

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
REGIONAL COUNCIL 15
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
September 16, 2021 at 6:00pm via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Anne Cameron, Alicia Cox, Derek Elsworth, April Hart, Deborah Hawkins, Shannon MacLean, Faith March-MacCuish, Jane McDonald, Donald Morrison, Janet Sollows, Sandra Tomsons.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Peter Hardy, Max Martin.

Welcome**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**Opening Prayer

Jane McDonald, President, welcomed the Executive to the meeting. The President opened the meeting by leading the Executive in a quiet reflection on the past year and a half, and prayer.

Quorum**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL**

The President, Jane McDonald, noted that a quorum was present and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for all the business that shall properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land**ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

Jane McDonald, President, acknowledged, with prayer, the respect for all peoples of this land as we live out the apology, and move toward becoming the community that God calls us to be together.

Agenda**AGENDA**

The President noted that the agenda for the meeting has been circulated.

Minutes**MINUTES**

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Shannon MacLean)

That the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

Business Arising**BUSINESS ARISING**Regional Representatives**Regional Representatives**

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented an updated version of the handout for regional representatives, entitled *The Discipleship of Serving as a Member of Regional Council*. The Executive are asked to review the brochure and forward any feedback to the Executive Minister before October 1, 2021.

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Deborah Hawkins)

That the document *The Discipleship of Serving as a Member to Regional Council* be approved, in principle, as circulated.

CARRIED

Anti-Racism Statement for the Region**Anti-Racism Statement for the Region**

Donnie Morrison reported that the Justice, Mission and Outreach Network is not currently working on the development of an Anti-Racism Statement for the Region. The Network recommend that an education piece take place before a statement is developed, and that further conversation around this topic is needed. The Executive agreed that the education piece is key, and recommend that the Executive Minister begin this dialogue with the network leadership. It was also noted that the General Council has released an anti-racism statement for the United Church.

Proposal 5 – Education Piece

Donnie Morrison reported that the Just Peace for Palestine and Israel Working Group will prepare this piece for the Region.

Proposal 5

Climate Justice

Donnie Morrison reported that the Ecological Justice Working Group will be communicating the plans for more climate crisis action to communities of faith in the Region.

Climate Justice

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Minister provided an update to the Executive on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. At the June 10, 2021 Executive meeting, it was agreed that all staff, divisions and committees would be encouraged to examine their work, using the strategic plan as the lens. As follow up, a memo was prepared this summer and sent to all committees and divisions, asking that this work take place in the fall, with the deadline of November 15, 2021, so that further discussion could take place at the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Executive.

Strategic Plan Implementation

The Executive Minister led the Executive in a discussion of the work ahead. It is hoped, that at the December meeting, the reports from the committees and divisions may expose gaps, or duplications in processes, and may help to identify work priorities. The General Council will also be releasing its strategic plan this fall, and that will also have implications for the Region. When considering what pieces are needing reflection by the Executive, it is important to consider the framework set out by the mission, vision and core values.

The Executive shared their thoughts on what stands out to each of them when hearing the mission, vision and core values: what are we being called to do? who are we as a Region? and how are we going to move out of our comfort zone to risk discipleship? how do we now animate this theme that we have laid out for the Region? Instead of just “doing”, the Executive would like the Region to have a conversation about “why we do”.

The President and Executive Minister thanked the Executive for engaging in this discussion, and look forward to deeper conversation in December.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Future Directions Committee** – Letter received from the committee regarding future planning for staff resources, given the departure of the Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach. It was agreed that this topic will be added to the December 8, 2021 discussion regarding implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Correspondence

Future Directions

REPORTS

Reports

PRESIDENT

President

The President, Jane McDonald presented her report. The President reported that it was a restful summer, after a very busy spring and successful annual meeting. A meeting was held with the President, President-Elect and Executive Minister to discuss the upcoming year. The President offered to attend division meetings, if requested.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive Minister

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented an update on her work. It has been a busy summer, but the Executive Minister reported that all staff have had some vacation time for rest and restoration. The Executive Minister updated the Executive on some of the work in the eastern regions, a Covid update, and work coming from the General Council; including the strategic plan, work on becoming an anti-racist church, and collaboration, flexibility and responsibilities for new ministries and outreach work, and a financial update on Mission & Service. The Executive Minister was also able to confirm that mission support grants to the region have remained as budgeted for 2022. General Council Office is preparing a response on behalf of the United Church for those most affected by the recent pain and trauma from the discovery of the residential school graves. It was also noted that the Executive Minister is planning an orientation of GC Commissioners in advance of GC44.

