

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
April 17, 2024 at 9:00am via video conference

RC47

ATTENDANCE

Attendance

Adekunle Adeniyi, Julielynn Anderson, Kathryn Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Richard Bowley, Tony Burnett, Elaine Burrows, Pix Butt, Brion Crossman, Heather Donnelly, Hugh Ellis, Bob Fisher, Rose Hannah Gaskin, James Kennedy, Sue LeMaistre, Faith March-MacCuish, Don Scott, Elizabeth Stevenson, Martha Vickers.

REGRETS

Regrets

Jean Herman.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Welcome

Elizabeth Stevenson, President, welcomed members to this meeting of the Executive, and opened the meeting with reflection based on *The Road to Emmaus* from the Gospel of Luke. The President asked the executive members gathered to reflect on times when they have been a companion, or been a presence of hope. The President lit the affirm candle as a reminder of God's presence as a companion in our lives and opened the meeting the words from the hymn *Gather Us In* and prayer.

Opening Prayer

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Corresponding Member

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Julielynn Anderson)

That Tony Burnett and Don Scott be corresponding members to the April 9, 2024 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

EQUITY SUPPORT TEAM

Equity Support Team

The President, Elizabeth Stevenson, introduced Don Scott and Tony Burnett, who have joined the meeting as equity support persons at the Executive meeting today. The Equity Self-Monitoring questions were reviewed.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Quorum

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

Constitution of the Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

Acknowledgement of the Land

The President, Elizabeth Stevenson, acknowledged the territory on which we gather, live, work and worship as the ancestral land of our indigenous siblings. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this land. We are all treaty people.

AGENDA

Agenda

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Martha Vickers)

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Minutes

MOTION: (Brion Crossman/Heather Donnelly)

That the minutes of the January 31, 2024 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Business Arising

Priority Setting

Priority Setting

The Executive Minister led a discussion on priorities, based on the summary of points which were compiled at the October meeting of the Executive. The Executive Minister noted that much of the work on priorities is being undertaken by the committees of the region. The President, Elizabeth Stevenson, offered an update on the work of the Communities of Faith Growth Group. A video targeted towards welcoming newcomers has been prepared and will be presented at the annual meeting. Sue LeMaistre provided an update on the work of the Communications Group. One idea coming from a recent meeting of the group is to have teams of former presidents visiting clusters of congregations to form connections within the region. Work on updating the website is continuing. One new initiative added to the website is a listing of those available for pulpit supply. It was also noted that the Communications Group are also looking into providing education to connect with regional representatives.

The Executive Minister noted that some ministry groupings have grown organically in the region. Richard Bowley spoke about the group in Fredericton, and how these groups can be supported by the region and be formed in other areas where groups have not yet been formed. The Executive Minister also provided an update on the Health, Joy & Excellence Institute. Partners have been approached who may work with the region on offering programs for ministry personnel. Several partner meetings will be taking place in June after the annual meetings.

(Adekunle Adeniyi joined the meeting)

Heather Donnelly was invited to update the Executive on some of the programs and workshops being offered by the Faith Formation and Education Committee. Work on these pieces is ongoing.

Communities of Faith Visitation

Communities of Faith Visitation

It was noted that the President Elect has joined the Communications Group and, as discussed, the planning of this initiative will continue within the communications group.

Property Policy

Property Policy

From time to time there have been questions regarding the policy for distribution of funds from the proceeds of the sale of a property. Brion Crossman, chair, noted that work to communicate the policy and create awareness in the region is taking place. The Executive Minister noted that an initiative is currently in progress whereby the Executive Ministers are sharing policies from across the country. The Executive Minister will share this information with the Property Committee, so that a recommendation can be brought to the June Executive for presentation, with further conversation to take place at the fall Executive meeting. The Executive members agreed to this proposal for a more fulsome discussion.

Trinity UC

Trinity United Church, Minto

The Property Committee have reviewed the proposal from Trinity United Church for the distribution of funds from the sale of property.

