

# *The Story of our Discipleship*



*5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

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

**Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS**

*June 9-11, 2023*

*Record of Proceedings – Volume 2*



**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 Annual Meeting 2023**

**Regional Council Executive**

President.....	Dr. Sandra Tomsons
President Elect.....	Ms. Shauna MacDonald
Past President .....	Ms. Jane McDonald
Executive Minister .....	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Division of Finance and Administration .....	Rev. April Hart
Division of Regional Services and Support .....	Mr. Donald Morrison
Division of Ministry Resources .....	Ms. Anne Cameron
Nominations .....	Rev. Alicia Cox
Staff Committee Liaison .....	Rev. Derek Elsworth
Member at Large.....	Mr. Peter Hardy
Member at Large.....	Ms. Katie Logan
Member at Large.....	Rev. Shannon MacLean
United Church Women Representative.....	Ms. Deborah Hawkins

**SESSIONS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**

<u>YEAR/PLACE</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</u>
2019 – Sackville, NB	Rev. Catherine MacDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Re-Call Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2021 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2022 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Jane McDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2023 – Halifax, NS	Dr. Sandra Tomsons	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

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(Pages RC1-RC76 distributed throughout the year, and can be found on the Regional website)

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL****Ministry Personnel**

Anderson, Kathleen	Ordained Minister	Active
Anderson, Kathryn	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Anderson, Krista	Ordained Minister	Active
Anthony, J. Peter	Ordained Minister	Active
Antle-Brison, Florence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Archibald, A. Fred	Ordained Minister	Retired
Aven, Katherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ballantyne, Sharon	Ordained Minister	Active
Bartlett, I. Ross	Ordained Minister	Active
Biggar, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Blois, Janet	Ordained Minister	Retired
Brewer, Darlene	Ordained Minister	Active
Bristo, Richard	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Brown, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Brown-Hewitt, Robyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie	Ordained Minister	Active
Burke-Cole, Kymberly	Ordained Minister	Active
Burns, Helene	Ordained Minister	Active
Burrill, Gary	Ordained Minister	Active
Bursey, Jeffro	Ordained Minister	Retired
Caines-Corkum, Grace	Ordained Minister	Active
Caldwell, Blake	Ordained Minister	Retired
Carruthers, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chambers, Steven	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chant, Jeffrey	Ordained Minister	Active
Chapman, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chisholm, James	Ordained Minister	Active
Chisholm, M. Dale	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chisholm, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
Chon, Jun-Hyok	Ordained Minister	Active
Churchill, Gloria	Ordained Minister	Retired
Clark-Ettinger, W. Martin	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Cleary, Heidi	Candidate	Active
Clifton, Lydia	Candidate	Active
Cole, Tony	Ordained Minister	Active
Constable, Alex	Ordained Minister	Active
Corbett, J. Raymond	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cornelius, Marjory	Ordained Minister	Retired
Corrigan, Nancy	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Cox, Alicia	Ordained Minister	Active
Cox, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Active
Cox, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Crawford, M. Dale	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Crocker, E. Lorraine	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Crooks, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Crooks, Howard	Ordained Minister	Active
Crump, Judith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cumming, G. Paul	Ordained Minister	Retired
Curlett, Kimberlea	Ordained Minister	Active
Darby, Betty	Ordained Minister	Retired
Darby, H. Allen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davies, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davis, Christina	Ordained Minister	Active
Davis, S. Allison	Ordained Minister	Active
Dean, M. Kathleen	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Demmons, A. George	Ordained Minister	Retired
Den Draak, Hubert	Diaconal Minister	Active
Doucette, Shane	Candidate	Active
Drysdale, William	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Duggan, Emily	Ordained Minister	Active

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued**Ministry Personnel** - continued

Edgar, Suzanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Edsall, Holly	Ordained Minister	Retired
Elsworth, Derek	Ordained Minister	Active
Etter, Alison	Ordained Minister	Active
Feltmate, Dana	Ordained Minister	Active
Fennell, Robert	Ordained Minister	Active
Ferrier, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Fillier, Matthew	Ordained Minister	Active
Fillmore, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
Finlayson, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Fram, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Active
Fraser, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Fraser, Ian	Ordained Minister	Admission
Fraser, Meredith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Fryday, Shaun	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gamble, K. Ruth	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Gamblin, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
Gibson, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gillis, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Godin, Rosemary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Golding, A. Gail	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Gregan, J. Ivan	Ordained Minister	Active
Griffin, Joan	Ordained Minister	Active
Gunn, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gunn, Richard	Ordained Minister	Active
Handcock, Sean	Ordained Minister	Active
Hankinson, J. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hann, David	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, Andrea	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, Ian	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, Mary	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, W. Lawrence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hart, April	Ordained Minister	Active
Hart, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Harty, Rosemarie	Ordained Minister	Active
Haylock, Mary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hemming, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Henderson, Michael	Ordained Minister	Active
Hennigar-Shuh, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hewitt, David	Diaconal Minister	Active
Hill, Dianne	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Hogan, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Active
Hoganson, Anne	Ordained Minister	Active
Huestis, Lorna	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Ihasz, Louis	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ihasz, Vincent	Ordained Minister	Retired
Irving, Sandra	Candidate	Active
Jarvis, W. Wayne	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Jenkins, Foster	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kean, Wendy	Ordained Minister	Active
Kelly, Donna Marie	Candidate	Active
Kempt, Dianne	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Kennedy, Phillip	Ordained Minister	Active
Kennedy, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kerr, Gerald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kierstead, Emily	Diaconal Minister	Retired
King-Darby, Susan	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Kingsbury, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Active
Lawrence, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Le Roux, Pieter	Ordained Minister	Active
LeBlanc, David	Ordained Minister	Retired

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued**Ministry Personnel** - continued

Legault, Aidan	Candidate	Active
Little, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Active
Llewellyn, Hallett	Ordained Minister	Retired
Llewellyn, Karen	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Lloy, Marion	Ordained Minister	Retired
Logan, Katherine	Candidate	Active
Lohnes, Sharon	Ordained Minister	Active
Lovelace, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Lutes, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynch, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynk, L. Allan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAlpine-Gillis, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAskill, Lorraine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacCuish, Laurie	Ordained Minister	Active
MacCulloch, Lynda	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDermid, Mary	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
MacDonald, A. Ross	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Iain	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Neil	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, R. Marilyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDougall, Gary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mack, A. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacKenzie, Bruce	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLachlan, David	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Alexander	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Angela	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Glenn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Janice	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Mark	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Shannon	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLeod, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLeod, Victor	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacNaughton, Barbara	Candidate	Active
MacNaughton, James	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
MacPherson, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacQueen, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacVicar, R. Diane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manchester, R. Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manuel, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
March-MacCuish, Faith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marmura, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Marple, Meredith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marple, Norman	Ordained Minister	Retired
Martin, Maxwell	Candidate	Active
McBride, Jennifer	Candidate	Active
McCarther, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCulloch-Taylor, Shelagh	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCurdy, Brenda	Ordained Minister	Active
McDonald, Curtis	Ordained Minister	Retired
McEwen, Neil	Ordained Minister	Active
McFadden, L. Joanne	Ordained Minister	Active
McIntosh, J. Allan	Ordained Minister	Retired
McKay, Brenda	Ordained Minister	Retired
McLellan, Jamie	Candidate	Active
McNamara, Constance	Ordained Minister	Active
Meredith, Richard	Ordained Minister	Active



**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued**Ministry Personnel** – continued

Mills, Norma	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Mills, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moore, L. Vivian	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moriarty, Mary-Beth	Ordained Minister	Active
Morrison, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moses, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mugford, Michael	Ordained Minister	Active
Murray, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Murray, Gordon	Ordained Minister	Retired
Murray, Roland	Ordained Minister	Active
Myles, S. Marlyne	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Nelson, Penny	Ordained Minister	Active
Nesbitt, John	Ordained Minister	Active
Nicholson, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Norton, Ivan	Ordained Minister	Retired
O'Neill, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Active
Orton, Debra	Ordained Minister	Active
Pace, Eric	Ordained Minister	Retired
Palmer, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Pardy, Dana	Candidate	Active
Parsons, A. John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Peddie Peters, Mavis	Ordained Minister	Active
Perry, Judith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Phillips, P. Nicholas	Ordained Minister	Active
Pick, Shelley	Ordained Minister	Active
Pilsworth, Douglas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Porter, Ronald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ralph, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
Reaburn, Sarah	Ordained Minister	Active
Redden-Smith, Sheila	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reid, Herbert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reid, Martin	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reppert, Wade	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ritchie, Nancy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Roach, Duncan	Ordained Minister	Active
Robinson, Leslie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Robson, Tamsin	Candidate	Active
Ross, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rushton, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rutherford, Alice	Ordained Minister	Retired
Sagar, Margaret	Ordained Minister	Retired
Sangster, Annika	Diaconal Minister	Active
Sanson, Margaret	Ordained Minister	Active
Scherzinger, Linda	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Schofield, Rhonda	Candidate	Active
Schurman, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Active
Sellsted, Donald	Ordained Minister	Active
Settle, Lester	Ordained Minister	Retired
Shaffner, W. James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Shaw, Ronald	Candidate	Active
Shaw, Sally	Ordained Minister	Active
Sheremeta, Krystal	Ordained Minister	Active
Simms-Mills, H. Jean	Ordained Minister	Retired
Simpson, Lee	Ordained Minister	Retired
Skinner, Dale	Ordained Minister	Active
Skinner, Maryann	Ordained Minister	Active
Smith, Carol	Ordained Minister	Active
Smith, Glennis	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Greta	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Peter	Ordained Minister	Active