Finance and Administration**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** – Appendix A

April Hart, chair of the Division, reported that the Division met earlier this week. The chair reported that the Financial Accountability and Investments Committee is working on an investment policy for the Region. The Division will have a draft policy to bring to the December Executive meeting.

Funds Held Policy**Funds Held Policy**

MOTION: (April Hart/Sandra Tomsons)

That the Financial Funds Held policy for Regional Council 15 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Incorporated Ministries**Incorporated Ministries**

MOTION: (April Hart/Janet Sollows)

That the revised by-laws of St. Paul's Family Resource Centre be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Regional Services and Support**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** – Appendix B

Donnie Morrison, chair, present the report of the Division. The Strategic plan was discussed at the September meeting, and work will continue on this piece prior to the December Executive. The chair highlighted some of the work of the Division, included in the appendix.

Nominations**NOMINATIONS**

Alicia Cox presented the report of the Nominations Committee. The committee met recently to continue the work on staggering committee terms, to ensure that there is some continuity on the committees and divisions as terms are completed.

Ministry Resources**MINISTRY RESOURCES** – Appendix C

Anne Cameron presented the report of the Division, included in the appendix. The next meeting of the Division takes place on September 24, 2021. The chair reported that all committees will be working on the strategic plan in the fall.

Staff Committee**STAFF COMMITTEE**

Derek Elsworth reported on the work of the Tri-Regional Staff Committee. The committee met twice over the summer, largely on the vacancy in the Minister of Justice, Mission and Outreach position. The job description has been prepared and will be distributed later this month. The target start date for this position is January, 2022.

Staff reviews have all take place, and were reported as positive.

The medical leave for the Regional Minister in First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council has been extended to October 31, 2021. Work of the Regional Minister has been shared by the Executive Minister and the Regional Ministers from Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Regional Council 15 to date, however a part time placement will now be offered for this work for the short term.

A new member has joined the committee from Regional Council 15, Rev. Donna Tourner. Rev. Tourner replaces Rev. Lesley Hamilton, who has moved away from Regional Council 15.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – Appendix D

United
Church
Women

Deborah Hawkins presented the report of the United Church Women (UCW), included in the appendix. It was noted that the UCW fall meetings will take place using zoom video conferencing again this year. Work is also taking place on revisions to the UCW handbook. Excitement is building for the 60th anniversary celebrations, planned for next year. The UCW newsletter and information is now available on the Regional website.

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Anne Cameron)

That the reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

HEALTH, JOY AND EXCELLENCE

Health, Joy
and
Excellence

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the work of the three Regional Ministers on the topic of Health, Joy, and Excellence for ministry personnel and congregations. A document is being prepared, with the assistance of a consultant, which will be circulated for discussion at the December meeting of the Executive.

TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE

Tatamagouche
Centre

CORRESPONDING MEMBER

Corresponding
Member

MOTION: (Anne Cameron/Alicia Cox)

That Nanci Lee be a corresponding member of the September 16, 2021 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

Nanci Lee, Executive Director of the Tatamagouche Centre, introduced herself to the Executive and updated the members on the recent work of the Centre. The Tatamagouche Centre has been working to navigate through the pandemic and live into their mission through programs including learning programs, food boxes, digital literacy, and anti-racism work. In 2020, the Centre welcomed 655 guests, offered 18 learning programs, hosted 450 gathering guests, and 155 program participants.

The Centre has been asking what this pandemic time is asking of the Centre; and what capacities are needed right now to be in touch with each other, in love and spirit? How can we bring spiritual grounded-ness to the questions of justice and equity? What the Centre has heard is the need for rest, reconnection and collective care and reimagining possibilities. The Tatamagouche Centre shares much of the same language and goals as outlined in the Region's strategic plan, and extends a warm welcome to all in the Region.

The Executive thanked Nanci Lee for sharing the work and vision of the Tatamagouche Centre, and for her attendance at the meeting.

