS and Brent Eagles (Michelle) of St. John's, NL; grandchildren : Kelly Eagles (Serge Corriveau), Emily Eagles and Jacob Eagles; great-grandchildren MacKenzie Eagles, Lisa Perry; step-grandchildren Jasmine and Madison; sisters Martha Steeves (Brian) of Riverview and Mary Allen (Larry) of Moncton; brothers Stephen (Gloria) of Bouctouche and Eldon "John" (Cynthia) of Fredericton. David spent several years working for the Canadian Employment and Immigration Centre in Moncton and Sackville, NB. After years of hard work and following his passion, he was officially recognized as a Designated Lay Minister with the United Church of Canada during a ceremony in Sackville, NB in the early 90's. He served many pastoral charges in NB and NS including: Lakeburn-Dorchester, River John-West Branch, Central United (Clifton) and Trinity United (Riverview). He was especially proud to serve Mountain View United Church in his later years with his good friend, Danny. David lived his life in service to others and was an active volunteer in many organizations throughout the years.

### **The Reverend Jay Warren Ettinger**

1960-2021

It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of Reverend Jay Ettinger, age 60, of Valley, Nova Scotia on Saturday, February 27, 2021. Husband of Marty Clark-Ettinger, beloved son of Vivian and the late Claddie Ettinger, brother of Steve Ettinger, and uncle to nephews, Kendall and Heath. Jay is also survived by one aunt, three uncles and numerous cousins. Born in Montreal, Jay went on to live in the Yukon, Toronto, Los Angeles and finally settled in Nova Scotia. During his younger years, Jay was a multi-talented performer, acting in musical theatre and in movies. In Los Angeles he turned his hand to writing and directing. An accident in 1994 changed the trajectory of Jay's life and led, in the universe's mysterious way, to receiving a calling to ministry. But first, he faced a daunting challenge – getting his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Jay was gifted in many areas, but he excelled in academics, earning a Master of Arts from St.

Mary's University AST and Master of Divinity from Queens University in Ontario. Being a minister was the job Jay was most proud of. He led charges in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and eventually became minister at Saint Andrew's United Church in Truro, Nova Scotia. Jay was a gifted clergyman who brought an infusion of music, joy and deep compassion to the members of his congregation. He will be sorely missed. The world is a sadder place without Jay in it. But heaven is rejoicing. A private funeral service was held at Colchester Community Funeral Home, Truro, NS, on March 7, 2021.

### **The Reverend James Walter Forbes**

1934-2021

It is with heavy hearts the family of Rev. James Walter Forbes, age 86, loving and devoted husband to Rev. Carolyn M. Palmer, announces his peaceful passing which occurred on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Born in New Glasgow, NS on September 7, 1934 he was the son of the late Samuel James and Christine Ellen (MacNaughton) Forbes. In addition to his loving wife of 32 years, Carolyn, he is survived by his son Doug Forbes (Janet); daughter Lorraine Forbes (Jon Abrahams); sister Isabel Fraser; grandchildren Ryan Forbes (Sarah), Kyle Forbes (Vanessa), Duncan Forbes and Alexander Abrahams; several nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, Jim was pre-deceased by his brother-in-law John Fraser. Always with a sparkle in his eye he was constantly ready for a punny joke and made strong friendships wherever he went. Proud of his Scottish heritage, Jim was active in the St. Andrews Society. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing music with friends and past band members. Passionately researching family history, he also organized family reunions. After attending Mt. Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall, he faithfully served many congregations throughout the Maritimes and Ontario over his long career. There will be no visitation or funeral service. Due to Covid restrictions, a celebration of life will be held at a later date in New Glasgow, NS.

### **Mr. Frederick "Fred" Robert John Gamble**

1941-2020

Frederick Robert John Gamble, age 79, gently passed away December 2, 2020. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Ruth (nee Wightman), his children Doug (Sherry), Sackville, NB, Kim (Bruce) Walker, Waasis, NB, grandchildren, Bradley, Katelyn, Alex (their mom Aimee), Tyler, Nick (Rebecca) great grandchildren, Isla, Aria; Sherry's family (our family) - Jelena, Amira, Alex, Lucas, Rowland; Fred's brother, Ron (Ruth), his nieces and nephew, Donna, Tara, Kevin, and their families; members of Ruth's family – Peter (Laura), Jane (Jack), David (Dale) and their families. Fred was employed by and dedicated to Campbell's Funeral Home for eight years, a family in itself. He was a team player when Ruth became a ministry personnel within the United Church of Canada; River Philip Pastoral Charge, Northumberland Pastoral Charge and Springhill Pastoral Charge. He was always into learning new moments in life – working with Gordon Purdy during blueberry season; Nine years being a part of the set-up, take-down for Maritime Conference Annual Meetings, Life Savers, Central Treasurer of NPC; years with LBJ Farm Equipment, Mount Allison University, and BP Oil, Ottawa. Moving to NS in 1978 he built his own greenhouse, a business he grew up with in Nepean, and then a few years with Michelin, Bridgewater. In his younger years, we enjoyed line dancing, lobster fishing, hunting, drag racing, scuba diving, helping

out in the neighborhood of Amherst Head and Shinimicas with farm work. He was a gift at all trades, and enjoyed quiet times at the cottage. He will be greatly missed by his beloved fur friend, Pepper. Fred was predeceased by his parents, Lillian and Bert Gamble, Aunts and Uncles, Ursula (Earl), Ruby (Joe), and his grandmother, Bertha Mockett. As per his wishes, cremation has taken place. A time to celebrate and honour Fred's life was held on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at Campbell's Funeral Home. Fred will be laid to rest in the Fort Lawrence Cemetery.

