

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

October 24, 2023 at 9:30am at St. Andrew's United Church, Truro, NS

Attendance

ATTENDANCE

Anne Cameron, Alicia Cox, Derek Elsworth, April Hart, Deborah Hawkins, Shauna MacDonald, Shannon MacLean, Faith March-MacCuish, Donald Morrison, Sandra Tomsons, Donna Tourneur.

Regrets

REGRETS

Peter Hardy, Katie Logan.

Gathering

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Welcome

Shauna MacDonald, President, welcomed the Executive members gathered at this in person meeting. The President opened the meeting with prayer.

Check-In

CHECK-IN

Executive members took time to check-in with each other and reflect on time and experiences since they last gathered.

Opening Devotions

OPENING DEVOTIONS

The opening devotions were led by Shauna MacDonald, President. The President offered prayer and reflection, based on a scripture reading from Revelations 21:5. The President reflected further on the work facing the wider church and the valuable contributions made by those who offer their gifts in the region. The President offered thanks and appreciation for those who serve.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Constitution of the Council

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

Acknowledging the Land

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Shauna MacDonald, 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.

Agenda

AGENDA

MOTION: (Donna Tourneur/Debbie Hawkins)

That the agenda be adopted as circulated, with the addition of one piece of correspondence, one additional item under business arising, and one item under new business.

CARRIED

Minutes

MINUTES

MOTION: (Sandra Tomsons/Shannon MacLean)

That the minutes of the June 22, 2023 of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Alicia Cox)

That the minutes of the September 13, 2023 of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Debbie Hawkins/Shannon MacLean)Minutes

That the minutes of the October 5, 2023 of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED**BUSINESS ARISING**Business
Arising**Sunday Supply Policy**

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on this item. A memo was circulated in the region, and an education workshop was offered by the Regional Minister in early October.

Sunday Supply**Communications Group**

The Executive Minister reported that the Communications Group has met, although two members of the Communications Committee were unable to attend. Work is continuing on this priority.

Communications
Group**Trinity United Church, Pleasant River**

The Executive Minister reported that a letter was sent from the region, trustees are in place, and the Pastoral Relations and Property Committees continue to offer support to move things forward.

Trinity UC,
Pleasant River**Review File #2023-0622-01**

The Executive Minister reported that this matter is with the Office of Vocation. An investigation took place in July, and the Remedial Committee is meeting to determine any remedial action.

Review File
#2023-0622-01**BREAK**Break**July 24, 2023 Complaint (File #2023-0724-01)**

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on this file. A complaint was received by the region on July 24, 2023. There is a shared investigator between the Office of Vocation and the Regional Council as the investigation includes parties accountable to both. This investigation process is now in process.

July 24, 2023
ComplaintFile #2023-
0724-01**Lower and Middle Musquodoboit Harbour Pastoral Charges**

The Executive Minister reported that letters were sent to all parties on behalf of the region. The three parties have responded that they do not feel that a conflict resolution process will work. The Executive recommend that this matter be referred back to Pastoral Relations for recommendation.

Lower and
Middle
Musquodoboit
PC**MOTION:** (Derek Elsworth/April Hart)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Executive report to Pastoral Relations that responses have been received from the three parties on the Lower Musquodoboit and Middle Musquodoboit Pastoral Charges and that the conflict resolution process will not take place; and that this matter is being referred to Pastoral Relations for further recommendation.

CARRIED**CORRESPONDENCE**Correspondence

1. Thank You – note received from Hallett Llewellyn for the gift received on the anniversary of his ordination.
2. Future Directions – email received from Future Directions regarding the response received from Executive recommending that the review of the governance document take place before making a decision on their request to add a position to the Executive. The committee recommend that, while the review takes place, a member of the committee be added as a corresponding member to the Executive. After discussion, the Executive agreed that a representative of the committee be invited to attend the next meeting of the Executive by the Division of Ministry Resources, so that the Executive may better understand the request and how to best support the committee.

Thank YouFuture
Directions

Grace**GRACE**

Grace was offered by the President, Shauna MacDonald.

Lunch**LUNCH**Reports**REPORTS**President**PRESIDENT**

(Sandra Tomsons assumed the chair)

The President, Shauna MacDonald, presented her report. The President noted that she has attended several funerals and celebrations in the region, including visits to 9 (nine) communities of faith. The President has also attended meeting with General Council representatives on behalf of the region. The President shared that she has been enjoying the opportunity to visit congregations in the region, and looks forward to more opportunities.

(Shauna MacDonald reassumed the chair)

Executive
Minister**EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented her report. The Executive Minister has recently returned from sabbatical, where she completed some French studies, has studied some of the research on inclusion of those with disabilities, and has begun an additional course in change management. The Executive Minister reported that the sabbatical has been a blessing, and she is very appreciative to the region, divisions, committees, and staff for their support in making this happen. The Executive Minister offered special thanks for the Regional Ministers, who each took turns as Acting Executive Minister, and to the Executive Assistant, for maintaining emails and work flow during this sabbatical time.