BERMUDA SYNOD

Bermuda
Synod

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the vote taking place by the Bermuda Synod on the drafted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Representatives from Bermuda have reported that the vote on the MOU is currently taking place, with the timeline for all votes to be completed by October, 31, 2021, with a Synod meeting on November 9, 2021 to review and move on to next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

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

RC20

Regional Council 15 Executive, September 16, 2021 at 6:00pm, via video conference

Benediction

BENEDICTION

Faith March-MacCuish closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive is December 8, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Jane McDonald
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

R15 Division of Finance & Administration

Report to Executive

16 September 2021

Included Committees & Meetings:

- Archives (no Chair, not currently meeting)
- Finance, Accountability & Investment (meeting monthly)
- Incorporated Ministries (meeting as needed)
- Property (meeting monthly)

Date(s) of Recent Division Meetings: 14 September 2021

Summary of Committee Reports & Business to be Transferred to the Regional Executive Archives

- April will meet with current committee members to check-in and see if there's any support they need until a Chair is found

Finance, Accountability & Investment

- The committee is working on some suggestions for our investment portfolio. Meetings have been taken with our advisors at RBC Wealth Management re. opportunities to earn better income on our investments than we currently do. We will have a policy draft ready for approval at the December Executive meeting.
- MOTION by Allan Davis/Fay Smith to approve the Financial Fund Policy as presented.
-

Incorporated Ministries:

- MOTION by Allan Davis/Fay Smith to approve the new by-laws for the St. Paul's Family Resource Institute as presented.

Property

- N/A

Respectfully submitted by

April Hart

Chair, Division of Finance and Administration

Appendix B**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT****Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive**
Regional Council 15**Division Name:** Regional Services and Support**Committee Names within the Division**

Faith Formation and Leadership Development
 Communications
 Children, Youth and Young Adult
 Stewardship
 Justice, Mission & Outreach
 Annual Meeting Planning
 Association of Ministers

Date of Divisional Meetings: Sept. 8, 2021**Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:**

The Division committee members discussed the memo from the Executive Minister about the Strategic Plan Implementation. Feedback and action plans are to be submitted to the Regional Council Executive no later than Nov. 15, so we scheduled our next meeting for Nov. 10. All committee chairs will submit their response to the Division and the Division Chair will forward to the RC Executive. At the Division level, we will make sure that Committees keep the Strategic Plan before them and use this as a lens to see their work as they go forward. The Strategic Plan will be an ongoing part of our agenda.

Dates of Committee Meetings:

Faith Formation and Leadership Development *next meeting is Oct. 8*
 Communications ∅
 Children, Youth and Young Adult (meets monthly)
 Stewardship ∅
 Justice, Mission & Outreach June 18, 2021
 Annual Meeting Planning ∅
 Association of Ministers ∅

∅ = no meeting dates

Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:**Faith Formation and Leadership Development**

The committee last met on April 9. Work is ongoing. The FFLD Committee invited interested individuals to join in, by Zoom, on Thursday June 17th, an exploration of the Narrative Lectionary together. Over the summer the committee was polled and agreed to support 2/3 funding of 15 seats in the LLWL first annual greeting at Tatamagouche Centre. The total grant was \$6,237.00.

Communications

The committee has set Sept. 20 as the date for the meeting to try out formats for the newsletter and decide on one, paving the way for a Thanksgiving launch. The Chair, Kevin Cox, is working with a tech person on the General Council staff to determine a template. The General Council uses mailchimp for newsletters and Kevin will use mailchimp and Tracey Rose will circulate the newsletter.

Appendix B - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continuedChildren, Youth and Young Adult

No Report

Stewardship

No Report

Justice, Mission & Outreach

The June 18 meeting was the last one under Laura Hunter's guidance. In preparation for Laura's leaving, she tried to prepare the committee to continue its work until a new support person is appointed. Laura went over the complexity of the tri-regional work and networks set up. There are many types of communications tools and processes (Zoom, FB, Mailchimp) for folks to access.

