

Greetings, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith.

This is my fourth month as your President and as I continue sharing with you what I have been doing on your behalf from September 12, 2023 to October 11, 2023 as I travel within the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023 I attended via Zoom a special Executive meeting.

On your behalf, I brought greetings from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith on Sunday, September 17, 2023, when I attended the Sunday Afternoon Service at 2:00pm at Orchard Valley United Church in New Minas, NS. This was a rededication of the church building as well as a Covenanting Service for the Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte, Minister of Youth and Young Families. Rev. Don Sellsted, Minister of Orchard Valley United Church was so welcoming and gracious, not only before the service took place but during and after, as well. This Community of Faith is kind and loving in so many ways and after attending their service, I could see why. This congregation has such dedicated members, such as Jane MacDonald, former President of Region 15, who is a dedicated member of this church, a Congregational Leader, Lay Delegate to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, a member of several committees within her local and wider church. The modern sanctuary has a state of the art sound system with a member of the congregation at the controls. There are large screens overhead projecting the worship service for those in attendance and live streaming. The controls for the sound system are something worth seeing for yourself. A reception was held afterwards.

On your behalf, I brought greetings from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 10:30am when I attended the Sunday Morning Affirming Service at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church in Amherst, NS. This was such a joyous occasion for this congregation as well as for the community, as a whole. I was so warmly welcomed by their Minister Rev. Susan Gamblin, who opened her home to me for the weekend which I enjoyed immensely as she has two wonderful cats, Paco and Jasper (who I must admit, I spoiled and almost took them home with me!). This is a process, becoming an Affirming Church but this congregation and community were thrilled to receive their certificate and to become another Community of Faith within the United Church of Canada to be Affirmed. I was honoured to present Gary Miller, Chair of the Council at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church with their Affirming Certificate. Such an achievement for this Community of Faith and for the town. I met such loving members of this congregation, such as Emmett, who gave me his pride pin, which I wear proudly. Cory stood proud in her pride colours that Sunday morning, her smile is infectious as is her spirit. Everyone made me feel welcome and at home. Thank you for making me feel like a part of your family. Congratulations, for a job well done, Trinity-St. Stephen's.

On your behalf, I brought condolences from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith to the family and friends of the late Rev. Lorna MacQueen, 64, who passed away in Ontario from complications of a stroke. Her memorial service was held on the

afternoon of Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 2:00pm at United Heritage United Church, Sydney, NS. Lorna loved her family immensely. She returned home whenever possible to be with those she loved. She was very active in the former Sydney Presbytery and former Maritime Conference. She loved people and animals alike. Lorna had such a big heart. Rev. Dana Feltmate, presided. Lorna will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved her.

On your behalf, on Thursday, September 28, 2023 via Zoom beginning at 9:00am to 10:30am, I attended the meeting of the Division of Ministry Resources with Anne Cameron, Chair, where I brought greetings from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith. I met the Chairs within this Division and learned what their Committees are doing within the wider church. I enjoyed getting to know more about their committees and their areas of expertise. I hope to attend once again during my time as President.

On Thursday, September 28, 2023 continuing via Zoom from 10:30am to 12:30pm, I attended the Annual Meeting Planning Committee where I am a member of this committee as President of the Region.

On your behalf, I brought greetings from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Staff and All Communities of Faith on Sunday, October 1, 2023 as I attended the 11:00am Sunday Morning Service at Calvin United Church, New Waterford, NS where they were celebrating World Wide Communion Sunday with Rev. Duncan Roach, Minister. This has always been a very special Sunday for me as I was born on World Wide Communion. I was able to share this day with my father.

On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, I attended via Zoom from 9:30am to 11:00am, a meeting of the 3 Presidents and 3 President Elects from our Executive Ministers 3 regions: Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge.

On Thursday, October 5, 2023, beginning at 9:00am, I Chaired via Zoom, a meeting of the Executive of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

On Tuesday, October 10, 2023 via Zoom beginning at 2:00pm, I attended a meeting with the Regional Council Presidents and President Elects from the 16 Regions across Canada. This meeting was with the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne and the General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair with other Staff members from the General Council.

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023 via Zoom, beginning at 11:00am, I attended a Meeting of the Division of Services and Support for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. This is the quarterly meeting of my Division, as I Chair the Stewardship Committee.

I hope as the temperature drops and we are staying indoors more often, please remember to look out for each other by sanitizing whenever possible, wearing masks when necessary and caring for those around you who may not have someone who is able to assist them.

In Peace and Hope,

Shauna MacDonald

President

Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council