MOTION: (Brion Crossman/Julielynn Anderson)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council accepts the proposal from Trinity United Church that, after assessment arrears have been paid to General Council, the distribution of funds be broken down as 20% (twenty) to Mission & Service, 10% (ten) to archives and 70% (seventy) to new ministry initiatives.

CARRIED

UCC Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy

United Church of Canada Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy

The President noted that Andrew Richardson is no longer available to present a workshop on this policy at the annual meeting. It was agreed by the Executive that this is an important issue to be communicated to congregations. It was agreed that a webinar be offered on both policies – one by Andrew Richardson on the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy, and one by the Executive Minister on the Workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Policy.

Correspondence

CORRESPONDENCE

Office of Vocation

1. Marlene Britton, Office of Vocation – email response regarding the contest for completion of annual declarations by ministry personnel noting the impact of the gift card offer.

2. Open Letter regarding Israel and Palestine – The Just Peace Group has prepared a response to the March 21 letter from General Council, calling for an urgent response to the war crimes occurring in occupied territories. Kathy Bigsby, Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee chair, spoke to the correspondence and response.

Just Peace Group

MOTION: (Kathy Bigsby/Sue LeMaistre)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive receives the letter of response from the Just Peace Group with thanks, and requests their assistance in preparing a letter with recommended actions; to be sent from the region to the General Council.

CARRIED

3. Lisa Harrison – Thank you note received for condolences from the President, on behalf of the region.

Lisa Harrison

REPORTS

Reports

PRESIDENT – Appendix A

President

The President presented her report, as included in the appendix.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive Minister

The Executive Minister noted that many of the pieces she has been working on since the last meeting of the Executive will be coming under New Business, with the presentation of several new policies for the region. The Executive Minister also highlighted some of the work on reparations that has been taking place by a task group of General Council.

AFFIRM – Appendix B

Affirm

Pix Butt, chair, presented the report of the Affirm Committee, included in the appendix.

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION – Appendix C

Faith Formation and Education

Heather Donnelly, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair noted that the committee are looking for presenters for the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) gathering, taking place in Sackville in the fall.

BREAK

Break

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – Appendix D

United Church Women

Elaine Burrows, United Church Women (UCW) representative, presented the report of the UCW included in the appendix.

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

Incorporated Ministries

Jim Blanchard presented the report of the committee. The chair noted that the committee is working on gathering reports from the incorporated ministries for the annual meeting. In addition, the committee is waiting for a response from Mount Allison regarding nominations of United Church representatives to the board of regents.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS – Appendix E

Archives and Records

Julielynn Anderson, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that the committee is looking for a secretary. Also, new shelving units are being purchased for the archives. The chair presented new terms of reference for the committee for consideration of the executive.

MOTION: (Julielynn Anderson/Rose Hannah Gaskin)

That the Terms of Reference for the Archives and Records Committee be accepted as presented and revised in the governance manual.

CARRIED

Justice, Mission and Outreach**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH** – Appendix F

Kathy Bigsby, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that the Mental Health Working Group is working to develop clusters in the region and offered thanks for the webinar offered by the Affirm Committee on this topic.

Tri-Regional Staff Support**TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT** – Appendix G

Martha Vickers, regional representative to the committee, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. It was noted that another meeting of the committee took place on April 16 in order to conduct an exit interview with Shari Kaster.

Pastoral Relations**PASTORAL RELATIONS** – Appendix H

Hugh Ellis, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The following items are brought for consideration by the Executive.

Provisional Call Policy for DLMs Accepted for Testamur**Provisional Call Policy for Designated Lay Ministers Accepted for Testamur****MOTION:** (Hugh Ellis/Adekunle Adeniyi)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council adopt the following policy, that:

To satisfy the requirements for admission, commissioning, ordination or recognition by the regional council, a provisional call or appointment must:

1. *Be for covenanted relationship (a minimum of 6 (six) consecutive months following the date of admission, ordering or recognition) involving a community of faith and the regional council or an offer of employment to a paid accountable/recognized ministry, as determined by the regional council.*
2. *Be for a minimum of 14 (fourteen) hours/week; and*
3. *Not fill a short term leave from which the incumbent is expected to return within 6 (six) months.*

Depending on the contextual realities of the both the community of faith and the regional council, requests for exemption for extraordinary circumstances may be submitted for consideration and justification will be required. It would be the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Pastoral Relations Committee that grants the exemption.