Some of the admin duties will be shared within the tri-regional committees and some by staff. The Executive Minister will be the staff person to engage with. The admin staff will be Tracy Rose and Leona Landry will handle general correspondence and other support. The committee chairs from each region will remain on. There is an assigned email for the committee: justiceandmission@gmail.com and the website is <https://uceast.ca/>. Laura encouraged the committee to dream big. To plan to host a fair where folks can gather, to strengthen bonds, communications, and creativity for the vital work to be done. The JMO committees for the three Atlantic regions met on June 29 to say goodbye to Laura. Several new members were added to the committee in June. There is wide interest in JMO issues in all of the Atlantic regions.

Working Group and Network Updates:

- Ecological Justice WG – there is a need for a chair from Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. In the wake of Emma Seamone's leaving, the committee is feeling a loss of wisdom, knowledge and leadership. Lots of discussion about the ongoing work of this group and the plans for more climate crisis action.
- Just Peace for Palestine and Israel WG – Calm is not a good state as it means that the brutal oppression is ongoing of the Palestinian people. The term "Apartheid" is being recommended. This is a crisis that needs urgent action and attention. Much has been going on and the committee is taking a pause from developing anything new. The group is engaged in on-going campaigns.
- Anti-Racism Network – needs to be guided by the groups it is for. Laura stressed the importance of checking in that we are in a working partnership that is community-based and lead. Beyond Words, a summer anti-racism film series was organized and appreciated by many.

FFLD and JMO will work collaboratively on engaging the church on race relations.

- The Guaranteed Livable Income Network is striving to make GLI a federal election issue.
- Indigenous Concerns and Relations Group – Laura advised that the indigenous community has not released the committee and the direction for advocacy needs to be from them. She also stressed that we must be very aware of the pain and grief that is surfacing in the indigenous community at the moment and of the potential fractures due to colonialism and graves being uncovered. The group recognizes the need to respond to the fishery and residential school issues.

Appendix B - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued

- Refugee Working Group report on Afghanistan:
The United Church has not made any pronouncements yet with respect to the possible arrival of Afghan refugees. The government hasn't yet released any details. As soon as this information is available, it will be sent to everyone in the Refugee network.

If there are specific families that want to be resettled in Canada, they would most likely be resettled through the PSR (Private Sponsorship of Refugees) (therefore, subject to allocation spots if going through the UCC). Alternatively, if the government comes out with a policy similar to the policy when 40,000 refugees were resettled in 2015 and 2016 (i.e., BVOR (Blended VISA Office-Referred) sponsorships), these sponsorships do not use up allocation spots.

The 2022 allocations have yet to be released, and there is a back log of applications to process. Once more information is available, consideration may be given to a community sponsorship (CS). This type of sponsorship is not subject to allocation spots, and can be submitted to the IRCC once the application is complete. Processing times are quite long right now for PSR applications due to COVID-19.

Follow-up from June 10 Executive meeting:

- RC55 PROPOSAL 5 – OPPOSITION TO EQUATING CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S UNJUST ACTIONS WITH ANTISEMITISM
The Executive agreed that this proposal be referred to Justice, Mission and Outreach to work on an educational piece for our congregations.
Answer: The Just Peace for Palestine and Israel Working Group will prepare an educational piece
- RC93 Regional Council 15 supports the proposal Climate Crisis: A Call to the Faithful to Work Towards Climate Justice and asks 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.
Answer: The Ecological Justice Working Group will be communicating to Communities of Faith now that the proposal was passed.
- is the Anti-Racism Network working on an Anti-Racism statement?
Answer: No, because they don't speak for the region. They speak to the Church, but not for the Church. They are still doing education. Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters included anti-racism work in becoming an Affirming region, so that Region is doing that work. Networks see themselves differently than Working Groups.

Annual Meeting Planning

Although there is still no Chair, the Region 15 Chair chairs the meetings. Plans are being discussed for the 2022 meeting. Yet to be determined if we will meet in person and whether or not that will be with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. The arena in Sackville NB is booked in any case.

Appendix B - continued

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT - continued

Association of Ministers

Report Appendix I

Concerns of the Division and the Committees:

A concern of the JMO Committee is the importance of the JMO Minister position remaining a full-time position within the regions. This is a full-time position that serves three regions and for a lot of people it is a keyway that people, especially younger people, engage with the church. The concern seems to be assuaged now that it is known that the position will be posted this month.