**Ms. Pam Harrison**

1944-2021

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our dear Mom and Nanny/Grammie Pam (Barkhouse) Harrison on January 7, 2021, after a very short illness. She was the daughter of the late Jim and Doris (Robson) Barkhouse. Fun loving sister to Myrna (Gordon) Matheson, Brookfield, NS, and Tyler (Michelle) Barkhouse, Fredericton, NB. Her greatest blessings were her 3 children; Dean (Lynn), Barronsfield, NS, Angie (Darrell), River Hebert, NS; Kent (Lynda), Amherst, NS; as well as her 6 grandchildren, Alex (Christina), Ben, Mitchell, Chloe, Madison, and Sam. She taught these children what a good time was all about. She was fortunate enough to see the magic in the eyes of each child as they experienced the magic of Disney, a highlight for us all. She was also so proud of her nieces and nephews, Pam (her namesake), Heath, Isaac, Seth and Madeline Claire, and great nieces Katya, Talia and Gertie. Mom graduated from River Hebert Rural School. Later in life she received diplomas from St. Mary's and the University of Cape Breton. Mom was a world traveler visiting 7 continents, 89 countries and was fortunate to see the 7 wonders of the world. Last year she visited her 100th Unesco World Heritage site, which was in Spain. In 2014 she fell in love with Portugal earning her the title "Portugal Pam". How she looked forward to packing her lime green backpack and escaping the snow. She made so many dear friends there, and she was so sad to not be making plans to return due to Covid-19. She always told us she had never met a stranger. Mom received many distinguished awards through her lifetime, such as the Paul Harris Fellowship Award-major donor, founding member of Paul Harris society district 7810, Rotary International Citation for Meritorious Service, Rotarian of the year 1028, and the Canada 125 Award. She was manager of the Amherst Centre Mall for 9 years, where she put her love of fundraising to good use. She was so proud of the Gift for Gloria Burke campaign as well as many other successful events. She went on to work for Cumberland Regional Development Authority; where her greatest accomplishment was the creation of the "I want to be a Millionaire" program, touching the lives of young entrepreneurs all over Cumberland. She retired from her position on the General Council of the United Church at the age of 70. Mom's two passions were Rotary International and her work with the United Church. Some of these projects were: End Polio Now Campaign, going as far as to lead a team to do Polio Vaccinations in India in 2005: The Bed net fundraiser, which raised enough money to protect 300 families: Shelter Box for hurricane victims in Haiti: Installed water filtration systems in the Dominic Republic for 3 consecutive years: Purple Pinky day at RHES to raise money to eradicate Polio. After retirement, she thought it would be fun to try her hand at doing a few marathons (walking not running, which she would only reveal if asked), she participated in the Bluenose as well as many other local marathons. Thanks for all the memories. There will be an evening of visitation and a funeral, as soon as some of the COVID-19 restrictions loosen. In lieu of flowers, in true Pammie style, she would like you to perform a random act of kindness, and a smile to remember all of her kindness.

**The Reverend Robert “Bob” Stansfield Latimer**  
1928-2021

Robert “Bob” Stansfield Latimer, age 92, of Truro passed away peacefully on January 16, 2021 of natural causes. Bob was predeceased by his mother, Anita; his father, H.H.; his wife, Sadie; and his brother, Hugh. Bob is survived by children, Rob (Sonya), Nancy (Mike), John (Vikki); brother, Dave (Elizabeth); sister, Karen; and grandchildren, Caitlin, Robert (Kat), Brendan (Sarah), Elizabeth (Matt), Mackenzie and Michael (Alyssa). In Bob’s own words; “I can say, first and foremost, that all through my life God has blessed me with so many wonderful experiences and opportunities to serve the Christian Church and its people, as well as many unforgettable communities and organizations, from whom I learned invaluable life lessons. Bob was born in July 1928 to H.H. and Anita Latimer in Sydney. After graduating from New Glasgow High School in 1946, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts (1951) and a Bachelor of Education (1952) at Mount Allison University. It was during his final year at Mt A that he met his future wife, Sadie Charleen Latimer (Snow). After leaving Mt. A he earned a Master in Divinity (1954) at Pine Hill Divinity College. In 1955, Sadie and Bob married, going on to have three children, Robert V, Nancy and John. In Bob’s own words; “I can say that God has blessed me with the most wonderful wife any man could ever have - my dearest Sadie, whom I love with all my heart. I can also say that I was very fortunate to have, supporting me over the years, my family - my parents and in-laws, my siblings and their families, and especially my children and grand-children, of whom Sadie and I are very proud.” After graduation, he entered the United Church Ministry with his first assignment as minister of the River Denys-Orangedale Pastoral Charge in July 1954. Bob enjoyed postings of increasing responsibility within the United Church starting with Assistant Minister of Trinity United Church, Charlottetown, PEI in 1958, Christian Education Field Secretary for Maritime Conference in Sackville NB in 1962, and Principal of Atlantic Christian Training Center (ACTC), Tatamagouche, in 1967. In 1971 he left active ministry within the United Church to start the Association for Human Relations Education (AHRE) and the National Training Institute (NTI) in Truro, providing adult leadership training and development programs. These enterprises were relocated to Fredericton, NB in 1975. In 1986 he started Latimer Consulting Systems in Fredericton, continuing his work in leadership training and which he operated until his retirement in 2000. Throughout his years in Truro and Fredericton, he continued to maintain his involvement with the United Church preaching at anniversary and other special services at churches throughout the Maritime Provinces, serving as Interim Minister at Nashwaaksis United Church, from 1983-1984 and again in 1988. He also held various roles within United Church Maritime Conference including President from 1995-1996. Bob was active in Boys Parliament, Scouts and various Christian youth camps during the 1950s and 1960s. Personal interests included: tree cultivation, genealogy, music including a lifelong love of Hollywood Musicals and singing in various Gilbert & Sullivan productions. Bob loved to research and write. His works included: two family histories, documenting family reunions, a volume of stories written for his children and grandchildren, several United Church congregational and community histories of Orangedale, Malagawatch, Marble Mtn, River Denys and Truro, a history of shipbuilding in Tatamagouche and other histories of Nova Scotian events and people, a book on his father, HH Latimer, a reflection on his own life and many other works. One of Bob’s greatest passions was vacationing with wife, Sadie and children at their cottage in Kempt Head. Bob & Sadie attended at Kempt Head most years from 1955 to 2016. Bob and Sadie also enjoyed travel, taking extended camping trips with the family throughout Canada and the USA. Bob and Sadie visited Bermuda, Bahamas,

Barbados and Greece. Bob also traveled through Europe with brother, Hugh and Ireland with son, Rob. Bob was grateful for the many travel opportunities he had during his life to explore parts of the world and its people. Bob believed the earth was a beautiful place and, despite the evil that challenges all people daily, he believed that God's handiwork, meaning and purpose for the world, would ultimately prevail. Bob was an active member of St Andrews UC church in Truro for the past 20 years. He was so grateful for the wonderful pastoral care that was provided to Sadie and himself over the past few years. Bob resided at Parklands Truro for the last several years. He truly appreciated the quality of care received by Sadie and himself. Bob's belief was that in the final analysis, it is not the great world events that fill the media daily, but the little everyday acts of kindness and love, one to another, that matter most, and that give life its real and ultimate meaning. A burial will be held at Drummond Memorial Church in Ross Ferry, NS when circumstances permit, cremation has taken place.