CARRIEDPart-Time Ministry Considerations**Part-Time Ministry Considerations****MOTION:** (Hugh Ellis/Pix Butt)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council adopt the document *Part-Time Ministry Considerations Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region* as presented, for distribution in the region.

CARRIEDProperty**PROPERTY** – Appendix I

Brion Crossman, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

Regional Planning Team**REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Richard Bowley, chair, presented the report of the committee. The committee met on April 16. Registration is ongoing and planning is underway.

Financial and Mission Services**FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES**

In the absence of a chair, Bob Fisher, secretary, presented the report of the committee.

Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for 2023 were presented. It was noted that the statements "present fairly the financial position of the regional council". It was also noted that the change in term deposits is due to having moved some cash to investments. Some of the internally and externally funds available for regional ministries were highlighted.

Audited
Financial
Statements

MOTION: (Brion Crossman/Rose Hannah Gaskin)

That the 2023 audited financial statements be approved as presented and brought to the Annual General Meeting in May 2024.

CARRIED

2025 Budget

Bob Fisher, secretary, reviewed the 2023 actual expenditures, and presented the budget for 2025. Noted changes in the budget are the expected reduction in Mission Support Grants for 2025 and a budgeted amount for a full-time administrative position and a regional council review. The budget will be presented at a webinar in preparation for the annual meeting. A deficit is budgeted, which will be covered by the previous year's surplus.

2025 Budget

MOTION: (Bob Fisher/Richard Bowley)

That the 2025 draft budget be approved as presented and brought to the Regional Council Annual Meeting.

CARRIED

(Adekunle Adeniyi left the meeting)

NOMINATIONS – Appendix J

Nominations

Rose Hannah Gaskin, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the struggles of the committee to find members willing to take on the positions of the committees in the region.

MOTION: (Rose Hannah Gaskin/Sue LeMaistre)

That Audrey Louder be named to the Nominations Committee.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Heather Donnelly)

That the reports of the region accepted as presented.

CARRIED

(James Kennedy left the meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

New
Business

EVALUATION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Evaluation of
Regional
Council
Structure

The Executive Minister presented a proposal for the planned evaluation of the regional council structure as we approach the 5 (five) year mark of living into the new structure.

The Executive discussed the proposed process for evaluation, and brought forward the following decisions:

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Elaine Burrows)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council move into the process for evaluation of regional council structure as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Kathy Bigsby/Richard Bowley)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive approves the consultant, Jenny Stephens, be named to the regional council evaluation process.

CARRIED**MOTION:** (Rose Hannah Gaskin/Kathy Bigsby)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive approves the question:

Does the Regional Council structure enhance the vitality and engagement of faith communities and leaders in the purposes laid out in The Manual C.2.4 and live into the covenants described in C.2.1? In other words: Is the Regional Council living into its potential for enhancing call and ministry as it is in relationship with communities of faith and faith leaders?

as the overarching focus for the regional council evaluation process.

CARRIEDRegionally
Accountable
Ministries**REGIONALLY ACCOUNTABLE MINISTRIES**

The Executive Minister introduced the topic of regionally recognized and accountable ministries. The Executive Minister has worked with the three Regional Ministers to develop definitions and guidelines to develop criteria for the region.

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Julielynn Anderson)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive accepts the criteria for Regionally Recognized and Accountable Ministry as presented.

CARRIEDCongregational
Designated
Ministry Policy**CONGREGATIONAL DESIGNATED MINISTRY POLICY**

The Executive Minister presented the policy for adequate support and oversight of Congregational Designated Ministry persons (CDMs) when there is no called or appointed ministry personnel. The Executive Minister has worked on this policy with the three Regional Ministers for use in the eastern regions.