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued

**Ministry Personnel** – continued

Smith, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Active
Smithers, Caitlin	Candidate	Active
Snow, Ebbie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Steele, David	Ordained Minister	Active
Stewart, Douglas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stright, Jeanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Tapscott, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Taylor, Mary	Ordained Minister	Active
Taylor, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Thompson, Edward	Ordained Minister	Retired
Thomson, Kelly	Ordained Minister	Active
Tingley, Diane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Tourneur, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Veenema, Michael	Ordained Minister	Admission
Vincent, M. J. Boyd	Ordained Minister	Retired
Waddell, Harvey	Ordained Minister	Retired
Webber-Cook, James	Ordained Minister	Active
Webber-Cook, Mary	Ordained Minister	Active
Wentzell, Brian	Ordained Minister	Active
Whent, Thomas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Whyte, Mary Lynne	Ordained Minister	Active
Wilson Wynne, Carolyn	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Winn, Krista	Ordained Minister	Active
Winton, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wiseman, Keith	Candidate	Active
Woods, Thomas	Ordained Minister	Active
Woodworth, Alfred	Ordained Minister	Retired
Worrell, Linton	Candidate	Active
Wray, John	Ordained Minister	Active
Wright, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Wynne, Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Yates, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Zinck, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued**Elected Lay Members**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Pastoral Charge</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Pastoral Charge</u></b>
Betts, Patricia	Halifax: St. Andrew's	Birch, Elizabeth	Margaree
Boldrini, Gabriela	Riverview	Boulger, Sean	Middleton
Brown, Wendall	Waverley	Burrows, Leslie	Clifton
Butt, Byron	Aylesford	Cameron, Ross	Trenton
Canning, John	Westville	Canning, Pamela	Westville
Carrigan, Pat	Salt Springs- Scotsburn-Lyon's Brook	Carson, Dorothy	Cobequid
Chivers, Wally	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	Cleave, Pat	Dartmouth: Grace
Cochrane, Norma	Springhill	Cook, Carolyn	First South
Corkum, Bill	LaHave-New Dublin	Courtney, Margaret	North Highlands
Curtis, Kathy	Three Harbours	Custance, Joyce	Rawdon
Dauphinee, Beverley	Halifax: Hope	Davis, Allan	New Glasgow
Dicks, Nancy	New Glasgow	Dixon, Helen	Dartmouth: Woodlawn
Dodge, Doris	Walton	Dodson, Margaret Anne	Pictou
Edgar, Suzanne	Halifax: Rockingham	Forbes, Marg	Bridgewater
Francis, Paula Jane	Sydney Mines	Fraser, Warna	Chalmers-Warden
Gould, Alice	Walton	Griffiths, David	Halifax: Fort Massey
Griffiths, Lesley	Halifax: St. John's	Gunn, Sharon	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk
Hall, Jim	Halifax: St. John's	Harris, David	McCully
Hayes, Judy	Sackville: Knox	Hiltz, Valerie	St. Peter's-Grand R.-L. Lomond
Hughes, Barbie	Windsor	Isenor, Margaret	Sydney River
Jack, Meghann	St. Mary's	Jensen, Arthur	New Germany
Joudrey, Susan	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's	Joudrey, Michelle	Tatamagouche
King, Jim	Tatamagouche	Knapp, Glen	Halifax: Bethany
Langille, Lynn	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk	Langley, Anna Marie	Port Hawkesbury
Logan, Jack	Bridgewater	MacArthur, Ann	Windsor
MacAskill, Alice	West Ba	MacDonald, Shauna	Dartmouth: St. James
MacDonald, Ian	Halifax: Fort Massey	MacGillivray, Joan	Antigonish
MacInnis, Janice	Sydney River	MacIntyre, Margie	Whycocomagh-E. Lake Ainslie
Mackay, Donald	Sydney: United Heritage	MacKenzie, May	Antigonish
MacLeod, Malcolm	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	MacNeil, Kelly	Dartmouth: Woodlawn
Martin, Sharon	Eastern Guysborough	Matchett, Sandra	New Germany
Matheson, Audrey	Halifax: Fairview	McDonell, Jane	Amherst: Trinity- St. Stephen's
McDonell, Teresa	Amherst: Trinity- St. Stephen's	McEwan, Nelson	Port Hastings
McFadgen, Stacy	Glace Bay: Knox	McKay, Kathy	Halifax: St. Paul's, Spryfield
Melanson, Shelley	Yarmouth: Beacon	Messenger, Sally	Lawrencetown-Lake Echo
Mills, Leopold	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley	Morrison, Donald	Sydney River
Morrison, Ros	Riverview	Muir, Gerald	Westville
Nauss, Joan	Riverport	O'Connell, Trudi	Brookfield
Oliver-Snair, Joyce	Port Hawkesbury	Orlando, Tony	William Black
Parks, Kevin	Halifax: St. Andrew's	Patterson, Helen	Walton
Penney, Cindy	Dartmouth: Grace	Phillips, Roberta	Margaree
Radford, Wanda	Port Hastings	Rafter, Tanya	Waverley
Ramsay-Moore, Norma	Harmony-Camden	Scherzinger, Linda	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Sellsted, Cheryl	Orchard Valley	Skelhorn, Elizabeth	Windsor
Skidgmore, Terry	Kingston	Smith, Vera Faye	Brookfield
Smith, Fay	Truro: Brunswick St-North River	Sollows, Janet	Yarmouth: Beacon
Steadman, Anna	St. Paul's Mount Uniacke	Stewart, Sheila	Berwick – Trinity
Stewart, James	Onslow-Belmont	Terry, Carolyn	Truro: Bible Hill
Thompson, Michael	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	Tomsons, Sandra	Mulgrave
Van Jaarsveldt, Burgert	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley	van Schaick, Sheila	Boularderie
Walker, David	Bridgewater	Watts, Betty Ann	Pugwash
Webb, Lisa	Dartmouth: Woodlawn	White, Linda	Caledonia
Williams, Jennnifer	Sackville: Knox	Winton, Linda	Kingston
Wylie, Joyce	Dartmouth: St. James		

- Retired Designated Lay Ministers (DLM) not in an appointment are counted on the lay membership roll.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL** - continued

**Appointed Members**

Cameron, Anne	Division of Ministry Resources Chair
Hardy, Peter	Executive Member at Large
Hawkins, Debbie	United Church Women Representative
Logan, Katie	Executive Member at Large
McDonald, Jane	Regional Council Past President

**Corresponding Members**

Ballantyne, Cliff	Visitor
Bergman, Neil	Ecumenical Guest
Blair, Michael	GCO Representative/Theme Presenter
Janes, Roger	Staff
Kaster, Shari	Staff
Kelly, Donna	Visitor
Lavery, Norman	Visitor
Lavery, America	Visitor
Laundry, Leona	Staff
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Staff
O'Neill, Tim	Visitor
Stuart, Catherine T.	Staff
Swim, Anthony	Visitor
Watts, Ray	Visitor
Welch, Judith	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff
Wylie, Gail	Visitor

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15**  
Annual Meeting  
June 9-11, 2023  
Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

RC77

**The Story of our Discipleship**

**Friday, June 9, 2023**

**REGISTRATION**

**Registration**

Members of Regional Council 15 registered online for the June 9-11, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered three webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting. In person registration began at Mount Saint Vincent University at 1:00pm for members to pick up registration packages and be assigned table groups.

**ATTENDANCE** – Appendix A

**Attendance**

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

**REGRETS** – Appendix B

**Regrets**

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

**Gathering with Music**

Gathering with music was led by Kevin Parks and Dana Pardy.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Call to Order**

Sandra Tomsons, President of Regional Council 15, welcomed members to the fifth meeting of the regional council, and called the meeting to order.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Opening Prayer**

Sandra Tomsons, President, opened the meeting with prayer and lit the Christ candle.

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

**Acknowledging the Land**

Sandra Tomsons, President, acknowledged the land on which we gather, with respect for all peoples of this land as we live out the apology, and move towards becoming the community that God calls us to be together.

**GREETINGS FROM INDIGENOUS GUEST**

**Greetings from Indigenous Guest**

Sandra Tomsons, President, introduced Elder Stephen Augustine and invited him to bring greetings to the members gathered. Elder Augustine started with a song to invite the spirits of our ancestors in the spirit world to come back and join us, guide us and protect us. He offered prayer in seven sacred directions; as this was done when treaties were signed with the British. After inviting spirits, a sage of sweet grass is lit (smudging ceremony) Elder Augustine spoke in his language and translated as he offered collective words in the smoke and sent to the Creator; thanking Creator for giving the wonderful day, beautiful place we are gathered and all the people sharing love and blessings. Elder Augustine thanked the regional council for inviting him to bring greetings. The President presented Elder Augustine with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the regional council.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS**

**Introductions and Greetings**

Sandra Tomsons, President, welcomed all to the meeting. She extended warm welcome to the council members, clergy, lay, visitors, and special guests. Special welcome was extended to ecumenical guest, Rev. Neil Bergman of the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ), and Rev. Michael Blair, theme speaker, accompanied by Rev. Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach.