### **The Reverend David Neil MacNaughton**

-2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Rev. David MacNaughton, 85 of Truro, announces his passing on October 31, 2020 in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro. David was born in Glace Bay, N.S., the son of Samuel and Annie Vokey. His mother died at childbirth and he was subsequently adopted by Alex and Dorothy MacNaughton. David leaves to mourn with beautiful memories his wife of 62 years, Nancy; children, Sandy (Terry Anne), Peter (Colleen), daughter-in-law, Willa; grandchildren, Joshua, Spencer, Myles, Noah, Hannah, Alexandra and Emily. David is also survived by the Vokey family: David (Johanne), Eleanor and Tom. He was predeceased by his son, Scott and siblings of the Vokey family. While in high school, David worked in the Co-operative store, Dosco payroll office and the Sydney Steel Plant. He graduated from Morrison Glace Bay High School in 1953. In the fall of that year, he enrolled at Mount Allison University in Arts and Theology and met her the love of his life, Nancy Munro. He was an Officer Cadet in the U.N.T.D. (Navy) and served aboard HMCS Lauzon. His summer mission fields were in Neidpath and Rapid View in Saskatchewan and he opened a mission field in Marcil, Que. In 1958 he graduated from Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax and was ordained by the United Church of Canada. He served pastorates in: Escuminac, Quebec; St, Andrew's United, Halifax; Central United, Lunenburg-First South; First United, Truro; Trinity-Clifton, Charlottetown, P.E.I. While in Truro, the Roman Catholic Immaculate Conception Church was destroyed by fire. David, with the support of the Clerk of Session, took it upon themselves to invite the Parish to worship in First United Church until their church was rebuilt. This was approved the next day by First United congregation. (David figured it was easier to get forgiveness than permission!). The two congregations worked side by side for over a year. He did post graduate studies at Pine Hill and Princeton University, and was a graduate of the Commercial Safety College in Masstown, N.S. as a bus driver. David served as a qualified supervisor to several theological students. David was actively involved in several church and community organizations. He was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow in the Rotary Club. He was chaplain of the Truro Volunteer Fire Brigade for 27 years, and the recipient of a 20-year medal for meritorious service by the Federal Government. David was the author of four books: The Beatitudes and Their Significance for Today, Running Away Is Not the Answer, Coping with Life and, Homeward Bound. David thoroughly enjoyed the time he spent with family and friends at the cottage at Spencer's Point, overlooking the beautiful Cobequid Bay. His hobbies were gardening, cycling, walking, coin and stamp collecting and reading. He always

enjoyed watching a good western movie. He loved to be with family and friends, and summers at the cottage. He will always be remembered for his love of family and God. The family would like to extend their sincere thanks for their wonderful care to Dr. Robert Graham, Dr. Tanya Munroe, and the doctors and nurses of the ICU and palliative care at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. A Webcast of the service took place on Wednesday, November 4th through the Colchester Community Funeral Home.

### **The Reverend Kenley Murray MacNeill**

1935-2020

Rev. Kenley M. MacNeill of Truro, passed away November 6, 2020 in Truro. He is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy (Bourne) MacNeill, and his parents, Nelson and Isabel (Murray) MacNeill. He is survived by his children, Kathy (Ron) Curtis, Karen MacNeill, Mae Douglas, Peter (Linda) MacNeill and John (Terri) MacNeill; grandchildren, Brian (Melissa) Curtis, Kerry (Michael) Cullihall, Anthony Douglas, Jenny (Zach) Monaghan, Danica MacNeill, Jasper MacNeill and Spencer MacNeill; great grandchildren, Keegan, Joshua, Ryland, Grace and Kate; his brothers, Ian and Eldon (Darlene), as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Kenley had a life-long commitment to building and nurturing strong, vibrant community. He did this through his work with the United Church and throughout the twelve years that he worked outside the Church at all three levels of government. Kenley always sought to work cooperatively with others, and has been a mentor to many people, be they co-workers, parishioners, student ministers, or his own children. A celebration of Life took place at a later date.

### **The Reverend Dr. Robert Harry Mills**

1933-2020

The Rev. Dr. Robert Harry Mills, 87, of Halifax passed away on November 28, 2020 at home following a short illness. Born in Moncton, N.B., the son of Harry and Evelyn Perl (Cosman) Mills, he was a proud graduate of Moncton High School where he studied, sang, played in the band and won badminton tournaments. At Mount Allison University he attained a Bachelor of Arts while also pursuing any opportunity to sing - the Mount A Chorale, touring Male Quartet and the opera and operetta society. As with everything he did, Bob embraced his Mount A experience with his enthusiastic love of life, passion for music and interest in the people he encountered. While at Mount A he met, fell in love with, and married the coloratura soprano who captured his heart, Karen (Keirstead). He completed post-graduate studies at Pine Hill Divinity Hall and was ordained to the ministry of The United Church of Canada in 1956. Following ordination, he and Karen offered a team ministry, bringing their gifts of music, firm faith and pastoral concern wherever they went. He served pastoral charges in Port Mouton, Tatamagouche, Wolfville and Bridgewater in Nova Scotia before moving to St. John's, N.L., in 1975. He enjoyed seven happy and fulfilling years as Senior Minister at Wesley United and part-time radio host on Wesley's own VOWR. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1982, serving Fairview United in Halifax. Finally, he served as Executive Secretary of the Maritime Conference (1989-1995) and Interim General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches (1995-1997). In 2005 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity for outstanding service, leadership and commitment to ecumenism by the Atlantic School of Theology. Karen's sudden death in a car accident in 1991 was the most crushing blow