MOTION: (Pix Butt/Kathy Bigsby)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive adopts the policy for adequate support and oversight of Congregational Designated Ministry (CDM) when there is no called or appointed ministry personnel, as presented.

CARRIEDSackville Office
Mt. Allison
University
Agreement**SACKVILLE OFFICE – MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT**

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the work taking place at the archives in the Sackville Regional Council Office. Mount Allison University is asking for permanent rental of some space in the archives. The region has received approval from General Council to enter into this agreement, which encompasses three pieces; rental of permanent space in the archives, temporary space for rare books while renovations are taking place, and permanent office space. Work on this agreement is continuing.

Equity Support**EQUITY SUPPORT**

Tony Burnett and Don Scott offered feedback to the Executive on the meeting. Executive members are encouraged to use preferred pronouns whenever possible as a respectful practice. The President was commended for drawing all members into conversation and allowing full participation for all in attendance.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled on June 17, 2024, beginning at 9:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing
Prayer

The President, Elizabeth Stevenson, thanked all members for their work on behalf of the region, and acknowledged members who are completing terms on the Executive at the rise of the annual meeting. The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Elizabeth Stevenson
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A**PRESIDENT****President's report to FSLDW Executive April 17, 2024 meeting**

Since we last met in January, 2024, I continue to help with one of the Regions' priorities going forward. That is to build communications with Communities of Faith across the Region.

In particular I brought greeting on behalf of the region to:

Feb 18, St. Paul's UC, Fredericton, NB

March 10, Harmony UC, Saint John, NB

March 17, Two Rivers Pastoral Charge, NB

April 14, Celebrate Affirm Anniversary, Central United, Moncton, NB

With each visitation pictures were posted on the Region Facebook page and a brief note in the weekly *Letter from the President*.

Support and Celebrate a Diversity of Ministries:

Celebrated Black History Month with a post highlighting Rev. Erasmus Madimbu in the *Letter from the President*.

Shared a note and Facebook post about the ministry of Rev. Kelly Hudson-Lewis, Clinical Spiritual Care Practitioner and Manager of the Spiritual Care Dept for the Saint John area of Horizon Health, NB

Other bits:

Serve with the Creating Three New Communities of Faith group

Working with the Moderator and Faith to plan the theme bible study for the annual meeting.

I continue to post a *Letter from the President* (almost weekly).

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth

Appendix B

AFFIRM

Affirm Committee Report for April 17 Executive meeting 2024

Our committee members: Pix Butt (Chair), Tony Burnett, Janice Fairney, Don Scott (Secretary), Ross Sherwood, Elizabeth Stevenson.

We were happy to welcome new member, Janice Fairney to the committee last month.

In February we had a special meeting of our committee to respond to the Affirm United call to action regarding "An urgent response to legislative hatred toward Trans youth." From our discussion:

- encourage participation in a rally or demonstration if the opportunity arose. (since this meeting some have taken a zoom workshop on how to successfully and safely be part of a counter protest)
- an announcement was sent out through the region with information on organization that we can support in their work (ex: EGALE, Peers on PEI; Chroma NB or to similar groups.)
- it was thought at the time that PEI was a safer place since legislation has not been brought in like that in NB and Alberta. However, since the meeting we've learned our regulations are not strong. We all need to be vigilant.
- A suggestion to have a safe space at our Annual Meeting for LGBT2S+ people to gather. Unfortunately, no such space seems available in our meeting space this year. This could be noted as something to look for when AGM space is being sought.
- A suggestion to have a Zoom space for LGBT2S+ UCC people to gather. This led to consideration of supports for our UCC ministry personnel. Faith is checking with National Church to see what might be in place. Although we have many areas where people feel safe to be out, there are still places where they do not. This adds to the sensitivity needed in offering support.
- We need a point person from our committee to link with Affirm United. Tony Burnet has taken on that role.

We continue to offer webinars. Just before our last meeting we had Dawn O'Dell from Mental Health New Brunswick share some basics in looking after our own mental health. This session is NOT available on our Resource page.