The Division discussed the increased workload of the Regional Minister as he offers support to cover the absence due to illness of the Regional Minister for First Dawn Eastern Edge RC. That absence will be extended and Faith advised that a part-time person will be hired to cover the position until the FDEE Regional Minister returns.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive

None to report

Donnie Morrison
Chair, Division of Regional Services and Support

Appendix I

Association of Ministers Committee Report
September, 2021

The following items may be of interest to the Division.

- As of this writing we have approximately 60 paid-up members (including two outside Region 15)
- We have finalized plans for our first, post-pandemic, in-person event, "Leaving Babylon." This will be a 24-hour event on the grounds of Berwick Camp, September 26-27. It will include time for each of our four pillars (Community, Advocacy, Renewal, and Education), with a fairly large amount of free time for clergy to reconnect. Community will also be built during shared set-up and clean-up for meals. Currently 19 registrants.
- Our website is up and functioning and we have tentatively approved a proposal to improve it in terms of functionality and ease of use
- Document for incorporation has been submitted
- We were ultimately not successful in our application for an *Embracing the Spirit Growth Grant* from the United Church Foundation. However. Response to the grant application revealed considerable misinformation regarding associations at the national level, which we will be trying to address prior to our next application
- We have received the approval of the Executive Minister to send a letter to the clergy in the other two Regions of UCCEast to introduce the Association and invite participation. That will happen in mid-September when the initial transition from summer is complete.

Respectfully Submitted
Ross Bartlett – Chair, Association of Ministers Committee

Appendix C**MINISTRY RESOURCES****Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive Region 15
Division of Ministry Resources, September 16, 2021**

Division Name: Ministry Resources

Committees: Faith Story and Community Covenant
Future Directions
Licensing
Pastoral Relations
Retiree Support

Date of Divisional Meeting: Special Meeting, July 5th, 2021

Report of the discussions & decisions from the Division:

July 5th Meeting -This was a special meeting to deal with one item of business – an application from Carman United Church in Sydney Mines to become a hub church in the Rural Connect program.

After discussion and with some concerns being expressed the following motion was made and approved. “That the Division of Ministry Resources support the development of a hub at Carman United Church with the Rural Connect program pending the presentation of a funding plan by Carman United Church and the approval of this funding plan by the Property Committee of Region 15.”

It was suggested the Carman United Church provide the Division of Ministry Resources with update on this project before each of the regular meeting of the Division of Ministry Resources.

Next meeting of the Division of Ministry Resources is September 24th at 10 a.m. by Zoom. The Strategic Plan for Region 15 will be on our agenda.

Dates of Committee Meetings:

Faith Story and Community Covenant
Future Direction – September 2nd, 2021
Licensing
Pastoral Relations – June 25th, August 6, 2021
Retirees Support

Reports of the decisions and discussions from the Committees:**Faith Story and Community Covenant Committee**

Our committee launched the first Annual Self-Assessment, required annually of all CoFs under the Regional structure. We chose to use a form on the website to generate the data, and presented it at the Annual Meeting. Despite a fairly tight deadline, about half the CoFs have filled out their forms, and we are still hearing from CoFs who are in the process, and we expect to get more.

Our fall will be spent processing the data from the Self-Assessment. We intend to provide the raw data to all Committees and Divisions of Region 15 for use in their committee work, and we also plan to prepare a summary report for public release. One of the questions we will be wrestling with is how to respond to what we have been told. David Hewitt will be working with us as we discern our next steps.

We are also hoping this fall to prepare an online workshop about writing Faith Stories. And of course, to start on next year's Self-Assessment to get it out sooner in the spring to give CoFs more time to consult with their governing bodies as the Assessment is prepared.

Appendix C - continued

MINISTRY RESOURCES - continued

We do this with a committee of two or three this fall. There is a great deal of work to be done, and it's spread very thin. We are going to be looking at ways to work together with other Committees to best meet the needs of the Strategic Plan.

Best regards,
Heather.

Future Directions Committee

This report is drawing upon two recent meetings of the Future Directions Committee for Region 15, these taking place on June 8th and September 2nd, 2021: the first was on zoom and the second was a hybrid, with some present in person at Trinity UCC, Timberlea, and others joining us on Zoom.