of his life, the memory of which never left him. However, he was amazed to find love again and he and Helga (Kutz) began their lives together in Waterloo, Ont., in 1995. Bob made his way back "home" to Nova Scotia in 1999 where he and Helga settled in to a happily busy and fulfilling retirement in Halifax. They were passionate about all that they were involved in - church, music, theatre, a wonderful circle of friends, and family. More than almost anything Bob loved to sing and so he continued to find wonderful choral experiences well into his 80s. A year ago, Bob sadly found himself on his own again after Helga's death. As he did all his life, he drew on his enduring relationship with God and his love of family and interest in others as he walked the painful journey through grief and eventually found peace and contentment that allowed him to bask in and talk about happy memories of his long life whilst always expressing thankfulness for all that he had been given - family, music, enriching life experiences and "two wonderful wives". Bob is survived by daughters, Deborah (Jim) Ballinger and Katrina Pecknold; sons, Michael (Susan), Stephen (Susan) and David (Nancy), all living in Nova Scotia; step-daughter, Ingrid Harder, New Zealand; "adopted daughter", Betty (John) Theriau MacKay; grandchildren, Kate (Ryan), Kaitlynn (Lucas) and Robert; step grandchildren, Julie, James, and Rory; and several step great- grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Vera; and his brothers, Ron and Doug. Due to current pandemic restrictions, there will be a private family burial in Brookside Cemetery, Bridgewater. A memorial service will take place when it is possible for friends and family to properly honour and remember our dear father, grandfather, uncle, minister, and friend.

### **The Reverend Roger Kenneth Moore**

1944-2021

Rev. Roger Kenneth Moore, 76, Hilden, died peacefully on February 17, 2021 at home in his 76th year. Born in May of 1944, he was the only son of the late Charles and Lucilla (Gill) Moore of Trenton, NS, where he grew up feeling loved and thoroughly enjoying his childhood. Called to the Christian Ministry, Roger studied at Bethany Bible College in Sussex, NB then on to Nazarene University in Colorado Springs and lastly receiving his Master of Divinity Degree from the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. He was ordained to the Ministry in 1969, pastored churches in Markdale and Cambridge, ON, Saint John, NB, Moser River, Bass River – Economy and Five Islands, Margaretsville and Springhill, St. Peter's, Port Hood and Inverness, Cape Breton. Roger was always interested in Biblical Scholarship. He served the United Church of Canada on Education and Student Committees and the Conference Interview Board for many years. He belonged to the Biblical Archaeology Society and the Society of Biblical Literature. Upon his retirement in 2010, he was appointed as Minister of Faith Formation for First United Church in Truro. In this position, he conducted a well-attended critical Bible Study Group as well as a film appreciation group for many years. Some folks in many communities will remember him best as a magician who loved to perform for children. Others will recall that he was a model maker who built beautiful dollhouses and model ships, some of which still are displayed in various museums in the Maritimes. Roger was predeceased by his wife, Moira Grace Kay in 2016. He is survived and will be missed by daughters, Tanya (Fran) and Elizabeth (Donnie) of Saint John, NB; grandchildren, Paul (Jamie), Kiersten (Nigel), Codie, Emma, Tiana, Steven, Tyler, Mya, Nicholas and Alexander and great grandchildren, Juliette, Violet, Samuel and Tyanna. In his senior years, he enjoyed a special relationship with his dear friend and travelling companion, Anne Brown.

Roger followed the philosophy of John Wesley, “Do all the good you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as you can.” Respecting his wishes, Cremation has taken place. There will be no visitation. First United Church in Truro will acknowledge his Ministry during a regular worship service.

**The Reverend Karen Margaret Pearce (Hill)**

1942-2021

Age 78, passed away in Dartmouth after a lengthy battle with Parkinsons Disease on January 5, 2021. She was born in Dartmouth to Guy and Jean (Meagher) Hill. Karen graduated the VG School of Nursing in 1965. She worked a number of years in Nursing before taking time to raise her family. Karen made many contributions to volunteer communities during her life, including many years dedicated to La Leche League. Karen was an Amateur Radio Operator, VE1KHP. She was a member of St Matthews United Church for many decades where she especially enjoyed being a member of the choir. Later in life, she returned to school to complete her Masters of Divinity. She finished her internship in Avonlea, Sask., before being ordained as a Minister in the United Church in 2004. She served as Minister to the pastoral charge of St. Croix and Ellershouse, where she felt a strong connection with the congregations. Karen was predeceased by her husband of 47 years, John; and sister, Margery (Ken). She is survived by her sister, Dorothy (Gordon); sons, Ian (Maria) and Lorne (Laura); grandchildren, Stella and Owen; numerous nieces and nephews. A Celebration of life will follow at a later date.

**Mr. James Otis ‘Jim’ St. Clair**

1930-2021

Jim St. Clair of MacFarlane Farm, Mull River, Mabou passed away on May 11 at the age of 90 in Inverness Hospital, with family by his side and surrounded by love of distant family members. His wisdom, humor and storytelling enriched the lives of many, from friends and family to students, colleagues and community members across Cape Breton. He will be sorely missed. Born in Lynn Massachusetts 21 November 1930, James Otis St. Clair was the son of Byron W. and Louise (Marsh) St. Clair. His mother, Louise was the daughter of Susan MacFarlane of Mull River and Clarence Otis Marsh of Massachusetts. Both sides of the family were Scottish in origin; the St. Clairs had come to Massachusetts in the 1750’s, the MacFarlanes to Cape Breton some 70 years later. Jim was the last descendant of several immigrant families from the Isle of Mull to reside in Mull River. A graduate of Harvard College and Graduate School, he taught and inspired generations of students, from New Canaan, Connecticut to Mabou Consolidated and University College of Cape Breton – from which he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree. His love of history, culture and stories led him to become a community historian in his later years. For more than three decades, he provided a weekly radio program on CBC Sydney highlighting historical events and people of Cape Breton. He wrote newspaper columns for the Inverness Oran, the Victoria Standard and the Inverness County Participaper for many years. He researched and provided the genealogical history of 50 pioneer families of Mabou area in Mabou Pioneer, Book Two. He authored and co-authored four books published by Cape Breton University Press concerning Cape Breton people and culture, including a children’s book on the immigration