The Executive Minister also reported that Sharon Ballantyne has been hired as Growth Animator in the eastern regions, to be part of a team across the country that will focus on the piece of work coming out of the strategic plan focused on growth and support. Sharon will be invited to join the next meeting of the Executive to introduce the region to this exciting work. The General Council have been reviewing grants and budgets. The Executive Minister reported that mission support grants to the region will be cut by 25% (twenty-five) in 2024. This news creates a new challenge for the finance committees in the region.

The Executive Minister has been working with Human Resources on the position description for the Cluster Animator, as approved at the Annual Meeting. Work is also continuing on the regional website re-design and support. The Executive Minister is obtaining quotes for this work.

The Executive Minister also reported that arrangements will need to be made for an Affirm celebration. The Executive agreed that this celebration will take place at the 2024 annual meeting.

Finance and
Administration**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

April Hart, chair, presented the report of the division. The chair reported that work is continuing in all committees, and that the Financial Accountability and Investments and Property Committees have been especially busy this fall. A written report will be available for the next meeting of the Executive.

(Anne Cameron joined the meeting)

Ministry
Resources**MINISTRY RESOURCES** – Appendix A

Anne Cameron, chair, presented the report of the division, included in the appendix. The chair presented a change to the Policy on Covenanting Services, updated to encourage neighbouring congregations and clergy to attend. The chair also highlighted some of the work of the division, noting that the committees have all had a very busy fall.

MOTION: (Anne Cameron/Derek Elsworth)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive approves the change to the Policy on Covenanting Services, *that a covenanting service would most appropriately held on a Sunday afternoon or evening or a weeknight*, effective immediately.

CARRIED

Westmount-Leitches Creek Pastoral Charge

Anne Cameron, chair, introduced the matter of the dissolution of Westmount-Leitches Creek Pastoral Charge, and provided background information on this file.

Westmount-
Leitches Creek
PC

MOTION: (Anne Cameron/Donnie Morrison)

That Westmount-Leitches Creek Pastoral Charge be allowed to begin the process to dissolve the pastoral charge, allowing the two points to proceed with their future plans separately.

CARRIED

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT – Appendix B

Donnie Morrison, chair, presented the report of the division, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the work of the division, and noted that the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee are in need of 2 (two) additional members. The chair brought forward the following motion:

Regional
Services and
Support

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Sandra Tomsons)

That the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive accepts the Terms of Reference for Outdoor Regional Ministries Committee, as a formal sub-group of the Children, Youth, and Young Adult Committee.

CARRIED

NOMINATIONS – Appendix C

Alicia Cox, chair, presented the Nominations report, included in the appendix. The chair noted that elections for commissioners to GC45 will need to be held in the spring.

Nominations

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Derek Elsworth)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council accepts the following resignations with regret; Elaine Grey, Incorporated Ministries; Janet Sollows, Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Debbie Hawkins)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council names the following persons to the following positions: Krista Anderson, member of Incorporated Ministries; Kathleen MacKay, member of Incorporated Ministries; Bev Dauphinee, member of Faith Story Community Covenants; Vivian Moores, member of Faith Story Community Covenants; Joan Griffin, Chair of Licensing Committee; Jim Webber-Cook, Secretary of Licensing Committee; Linton Worrell, member of Licensing Committee; Mary Taylor, member of Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Worship); Max Martin, member of Affirming Committee; Ian Harrison, member of Affirming Committee; Jane McDonald, Maritime Conference Financial Services; April Hart, member of Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

CARRIED

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Derek Elsworth, regional representative to the Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee, reported that no meetings of the committee have taken place since the last meeting of the Executive.

Staff Support
Committee

United Church Women**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)** – Appendix D

Debbie Hawkins, UCW Representative, presented the report, included in the appendix. Debbie presented a detailed report on UCW fall activities, including a national meeting of the UCW in Mississauga in September, and highlighted upcoming events. The UCW thank the Regional Council for their continued support, and for welcoming representation on Executive. It was noted that, although groups are smaller and some units are closing, those that remain continue to give generously.

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Shannon MacLean)

That the reports of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

New Business**NEW BUSINESS**Association of United Church Clergy**ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCH CLERGY**

As follow-up to the terms of the new MOU, signed with the Association of United Church Clergy, the Executive suggested meeting dates with the Association in November. Shannon MacLean is the current President of the association, and is recommending that this meeting take place after the next meeting of the association.

MOTION: (April Hart/Derek Elsworth)

That, at the request of the Association of United Church Clergy, the fall meeting with the Association be postponed until after the November meeting of the Association. The Association will contact the Executive regarding the next steps.

CARRIED

End of Day**END OF DAY**

MOTION: (April Hart/Shannon MacLean)

That the end of day be extended to 5:00pm.