Moderator**MODERATOR**

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, joined the meeting through a video presentation, to bring greetings and blessings from the office of the Moderator to the members gathered. The Moderator shared that it is both a hard and exciting time to be church. The Moderator offered that the call of The United Church of Canada; deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice, will anchor us as we look to the future.

Quorum**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL**Constitution of  
the Regional  
Council

The President noted that there was a quorum 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.

Procedural  
Motion**PROCEDURAL MOTION****MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Derek Elsworth)

1. That the Roll of Regional Council 15 be (Manual 2023 C1.1 and C.1.2):
  - 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.
2. That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2023;  
"The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 (sixty) or more members, at least 20 (twenty) members must be present; and that there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose."
3. That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.
4. 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 guests and observers; the President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate); the Incorporated Ministries representatives; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.
5. That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of Regional Council 15, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.
6. That the business table be Jane McDonald, Heather Manuel, Jennifer Whittemore and Mary-Beth Moriarity.
7. That the minute secretary for the Fifth (5th) Annual Regional Council meeting be Shari Kaster.
8. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.
9. That the Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.
10. That the following shall be Tellers for this session of Regional Council: Fay Smith (Head Teller), Joyce Custance, Donald Mackay, Joan Griffin, Dorothy Carson, Kevin Cox, Gloria Churchill, Tony Orlando, Alice MacAskill.
11. That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers for this weekend be Wendy Kean, Catherine MacDonald (Friday), Don Sellsted (Saturday), Robyn Brown-Hewitt (Friday and Saturday-morning)
12. That the Process Flow and Support for Regional Council be Mary-Beth Moriarity.
13. That the Friend in Council be Jane McDonald.
14. 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 2023 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making.

Speakers will:

- Start by identifying themselves (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- Direct all discussion to the President.
- Address the President only once about a motion; except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- Be allocated time as follows: The initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three (3) minutes, and that all subsequent speakers be limited to two (2) minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
- Make every effort to have all discussion be clear and concise, and deal only with the motion.

**CARRIED**

**CONSENT MOTION**

Consent  
Motion

**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Mary Taylor)

That Regional Council 15:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, May 27-29, 2022 (RC73-RC85), as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
  - a. President
  - b. Executive Minister
  - c. Division of Finance and Administration
    - i. Financial Accountability & Investments
    - ii. Incorporated Ministries
    - iii. Property
    - iv. Archives, Records & History
  - d. Division of Regional Services and Support
    - i. Communications
    - ii. Faith Formation & Leadership Development
    - iii. Children, Youth & Young Adults
    - iv. Stewardship
    - v. Justice, Mission & Outreach
    - vi. Annual Meeting Planning
    - vii. Association of Ministers
  - e. Division of Ministry Resources
    - i. Pastoral Relations
    - ii. Licensing
    - iii. Faith Stories & Community Covenants
    - iv. Future Directions
    - v. Retiree Support
  - f. Nominations Committee  
INCLUDING THE DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONS AND STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE 2023-2024 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
  - g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
  - h. Affirming Ministries Task Group
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
  - h. St. Andrew's College
  - i. Ukulele Church

**CARRIED**

Candidates for  
Ministry

**INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY**

Kevin Cox, Representative for the Office of Vocation Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council.

Kevin noted that he is filling in for Andrew Richardson at this meeting. He introduced fellow committee members, and remembered Maggie Plant, who had been on the committee. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Linton Worrell, candidate for Ordained Ministry, and Keith Wiseman, being recognized as a Designated Lay Minister, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. Linton and Keith were offered the opportunity to introduce themselves to the regional council. Kevin Cox introduced candidates for ordered ministry Dana Pardy, Angela Clifton, Heidi Cleary, Katie Logan, Max Martin, Priscilla Geisterfer, Ron Shaw, Shane Doucette, Caitlin Smithers, Jenna McBride, Donna Kelly, Jamie McLellan, Tamsin Robson, Jessie Crabtree, Aidan Legault and Designated Lay Ministry candidate, Sandra Irving. Deborah Hawkins presented a gift to the Mission & Service Fund, in honour of Linton and Keith's new ministry, on behalf of the United Church Women.

United Church  
Women

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Debbie Hawkins of the United Church Women (UCW), presented the report of the UCW, included on page 84 of the reports. Debbie highlighted the work of the UCW and some of the challenges faced since the pandemic. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and mission and service donations were highlighted from the report. Debbie thanked the region for their support and thanked the Executive and the committees of the region for their work. Debbie thanked the Executive Minister and General Secretary for attending the celebration in 2022, and asked all those gathered to continue to support the work of local UCW's.

United Church  
Bookstore

**UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

Leona Laundry, Bookstore Manager, introduced members to the United Church Bookstore, and highlighted several resources available for sale this weekend. Leona also highlighted that the bookstore is now available for online orders.

Table Groups

**TABLE GROUP TIME**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Committee Chair, introduced the topic of discussion for table group time. Members were asked to introduce themselves and their community of faith and to take time to check-in with each other using questions provided on their tables.

UCRD

**UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE (UCRD)**

A video presentation highlighted several books available now, and invited members to follow the UCRD newsletter and social media for more details.

Announcements

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, presented the announcements of the region.

Grace and  
Supper

**GRACE AND SUPPER**

Grace was offered by Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair.

Gathering with  
Music

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

The members of regional council were gathered together after the break with music ministry led by Kevin Parks and Dana Pardy. President Sandra Tomsons welcomed all back to the meeting.

Opening  
Worship

**OPENING WORSHIP**

Opening worship was led by Shauna MacDonald, President-Elect. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *The Story of Our Discipleship*. The President-Elect offered the reflection, based on the scripture readings from Acts 4:5-12; John 3:16; and Ephesians 2:20. Music leadership was offered by Kevin Parks and Dana Pardy, leading the selections *Deep in our Hearts*; *In the Bulb there is a Flower*; *Will you Come and Follow Me*; and *Send Me, Lord*.



**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE****Service of Remembrance**

As part of the opening worship, the President-Elect, Shauna MacDonald, led the in-memoriam video presentation. Regional Council members paused to remember those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this United Church of ours. The President-Elect offered prayer and asked for a moment of silence.

**THEME I****Theme I**

Theme Presenter, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, was introduced by Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, and welcomed to the council. The Theme presenter thanked the regional council for the invitation and for the gift of time to be with this gathering. The theme presenter stated that, as General Secretary, he feels the future of the United Church will be based on the fact that the people of the United Church are followers of Jesus Christ, and therefore finds the theme of this annual meeting very exciting. The theme is how are we going to rediscover what it means to be followers of Jesus; it is about discipleship. There can be no discipleship without a relationship with Jesus. The theme presenter shared several stories of discipleship from scripture, including John 4, Mark 10:46-52 and Acts 9, as well as personal stories from those he has encountered. The theme presenter asks that we trust God, who has not abandoned us in the midst of hardship and hate, and still loves us. God has given us each other to provoke us; to be faithful in our acknowledgement of who God is and what he means to us.

**BREAK****Break****TABLE GROUP TIME****Table Groups**

The theme presenter, Rev. Michael Blair, invited the members gathered to take time in table groups to discuss three questions:

- How do you understand the call to bold discipleship?
- How is it resonating for you?
- What would it look like in reality in your Community of Faith?

**PROPOSALS****Proposals****Proposal 1 – Appendix C**

Janet Sollows, Proposals Chair, introduced the proposal *Revisit Decision Regarding Congregational Designated Minister's Role in Local Council*, received from Ross Bartlett and Carol Smith. The proposal was presented at the May 30, 2023 webinar, and calls upon General Council to revisit its decision from General Council 44, feeling that the regional council and communities of faith would benefit from greater clarity on this issue, including adequate and appropriate support and oversight. Ross Bartlett provided background for the proposal, and members were invited to use table group time to further discuss the proposal.

**Revisit Decision Regarding Congregational Designated Minister's Role in Local Council****MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Ross Bartlett)

That Regional Council 15 agrees with the proposal *Revisit Decision Regarding Congregational Designated Minister's Role in Local Council* and refers the Proposal to General Council for action; and directs the Executive Minister, in consultation with appropriate staff and committees, to develop a policy/strategy to clarify the Region's response to this Manual change; and if the General Council Executive or General Council elects not to revisit the section, directs the Executive Minister, in consultation with appropriate staff and committees, to develop a definition and parameters for "adequate and appropriate support and oversight of the Ministry" within Region 15.

**CARRIED****Proposal 2 – Appendix D**

Janet Sollows, Proposal Chair, introduced the proposal *Cluster and Network Support*, received from Betsy Hogan, Shannon MacLean and the Future Directions Committee.

**Cluster and Network Support**

Originally submitted as two separate proposals, presented at the May 30, 2023 webinar, the originators agreed that both proposals be combined to call on the region to make the development of clusters a priority in its life and work and create a new, temporary staff position for a Regional Cluster Animator. Carol Smith, chair of Future Directions, and Betsy Hogan provided background for the proposal. Members were invited to use table group time to further discuss the proposal.