experience in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Highland Village. He was active in the community throughout his life, with a particular focus on preserving and celebrating the rich history of Cape Breton. He served as chair of the board of the Nova Scotia Museum Association, was a long-time board member and chair of the Highland Village, and a founding member of the Mabou Gaelic Historical Society, Orangedale Station Association, Cape Breton Museum Connection and the Inverness County Council of the Arts. For a number of years, he was a board member of the Regional Development Agency of the area and recording secretary for Mabou Communications Ltd (Post Office). Active for many years in the United Church of Canada, he was an official Advisor/Supervisor for several candidates studying for the ministry. He was also an avid naturalist who loved exploring forests, rivers and ocean beaches – a passion he passed along to generations of family members and many of his students. Through his initiative, a 300 acre old growth forest that was part of his family inheritance became The MacFarlane Woods, a Provincial Protected Area. Jim St Clair is survived by nieces Susan Hansen (Douglass West), Louise Mack, Gloria Mack and Kristin Schafer (Jim Mack), and nephews Thomas Mack and Jim Mack (Kristin), as well as brother-in-law George Mack and several grandnephews and nieces who adore him. His survivors also include many cousins including the Smiths of Inverness, the Rankins of Mull River and Mabou, the “Kelly” MacDonalds of Stewartdale, Peter (Francesca) Webber and David St. Clair. He was predeceased by nephews James St. Clair and David Mack, brother Byron St. Clair, sisters Julie St. Clair and Elizabeth (St Clair) Mack, and his longtime feline companion Max. Many close friends were very important in his life, including A.J. and Juanita Campbell of Mabou Ridge, the Wrights and Franks of Mull River, Angie Smith, Rev. Donna Tourneur and Rev. Nancy Price, Carole Chisholm, Kendra MacKenzie, the Harding family, Donald Dunbar, Pauline MacLean, Rodney Chaisson, members of the staffs of CBC, Inverness Oran, Highland Village, and many others. The boundless curiosity, commitment, thoughtfulness and joy he brought to so many for so long will be forever treasured. Jim asked that in his memory contributions be made to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church, the Nova Scotia Highland Village or Mabou An Drochaid Museum. A virtual Funeral was held on Tuesday, May 18th at 2:00 with Rev. Donna Tourneur officiating.

**The Reverend Anthony “Tony” Ware**  
1933-2021

Rev. Anthony Ware, B.Sc., B.D., cherished husband of the late Jackie Ware, passed away surrounded by the love of his children on January 15, 2021, after an illness fought with grace, faith, and a deep appreciation for life. Surviving are his sons Christopher (Andra), Alberta; Andrew (Ann), PEI; daughters Beverley (Darrell Kays), Halifax and Nicola, Charlottetown; a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Alice (the late Dr. John Ware), England; and brother-in-law Dr. Martyn Harris (Janet), England. He was predeceased by his parents, his devoted wife Jacqueline, son Timothy Martyn Ware (Kate), infant grandson David Andrew Miller, and brother Dr. John Ware. Dad was born in Hong Kong on November 14, 1933, where his father, Dr. Thomas Walter, was a medical doctor in government service and his mother, Muriel Irene (Fursdon) was a teacher. He and his older brother John went back to England with their mother for their safety, which is where they were brought up. Dad obtained his B.Sc. from the University of Bristol and became a Methodist Lay Preacher. He went on to study theology at the University of London where he obtained his B.D. In 1957 he and Jackie emigrated to Canada. Dad was ordained

by Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada in 1958 and served a number of churches on Prince Edward Island. The family returned to England in 1961 where Dad served again in the Methodist Church, ministering first in the industrial north-east and then in the Channel Island of Jersey. From 1968 to 1975 he taught at a school in Devonshire, becoming Head of the Science Department. He re-entered The United Church of Canada in 1975 and served churches in P.E.I., Bermuda, Halifax, and Cape Breton. He served on numerous Presbytery Committees, as Chair of PEI and Halifax Presbyteries, as Commissioner to General Council and was Minister Emeritus at Spring Park in Charlottetown. Dad had a particular interest in faith development, lay ministry education, and the relationship between science and religion. He taught his children to be open-minded and to constantly question in the never-ending quest to seek understanding. We are forever grateful to him. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service celebrating Dad's wonderful life will be held at Spring Park United Church, 65 Kirkwood Drive, Charlottetown, at a date to be announced when COVID restrictions have eased.

**The Reverend Elizabeth Ellen Wilson**  
1940-2020

It is with profound sadness, we wish to announce the passing of Rev. Elizabeth Ellen Wilson, on December 5, 2020 in her 80th year. Born in Hamilton, Ont., in 1940 to Ralph Charles and Kathleen Elizabeth (Kenney) Wilson. She was predeceased by her only sibling, Olivia; and is survived by her nephew, Stephen Wilson, his wife Heather and their children, Matthew and Emily. In 1963 Ellen received a B.Sc in biology and biochemistry from University of Waterloo. In 1965, she initiated studies at Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax to enter a vocation of ministry. In May 1968 she received a M. Div. degree and was ordained by Hamilton Conference. Ellen ministered in various roles from 1969 to 2020 such as: Minister of River Philip Pastoral Charge, River Philip, Associate Minister Bethany United Church, Halifax, chaplain in the Halifax Hospitals, served as elder and on the session at St. Andrew's United Church, Halifax. She also served as supply Minister at St. Paul's United Church, Spryfield, Sambro-Jollimore Pastoral Charge and, most recently, at St. Andrews-St. Mark's United Church, Ingrauport. Ellen was a member of the National Religious Advisory Committee of the CBC from 1984-1990 and was the Chair of the Interchurch-Interfaith Committee of the Maritime Conference, of the United Church, from 1988-1992. She worked very closely with the congregations of all her parishes, loved attending their functions and participated actively in their community life. Her genuine love for those she served, her compassion and smile of acceptance will be remembered. There will be no funeral service and her ashes will be sent to Hamilton, Ont.

### PROPOSALS

A “proposal” is a formal request for a council to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important to them and ask for the church to take action on it. The council that is being asked to take action is called the “council of action.”

- A formal request for specific action within the jurisdiction of the council to which it is directed. Ideally a proposal should be able to communicate an action (proposal) with explanation (background) on **no more than two pages**. A Proposal may be accompanied by a longer and more substantive report as required.
- If the council is the “council of Action”, it makes the decision on the proposal.
- Members and councils are responsible for completing the parts of the process assigned to them.
- In determining if something is the proper subject matter for a proposal to General Council, consider whether it pertains to the whole church, whether direction from the General Council is required, and whether it suggests a new policy or direction.
- The council making the decision must have the necessary information for a sound decision. In communicating from one council to another, it is important that the proposal gives an action and provides sufficient background to the emerging question, the consideration undertaken and the rationale for the proposed action.
- A well written proposal guides the decision makers through the process of discernment; from framing the question to a reasoned and wished for response.
- An individual or group who wants its proposal included in the business of the General Council needs to take it to their Session/Board/Council (of which they are member) or Region (if they are members of Regional Council). If the proposal is initiated at Session/Board/Council, that body will transmit it to the Region. Once the Region has received the proposal, or if the proposal is initiated at Regional Council, the Region will make a decision on the agreement and transition.
- The Region may decline to transmit it to General Council, or may transmit it with or without approval. Any council transmitting a proposal to the next council may include its own recommendations along with the Proposal.
- The proposal, in order to be voted on as an action, must be made into a motion. Once a motion is made, it is put to the court. The normal rules of debate and procedure then are applied.