Recently, we received a resignation from Jeff Chant who has taken on added responsibilities with his pastoral charge and a neighbouring community of faith. Jeff's contribution to our work will be sorely missed.

Of special note: Our Committee wrote a letter to the Executive earlier this year requesting that we have input to a process that reviews, defines, and considers adding new staff to Region 15 or to a new shared position with Regions 14 and 16. We have not received a reply to this letter and would like to do so as our concerns remain the same. Dating back to January 2000, we have been drawing the attention of the Executive to the need for a review of the staff that would hopefully lead to additional leadership for the work of redevelopment and new initiatives in Region 15.

As a committee we continue to navigate our way through uncertain times. Having been involved in the creation of the Strategic Plan, we are keen to see how it will be focused and animated. In the meantime, we realize we need to carry on with a few well-chosen tasks that are possible now which include:

- .. requesting that the Finance Committee create a user-friendly workshop for the purpose of training treasures on the basics of keeping the books for a community of faith. We have received information that some communities of faith are struggling in this area.
- .. pursuing the Fresh Start program for use in our Region 15 (training trainers?)
- .. advising on the use of the Rural Connect Project in our Region
- .. organizing a member of our committee to offer a workshop re discerning options
- .. exploring new models of being church with communities of faith; i.e. Starting Over
- .. networking with other committees and groups on how to move forward with establishing clusters for clergy and laity in strategic geographical areas in Region 15
- .. developing a separate task group to assist communities of faith who need help with "Graceful Endings"
- .. finding ways for us to hear the unique experiences clergy and lay leaders are having in these challenging times (i.e., at our last meeting we invited Crossroads Pastoral Charge minister, the Rev. Kathleen Anderson to attend our meeting and share her experience.)
- .. analysing the results of the questionnaire circulated to communities of faith by the Living Faith Story and Covenant Committee

As a committee we have been interested to hear about the discussions David Hewitt has been having with Lunenburg Area and Queens/Shelburne Area communities of faith. At this point we are hearing some positive developments in the Lunenburg Area, but so far "slow progress" in the Queens/Shelburne Area. It seems clear there are numerous geographical areas in the province where the witness of the United Church of Canada is in the process of slowly disappearing. These situations are crying out for new creative, proactive interventions led by the Region and the General Council and in consultation with the communities being impacted.

On September 22 we will meet on zoom to compose our committee's response to the request from the Executive on how we see the Strategic Plan being implemented.

Appendix C - continued**MINISTRY RESOURCES** - continued

Our committee appreciates very much the guidance and wisdom consistently offered by our staff support, Regional Minister David Hewitt and our Division Chair Anne Cameron.

Submitted by Carol Smith, Chair of the Future Direction Committee for Region 15.

Licensing Committee

This Committee reports that interviews for LLWLs and those needing to be re-licensed are planned to be held in Tatamagouche soon.

Pastoral Relations Committee Report

This Committee continues to do the work of pastoral relations. The Liaisons and Region Minister, David Hewitt, are dealing with the "nitty gritty". The Pastoral Relations Committee met in June and August with their next meeting planned for September 17th by Zoom.

Retiree Support Committee

May the light of Christ be in our midst.

We are a quiet committee, keeping in touch with the folks who choose to connect with us. Not everyone is a part of our Retiree's email listing. We will place another note on the Wednesday announcements the first week of October, hoping those not connected, will choose to join us.

We keep in touch via email, and our secretary, Wanalda Parsons, does excellent pieces of work in sending out Sympathy Cards, Thinking of You Cards, or whatever is called for at the time.

Folks have been making visits in the various areas of Region 15 (Bermuda/Nova Scotia) and keep in touch with me for the most part, when a visit is made.

Covid-19 has certainly had an impact on so many people in our lives and within our faith community of Retirees. We may be in a position after September 15th 2021, to begin planning cluster gatherings. I look forward to visiting with you when the time is right.

If anyone is willing to host a gathering, at your local church, in your area, perhaps you would let me know, so we can begin to make plans. Our committee consists of Wanalda Parsons, Linda Winton, David Haan, Glenn MacLean, and Ruth Gamble as Chair. The chair of the Division of Ministry Resources is Anne Cameron.