This was followed by a webinar with Kelly Hudson-Lewis, who is a UCC minister and a Spiritual Care Practitioner. Kelly is the Manager of Spiritual Care Department for Saint John area of Horizon Health. Kelly helped us locate mental health support in a more spiritual context. This session can be found on the Resource page of FSLDW.

Our next webinar on April 18th is one we repeat each year, helping people and congregations get started on their discussions and plans for becoming an Affirming congregation. Our guest will be Kim Curlett, UCC ministry personnel and Affirm United representative for our maritime Regions. Watch for registration on the weekly announcements. This is a great way to have some questions answered and hear what other congregations are doing in their processes toward becoming Affirming.

We heard of several congregations planning P.I.E. day activities on March 14th (Public, Intentional, Explicit). It is good to see energy around these LBGT2SQ+ events which are supportive and educational.

We have also begun planning for our AGM workshop.

Submitted by: Pix Butt

Appendix C**FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION****FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee**

Report Regional Executive, April 2024

Our committee has been getting more requests for support from our budgeted funds and that is as it should be. Since our last reporting we have responded with funds for:

- Camp Staff
- A bus to take Maritime youth to Rendez Vous in St. Catherine's in July
- a meal for students at Trinity United in Charlottetown

We are organizing another LLWL Annual Gathering October 24-26. This year it will take place at the office in Sackville.

Currently in discussion is a Liturgy Planning event this Fall, to be held at the office but also available online. This is an opportunity to gather and share resources and, perhaps, have a whole season planned out. We are also hoping to supply these materials to those on our pulpit supply list and encourage all to use them so that our charges can have some constancy through a season. If all goes well, this could become a regular effort.

We are working on making worship resources available on the Regional website. You will soon see and hear about our invitation to clergy to submit liturgies and sermons to be shared. The intention is to particularly support lay people who find themselves called upon to lead worship. We want to make sure they can find "homegrown" resources. The United Church Resources Page does not always have usable materials, especially for "ordinary" Sundays.

The Regional Staff have all received invitations to submit videos to introduce themselves and explain their functions. We want to make a compilation to distribute to charges so they can see who is working for them and what they are doing. Let's encourage them all to participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Donnelly, Chair
FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee

Appendix D

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Report to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters & Bermuda-NS Regional Councils-
April 2024

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). Since last submitting a report to the Regional Councils in January the Maritime UCW Executive held our regular quarterly meeting on February 12th and two Annual Planning Committee meetings January 15th, February 27th with one planned for April 18th. All meetings were held over zoom.

The 2023 statistical forms that were sent out in December and January are slowly trickling in. If your Community of Faith's UCW has not completed theirs, please encourage them to send it in asap. Our Regional UCW Statistics are due into the National UCW the end of June. 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 mailed directly to our secretary Ruth Kennedy. For those UCW women who no longer have an active UCW unit, individual membership is available through our secretary.

Maritime UCW February/March newsletter has been published and was circulated online and those with subscription would have been received by mail. It will be available on the UCW page on the regional websites. Keeping in Touch, the National UCW Newsletter issue 9 – January 2024 is now posted National UCW website.

Fundraising for our National United Church Women Five Year Project to the **Healing Fund** –continues with \$28,383.77 being donated up to January 31st, 2024.

A great deal of our focus this spring has been the planning of our annual meeting which will take place at St. James United Church in Antigonish, NS from April 26th to 28th. Registration forms have been circulated via email and are available on the regional websites under Ministries – United Church Women as well as in our February newsletter. Rev. Janice MacLean from Prayer Bench ministries will help us explore our theme “**PASS ON BEAUTY**” **Spiritual Practices for These Times** and we are so pleased to welcome guests from our Regional Councils, our Executive Minister, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, President Elect of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW), Rev. Sue LeMaistre and President Elect of Bermuda-NS, Rev. Donna Tourneur. The Annual meeting is open to all UCW, and we do hope to have good representation from throughout the two regions. As the two-year term of our current co-presidents come to an end, we remain hopeful that we will be able to find the leadership needed to continue the work of the Maritime UCW Executive.

Our UCW Representatives will once again be attending the Annual meetings of the Regional Councils and will have a display table with UCW Resources available.