#### **Response by Council of Action**

The council of action is responsible for making a decision on the proposal. It has the following options:

- a) taking the action requested in the proposal;
- b) taking the action requested in the proposal with some changes;
- c) taking different action on the same subject matter as the proposal; d) referring the proposal;
- e) receiving the proposal but taking no further action; or
- f) taking some other action that the council of action decides is appropriate.

**See Manual 2021 (F.1 pg. 103-107)**

**PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

**[PROPOSAL NAME]**

**Origin: [Regional Council Name]**

**1. What is the issue?** (describe in broad terms)

We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to:

- do something about...
- engage the topic of...
- respond to the challenge of...
- etc.

*Note: proposals for the General Council are for issues of denominational responsibility that go beyond the bounds of a Regional Council.*

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

For example:

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

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

Name a possible response that the General Council might consider:

A. Study/Discussion of the issue

B. Action on the issue, which could include:

- General Council directing that a policy/strategy be developed based on specified principles and parameters
- General Council adopting a policy position/strategy
- General Council encouraging/suggesting action by congregations and other communities of faith on the issue

Note to 3.A: The General Council could be asked to have a conversation about a particular issue as an end in itself without making a policy decision or taking other action.

Note to 3.B: Suggestions for wording of a policy/strategy could be offered as possibilities for consideration in the decision-making process but not as expectations of a particular outcome.

**4. For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council:**

Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal? Is this proposal in response to a previous proposal, motion or action? If so, please name the previous action(s) and proposal number(s).

## **PROPOSAL 1**

**Proposal Name:** Climate Crisis: A Call to the Faithful to Work Towards Climate Justice

**Origin:** Ecological Justice Working Group of Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, Region 15

**Issue:** We believe that we are called to work towards climate justice. God’s great gift of Creation – the context in which all life seeks fulfillment - is in crisis. As people of faith we must respond now to work towards a sustainable future for all life on the planet.

*“The climate crisis, while overwhelmingly frightening, calls the church to its deepest vocation: incarnating the love that is God.” - Richard Rohr*

### **Why is it important?**

In the United Church of Canada we have listened to our global partners, attended UN Climate Conferences, heard the warnings of Indigenous peoples across these lands and around the world. We have witnessed the predictions of climate scientists come true sooner than expected, and we have been moved by the outcry from young people taking to the streets.

As cited in the first “[Sustainability Report](#)” (2019-2020) “climate and ecological degradation has a disproportionate impact on the vulnerable.”

The church has a mission and calling to respond.

As a denomination, we have committed to reducing carbon emissions in our buildings 80% by 2050 in line with the Paris climate targets. Resources, money, and time have been dedicated to this goal, including the Faithful Footprints program. We have begun to redirect investments from fossil fuels toward climate solutions. We are participating in ecumenical and interfaith advocacy and action. This is a start, but actions are needed at every level, and in every Community of Faith.

Addressing the present ecological crisis will require changing hearts as much as minds, developing caring relationships to one another and Creation, and building compelling visions for a future we want for coming generations. This is spiritual work. Communities of Faith and their leaders have important roles to play.

We recognize that we are facing an existential emergency. There is an urgent need to take wise action.

### **How should the Region respond?**

We propose that Region 15 call upon Communities of Faith to prioritize the urgent need to work towards climate justice in 2021-22 through prayer, liturgy, education and action.

Responses may include:

- Regular preaching on seeking climate justice as a faith response
- Offering dialogues and studies, such as “Climate Change, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change.” Author Jim Antal, or “Faithful Climate Conversations” (from For the Love of Creation - [fortheloveofcreation.ca](http://fortheloveofcreation.ca))

- Reducing energy consumption in church buildings aiming to help contribute to reaching the UCC emissions reduction targets of 80% by 2050, with Faithful Footprints program as a resource. (faithfulfootprint.org)
- Forming a climate justice committee in their Community of Faith
- Acting ecumenically and with community-based organizations on climate justice-related advocacy
- Take part in community planning for responses to climate related emergencies

And that Region 15 ask that Communities of Faith share responses with the Ecological Justice Working Group, so that stories and actions may be communicated at the next Annual Meeting in order to inspire and encourage others.

## PROPOSAL 2

**Proposal:** Support for Ministry Personnel Taking Maternity and/or Parental Leave  
(Heather Ferrier and Betsy Hogan)

**Origin:** Division of Ministry Resources Regional Council 15

### What is the issue?

Ministry personnel taking maternity and/or parental leave are reporting negative and discriminatory experiences in the communities of faith they serve.

In Trisha Elliot's 2018 *Broadview* article "Pregnant in the Pulpit," numerous women in ministry in the United Church reported that, rather than being a joyful time, their pregnancy and leave became a time of stress and conflict as:

- Their leave was perceived as an unfair burden by the local community of faith.
- They were resented and harassed.
- The wisdom of having called them in the first place was questioned.
- They received insufficient or ill-informed support from other levels of the church.

Elliot's article had been inspired by discussion within a private Facebook group for United Church ministry personnel (BAM) in which additional women in ministry shared similar experiences from recent years.

A particularly contentious aspect of maternity/parental leave has been the mandatory top-up paid by the local community of faith, amounting to 40% of the minister's regular wages for up to 15 weeks of leave (*Pastoral Relations: Supporting the Pastoral Relationship*, 2020). These payments supplement the standard EI benefits for new parents of 55% of regular wages for up to 35 weeks for any parent, or 50 weeks for a parent who has given birth (maternity + parental benefits). This financial requirement contributes both directly and indirectly to increased stress on the pastoral relationship as:

- The minister becomes the source of an unexpected expense for the local community;
- The burden of the top-up leads to a reduced budget for coverage during the leave, often leaving the community of faith under-served and exacerbating resentment toward the minister.