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Betsy Hogan)

That Regional Council 15 makes the development of local clusters a priority in its life and work; and directs the Executive Minister, along with the appropriate committees, to prepare a job description for a part-time and term-limited staff position to be called Regional Cluster Animator; and look into securing grants or other funding for this position.

**CARRIED**

**Proposal 3** – Appendix E

Becoming an  
Affirming  
Ministry

Janet Sollows of the Proposals Committee introduced the proposal *Becoming an Affirming Ministry*, received from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The proposal was presented at the May 30, 2023 webinar, and asks that the regional council commits to removing barriers to full participation of all people in the life of the region, and commits to co-creating a society that embodies the love of God where individuals can live free from harmful ideologies rooted in fear and hatred. Members took table group time to discuss the proposal before them.

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Shelley Pick)

That we accept this proposal as presented, and that Regional Council 15 become an Affirming Region and a member of Affirm United, and these be reflected in our Vision and Core Values, as highlighted below in bold:

*To become a transformed, courageous, Spirit-filled community, risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus **that welcomes all people, including but not limited to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, skin colour, race, creed, age, cultural background, economic status, language, and ability, to fully participate in all aspects of our life and work.***

*Core Values: Connecting and strengthening communities of faith by: Living into expansive **and inclusive** 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.*

**MOTION TO AMMEND:** (April Hart/Jane McDonald)

That the first line of the Vision statement be changed to "To be an ever transforming..."

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Shelley Pick)

That we accept this proposal as presented, and that Regional Council 15 become an Affirming Region and a member of Affirm United, and these be reflected in our Vision and Core Values, as highlighted below in bold:

*To be an ever transforming, courageous, Spirit-filled community, risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus **that welcomes all people, including but not limited to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, skin colour, race, creed, age, cultural background, economic status, language, and ability, to fully participate in all aspects of our life and work.***

*Core Values: Connecting and strengthening communities of faith by: Living into expansive **and inclusive** 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.*

**CARRIED**

**Proposal 4** – Appendix F

Janet Sollows of the Proposals Committee introduced the proposal *How We Meet*, received from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The proposal was presented at the May 30, 2023 webinar, and asks that we set a pattern for our regional council meetings, balancing eco-justice and the need to build relationship and identity, with being good stewards of our resources.

**How we Meet**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Team provided background for the motion, including survey results, and members were invited to ask questions for clarification. The proposal schedule is as follows: 2024, in person at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, NS, 2025, online for business and in person for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, 2026, on line, 2027 at Acadia University (if possible), 2028, in person with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters at Tantramar Civic Centre.

Members took table group time to discuss the proposal before them.

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Jane McDonald)

That the schedule for the annual meetings of Regional Council 15 (in principle) be as follows:

- The 2024 meeting in-person (May 10-12 at Dalhousie University, Truro Campus)
- The 2025 meeting on-line for business (one day or more if required) Plus, an in-person 100th Anniversary Celebration with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (May 30 - June 1 at Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre)
- The 2026 meeting on-line (Celebration of Ministry, in-person)
- The 2027 meeting in-person (Acadia University, if possible)
- The 2028 meeting in-person with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre)

\* In-person youth events will be considered for all dates

**MOTION TO AMMEND:** (Heather Fraser/Kim Curlett)

That the 2026 meeting be amended to be in person.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION TO AMMEND:** (Sheila Van Schaick/Ross Bartlett)

That the 2028 meeting be amended to be in person as Regional Council 15 only.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION TO AMMEND:** (Shannon MacLean/Kim Curlett)

That the youth piece be changed to *In-person youth events will be arranged at a time and location that meets the needs of the Youth.*

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Jane McDonald)

That the schedule for the annual meetings of Regional Council 15 (in principle) be as follows:

- The 2024 meeting in-person (May 10-12 at Dalhousie University, Truro Campus)
- The 2025 meeting on-line for business (one day or more if required) Plus, an in-person 100th Anniversary Celebration with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (May 30-June 1 at Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre)
- The 2026 meeting in-person
- The 2027 meeting in-person (Acadia University, if possible)
- The 2028 meeting in-person

\* In-person youth events will be arranged at a time and location that meets the needs of the Youth

**CARRIED**

End of Day**END OF DAY****MOTION:** (Derek Elsworth/Jane McDonald)

That the end of day be extended by 20 (twenty) minutes.

**CARRIED**Naming  
Regional  
Council 15**Proposal 5** – Appendix G

Janet Sollows of the Proposals Committee introduced the proposal *Naming Regional Council 15*, received from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The proposal summarizes that at the 2019 annual meeting, members engaged in a process to determine a name for the Region. The process resulted in two options before the process was paused: Nova Scotia-Bermuda Region, and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region. Because an alphabetical choice is often easy and logical, and because naming Bermuda first could be seen by our Bermudian members as a genuine indication of our commitment to continuing to work in partnership well into the future, we propose the Regional Council adopt the name Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region. Members took table group time to discuss the proposal before them.

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/April Hart)

That the regional council's name be Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council and that the name change be updated as needed.

**CARRIED**Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, presented the announcements of the region.

Closing Prayer**CLOSING PRAYER**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, offered the closing prayer.

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**Gathering  
Music**GATHERING MUSIC**

Gathering music was led by Kevin Parks and Dana Pardy.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, presented the announcements of the region.

Opening  
Worship**OPENING WORSHIP**

Linton Worrell and Keith Wiseman, the students being ordained and recognized at the Celebration of Ministry service on Sunday, led the opening worship. Song, prayer and scripture were used to help animate the theme of discipleship. Readings were offered from Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 4:18-22 and John 2:1-11. The reflection was based on the theme question, *what does bold discipleship look like for you?* Music ministry was provided by Kevin Parks and Dana Pardy, who offered selections including *I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry*, *What a Friend we Have in Jesus*, and *Go Make a Difference*.

Youth at  
Regional  
Council**YOUTH AT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The President, Sandra Tomsons, welcome youth to the regional council for the theme presentation.

Theme II**THEME II**

Michael Blair, theme presenter, was welcomed back to regional council by Sandra Tomsons, President.

The theme presenter shared more stories of discipleship, demonstrating that stories come in all shapes and sizes and all kinds of experiences. The Theme presenter encouraged the church to be unapologetically Christian. Michael Blair shared a quote by French philosopher, Paul Ricoeur; to change a person's behavior, you must first change their imagination. The theme presenter shared that over the next year or so, the Moderator will be hosting a series of conversations with the church focused on imagination. As we continue to think about the story of our discipleship, the theme presenter encouraged the members gathered to consider the communal practices of discipleship, and reflect on the six practices shared that the presenter feels are critical to communities of discipleship: be just and inclusive; be in dialogue with others; attend to factors of marginalization; decolonize by attending to structural dynamics of relationship; understand factors; and be midwives of hope. The theme presenter concluded by sharing that church is not about you, it is about God's desire to be present in a world that is in despair and that God desires to be in relationship and transform the world through you. If you truly believe that than you are called to be midwives of hope.

The President, Sandra Tomsons, thanked Michael Blair for his presentation and expressed gratitude for his presence at the regional council meeting.

### **JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH**

### **Justice, Mission and Outreach**

Sheila Van Shaick, member of the Eco-Justice Working Group, was welcomed to the regional council. Sheila provided an overview of the work of this working group, and highlighted the faithful Footprints program, which aims to help congregations save energy and reduce their carbon footprint. Shepherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, and other members of the Eco-Justice Working Group also highlighted various issues of concern, asking that we all work together to advocate for our future generations.

### **BREAK**

### **Break**

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

### **President- Elect**

Alicia Cox, Nominations chair, spoke of the work of the Nominations Committee, and introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The nominees for President-Elect, Katherine Aven and Donna Tourneur, were each given a few minutes to speak to introduce themselves to the members gathered. Ballots were distributed for voting to take place.

### **TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE**

### **Tatamagouche Centre**

Laura Hunter introduced herself to the region as a Tatamagouche Centre Board Member. Laura explained that she has heard that people have felt disconnected from the Centre, and so felt it is necessary to remind members of a couple of things: remember this centre is a place where identity, call of vision, deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice take place. A place where difficult conversations can be had. Members were also reminded of ways to support the centre.

Nanci Lee, Co-Director, of Tatamagouche Centre, was welcomed to Regional Council. Nanci thanked the members gathered for their support of the Centre. Nanci describes the centre as a hub for collective care.

Two indigenous women, Tausha Butler and Ishbel Munro, were also present to speak to the powerful, meaningful work of Tatamagouche Centre in creating a sacred, safe space, where there is unconditional love for all people, and spoke of the concept of land back. Space that allows clan mothers to gather and share their knowledge and have a place to shine and feel hope.

### **PHILANTHROPY UNIT**

### **Philanthropy Unit**

Roger Janes, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff, Philanthropy Unit of the United Church Foundation shared examples of individuals supported by Mission and Service gifts, with thanks to all communities of faith for their support. Called to be the Church: The Journey was highlighted as a program offered by the United Church to help congregations get started in stewardship, as well as offer ongoing coaching and support.

The United Church of Canada Foundation offers programs and support through grants, investments and giving. An overview of resources and support available to communities of faith, particularly granting programs, was provided.