CARRIED

Break**BREAK**Priorities Update**PRIORITIES UPDATE**

For the duration of the afternoon, the Executive entered a session to update priorities and focus on the strategic plan. The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, offered readings from the book *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future* by Margaret J. Wheatley and engaged in deep and thoughtful conversation around the theme phrases 'The Practice of Conversation', 'Discovering What we are About' and 'Willing to be Disturbed'. The Executive continued the session with team building exercises and time exploring conversations in smaller groups. The Executive will now look at what capacity we have to continue this work, or where capacity is needed within our structure.

Closing Worship**CLOSING WORSHIP**

To conclude the day of meetings, the President, Shauna MacDonald, led the Executive in reflection and prayer.

Next Meeting**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled on January 23, 2024 at 9:30am via Zoom Video Conferencing.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shauna MacDonald
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A**MINISTRY RESOURCES**Ministry Resources**Divisional Report to Regional Council Executive Bermuda- Nova Scotia UCC
Division of Ministry Resources October 24th, 2023**

Division Name: Ministry Resources

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

Date of Divisional Meeting: September 28, 2023

Dates of Committee Meetings:

Faith Story and Community Covenant – July 12th

Future Direction – October 11th

Licensing – September 27th

Pastoral Relations - June 21st, August 11th, September 8th, October 13th

Retirees Support

Report of the discussions & decisions from the Division:

The Division of Ministry Resources met on September 28th, 2023 approved that an updated Policy on Covenanting Services be accepted and recommended to the Executive of Bermuda-Nova Scotia.

The Division welcomed three new Committee Chairs - Catherine MacDonald - Future Direction, Daniel MacDonald – Faith Story& Community Covenant and Joan Griffin – Licensing.

Under new business,

1. Financial Statement – The Financial Statement until the end of June was circulated previous to the meeting. A question was raised about the different amounts allotted to the committees. We were reminded that money not spent would be used elsewhere in the Division or in the Region. A question was also raised about what the \$597.61 credited to the Division was for. Anne will find out. The Financial Statement was accepted on motion.
2. Nominations – On motion, Alicia Cox was made a corresponding member of the Division of Ministry Resources for this meeting. Alicia spoke about the work of the Nominating Committee. With a lack of volunteers, we need to recruit more people or try to do the work with the volunteers we have. Pastoral Relations Liaisons and Pastoral Charge Supervisors are not included in the structure. They are doing work but not committee work. She asked members of the Division to prepare for succession planning. Encourage those on your committee that you think will be good in a position to think about taking over when the time comes. Contact the Nominating Committee if there is a certain type of person that you need on your committee or if you need more or less people. Alicia also asked us to consider work that can be done by establishing working groups, clusters or networks. She asked us to encourage lay people, in particular, to join in the work with this Division. Lay people do not have to be regional representatives to serve on committees. The Nominating Committee will be contacting those who volunteered at the Annual Meeting of the Region. They will also be getting in touch with those whose terms are expiring and asking if they will re-offer. Alicia encouraged members of the Division to let the Nominating Committee know how your committee can be supported. David pointed out that all job descriptions approved by the Pastoral Relations Committee have 'wider church work' as part of the ministry personnel's tasks. Churches could be reminded of this. The fact that our assessment is only 4.5% is because we use volunteers.
3. Recommendation to the Executive regarding Lower & Middle Musquodoboit Pastoral Charges – The Lower and Middle Musquodoboit Pastoral Charges have been in a co-operative ministry agreement since 2014. The job description and the search committee have been joint and the motion approved a full-time call.

Appendix A - continued**MINISTRY RESOURCES** - continued

Due to the technology of ChurchHub at the time, the calls had to be entered as two half-time positions. The allegations of bad behaviour were non-specific but it is felt that they need to be investigated. It was also noted that this position has not been declared as two half-time positions by the Pastoral Relations Committee. The cost of a conflict resolution facilitator would be the responsibility of the Region. It was moved and seconded and approved that the Division of Ministry Resources recommend to the Bermuda – Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive invite the Rev. Allan Lynk, Lower Musquodoboit Pastoral Charge and Middle Musquodoboit Pastoral Charge into a Conflict Mediation process with an arms-length Conflict Resolution Facilitator.

Reports of the decisions and discussions from the Committees:

Pastoral Relations – David Hewitt reported that it has been a busy fall with lots of success in filling positions. Six supply positions have been filled and some appointments in progress. There are 30 trained liaisons but more are needed. There will be another webinar on the Sunday Supply Policy held in October.

Future Directions – Catherine MacDonald reported that her committee has a day-long workshop planned to get pro-active about their work. They will be looking at developing a checklist for congregations that contact David or the Future Directions Committee about needing help (Have you tried a, b, c...?). Catherine is working with the Crossroads Pastoral Charge asking who they are and who they could be. There is also work being done about a building in Middle Stewiacke and its future. David reported that Rev. Sharon Ballantyne will be the new Growth Animator for the Atlantic Region beginning on November 1. It remains to be seen how her work will mesh with that of the Future Directions Committee and the Regional Minister.

Retiree Support – Ruth Gamble reported that her committee will be looking into having an event this fall.