This issue disproportionately impacts younger ministry personnel, and particularly young women in paid accountable ministry, who are more likely to be early in their ministry career and serving as solo ministers in communities of faith with fewer financial resources. Younger women in ministry are therefore at significant risk of experiencing discrimination in the workplace and discrimination in hiring by communities of faith that perceive them as a financial risk. At the same time, communities of faith struggling to sustain life and mission while under the increased financial pressure that attends maternity/parental leaves risk suffering damage to their life together, and of doing harm to the continued pastoral relationship.

### **Why is this issue important?**

#### **Key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues?**

As a church that is committed to justice and equality, we cannot ignore the workplace hostility and discrimination faced by ministry personnel taking maternity/parental leave, nor the financial pressures on communities of faith that exacerbate this injustice and do damage to everyone involved. Failing to provide better support for ministry personnel taking maternity/parental leave is a failure to live up to our own values as a denomination, a failure to uphold the human rights of our ministry personnel, and will limit the full participation and retention of women in paid accountable ministry.

We believe the Spirit is urgently calling us to respond to this issue by:

1. Taking measures to better educate communities of faith about gender-based discrimination.
2. Creating a document outlining best practices for supporting the health of the pastoral relationship before, during, and after a maternity/parental leave.
3. More equitably sharing the cost of the maternity/parental leave top-up payments.

#### **Staff/Financial Implications**

1. A survey and preparation of Best Practices to guide a just and productive navigation of maternity/parental leaves will presumably require significant work by regional and denominational staff.
2. The financial implication of covering maternity/parental leaves using regional or denominational funds of course depends on the annual number of people taking leave, which is likely low based on the current demographics of our ministry personnel.

#### **How might the General Council respond to the issue?**

1. Survey ministry personnel who have taken maternity/parental leave about their experiences and how the church can better support this form of leave at all levels.
2. Develop a document outlining best practices before, during, and after a maternity/parental leave to be used by ministry personnel, the local community of faith, ministry personnel covering the leave in an appointment or pastoral charge supervisor, and regional councils.
3. Direct that funds for the maternity/parental leave top-up payments come from the national or regional level in order to share the cost across the wider family of the church, including those who will benefit from the minister's experience and service in later years. This lifts the burden from the local communities of faith with limited financial resources who are most likely to be served by younger ministry personnel, and would also help prevent discrimination in hiring by those who perceive calling a young woman to be a financial risk.

## DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

### Mission, Vision, Values

#### Mission

Inspired by God, we are Christ's people in Bermuda and NS,  
loving each other,  
following Jesus,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### Vision

To become a transformed, courageous, Spirit-filled community,  
risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus.

#### Core Values

Connecting and strengthening communities of faith by:

- Living into expansive belonging
- Growing compassionate leadership
- Nurturing creative ways of Christian vitality
  - Uniting by effective communication
  - Sharing and living the Good News
  - Modelling Christ's humility and justice
- Moving forward in hope and generosity

### Region 15

### Draft Strategic Plan DRAFT

March 2, 2021

### PURPOSE

To support congregations and ministries in deep discipleship, clear mission, and courageous leadership so that they may develop sustainable ministries.

#### Pillar 1: Discipleship

##### Objective:

Promote the importance of discipleship as core to the strengthening, vitality and sustainability of Christian community

##### Actions

- Promote a culture of spiritual learning in our communities of faith
- Offer programming that invites members to deepen their connection to God, their local community of faith and mission

**Pillar 2: Mission**

Objective: Engage communities of faith in defining their part in God's mission.

Actions

- Create or Share educational materials and present seminars that help communities of faith define and live their mission.
- Assess and resource communities of faith's organizational health based on best practices and help provide the tools for their next steps
- Inventory examples of imaginative cooperative possibilities or renewal.
- Research, review and analyze what viable opportunities may exist for creating mission and spirit filled communities, eg. church planting, alternative ministry focus
- Establish a hospice team equipped with the skillset to accompany dying/grieving communities of faith thru a process of closure.

**Pillar 3: Leadership**

Objective: Develop curious, faithful, brave leaders

Actions

- Offer leadership training for ministry personnel and laity
- Create a template for faith communities' leadership succession that encourages them to reflect on their future needs and professional and lay skill development
- Explore and research new models of ministries in other jurisdictions and denominations and share with communities of faith.
- Explore and share new models of congregational governance to ensure they are serving communities of faith in achieving their mission
- Create leadership cohorts focused on organizational excellence and leadership development

**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**  
**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Ms. Sandra Tomsons

**FOR OFFICE OF:** President

**ADDRESS:** Afton Station, Nova Scotia

**PROFESSION:** Practical Philosopher

**EDUCATION:** B.A. 1st class honours, Philosophy,  
 Mt. Allison University  
 M.A. Philosophy, Queen's University  
 Ph.D. Philosophy, Queen's University  
 Certificate Aboriginal Governance, Banff Centre



**SERVICE IN THE CHURCH: LOCAL CHURCH(S)**

At present:

Member of Session, St. Matthews United Church  
 Central Treasurer, Mulgrave Pastoral Charge

**WIDER SERVICE IN THE CHURCH INCLUDING FORMER PRESBYTERIES, CONFERENCES AND GENERAL COUNCIL**

In the 90's, Sunday School Teacher & Superintendent, and member of Session at Humber Valley, Pasadena, NL  
 Currently, member of Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee, Region 15

**SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Since I began teaching philosophy in 1988, I have regularly made presentations on moral and justice issues, in particular in the areas of medical and environmental ethics and in justice issues pertaining to good relationships between non-Indigenous governments and individuals with Indigenous Peoples and people. I was not representing the United Church of Canada in these presentations. I was explaining and defending positions consistent with what I believe the Spirit requires us to be doing.

**OTHER INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL IS RELEVANT TO THE REGION:**

I am a new comer to District 15, so I will require training in the established traditions. My passion for justice can lead me to talk at length on occasion and I have high expectations for people who talk- the-talk to walk-the-walk.

**WHICH THIS NOMINATION IS MOVED BY:** Heather Manuel / Kathryn J. Anderson

**DATE:** May 21, 2021

**44TH GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER**

**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET**

**LAY**

**(Identifies as a Youth / Young Adult)**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Mr. Max Martin

**ADDRESS:** Halifax, NS

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** Knox United

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:** He/Him/His



**DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER:**  
I have been a commissioner at the last two general councils and I am willing to offer my services to the church once again in order to fill a position of need.