AST**ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (AST)**

Tim O'Neill, Interim President of the Atlantic School of Theology, was welcomed to the regional council, to provide an update on the work of AST. The Interim President congratulated the Region on their new name. Tim highlighted work that has taken place over the past year, as outlined in the report to the region on page 76. The Interim President was happy to announce that effective August 1, 2023, Heather McCance will take over as President of AST.

Guaranteed  
Livable Network**GUARANTEED LIVABLE NETWORK**

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, introduced the topic of Guaranteed Livable Income. A video presentation from Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, was shared, with the sincere hope that communities of faith will become involved in advocating for a guaranteed livable income.

Guaranteed  
Livable Income**GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME**

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, shared a video highlighting the work of the Atlantic Group, with the hope that communities of faith will become involved in this important advocacy work.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, presented the announcements of the region and the Centennial Celebrations Committee.

Lunch and  
Grace**LUNCH AND GRACE**

Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, offered grace.

Workshops**WORKSHOPS**

A total of fourteen (14) workshops were offered to members in two sessions on Saturday afternoon; at 1:00pm and at 2:15pm. The workshops offered were: What to do when you don't know what else to do- Part 1; What to do when you don't know what else to do - Part 2; United Fresh Start; Understanding how proposed Small Modular Nuclear Reactors fail to meet our Climate Emergency; Policy, Process and the Property Handbook for Trustees; Just Peace in Palestine and Israel; A talking circle sharing views and ideas about mental and brain health; Churches Addressing the Climate Emergency; The Meaning of Solidarity. The Breaking the Silence experience; Then Let Us Sing; How to grow involvement, leadership and generosity in today's church; Sunday School and Youth Group Resources; Ukulele Church; and Hope, Love and Sacred Reciprocity.

Remit**REMIT**

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, introduced the remit for voting. A remit is a proposed change to the Basis of Union. The remit before us today is an amendment to the Basis of Union in The Manual of The United Church of Canada to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. This is a Category 3 Remit, requiring a majority vote by all the regional councils and all communities of faith that are pastoral charges. A video was shared presenting the remit before us.

**Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union to Establish an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within The United Church of Canada**

Does the Regional Council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect this change as follows:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council\*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and

2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

**Results:**            **YES      (126)**            **NO      (0)**

#### **JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Justice,  
Mission and  
Outreach

Kathryn Anderson, member of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, spoke about Breaking the Silence, and a decision of St. Mary's to support Just Us Fair Trade Coffee. Fair Trade Plus coffee benefits small farmers and enables much larger work.

#### **EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

Executive  
Minister

The Executive Minister began her address to the council with thanks for the tech workers for being so helpful. The Executive Minister spoke about the Strategic Plan and went through the Executive priorities. She likened the church today to a row boat; we are looking at where we've come from, while moving towards an unknown future. Rowing towards the future takes confidence, but God will be there. The Executive Minister challenged all who were gathered to help be the change! The Executive Minister concluded her presentation with the prayer that we walk together, faith filled and confident, through the many challenges that this ministry brings us, so that we might be bearers of the power of love and hope. The President, Sandra Tomsons, thanked the Executive Minister immensely and gave her a Wonder Woman doll, as reference to Faith being a super woman.

#### **2022 AUDITED STATEMENTS**

Audited  
Financial  
Statements

April Hart, chair of the Division of Finance and Administration, presented the 2022 Audited Statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on June 6, 2023. The chair led the regional council members through the audited financial statements, noting that the auditor states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the regional council. The chair also noted that related party transactions refers to the various transfers that take place throughout the year, as some shared items are paid for by other regions and need to be reimbursed, and that the change in cash position is due to the movement of cash to investments.

#### **MOTION:** (April Hart/Tony Orlando)

That the 2022 audited financial statements for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **2024 BUDGET**

2024 Budget

The Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council budget for 2024 was presented by April Hart. An information webinar for the 2024 budget took place on June 6, 2023. Some budgeted items have been revised, based on actual amounts from the prior year. It is expected that it may still take an additional year or two to fully gauge the expenses of the region, when full programming finally resumes after operating through the pandemic years. One change noted is the budgeted increase in rental income, as some more revenue is realized as rentals increase. Due to some increases in expenses, such as cost of living increases in staff salaries, and the cost of in person annual meetings, a deficit of \$90,471 (ninety thousand four hundred and seventy-one) is budgeted for 2024. It was also noted that, while a deficit is budgeted, the region still holds surpluses from previous years to cover this amount.

#### **MOTION:** (April Hart/Mac MacLeod)

That the budget for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council for 2024 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

President-Elect**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Sandra Tomsons announced that the President-Elect for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council is Donna Tournour. Alicia Cox thanked both nominees for putting their names forward, congratulated Donna and invited her to say a few words. Donna Tournour thanked Katie Aven for her support and graciousness, and thanked all the people who have ever said yes to do this as she now knows what it feels like, and thanked everyone for their trust

**MOTION:** (Katie Aven/Alicia Cox)

That the vote be recorded as unanimous and that the ballots be destroyed.

**CARRIED**Ecumenical  
Guest**ECUMENICAL GUEST**

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, introduced ecumenical guest, Rev. Neil Bergman, who brought greetings on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Maritime area Board President, Deborah Stewart and the General minister and President, Terry Owen. Our ecumenical guest expressed his gratitude to the regional council for being an inspiration for hope, and spoke of the history of the Disciples of Christ Church, how it came to be, and the various changes during his time. The President thanked Neil Bergman for his attendance at these meetings.

Celebration  
with Bermuda**CELEBRATION WITH BERMUDA**

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish invited representatives of the Bermuda Task Group to come forward. In celebration of the signed and approved Memorandum of Understanding, the Executive Minister read the call that we covenant to be together in mission and ministry. Leo Mills was present to bring greetings on behalf of Peter Hardy, Acting Chair of Synod, and offered thanks to all the members gathered for their good wishes and congratulations on the relationship. Members of the Task Group thanked the region for allowing them to be a part of this work to develop an associate relationship. The General Secretary, Michael Blair, spoke about Associate Relations, which were established in 2012 as a mechanism to engage with Methodists from other parts of the world. The World Methodist Council see the United Church of Canada as the Methodist Church of Canada. Intent on finding a way to welcome folks from other countries and other Methodist families, this MOU was put together. It took a long time and we are all excited that General Council has approved it. The General Secretary feels we should stand and celebrate this, as it is the United Church's 98<sup>th</sup> birthday; and relationship is a gift. In conclusion, the members gathered sang *Draw the Circle Wide*, and the Executive Minister presented the representatives from Bermuda with certificates.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, presented the announcements of the region.

Celebrating  
Milestones**CELEBRATING MILESTONES**

A banquet celebrating the retirees and jubilarians was held at 5:30pm on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, offered grace. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events. Celebrants in attendance were presented with a gift from the region and invited to say a few words.

RetireesRetirees

The Rev. John 'Peter' Anthony  
The Rev. Helene Burns  
The Rev. Donna Lovelace  
Mr. Wayne Jarvis  
The Rev. Sarah Reaburn  
The Rev. Martin A. Reid  
The Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Smith



Jubilarians

The Rev. J. Robert Hankinson	50 years
The Rev. Dr. David MacLachlan	50 years
S. Marlyne M. Myles	50 years
The Rev. Robert Zinck	50 years
The Rev. H. Allen Darby	55 years
The Rev. A. George Demmons	55 years
The Rev. Dr. Hallett Llewellyn	55 years
The Rev. Glenn MacLean	55 years
The Rev. G. Paul Cumming	60 years
The Rev. Alexander MacLean	60 years
The Rev. Wayne McCarther	60 years
The Rev. Vincent Ihasz	65 years

JubilariansPRESIDENTPresident

The President, Sandra Tomsons, thanked the region for the memories; she has learned a lot. The President wants to thank so many people; there is no one that she has met that she hasn't learned from; whether from communities of faith, pastoral charges, regional council or general council level. The President shared that one thing that has made her comfortable at this level; that no one has made her feel like she should walk out the door and not come back. She looks for the spirit of God in the water or the trees; but this group has helped her look for the spirit of God in the people she is around.

WELCOME AND BEST WISHESWelcome and  
Best Wishes

Tom Woods, chair of Pastoral Relations, welcomed new ministers; Pieter Le Roux, North Highlands Pastoral Charge and Jun-Hyok Chon, Stellarton and Green Hill-Alma/Merigomish to the region, and offered best wishes to Valerie Kingsbury and John Moses, with thanks for their ministry among us.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTERChildren,  
Youth and  
Young Adults

Catherine Stuart was welcomed to regional council. Catherine discussed her role as Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults, and highlighted camping ministries, leadership and committee support, and resource sharing as some of the main pieces of work that she carries out in the three eastern regions. Catherine was pleased to announce that that Ukulele Church was started during Covid and continues to grow as a new ministry. She encourages members to join the Children, Youth and Young Adults Team and help continue this exciting work in the region.

YOUTH WORSHIPYouth Worship

The youth were welcomed back to regional council. The Youth led the regional council members in worship, offering music and prayer to help animate the theme "crossroads"; what it means to be at a crossroads and carrying the weight of decisions and conflicts. With extra support you don't need to carry the weight yourself. Through God we are never alone and can always find support to help carry the weight. A skit based on Mark 1:16-20 was shared with the members gathered. Music ministry was offered by Kevin Parks, Dana Pardy, Catherine Stuart, Vikki McLaughlin, Nathan Beeler, including *Your Love is Amazing*, *My Lighthouse*, *Praise* and *Tenders of the Light*.