Licensing – Joan Griffin gave us her perspective of the functioning of this committee. She has just agreed to be chair and Jim Webber-Cook has agreed to be the secretary for one year. They recently met as a committee. They will be focusing on catching up on the LLWL interviews. A LLWL weekend is planned in October at the Tatamagouche Centre with Ross Bartlett and Pix Butt offering leadership. The Committee will also look at their mandate and the items discussed in November at the in-person meeting of the Division in Sackville, NB. It was also decided by the committee that LLWLs would be notified at the beginning of the year if their license was going to expire. It would then be their responsibility to re-apply. Joan extended thanks to John Moses for the work he did on this committee and for his support in the succession of leadership.

Faith Story & Community Covenant – Daniel MacDonald reported that his committee met in July. They have conducted four workshops about writing Faith Stories. They are looking at holding another one in the Valley in the Spring and perhaps another Zoom meeting in the winter. The deadline for Self-assessments has passed. There was a low response rate. This committee would like to follow up with people who attended their Faith Story workshops to see what work is being done and if there are any questions.

Next Meeting of the Division of Ministry Resources: November 23, 2023

Concerns of the Division and the Committee:

Communication within the Region and an understanding of how the governance structure works still remain concerns.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive:

The Division of Ministry Resources recommends to the Executive the following policy change:

(It suggests that Covenanting Services be held outside of the regular Sunday worship service to allow neighbouring congregations and clergy to attend.)

Appendix A - continued**MINISTRY RESOURCES** - continued**Policy on Covenanting Services**

A Covenanting Service is a celebration for the whole church. It is the final official action in the establishment of a new pastoral relationship between God, ministry personnel, a Community of Faith, and the Region.

1. The action of the Region to approve a new Call or Appointment includes authorization to hold a Covenanting Service.
2. A Covenanting Service is required for any Call or Appointment of 6 months or more.
3. The Covenanting Service should be held within the first 3 months of the beginning a new pastoral relationship.
4. The Region Liaison will provide the official representation from the Region and will provide leadership at the appropriate place in the liturgy.
5. Sample liturgies are available on the General Council website, and from Liaisons or the Regional Minister.
6. The Covenanting Service will be held at a time when it can be expected that friends and well-wishers from neighbouring congregations (United Church and others) would be able to attend. Therefore, a Covenanting Service should not take place during the customary Sunday morning worship time that is common in most congregations. A Covenanting Service would most appropriately be held on a Sunday afternoon or evening, or a weeknight. The date will be established in consultation with the Liaison.
7. Announcements of the Covenanting Service will be circulated widely among neighbouring churches and faith communities, and submitted for inclusion in the weekly announcements email of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region well in advance of the date of the service.
8. Following the service, a copy of the order of service for the Covenanting Service will be submitted to the Regional Minister. This confirms the completion of the service, and will be added to the Archives holdings for the pastoral charge as an historic moment.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Cameron, Chair Division of Ministry Resources

Appendix B**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT****Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council****Division Name:** Regional Services and Support

Oct. 24, 2023

Committee Names within the Division

Faith Formation and Leadership Development (FFLD)

Communications

Children, Youth and Young Adult (CYaYA)

Stewardship

Justice, Mission & Outreach (JMO)

Annual Meeting Planning

Affirm

Date of Divisional Meetings: A Zoom meeting was held on Oct. 11, 2023.**Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:**

Division committees had agreed to being responsible for providing webinars on topics relevant to communities of faith. This division has much potential for webinars. The goal is to do one educational webinar per month between October and April (excluding January). Webinars connect committees and networks to communities of faith.

Shelley (Affirm) did a webinar on neurodiversity. Affirm has a workshop on sexual and romantic attraction ready to go.

Other webinars outside of these monthly webinars have been happening. FFLD has done training sessions for lay members who are interested in leading worship. FFLD has also done Lent and Advent planning sessions.

CYaYA could do webinars on intergenerational worship, for instance. The committee will discuss.

FFLD is still interested in organizing a webinar with Rob Fennell on discipleship.

JMO has 5 working groups, each of which could host a webinar. There was a webinar last spring on mental health. JMO will discuss this at their in-person meeting in November.

The Division is considering the value in having an in-person retreat for all members of division committees. One planned for last year was postponed due to lack of interest. Chairs will discuss this with their committees to see if there is interest.

Dates of Committee Meetings: (since last Executive meeting)

Faith Formation and Leadership Development Sept. 20

Communications ∅

Children, Youth and Young Adult Oct. 5, 2023

Stewardship ∅

Justice, Mission & Outreach planned in-person meeting Nov. 9 & 10

Annual Meeting Planning meets monthly

Affirm June 20, Sept. 19

∅ = no meeting dates

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

This committee now has only 3 members. In order to organize programs as they have done in the past, they need at least two more members.

Four more Zoom sessions are planned for next spring for lay people interested in leading worship.

An advent worship planning Zoom drop-in session to discuss ideas and share resources will be facilitated by Sharon Lohnes on Thursday, Oct. 19.

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

This committee has no chair. Faith reported.