The next Maritime UCW Executive meeting is scheduled for June 10th, 2024, in Moncton. Our executive is actively seeking a UCW Representative from within the Bermuda-NS region to replace Debbie Hawkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Burrows, MUCW Representative, FSLDW Regional Council
Debbie Hawkins, MUCW Representative, Bermuda-NS Regional Council

Appendix E**ARCHIVES AND RECORDS**

New Terms of Reference
Archives and Records Committee
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters
April 2024

Mission: To provide leadership, education and support to Communities of Faith in matters related to archives, records, artefacts and heritage.

Responsibilities:

- A) To provide information and education about archives, records, artefacts and heritage in the United Church to Communities of Faith. This will mainly be accomplished through workshops, correspondence and, where practicable, the occasional visit to individual communities of faith.
- B) To support the archivist in matters related to archives, artefacts and heritage in ways that the archivist deems appropriate.
- C) To report annually on the committee's work and expenditures.
- D) To find innovative ways to share information about United Church history with communities of faith, adherents and members. Sometimes working in conjunction with Nova Scotia-Bermuda and, possibly, other regions and the denomination where applicable.

Appendix F

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee April 2024

JMOC met virtually on February 13 to complete business from the Fall Gathering:

- i) budget
- ii) committee membership
- iii) Refugee and Newcomer Representative
- iv) JMOC's relationship with First Dawn Eastern Edge's JMOC
- v) Logo for JMOC
- vi) Request for JMOC decision regarding support for private member of parliament's Bill S-210 (Young persons' exposure to pornography Act) JMOC decided to not support the Bill.
- vii) Updating JMOC website
- viii) Plenary time and Workshops for Working Groups at AGMs

At this meeting, it was agreed that JMOC co-chairs meet with chairs of B-NS and FSLDW's nominating committees in March to discuss membership. As a bi-regional committee consisting of chairs (or their delegates) of working groups as well as members at large, JMOC needs to ensure the nominations committees are clear on who our membership is. Working group chairs can shift from region to region and nominations may not be aware.

JMOC's next meeting is a Zoom meeting on April 16, 2024 to plan for the annual meetings.

Working Group Activities

Eco-Justice, Just Peace in Israel and Palestine, Guaranteed Livable Income, and Mental Health Working Groups have regular monthly meetings throughout the year.

Guaranteed Living Income

The Atlantic provinces' four GLI groups belong to a nation-wide UCC network of provincial groups which have advocated for GLI for many years. Although GLI group members have been affiliated with JMOC for some time, GLI has only been a Working Group under the JMOC umbrella since the Fall Gathering.

Eco-Justice

The Eco-Justice working group has worked to increase collaboration with other climate justice groups. already partnering with KAIROS-Halifax, Faith and the Common Good and the Ecology Action Centre. They have begun the process of creating an Interfaith Coalition on Climate Change.

Some of Eco-Justice's activities:

1. requested JMOC's financial support and letter support for the 5 environmental activists in El Salvador arrested because of their leadership in resisting mining in El Salvador.
2. used Regional Council Announcements to invite those working on climate justice in communities of faith to join their network of Green Enthusiasts in UCC-East. The Working Group wants to engage Green Enthusiasts in a two-way exchange of information and enthusiasm.
3. arranged for Sarah Gingles, a student at Queen's University and youth participant at COP28 in Dubai, to present at the Annual meeting.
4. participated in webinar to learn about EV Charging Stations for church parking lots and discussed sharing stories of local EV users.

Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

This group has been very active since Israel's declaration of war on Hamas. The content of media reports and Canada's pro-Israel actions gave a new urgency to deepening people's understanding of antisemitism and anti-Palestinian prejudices.

The Working Group's actions to promote justice in Israel and Gaza include:

1. providing Palestine Land Exercise events and training facilitators

Appendix F - continued**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH** - continued

2. letter writing urging General Council to call upon Canada to continue to call for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire; refund UNRWA; support South Africa's justice for Palestine case before the International Court; stop supplying military equipment to Israel
3. Urging individuals and communities of faith to be part of letter writing and petition signing campaigns in the direction of the federal government
4. Hosting "Just Peace Candles" during Lent
5. organizing book study The Other Side of the Wall by Munther Issac.