CLOSING MOTIONClosing  
Motion

**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/April Hart)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2023; and that the fifth annual meeting of Regional Council 15 close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, June 11, 2023; and that the sixth annual meeting be held on May 10-12, 2024, at Dalhousie University Truro Campus; pending availability.

**CARRIED**

Courtesies**COURTESIES**

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, Jane McDonald, offered thanks to all who participated, attended, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to our Indigenous guest, Mount Saint Vincent University, our visitors, invited guests, the tech support, chaplains, workshop leaders, staff and members who attended. A special thanks was offered to the theme presenter and to the President for chairing this annual meeting.

President's  
Reception**PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

Sandra Tomsons, President hosted a reception, where a cake was cut and shared with members gathered, as thank you to the region.

Kitchen Party**KITCHEN PARTY**

Heather Manuel, member of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, hosted a relaxing and entertaining "kitchen party". Members signed up to participate and offered to share their songs, stories, poems, skits, and laughter to conclude the day of meetings.

**Sunday, June 11, 2023**Celebration of  
Ministries**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE**

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 10:00am. The service was also live streamed so that all members who were unable to attend in person were able to witness this important milestone event. The General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair, was the preacher. Linton Worrell was ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada, and Keith Wiseman was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister. Mrs. Shauna MacDonald was installed as the President of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

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Sandra Tomsons  
President

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Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

Appendix A**ATTENDANCE**

Anderson, Kathleen E.	Anderson, Kathryn J.
Anderson, Krista	Aven, Katherine
Ballantyne, Sharon	Bartlett, I. Ross
Birch, Elizabeth	Blois MacNaughton, Barbara
Boldrini, Gabriel	Brown-Hewitt, Robyn L.
Burke, Kymberely (Kym)	Cameron, Ross
Canning, Jack	Canning, Pamela
Carrigan, Pat	Carson, Dorothy
Chivers, Walter (Wally)	Chon, Jun-Hyok
Churchill, Gloria E.	Clark-Ettinger, William Martin
Cleave, Pat	Cochrane, Norma
Collins, Joan	Cook, Carolyn
Courtney, Margaret	Cox, Kevin
Cox, Alicia	Curllett, Kim
Curtis, Kathy	Custance, Joyce
Dauphinee, Beverley	Davis, Allan
Den Draak, Hubert	Dodson, Margaret Anne
Doucette, Shane	Duggan, Emily M.
Eisener, Jenny	Elsworth, Derek G.
Etter, Alison	Ferrier, Heather
Fram, Stephen D.	Fraser, Heather G.
Fryday, Shaun	Gamblin, Susan
Godin, Rosemary	Gegan, J. Ivan
Griffin, Joan B.	Griffiths, Lesley
Griffiths, David	Gunn, Rick
Gunn, Sharon	Hall, Jim
Handcock, Sean A.	Hann, David N.
Harrison, Ian W. M.	Harrison, Mary Jolynn
Harrison, Andrea	Hart, April
Hawkins, Debbie	Hayes, Judy
Henderson, Michael	Hewitt, David W.
Hiltz, Valerie	Hogan, Elizabeth A.
Hoganson, Anne	Hughes, Barbara
Irving, Sandra	Isenor, Margaret
Jarvis, W. Wayne	Jennings, Paul
Joudrey, Michelle	Kean, Wendy
Kennedy, Phillip	Kerr, Gerald
King, James	Kingsbury, Valerie L.
Knapp, Glen	Langille, Lynn
LeBlanc, David A.	Logan, Jack
Lohnes, Sharon M.	MacArthur, Ann
MacAskill, Alice	MacCulloch, Lynda
MacDonald, Catherine A.	MacDonald, Shauna
MacDonald, Daniel	MacDougall, Gary A.
MacGillivray, Joan	MacInnis, Janice
MacIntyre, Margie	Mackay, Donald
MacKenzie, May	MacLean, Angela
MacLean, Shannon L.	MacLeod, Malcolm (Mac)
MacNeil, Kelly	Manuel, Heather D.
March-MacCuish, Faith	Martin, Sharon
Martin, Maxwell	Matheson, Audrey
McCurdy, Brenda	McDonald, Jane
McEwen, Neil A.	McKay, Kathleen (Kathy)
McLellan, Jamie	McNamara, Constance A.
Mills, Leopold (Leo)	Mills, Stephen R.
Moore, L. Vivian	Moriarity, Mary-Beth
Morrison, Donald	Morrison, Rosalind
Munro, Brenda	Nauss, Joan
Nolet, Joanne	O'Connell, Trudi
Orlando, Tony	Pardy, Dana
Parks, Kevin	Peddie Peters, Mavis

Appendix A - continued**ATTENDANCE** - continued

Penney, Cindy  
 Radford, Wand  
 Reaburn, Sarah L.  
 Scherzinger, Linda  
 Sellsted, Donald  
 Shaw, Ron  
 Skelhorn, Elizabeth  
 Skinner, Dale  
 Smith, Peter A.  
 Smith, Carol Anne  
 Stewart, James  
 Taylor, Mary E.  
 Tomsons, Sandra  
 van Jaarsveldt, Burgert  
 Watts, Betty Ann  
 White, Linda  
 Winton, Linda J.  
 Woods, Thomas R.  
 Wylie, Joyce

Pick, Shelley M.  
 Ramsay-Moore, Norma  
 Sagar, Margaret E.  
 Sellsted, Cheryl  
 Shaw, Sally  
 Siggins, Herbie  
 Skidgmore, Terry  
 Smith, Fay  
 Smith, Vera Faye  
 Sollows, Janet  
 Stewart, Sheila  
 Thompson, Michael  
 Tourneur, Donna E.  
 Van Schaick, Sheila  
 Webber-Cook, James W.  
 Williams, Jennifer  
 Wiseman, Keith  
 Worrell, Linton

Other

Ballantyne, Cliff  
 Bergman, Neil  
 Blair, Michael  
 Janes, Roger  
 Kaster, Shari  
 Kelly, Donna  
 Lavery, Norman  
 Lavery, America  
 Laundry, Leona  
 Munikwa, Sherpherd  
 O'Neill, Tim  
 Stuart, Catherine T.  
 Swim, Anthony  
 Watts, Ray  
 Welch, Judith  
 Whittemore, Jennifer  
 Wylie, Gail

Visitor  
 Ecumenical Guest  
 GCO Representative/Theme Presenter  
 Staff  
 Staff  
 Visitor  
 Visitor  
 Visitor  
 Staff  
 Staff  
 Visitor  
 Staff  
 Visitor  
 Visitor  
 Visitor  
 Staff  
 Visitor

Appendix B

REGRETS

Anthony, Peter  
Burns, Helene  
Burrows, Leslie  
Bursey, Jeffro  
Butt, Byron  
Constable, Alex  
Crooks, Catherine  
Darby, H. Allen  
Embree, Cynthia  
Fillier, Matthew  
Gamble, K. Ruth  
Hardy, Peter  
Harris, David  
Hazen, Nancy  
Ihasz, Vincent  
Jensen, Arthur  
Kempt, Dianne  
Lawrence, Donna  
le Roux, Pieter A  
Llewellyn, Hallett  
Lloy, Marion  
Logan, Katherine  
Lovelace, Donna  
MacDonald, Ian  
MacLachlan, David  
MacMullin, Norm  
MacPherson, Donald C.  
McDonell, Teresa  
Mills, Norma  
Morrison, Sandra L.  
Muir, Gerald  
Nelson, Penny  
Parsons, Kerry  
Phillips, Nick  
Reid, Susan  
Ross, Karen  
Sangster, Annika  
Smith, Paul  
Smith, Wayne  
Steadman, Anna  
Tapscott, John  
Taylor, Valerie  
Terry, Carolyn  
Thompson, Shirley  
Walker, David  
Whyte, Mary Lynne  
Winn, Krista Elizabeth  
Zinck, Robert

Appendix C

## PROPOSAL 1

**Name:** Revisit Decision regarding Congregational Designated Minister's role in Local Council

**Origin:** Ross Bartlett and Carol Smith

**TO:** General Council or General Council Executive

**1. What is the issue?**

The General Council decision to alter the possible parameters of Congregationally Designated Ministers (CDM) employment leaves considerable ambiguity about the scope of practice being considered. The revisions raise significant concerns for the well-being and unity of the church and should either be withdrawn or significantly clarified.

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

In its meeting of November 2022, the General Council Executive (acting on the decision of GC44) amended the *Manual* section regarding the employment of CDMs (I.1.11.4 ) by adding the following (changes are underlined):

a) the person must be a baptized Christian and, if that person is the primary individual leading worship, the person must be a full member of the United Church;

and

d) either there must also be a member of the order of ministry or a designated lay minister called or appointed to the community of faith or the regional council must ensure there is adequate and appropriate support and oversight of the ministry.