A short-term task group will examine the communications work of our region. The task group will consist of the Executive Minister, the Communications Committee and other members as necessary with the intention of reviewing current communication tools and creating a strategy for moving forward. How best to get feedback is important.

The inaugural committee was attended by Faith and one Communications Committee member. An effort needs to be made to find appropriate individuals to serve on this committee.

The Executive Minister will try again to bring the Communications Committee together.

The Communications Committee was asked to pursue the investigation of an information storage system for non-confidential documents for committee and division use. Consideration was given to asking General Council to extend Sharepoint to the region committees, but that can't be done quickly enough, so the Region is considering setting something up ourselves. The communications task group will be examining platforms and websites.

Children, Youth and Young Adult

CYaYA Chair, Paige Fraser, returned from parental leave in August. Several members have come to the end of their terms, so the committee is smaller right now.

Youth@Region took place at the Annual Meeting and it went well. It was a smaller group, however, youth were really connected and engaged.

All camp programs carried on this summer. There were lots of full camps this year and they went well.

Before the region restructured, there was an Outdoor Recreational Ministries Committee. After restructuring, the committee no longer existed. That group would like to become a subcommittee of CYaYA and have developed terms of reference.

CYaYA adopted this motion at their meeting: "Children, Youth, and Young Adults adopt the terms of reference for ORM, and that the Division of Regional Services and Support make ORM an official subgroup of the Children, Youth and Young Adult committee. As part of this motion, we request that a representative from ORM be added to the Children, Youth and Young Adult Committee and that Nominations will be notified when the name becomes available."

Stewardship

The Stewardship Chair hasn't had a lot of time to devote to the Stewardship Committee, since she is serving as regional council president. However, she has spoken to all members. The Chair's term and one other member's term is up in 2024. Both have served in those positions for 5 years. One committee member may be willing to serve as chair. The committee needs a fourth member, particularly one from the area of Yarmouth, Valley and South Shore.

Justice, Mission & Outreach

The Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee now has a co-chair from FSLDW Region, Cathy Bigsby.

The Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee is planning to meet in-person at Tatamagouche Centre November 9-10, 2023. The meeting's theme conversation will address the question: What are we as JMOC called to at this time, in terms of enabling the United Church response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report?

Just Peace Working Group

Members of the Just Peace working group are monitoring the escalation of violence in Israel/Palestine and joining voices calling for an immediate cease fire. (Report written before violence of the Oct. 7 weekend)

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

At the 2023 AGM's of FSLDW and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regions this working group sponsored and hosted display tables of information in support of justice and peace for Palestine and Israel and also workshops on 'What is and is not antisemitism'.

Bill Chambre returned from his second term of service as an Ecumenical Accompanier at the end of August. He has a powerful presentation to share and is available to speak at churches any time after October 22nd.

Anne Hoganson continues as the Canadian representative to Kairos Palestine for Global Justice. She contributed a prayer she wrote to the planners for this year's World Week for Peace, September 11 - 17 which was included in the resources sent by the World Council of Churches.

A United Church Come and See visit to Palestine and Israel is scheduled to leave the middle of October. Two members of this group are from our regions: Justice and Mission staff person Rev. Shepherd Munikwa and Rev. Catherine MacDonald.

An updated version of the Palestine Land Exercise is now available. Churches are invited to express interest through this working group.

General Council Executive met in September. Following on the decisions of GC44, and the commitment of the General Secretary, the Executive received proposed principles to guide The United Church of Canada's justice work. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister for Theology and Ministry Leadership presented work of the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee (TCIF) in developing a principles-based approach to justice aligned with policies, affirmations, and commitments that the church has already made.

The seven principles are equal in value; the working group did not assign how the principles are applied, but urged they be tested over the next year-and-a-half:

- Anti-oppression
- Truth-telling
- Holistic scope
- Respect for human dignity
- Full participation and decolonization
- Equity, mutuality, respect, and reparations
- Costly and prophetic solidarity

Three recommendations were passed: the principles were adopted in principle, the proposal will be sent to General Council for discussion and decision Oct. 21, 2023, and further conversation with the Indigenous Church will discuss ways to include the seven sacred teachings in the principles document.

In the months to come, the key foci for the Working Group will be: responding to the General Council's position on Palestine and Israel as well as any work they may produce with regards to antisemitism and anti-Palestinianism, deepening understanding of the colonization and oppression of the Palestinian population and their land from a historic, legal and current perspective, and working to help improve the understanding of antisemitism and the impact of the weaponization of the term.

Mental and Brain Health Working Group

The Mental and Brain Health Working Group held four face-to-face talking circles on mental health, two at each of the AGM's of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Bermuda/Nova Scotia. The workshops were well attended; the total of about 60 persons was double the participants at a similar gathering at the last AGM of Maritime Conference. Participants included people who suffer from mental health challenges, members of their families, a few professionals, some youth, members of the clergy and volunteers. The sharing was profound. A questionnaire was distributed asking for opinions concerning mental health problems. Nearly 100% of the responses supported hiring or contracting someone to assist volunteers to address problems identified in the questionnaire. The Working Group has now developed a Request for Proposals to meet this need. This work is to be discussed at the upcoming JMOC meeting.