Just Peace in Israel and Palestine will have a presentation and two Workshops at the Annual Meeting.

Mental Health

This working group has supported:

1. Regional Councils hiring a part-time person to support congregations in dealing with problems of mental challenges.
2. Working with congregational clusters. With support from Rev. Shepherd and the cooperation of clergy in the Miramichi area, the first mental health cluster event is being organized. Clergy have joined the Working Group in several Zoom Rooms meetings to plan a Mental Health Awareness event for Saturday May 4th. The event is intended to be a time of fellowship, getting to know one another, learning and encouragement.
- 3.

The Working Group is offering two Workshops at the annual meeting.

Indigenous Rights and Relations Working Group

JMOC had an active Indigenous Working Group in the past and is committed to revitalizing this. Rev. Shepherd is assisting in connecting with First Nations for guidance.

Appendix G

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

March 27, 2024

Tri-Region (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW), Bermuda-Nova Scotia, First Dawn Eastern Edge

Staff Support Committee Meeting, Eastern Region United Church of Canada (UCC)

Regional Executive FSLDW April 17, 2024

Members: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister
Jim Evans (First Dawn Eastern Edge)
Rev. Paula Gale (First Dawn Eastern Edge)
Rev. Derek Elsworth (Bermuda-Nova Scotia)
Rev. Donna Tourneur (Bermuda-Nova Scotia)
Rev. Debbie Aitken (FSLDW)
Martha Vickers (FSLDW)

The Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee for the Eastern Region of The United Church of Canada met virtually as follows via Zoom platform during the past 3 months.

-March 13, 2024 - Staff Support Committee Zoom meeting with Administrative Support Staff. The purpose of this meeting was providing an opportunity to check-in with administrative staff in the regions and for this committee to hear areas of both joys and challenges.

-March 27, 2024 - Staff Support Committee Zoom meeting with 1 Administrative Support Staff from the Sackville office who was unable to attend the previous meeting.

-TBD - Staff Support Committee Zoom meeting to debrief regarding the information gathered at the above 2 meetings, and provide support/recommendations to Rev. Faith and the Regions as we move forward.

- The committee was briefed by Rev. Faith on the departure of Shari Kaster, Communications and Administrative Support, for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Bermuda-Nova Scotia. An exit interview will be arranged.

At this time, the Tri-regional Staff Support Committee members raise concern for increased administrative staff hours in the recently vacated communications and administrative support position (21hrs./wk.) in the Sackville office. Further discussion/debriefing on this matter is pending.

Respectfully prepared and submitted,

*Martha Vickers
Region FSLDW Reporting Member
Tri-Region Staff Support Committee
United Church of Canada*

Appendix H

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Pastoral Relations Committee Report to the Executive April 2024

Greetings and peace from the members of your Pastoral Relations Committee.

The committee met twice since our last regular Executive meeting in October. These meetings were held on February and March 12, 2024. Another meeting will be held on April 9. More information and documents may be delivered prior to the Executive meeting because of actions from this April 9 committee meeting. Motions and major actions continue to be published in the weekly announcements.

The Committee and Working Groups continue to work on resource materials and documents to assist ministry personnel and communities of faith. Ongoing projects in various stages of completion include:

