

Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Committee members: Richard Bowley (Chair), Alicia Walls (Secretary, Worship), Sue Lemaistre (President Elect), James Kennedy (Past President), Elizabeth Stevenson (President), Lisa Folkins (Y@R), Barbara Prowse (Local Arrangements), Faith March-MacCuish (EM), Melany Matheson, Jennifer Whittemore (Staff)

The RAMP Committee has met regularly throughout the past year, making great use of Zoom to coordinate and plan for the upcoming Regional meeting in May, 2024.

Meeting again at UPEI in 2024 gave us both an opportunity to learn from our previous experience, and improve in several areas. Starting on Thursday gives delegates the chance to settle before the meeting, and gives us the added time Friday morning for the agenda. With thanks to Jennifer Whittemore and UPEI, we will also be meeting in a larger space, having heard the feedback from delegates. This same space will be used for Sunday morning worship.

On the subject of Sunday morning worship, the committee spent a significant amount of time both in and out of meetings considering an alternate location that would be able to accommodate a large group of people. We did this because there was a desire both last year and this year to invite PEI churches to worship with us rather than their home churches. Our criteria for an appropriate space were as follows:

- Adequate parking
- Accessibility
- Seating for over 400 (the space at UPEI will accommodate 425)
- Live-streaming capabilities

We considered churches, arenas, and conference spaces. Though different locations met some of the criteria, we were not able to find a space that could meet all the criteria. Spaces that would fit all the areas of need were booked and unavailable for our Sunday morning worship. We know that invited local churches to the meeting is something that people want, and we will continue to explore our options in future meetings.

With the location settled for both the meeting and the worship on Sunday morning, much of the work over many meetings was focused on the shape of the meeting.

The rest of the work centered on the content of the meeting:

- Time for business
- Coordination with our worship team
- Integration of youth programs
- Selecting a theme and theme speaker (Daring to Dream: Faith in Action with Bible studies and conversation for reflection. These will be led by our President, Elizabeth Stevenson and our Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne)
- Arranging to have someone for our land acknowledgement piece, and to make their piece an order of the day to ensure they are not waiting on us (Julie Pellissier-Lush)
- Workshops
- Retirees' and Jubilarians' banquet
- Balancing worship, business, and social time

These are just some of the detail-oriented pieces that were a part of our regular discussions over the last year. As stated earlier, returning to UPEI made things easier on the planning team because things were familiar. That said, we are looking forward to our joint meeting with Bermuda-Nova Scotia in 2025 when we will gather together in Sackville.

Prayerfully Submitted, Richard Bowley, Chair