Ecological Justice Working Group has been meeting and were very active at the regional annual meetings.

Appendix B - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued**Annual Meeting Planning**

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee last met two weeks ago. They spent a fair bit of time thinking logistically about next year's annual meeting to be held in Truro.

Affirm

Affirm is a new committee and getting organized. They are developing roles and responsibilities for the committee.

The group has presented one educational webinar and has plans to provide more. A workshop to promote PIE day is planned.

The committee would like to have the next meeting in person.

The committee is looking into training for committee members as well as for others. The committee members must be willing to confront their own bigotry and racism.

There was great concern by committee members about the fallout from harms that were done during the passing of the regional Affirming Statement. The committee wrote a letter to Andrew Richardson and asked him to share with who is appropriate. It is expected to be on the docket of the BNS Regional Council Executive.

Concerns of the Division and the Committees:

We are concerned especially about the low membership of the FFLD Committee. The committee has been productive in the past and two members who were lost need to be replaced.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive

The Division of Regional Services and Support concurs with the motion of the CYaYA Committee reported above and recommends the following motion to the Executive:

adopt the terms of reference for ORM, and that the BNS Regional Council make ORM an official subgroup of the Children, Youth and Young Adult committee. As part of this motion, a representative from ORM to be added to the Children, Youth and Young Adult Committee and that Nominations will be notified when the name becomes available."

Terms of reference submitted with this report.

-Donnie Morrison
Chair
Division of Regional Services and Support

Appendix C

NOMINATIONS

DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONS AND STANDING COMMITTEESUpdated October 17th, 2023

*Terms lengths are normally three years, renewable for one year.
An effort will be made to stagger the terms.*

Regional Executive

Executive Minister	Faith March-MacCuish, OM
President	Shauna MacDonald (2024)
President-Elect	Donna Tourneur, OM (2024)
Past President	Sandra Tomsons (2024)

Chair of the Division of Finance and Administration	April Hart
Chair of the Division of Regional Services and Support	Donnie Morrison (2024)
Chair of the Division of Ministry Resources	Anne Cameron (2024)
Chair of Nominations Committee	Alicia Cox, OM (2024)
Staff Committee Liaison	Derek Elsworth, OM (2024)
Members at Large	
1. Peter Hardy (2024)	
2. Katie Logan (2025)	
3. Shannon MacLean, OM (2024)	

UCW Representative Debbie Hawkins

Nominations Committee

Chair	Alicia Cox, OM (2024)
Secretary	Tony Orlando (2024)
Members	
1. Angela MacLean, OM (2024)	
2. VACANT	

Division of Finance and Administration

Chair	April Hart, OM (2024)
Secretary	Fay Smith (2024)

Financial Accountability and Investments Committee

Chair	Allan Davis (2024)
Vice Chair	Mac MacLeod (2026)
Secretary	Debbie Davis (2025)
Members	
1. Cindy Penney (2025)	
2. Michael Ball (2024)	

Incorporated Ministries Committee

Chair	VACANT
Secretary	Elaine Grey (2024)

Appendix C - continued

NOMINATIONS - continued

Members

1. Kevin Little, OM (2024)
2. Dale Skinner, OM (2025)
3. Krista Anderson, OM (2026)
4. Kathleen MacKay (2026)

Property Committee

Chair Wally Chivers (2025)

Secretary Fay Smith (2024)

Members

1. Rob McArel (2024)
2. David LeBlanc, OM (2024)
3. Jack Logan (2024)
4. Wayne Cochrane (2025)

Archives, Records, and History Committee

Chair Ross Cameron (2025)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Roberta Phillips (2026)
2. Wendy Kean, OM (2026)
3. Shane Doucette

Division of Regional Services and Support

Chair Donnie Morrison (2024)

Secretary Mike Henderson, OM (2024)

Communications Committee

Chair VACANT

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Kym Burke, OM (2024)
2. Ron Shaw (2024)
3. Jack Morrison (2024)

Faith Formation and Leadership Development

Chair Michael Thompson (2024)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Sharon Lohnes, OM (2024)
2. Sue Reid (2025)

Child, Youth, and Young Adult Committee

Chair Paige Fraser

Secretary VACANT

Members

Appendix C - continued**NOMINATIONS** - continued

1. James O'Connell (2024)
2. Caitlin Smithers (2024)
3. Terry Skidmore (2024)

Stewardship Committee

Chair Shauna MacDonald (2024)

Secretary VACANT

Members

1. Margaret Ann Dodson (2024)
2. Margie MacIntyre (2025)

Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee

Co-Chair Sandra Tomsons

Joint Secretary Jim Wicks (FSLDW)