While recognizing the shortage of ministry personnel and supporting innovative approaches in local leadership, the criteria for CDM appointments do not include training in doctrine, polity, and/or leadership. While within the bounds of accepted understandings of polity, the changes made by the General Council (which led to this action of the GCE) pose significant challenges to the unity and well-being of the church at large and, potentially, to communities of faith. For instance, the changes appear to open the possibility of a CDM to effectively be considered as ministry personnel for purposes of quorum in meetings of the Community of Faith Council. By contrast, candidates in ministry placements are required to have both Educational and Pastoral Charge supervisors and we have concerns that the somewhat vague language of "adequate and appropriate support and oversight" as determined by the Region opens the possibility of widely differing standards across Regions and the Church. We have experiences of Communities of Faith retaining leadership that, while nominally "United Church" demonstrate convictions and actions at odds with the ethos of the denomination and we are concerned for what liability (legal, spiritual, and moral) the church might be taking on with this change. Finally, our understanding is that the insurance coverage that applies to ordered clergy and others in regular calls/appointments may not apply to these individuals, placing them and the church at risk. As CDM position descriptions must be approved by the Region, both Regions and Communities of Faith would be assisted by greater clarity in this section.

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

**Name a possible response that the GC / GCE might consider:**

**A. Action on the issue. This could include:**

**Transmit the proposal to the General Council**

- The GC could revisit the decision of GC44 to expand the role of CDMs. For the reasons stated above we are asking this decision to be reversed.
- The GC or GCE could amend I.1.11.4 d by providing a more fulsome and complete definition of the terms "adequate and appropriate support and oversight of the ministry", perhaps in terms of existing standards of supervision for candidate appointments
- The GCE could provide a more complete discussion of the proposal and possible impacts to the Regions and Local Councils, along with advice on implementing "adequate and appropriate support and oversight."

**Appendix C** - continued

**PROPOSAL 1** - continued

**Regional Council Action**

- **Region 15 Council Annual Meeting** direct the Executive Minister, in consultation with appropriate staff and committees, to develop a policy/strategy to clarify the Region's response to this Manual change, **and**
- **If the GCE or GC elect not to revisit revising the section**, direct the Executive Minister, in consultation with appropriate staff and committees, to develop a definition and parameters for "adequate and appropriate support and oversight of the ministry" within Region 15.

**What will be the impact?**

The impact of undertaking this change addresses aspects of risk to which the Manual revision adopted by the GCE exposes individuals and the church. It allows for continued discussion of the impact of different forms of leadership in living out the Strategic Plan.

**How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?**

Equity in leadership requires responsible consideration of the risks to which we may be exposing communities and church membership in the absence of appropriate equipping and mentoring.

**For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council or the General Council Executive:**

Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?

**If this proposal is in response to previous work – either from General Council or a previous GCE meeting, please list proposal / motion numbers.**

GC44: Section A of GCE06 (Better Supporting Rural and Smaller Communities of Faith)

GCE: Way Forward 16 v. 2: GCE06 Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of the Church in the 2020's) November 2022

Appendix D**PROPOSAL 2****Proposal Name: Cluster and Network Support and Animation****Origin: Amalgamated Proposals from the Future Directions Committee, Betsy Hogan and Shannon MacLean****TO: Region Council 15****1. What is the issue?**

Communities of faith have always been at the heart and soul of the United Church of Canada since 1925. It has been important for the vitality of communities of faith to have regular times of interaction with fellow United Church folks in the places where we know one another and in the communities where we live. Following our shift to the Three Council model, there was an expressed intent to nurture the creation of clusters and networks. These clusters and networks would connect communities of faith and individuals as "communities of common interest, mission, and support" and were expected to be "organically formed" (Remit 1: Three Council Model, 2016).

In Fall 2017, General Council Executive provided our Church more detailed definitions for clusters and networks, and more clarity about their provenance and place in our common life. In brief:

- Clusters: local clusters of communities of faith that would provide community and support for communities of faith and their leaders, and focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning;
- Networks: linking people working on specific issues (e.g., supportive housing, intercultural ministry, youth ministry) or for project work (e.g., event planning) that function through the whole church, depending on the issue and;
- Both are to be encouraged, supported, and resourced (as requested and as is possible) by Church councils or local bodies, but their meaning and responsibility are not to be defined by Church councils or local bodies. (GCE: Clarity on Clusters and Networks, Nov 2017)

In Fall 2018, the Cluster Task Group of Maritime Conference Executive made its final report outlining expectations for the creation of clusters and networks in our regions. In brief:

- Establishing clusters and networks is to be "initiated and carried out by local communities of faith". While the Regional Minister and Regional Staff may be supportive resources to this work, their duties do not include establishing clusters and networks.
- Noting that "many are interested in clusters and networks but need some help to transition into these new forms of being connected," the Task Group registered its hope that "there might be assistance... for those who desire to move into supportive clusters and networks, yet need help in doing so." (MarCon: Cluster Task Group, Sept 2018)

Finally, our Region 15 Governance Handbook includes "developing opportunities for clusters and networks" in the duties of our three Divisions and their Committees, insofar as these are "necessary for the functioning of the Committee/Division". (Region 15: Governance Handbook v2, 2021)

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

When the new governance model for the UCC was being developed, it was stated that local groupings of communities of faith would be an important part of the new model. The decision was made to encourage these and they were to arise as local initiatives.

The difficulty of imagining how these local groupings would emerge was anticipated by many, including the Maritime Cluster Task Group. Workshops on this subject were held at Maritime Conference in May of 2017 and 2018. Much concern was expressed as to how, what, where and when. After hearing these concerns, the final report of the group recommended that there be assistance given to communities of faith in the creation of Clusters and Networks. Later on, in our new governance structure for Region 15, support for cluster development was referred to often but was not made a priority.

Now four years later, a number of local groups have come into existence and they are to be commended and encouraged. However, most areas in the Region have not established Clusters. This is understandable because when the new governance model was coming into existence, we were confronted with a global pandemic.



**Appendix D** – continued**PROPOSAL 2** - continued

This was a major deterrent in our ability to proceed with any ideas we might have had regarding Cluster Animation for our Region. The lack of clusters and networks is limiting our health and capacity for faithful mission and service at the local level. While we recognize that this represents our failure at the local level to engage the cluster and network process as the expansive opportunity it provides, we also recognize that the energy to remedy this failure doesn't seem to exist.

**3. How might the Region respond?**

1. That Region 15 make the development of local Clusters a priority in its life and work;
2. That Region 15 actively engage with each Community of Faith with the goal of establishing clusters in every area of Region 15;
3. That Region 15 prepare a job description for a part-time and term-limited staff position to be called Regional Cluster Animator, which would include the development of clusters and networks as well as supporting the initial stages.
4. That Region 15 secure a grant or other funding for this position.
5. That Region 15 hire to fill this position.

**4. What will be the impact?**

Cluster Animation will greatly benefit local congregations and the work of the Region and the General Council. Community of Faith Regional representatives, ministry personnel, and congregations would be engaged on a regular basis with their counterparts from their Cluster to enhance the life and ministry in their area. The existence of Clusters would be an incentive to meet and work together for the good of their area. As a result, new approaches will be developed over time, different than what took place in Presbytery days. Also, whereas now the committees of Region 15 and staff meet with individual pastoral charges or a limited number of communities of faith, Clusters would allow contact with all pastoral charges in a geographic area. As well, Regional committees and other groups would be helped in their work by the existence of Clusters. The existence of Clusters will also be of great benefit as the implementation of the Region 15 Strategic Plan unfolds and as the national church Strategic Plan is put into action, including the Growth Initiative to nurture and help one hundred new communities of faith. In summary, the benefits of local Clusters will be two-fold: the ability for local communities of faith to come together for mutual support and initiatives; and the ability of the larger church to learn from and interact with the communities of faith in a particular area of Region 15.

**Financial Implications**

It would be pleasing to imagine that the work of a Cluster Animation person might be funded by one of our national grant programs, but we recognize that this position may also require regional funding from funds for new initiatives or other funds that the Region would identify for this work.

**5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?**

Our communities of faith are strategically located to be able to work towards healthier and more equitable places for all to live and flourish. The establishment of Clusters in Region 15 will give more opportunities for conversations about the future as we desire to continue our work as a denomination that has a deep and abiding commitment to equity and doing justice.

**6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region, are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?**

As stated above in the impacts of adopting this proposal, the establishment of clusters would be a crucial element in our ability to experience hope and imagine a new future together as the United Church of Canada in Region 15.

Appendix E

## PROPOSAL 3

**REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 BECOMING AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY****Origin: Affirming Task Group of Regional Council 15****1. What is the issue?**

We believe that Regional Council 15, inspired by the transformative movement of the Spirit, is called to commit itself to becoming an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. A ministry that welcomes all people, including but not limited to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, skin colour, race, creed, age, cultural background, economic status, language, and ability, to fully participate in all aspects of our life and work.

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

We acknowledge the harm caused by exclusionary views about those who are or have been marginalized. We acknowledge that these views did not and do not reflect the abundant love of God. We acknowledge the church's part in the trauma caused to those who have been marginalized. We are called to work towards reconciliation.

We recognize a growing resistance by some to being a partner of Affirm United, believing we are already doing this work on our own. Yet, in our world hatred, violence and resistance towards 2SLGBTQIA+ people appear to be growing again. So now, more than ever this work is vital. As a region, we believe that doing this together in community is the best way to continue to hold each other accountable to our call to be the Church.