K. Ruth Gamble

Concerns of the Division and the Committee:

None at this time.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive:

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Cameron
Chair, Division of Ministry Resources

Appendix D**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Maritime United Church Women
Region 15 September 16th, 2021, Report

On behalf of the Maritime United Church Women (MUCW) Executive, I would like to thank Region 15 for their continued support and the opportunity to serve as MUCW Representative to Region 15 Executive Committee. Since the last report in June our MUCW held an online two-hour meeting on June 21st which was attended by the executive and UCW district representatives from both Region 15 and FSLDW. Highlights are as follows:

- The upcoming National UCW meetings are to be held over zoom from September 20th to 24th for 2-3 hours each day. This is our annual National meeting attended by the National Executive and two UCW representatives from each of the 17 regions. As with the 2020 National meeting there will once again be a closing communion service open to all UCW ladies across Canada/Bermuda on Friday September 24th in the afternoon (AST). Invitations and zoom links will be sent out through the districts contacts shortly.
- National UCW handbook is being revised and the changes will be reviewed at the September meeting.
- The UCW contact person at General Council office has changed once again – Terry Beaumont
- The **“Keeping In Touch”** National UCW newsletters will now be posted on the National UCW website – Issue 2 – June 2021 is currently on the ucceast.ca website under Ministries, then UCW. Also, there you will find the **“Maritime UCW News – Spring Summer 2021”** newsletter.
- Maritime UCW Executive is planning a Fall Zoom gathering like the one held in April. All UCW ladies in both regions are invited to sign on. Information will be available after our next executive meeting.
- Discussion on changing our bi-annual meeting to an annual meeting in 2022.
- UCW Mission and Service givings for 2020:
National UCW: \$681,020.17, FSLDW (Region 14) \$28,793.00 and Region 15 \$54,674.68. As of May 3rd, 2021 a total of \$53,963.39 has been raised for Women for Change – Zambia which is our National 5-year fundraising focus. Representatives from WFC-Zambia have been invited to attend our 60th Anniversary celebrations next July in Sydney.
- Statistics are in for the 2020 year. We have 1364 reported UCW members in Region 15 and 133 units. Unfortunately, 6 units from Pictou District did not send in statistics so it is understated. Statistics are required to be reported annually to the National body of UCW. Every unit in Region 15 and FSLDW is required to submit their number of members, names of members receiving Lifetime memberships and names of members who passed on in the year. Gathering of statistics continues to be an ongoing struggle. The Maritime summary for 2020 of those who reported:
Total number of reported members: 2767
Total number of confirmed units: 276
Total number of Lifetime memberships: 8
Total number of reported deaths: 171

The 2021 statistical forms will be sent out in December 2021 to be completed by each unit and returned by January 31st, 2022.

- Excitement about our 60th Anniversary celebration (Continuing in Hope), Sydney, NS July 11-15th, 2022 is building across the nation and our online registration will go live September 30th. Spots are held for 22 members from each of the 17 regions and then open up to a first come first serve bases with a capacity of approximately 400. Hotels are taking reservations now and ladies are starting to book their hotels and flights. Details on the event can be found on our [ucceast](http://ucceast.ca) website (under Ministries, UCW, UCW's 60th Anniversary News) and you can also signup for updates by emailing Ruth Kennedy, the 60th Anniversary chair at ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com. All UCW members attending the event are eligible to apply for a \$400 grant from the NUCW Agatha Kassa bursary. Forms are found on the online through the [ucceast](http://ucceast.ca) website. The deadlines for applying are October 15th, 2021, and April 15th, 2022.

Appendix D - continued

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - continued

- Our 60th Anniversary lapel pins are available to order at time of registration (to be picked up at the event) or can be order in bulk (10 or more please) for early mailout at a cost of \$6 each by emailing debbieh@ridgetimber.com.
- In keeping with the theme "Continuing in Hope" The planning committee is looking for pictures of UCW ladies and their grandkids/children for a PowerPoint Presentation to be used during the event. No names will be used during the presentation. Please email to Ruth at ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com.

The 60th Anniversary committee continues to meet regularly and the next MUCW executive meeting will be held October 25th, hopefully in person in Sackville.

Debbie Hawkins
MUCW Representative to Region 15