Members

1. Kathryn Anderson, DM (2024)
2. Linda Scherzinger (2024)
3. Penny Nelson, OM (2024)
4. Art Jensen (2024)
5. Sandra Tomsons (2024)
6. Patricia Betts (2025)
7. Caitlin Smithers (2024)
8. Sheila van Schaik (2025)

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Chair Jane McDonald

Secretary Heather Manuel, OM

President of the Region Shauna MacDonald

President-Elect Donna Tourneur, OM

Designated Individuals:

1. Heather Manuel, OM (Local Arrangements)
2. Fay Smith
2. Janet Sollews
4. Constance McNamara, OM (2025)
5. Mary Taylor, OM (2026) (worship)

Affirming Ministries Committee

Chair Shelley Pick, OM

Secretary Mary Jo Harrison, OM

Members

1. Shannon MacLean, OM
2. Mike Henderson, OM
3. Marty Clark-Ettinger, DLM
4. Shelby Ryan
5. Ivan Gegan, OM
6. Katie Logan

Appendix C - continued**NOMINATIONS** - continued

7. Max Martin
8. Ian Harrison, OM

Division of Ministry Resources

Chair Anne Cameron (2024)
 Secretary Janet Sollows (2024)

Pastoral Relations

Chair Tom Woods, OM (2024)
 Secretary VACANT
 Members

1. Jennifer Robarts (2024)
2. Sheila Stewart (2024)
3. Sean Boulger (2024)

Licensing Committee

Chair Joan Griffin, OM (2024)
 Secretary Jim Webber-Cook, OM (2024)
 Diaconal Minister Hubert den Draak, DM (2024)
 Designated Lay Minister Dale Crawford, DLM (2024)
 Qualified Supervisor Jim Webber-Cook, OM

Members

1. Mary Taylor, OM (2025)
2. Linton Worrell, OM (2026)

Faith Story Community Covenant Committee

Chair Daniel MacDonald, OM
 Secretary VACANT
 Members

1. Ian Harrison, OM (2024)
2. Cheryl Sellsted (2025)
3. Bev Dauphinee (2026)
4. Vivian Moores (2026)

Future Directions Committee

Chair Catherine MacDonald
 Secretary Kathleen Anderson, OM (2025)

Members

1. Alison Etter, OM
2. Mary Thomson (2025)
3. Sean Hancock, OM (2025)
4. Michael Mugford, OM (2026)

Retiree Support Committee

Chair Ruth Gamble, DLM (2024)

Appendix C - continued

NOMINATIONS - continued

Secretary Wanalda Parsons (2024)

Members

1. Linda Winton, OM (2024)
2. Glenn MacLean, OM (2024)
3. David Hann, OM (2024)
4. Brenda McCurdy, OM (2025)

Other Appointments

Region 15 Representatives to the Staff Support Committee

1. Derek Elsworth, OM (Liaison to the Executive) (2024)
2. Donna Tourneur, OM (2024)

Representative to Atlantic School of Theology Senate

(3-year term, renew once for 3 years)

1. Susan Gamblin, OM (2026)

Representative to Brunswick Street Mission Board of Directors

(3-year term, renew once for 3 years)

1. Rick Gunn (2026)

Representative to Tatamagouche Centre Society

1. Allan McIntosh

Representative to St. Paul's Family Resources Institute

(3-year term)

1. Ian Reid (2025)

Representatives to Maritime Conference Financial Services

1. Jane McDonald

Appendix D

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Maritime United Church Women Report to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters & Bermuda-NS Regional Councils October 2023

On behalf of the Maritime United Church Women, we would like to thank Regional Councils for their continued support of the Maritime United Church Woman (MUCW) and for welcoming a representative onto each of the Regional Councils Executives. For those members new to Regional Councils, the MUCW is made up of membership from **4** districts of Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region (Chignecto, Miramichi, Prince Edward Island, St. Croix/Saint John/Northwest NB) and **4** Districts of Bermuda-NS Region (Bermuda, Halifax, Valley/South Shore, Cape Breton/Sydney, Eastern Nova Scotia). The Maritime Executive includes representatives from all these Districts. Since last reporting to you in June the Maritime UCW held an Executive meeting on June 19th and work continued over the summer into the fall.

Berwick – UCW Cookie Cottage and UCW Day

UCW once again hosted the Berwick Cookie cottage with cookies being supplied by the Chignecto District. August 2nd the Maritime Co-Presidents, Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins presented a program for Berwick UCW Day where 75 plus folks joined together for a very meaningful time of fellowship. We were delighted to have Rev. Faith March-MacCuish and her husband stop by (from their summer travels) and join us for lunch and attend the program. We shared news and presented a worship using Janice MacLean's Prayer Bench resource called "The Rock". The highlight of the afternoon was the Dedication of a Bench in memory of our friend and UCW member, Ruth Rudderham. It was especially meaningful to have her son, Jim, in attendance to share in this special time.