**MOVER / SECONDER:** Michael Henderson / Sandra Cox

**DATE:** May 6, 2021

**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET**  
**LAY**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Mr. Kevin Parks

**ADDRESS:** Timberlea, NS

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:** He/Him/His



**DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER:**  
In Covid-times and beyond the church continues on a perpetual path of renewed discovery and deep change. There are reasons to be worried or even fearful, but there are equal number of reasons to be hopeful and full of expectation. The Gospel calls us to stretch into our worries and fears, held in the balance of our hopes and expectations to discern God's will for the church. I serve on the Region 15 Faith Formation and Leadership Development committee, and on the General Council Worship United (formerly Sing 2025) Development Team. I wish to carry these perspectives into prayerfully considering the shape of our future as the United Church during the next General Council Triennium.

**MOVER / SECONDER:** Kim Curlett / Susan Chisholm

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET  
LAY**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Ms. Sheila Van Schaick

**ADDRESS:** Big Bras d'Or, NS

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** St. John United Church,  
Boularderie Pastoral Charge

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:** She



**DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER:**

I have been involved with our Presbytery for 7 years before Region 15 was formed. I was the Secretary for the last 2 years. I have been our church's rep in Regional Council since its start. I have volunteered in the committee work in Region 15. And years before, I was a Sunday School teacher for 9 years. I am committed to seeing our church grow and thrive.

**MOVER / SECONDER:** Jeannie Niesten / Darlene Beddow

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET  
MINISTRY PERSONNEL**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Rev. Kathleen Anderson

**ADDRESS:** Hammonds Plains, NS

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** Crossroads Pastoral Charge

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:** She/Her



**DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER:**

I attended GC in Corner Brook as a volunteer chaplain, and have wanted to return to be a more involved part of the process ever since. I have served the church from BC to NL, with many stops in-between, so I bring a wide geographical range of experience. I bring a passion for the church and its people, and a deep desire to care for and bring forth the future of the church.

With this GC being online, I will be better able to fully participate than any other in-person arrangements would allow.

**MOVER / SECONDER:** Gordon Steeves / Sandra Hennigar

**DATE:** May 3, 2021

**NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET  
MINISTRY PERSONNEL  
(Identifies as a Youth / Young Adult)**

**NAME OF NOMINEE:** Rev. Daniel MacDonald

**ADDRESS:** Halifax, NS

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH:** Harmony-Camden Pastoral Charge

**PREFERRED PRONOUNS:** He/Him



**DESCRIBE WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER:**  
I am passionate about the future of this United Church of ours.

I had the privilege of serving as a commissioner to two previous General Councils, through the former Bay of Quinte Conference. GC40 in 2009, as a youth delegate, and GC43 in 2018 as a lay delegate.

I think the United Church is at a pivotal moment in terms of our future direction and I am eager to engage in that visioning process across all levels of the church. I have a passion for new expressions of ministry and exploring the new and diverse ways God is calling us to witness to the Gospel in 21st century Canada, alongside our global partners. I have been involved in this work at both congregational and regional levels, including participating in the former Maritime Conference task-group which drafted a response to the CRTG 3-court model which was proposed as part of the restructuring process in 2015.

To this role, I bring a deep respect and appreciation for the conciliar nature of our church, despite its challenges.

I bring a willingness to serve on committees and engage in the work of the General Council.

I bring a belief that the Holy Spirit does move through our structures, and try to always remain open to that presence, such as during the closing anti-racism conversations of GC43.

I bring gifts of music, which I have offered at Conferences and General Councils in the past.

I bring an eagerness to deepen my own relationship with our wider church through collaboration and learning from others who will be present at GC44, sharing their own experiences and wisdom.

**MOVER / SECONDER:** Ivan Gregan / Mavis Peddie

**DATE:** April 28, 2021

**“Beacons of Hope”**

**Draft Agenda**

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

**Via Video Conference  
May 28-29, 2021**

**Friday, May 28, 6:00pm-9:00pm**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 5:30 | Arrival to Zoom  |
| 6:00 | Call to Order<br>Acknowledgement of Place<br>Welcome<br>Constitution of the Regional Council   |
| 6:20 | Opening Worship<br>Service of Remembrance  |
| 7:00 | Procedural Motions<br>Consent Motions  |
| 7:10 | Introduction of Candidates for Ministry and Ordinand   |
| 7:15 | Break  |
| 7:20 | Introduction of General Council Representative, The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu,<br>Global Partnership Program Coordinator<br>Introduction of General Council Representative, The Rev. Allan Hall, Executive<br>Officer Ministry and Employment<br>Moderator’s Remarks, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott (pre-recorded)<br>General Secretary’s Remarks, The Rev. Michael Blair (pre-recorded) |
| 7:40 | Check-In (using Break-Out Rooms)   |
| 7:50 | Ecumenical Guest Messages  |
| 8:00 | Celebrating Milestones<br>Welcome and Best Wishes  |
| 9:00 | Closing Prayer   |

**Saturday, May 29, 10:00am-12:00pm**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:30  | Arrival to Zoom   |
| 10:00 | Opening Worship   |
| 10:15 | Executive Minister’s Remarks<br>President’s Remarks       |
| 10:30 | Finance Motions<br>2022 Budget<br>2020 Audited Statements |
| 10:50 | Proposals   |
| 11:10 | Break   |

- 11:15 Ukulele Church  
11:35 Nominations  
Election of President-Elect  
Election of Commissioners  
12:00 Grace  
Lunch Break

**Saturday, May 29, 1:00pm-4:00pm**

- 12:45 Arrival to Zoom  
1:00 Worship with the Youth  
1:15 Theme Presentation  
1:45 Ecumenical Guests Greetings  
1:50 Ecological Justice Working Group - Climate Crisis and Communities of Faith  
2:05 Strategic Plan  
2:25 Break  
2:35 Bermuda Task Group Update  
2:40 Sing 2025  
2:55 Mission & Service and Called To Be the Church the Journey  
3:05 Living Faith Stories  
3:10 Introduction of President-Elect  
3:15 Courtesies  
Closing Worship and Installation of President  
4:00 Adjournment