Even though the former Maritime Conference was recognized as an Affirming Ministry, when the structure changed and created regions, Affirm United said that all regions who were previously affirming had to go through the Affirming process again in our new identities.

Regional Council 15 created an Affirming Working Group, that began its work in 2020, which included a commitment to engage an educational program to raise awareness of what it means to be Affirming and to receive a vote to become Affirming at the 2023 AGM.

**What would be the implications of taking no action on this issue?**

We understand Affirming to mean *"gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize... human dignity defended..."* (A Song of Faith UCC), as seen in the teachings and actions of Jesus of Nazareth. We are called to be disciples of Jesus who *"crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender. He preached and practised unconditional love - love of God, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy - and he commanded his followers to love one another as he had loved them"* (A Song of Faith UCC).

Therefore, taking no action would mean that we are resistant to living into our vision statement for Regional Council 15: "To become a transformed, courageous, Spirit-filled community, risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus".

**3. How might the Region respond to the issue?**

Striving to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and place, Regional Council 15 (RC15) commits itself and its members:

- to remove barriers to full participation of all people in the life and work of RC15;
- to co-create both a RC15 and society that embodies the love of God where individuals can live free from harmful ideologies rooted in fear and hatred; and
- to be an inclusive and affirming sign of the incarnation of the living Christ.

**Our Action Plan to be implemented by the Affirming Committee accountable to RC15:**

As Regional Council 15, we commit to removing barriers to full participation of all people in the life and work of our region by:

- prioritizing that all future meeting spaces for RC15 meetings/gatherings are barrier free and utilize signage (including the presence of ramps/chair lifts, baby change station, hearing loops, gender neutral washrooms, etc.);
- amplifying diverse voices that belong to communities that have traditionally been marginalized through respectfully employing resources, leadership and wisdom originating from these communities;

Appendix E – continued**PROPOSAL 3** - continued

- appointing an equity support person(s) for any meetings or gatherings; and
- directing the Pastoral Relations Committee and asking the Atlantic Candidacy Board to inform Inquirers, Candidates and Applicants for ministry within the RC15 that we are an Affirming Region as they actively pursue their call to ministry.

We commit to co-create a RC15 and society that embodies the love of God where individuals can live free from harmful ideologies rooted in fear and hatred by:

- learning and using language, personally and regionally, that is just as it relates to definitions, terminologies, and understandings in reference to ability, language, economic status, cultural background, age, creed, race, skin colour, gender expression, sexual orientation, or any other difference that has led to marginalization and exclusion;
- offering educational opportunities with the support of our Affirm Committee; and
- nurturing of the creation of networks/clusters of discerning and established Affirming Ministries.

We commit to being an inclusive and affirming sign of the incarnation of the living Christ by:

- participating fully, faithfully and with humility in ongoing efforts to reach reconciliation with those we have harmed (for example, participating in local Pride events, fulfilling the calls to the church originating from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, intentional learning about the history of marginalized groups, unlearning ableist language, etc.);
- encouraging communities of faith (COF) within RC15 to become Affirming Ministries;
- identifying ourselves as an Affirming Ministry through the use of the Affirm United logo on our website and letterhead; and
- paying our annual membership to Affirm United and recognizing our yearly anniversary of become an Affirming Ministry.

**4. What will be the impact?**

The Regional Council will form a standing Affirm Committee, who will continue to help the region to live into our action plan and work to continue to evolve with the need for change. The cost includes the annual fee for Affirm United (currently \$1,000.00), the committee's budget and continued staff resources.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

**That we accept this proposal as presented, and that Regional Council 15 become an Affirming Region and a member of Affirm United, and these be reflected in our Vision and Core Values, as highlighted below in bold:**

**Vision**

To become a transformed, courageous, Spirit-filled community, risking discipleship based on the radical love of Jesus **that welcomes all people, including but not limited to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, skin colour, race, creed, age, cultural background, economic status, language, and ability, to fully participate in all aspects of our life and work.**

**Core Values**

Connecting and strengthening communities of faith by:

- Living into expansive **and inclusive** 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

**Appendix F****PROPOSAL 4****REGIONAL COUNCIL 15 – HOW WE MEET**

**Origin: Regional Council 15 Annual Meeting Planning Committee**

**1. What is the issue?**

How we meet as a Region into the future.

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

Considering what we value in regional meetings, in particular, our desire to meet together, and The United Church of Canada's stance on climate change, we believe God is calling us to do something about how we meet as a region into the future.

Since 2019, the region has entered into discernment and sought feedback about the possibilities of future annual meetings and gatherings. Discussions have considered the financial implications, as well as core values and priorities, as regions develop new identities, budgets, governance and structure.

The new Manual only requires that Regional Councils meet annually. This can be a meeting of full membership, or a meeting of the Executive; as determined by the Regional Council. Meetings may take place jointly, separately, through technology or a combination of all. Over the past three years, and throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, time has allowed for open discussion, surveys and committee discussions.

As it is necessary for the pre-planning and securing sites for the meetings, it is important for the Regional Council to decide about the pattern of our meetings.

**3. How might the Region respond to the issue?**

With respect to the pattern of meeting for Regional Council 15, the Annual Meeting Planning Committee recommends that we meet as Regional Council 15 for two years in-person, 2024 and 2025, and that the 2025 meeting be held in Sackville, NB with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee also recommends a three-year meeting pattern of meeting as Regional Council 15 for two-years and in the third-year with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. We propose that these meetings be held on a rotating basis in the Region so as to bring the Region closer to the communities of faith and that we evaluate this pattern in three years to determine if it is meeting the needs of the Region.

**4. What will be the impact?**

The Annual Meeting budget is \$35,000 yearly plus administrative and program staff time is significant. The virtual meetings cost approximately \$5,000 with essentially the same amount of staff time.

The annual meeting planning also takes a significant amount of member time in committee work, helping to plan the meeting. Members attending the meeting will give their time for webinars, reading the material, travel and the community of faith has the cost of providing the meals and accommodation for their member to attend.

Regional Council 15's strategic plan; with its framework pillars of discipleship, mission and leadership align with The United Church of Canada's call to deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice. This recommendation considers the core values of the United Church, the need for equity in meeting spaces, as well as the impact on climate change and stewardship of our resources. While the cost of meeting in-person is much greater than meeting virtually, the need for relationship building, rebuilding of the Youth@Region program, and connecting the communities of faith to the Region is also key as we work to develop our own identity and work towards our strategic planning goals.

It is noted that Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council will be looking at a similar plan. The decisions made by that Region, with respect to the times together, will have a direct impact on this proposal.

**Appendix F** - continued

**PROPOSAL 4** - continued

**5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?**

- The need to rebuild community and relationships balanced with being good stewards of our resources.
- Less impact on the environment, less travel. More convenient and less expensive to meet more locally.
- Enabling more opportunities for community and relationship building within the region; opportunity for going deep with conversations of ministry and mission, and equity and justice

**6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region:**

That the schedule for the meetings be as follows:

- The 2024 meeting in-person (May 10-12 @ Dalhousie University, Truro Campus)
- The 2025 meeting on-line for business (one day or more if required) Plus, an in-person 100th Anniversary Celebration with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (May 30-June 1 @ Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre)
- The 2026 meeting on-line (Celebration of Ministry, in-person)
- The 2027 meeting in-person (Acadia University, if possible)
- The 2028 meeting in-person with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre) • In-person youth events will be considered for all dates

**Appendix G****PROPOSAL 5****Naming of Region****Origin: Annual Meeting Planning Committee****1. What is the issue?**

Upon implementation of our new organizational structure in 2019, the geographical areas of Nova Scotia and Bermuda (formerly part of Maritime Conference) were established as a single Region, numbered 15 of 16 within the United Church of Canada. All regions were invited to create their own names, reflective of their geographical location, spirit, mission, etc. At our annual meeting in 2019, we entered into a process to name ourselves, but decided to press pause on a final decision until on-going negotiations between the United Church of Canada and the Wesleyan Methodist churches of Bermuda were settled. Now that those negotiations have been completed and our relationship clearly defined, we are ready to resume the work of naming our Region.

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

What's in a good organizational name? Identity. History. A clear indication of who or what the organization is so that someone seeking to engage it might know they've come to the right place. At present, one requires an inside working knowledge of the United Church of Canada to even begin to know what Region 15 is. An appropriate name for the Region would both help others understand who we are, and enable us to stand for who we represent.

**3. How might the Region respond to the issue?**

At our 2019 annual meeting members engaged in a process to determine a name for the Region. The process resulted in two options before the process was paused: Nova Scotia-Bermuda Region and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region. Because an alphabetical choice is often easy and logical, and because naming Bermuda first could be seen by our Bermudian members as a genuine indication of our commitment to continuing to work in partnership well into the future, we propose the Regional Council adopt the name Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region.

**4. What will be the impact?**

Updates to online resources and stationery would need to be made. We will be easily identifiable as a region and people will know who we are and where we are located. We will be able to move into developing a logo for our region. There will need to be some staff time dedicated to the updating and some funding for the development of a logo. The cost to the region will be minimal.

**5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?**

The naming of our region provides us with the furthering of our identity and including the name of Bermuda and Nova Scotia helps people to identify where we are geographically located. Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council identifies for those within the church and those outside of the church that we are in partnership with one another.

**6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region: Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?**

That the Regional Council's name be Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.