National United Church Woman Annual Meeting

The Annual National UCW meetings were held in Mississauga from September 18th to 22nd at the *Queen of the Apostles Renewal Canter*. Our co-presidents and past president, Elaine Burrows joined the other 37 elected representatives from across Canada. These meetings are a great opportunity to get together as a national body and further the work of the UCW. This year's meeting was chaired by our out-going President Nancy Risto. In addition to the regular business/reporting/statistics, bible study, workshops and entertainment, our guests from the General Church Office included: The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, Kwisa'lakw, Rev. Michael Blair, Lori-Ann Livingstone – Press and Public Relations Lead, Amy Crawford from Church in Mission and Joni Shawana from the Healing Fund.

Over the next four years leading up to our 65th Anniversary Celebrations donations will continue to be accepted for the Healing Fund – our special 5-year UCW project, with women and children being the emphasis. The first money has gone to the Regina Women and Baby Bag program. As money comes in, a team will decide where to direct the funds. It was announced that our 65th Anniversary celebrations will be hosted by Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region (EOR) held Ottawa JULY 19-25TH 2027.

The Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister Church in Mission led us in our closing worship service in which Barbara Davison who is from Alberta was installed as our new National President. The service concluded with communion. As with the previous three years our closing communion service was available online and invitations were sent out through district contacts for all UCW Ladies across Canada/Bermuda to join in the Worship Service via zoom.

Closure of Eastern Nova Scotia District

On Saturday, September 30th, MUCW co-presidents met with 27 members from throughout the Eastern NS District at Knox United in Brookfield, NS where a special meeting of the district took place to decide the future of the Eastern NS District. As the District, like several others, has not been able to find members to fill the executive positions, the necessary motions and decisions were made in accordance with the UCW National guidelines to disband. The lack of members to serve on District Executives is becoming more common as our general membership ages and our membership declines. The Maritime UCW Executive is currently looking at a proposal of a new structure which will be presented to the membership at the April 2024 Annual meeting.

Appendix D - continued

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - continued

Celebration of Life – Reta Manuel

On behalf of the MUCW, Debbie Hawkins, as co-president took greetings and Condolences to the Celebration of Life for Reta Manuel held at Port Wallis United Church on October 5th officiated by Rev. Ivan Gregan. Reta was a long-time member at Port Wallis and lifetime member of the UCW and served with great enthusiasm in many capacities and at all levels of UCW: Presbyterial, District, Maritime and National. She served as Halifax Presbyterial President, Maritime Conference President from 2002-2004 and was on the National Executive from 2003 to 2006, serving as a National UCW President in 2004 and 2005 traveling to both Bermuda and Korea. She was the social secretary with Maritime UCW for many years and had remained in this position until just recently when her health declined. She was also well known for her support of Berwick Camp. Debbie wishes to thank Margaret Embree for speaking at the service with her and sharing special memories of their time together in UCW at Port Wallis.

Upcoming UCW newsletters, "**Maritime UCW News**" and "**Keeping In Touch**" (National) and will be published late October/early November. Both will be distributed as they become available throughout the regions by MUCW secretary and/or District Contacts and past issues can be found online through our Regional website, under Ministries, UCW. A paid mail out subscription of **Maritime UCW News** is still available. If your UCW's are not receiving and sharing these please help them to access them as they are full of UCW happenings and resources and is one way, we can stay connected.

Statistics and Mission and Service Givings for 2022

Although each UCW unit is required to fill out the annual contacts/statistics form which is submitted to the National UCW, many units do not and gathering annual statistics continues to be an ongoing struggle for our secretary. From those who reported in 2022 there are approximately 12,390 UCW members nationally.

Total Maritime UCW (two regions combined) 2185

Total number of confirmed UCW units – 206

Total number of reported Life-Time Memberships given out – 15

Total number of reported deaths 125

The 2023 statistical forms will be sent out in January to be completed by each unit and returned by January 31st, 2024. In efforts to streamline the process, we are asking that both statistics and annual dues of \$4 each member (\$3 going to Maritime and \$1 to National) be sent directly to our secretary Ruth Kennedy.

Although our groups are getting smaller and some units are closing, those that remain continue to give generously. Nationally the UCW gave \$475,061 to the Mission and Service Fund. \$66,870 of that was from the UCW women of the Maritime Regions (FSLDW and Bermuda-NS).

The next MUCW executive meeting will be held October 16th in Moncton. Among the agenda items will be welcoming four new **Members at Large**, the draft proposal for a new structure and planning for the MUCW Annual meeting which will take place on April 26-28, 2024, at St. James United in Antigonish with theme speaker Janice MacLean. We continue to look for a vice-president, Christian Life and Growth and a Social Secretary.

Looking ahead, MUCW will be hosting an online **Advent Spirituality** gathering with Janice MacLean of the Prayer Bench Ministries on November 7th, 2023, from 12:30 – 2:30 pm (AST, registration by emailing ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com to receive the zoom link.

Co-Presidents will be attending upcoming Rally's at Bedford United in Halifax (Oct 21st), St. Andrews United in Chatham (Oct 28th) and St. John United in Moncton (Nov 25th).

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hawkins
MUCW Co-President and
UCW Representative to Bermuda-NS Regional Council