- Self-Assessment: 11 communities are currently engaged in further testing of the assessments this year. The Self Assessment Working Group will meet on April 10 at 2 pm to review the responses received to date. Most communities seem to be struggling somewhat to complete the assignment and the group will discuss this issue and possible solutions.
- Community of Faith Profiles: A flow chart outlining the step-by-step process through the profile and search processes for liaisons and communities of faith has been completed, an expedited process has been developed by the committee to internally streamline the final approval process and a template to assist communities is the development of the essential elements of the profile will be presented to the PR Committee in April.
- The Pensioner Working Group continues to meet and develop the framework for a pastoral approach to the pensioner community.
- The committee has approved the provisional call process for DLMS seeking testamur as per the recommendation of the national church.
- Sacraments Elder Training is being developed for a spring training session in Sackville. A draft Sacraments Elder Policy is in review in committee.
- Pastoral Relations and Property have been working with Kendall to coordinate and record the steps associated with the legal closure of a community of faith or pastoral charge. A draft is being reviewed for the PR Committee April meeting. We also continue to follow a growing list of communities and charges in various states of closure.
- An information document called Considerations for Part-Time Ministry has been developed and approved by the PR Committee. It is also presented here for your review following which it will be posted on the FSLDW Website.
- A list of trained liaisons has been created to assist internally in the assignment of pastoral relations liaisons for profile development.
- Informational Administration Sheets have been created to assist liaisons and pastoral charge supervisors understanding of their responsibilities and managing expenses.
- LLWL Boundaries Training continues to be developed and should be available for fall.
- A general Provisional Call policy (non DLM) draft is in review in the committee.
- We are following closely discussions about ministry collaboration, review and change in several communities.

There continues to be significant change in the ranks of ministry personnel in some communities (movement and retirement) and long search processes continue for some. The committee wishes to recognize retired ministry personnel who have stepped forward to accept appointments providing ministry to many communities as well as providing pastoral charge supervision in others. Without their commitment we would be in a much more difficult situation.

We also wish to commend our LLWL community and lay leaders who continue to offer worship leadership in many communities allowing for sabbaticals, holidays, sick leave and emergency leave.

Appendix H - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

The committee continues to work on the following issues as part of our workplan.

- A review of mission churches, seasonal, and inactive communities, pastoral change names and pastoral charge composition. This is on hold until website updating is complete and decision made on what to display publicly.
- A review of our website documents to make the documents more noticeable as the number grows and we coordinate with the region and other committees.
- Participation regional efforts to improve communications between our pastoral charges and the Region.

There are currently (as of March 26, 2024) 12 charges in approved search, 13 preparing profiles, one in discernment of its future and 8 longer term vacancies. We also currently have 31 communities requiring Pastoral Charge Supervision on a temporary or longer-term basis. Barbara Prowse continues to work continuously with our LLWL folk as their Regional Coordinator.

As always sincere thanks are extended to our committee members, working groups and our Regional Minister, Rev. Kendall Harrison for their dedication to this work.

This will likely constitute my last report to the Executive Committee as chair of Pastoral Relations. I wish to thank the Executive Minister and various Executives committees for their support over the past 5 years. In addition, my gratitude is extended to all present and former Pastoral Relations committee and working group members for their cooperation, collaboration and diligence as we have slowly but solidly grown into our new regional governance structure. Special thanks go to Marlene MacLeod whose solid administrative and correspondence skills as secretary have been most appreciated. She will also leave the committee and the end of the annual meeting, and we are happy to welcome Nancy Nicol as her replacement in that role. I am also indebted to the Rev. Kendall Harrison for his support, guidance, patience, and humour as we have travelled this journey together.

May God continue to bless you all in this important piece of ministry.

Attached you will find two documents for information and approval.

Hugh Ellis
Chair
FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee

Appendix I**PROPERTY**

FSLDW Property Committee Report to the Executive
As of March 31st, 2024

Activities, for the months of January 2024 to March 2024:

The committee dealt with numerous inquiries on sales, rental and renovations from communities of Faith from the region.

The inquiries and questions lead to the following activity of the committee:

For the province of NEW BRUNSWICK

Consent was given for three (3) renovations totalling \$71,000

Consent was given for one (1) listing of property totalling \$40,000

Consent was given for one (1) request for a loan \$17,000.

For the province of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Consent was given for one (1) renovation totalling \$24,000

Consent was given for one (1) request for selling property totalling \$13,000

Consent was given for one (1) Distribution of surplus from sales

Consent was given for one (1) transfer of property from church to cemetery

For the GASPE coast

Consent was given for one (1) renovation totalling \$41,000

Trinity United, distribution of funds

As per the last meeting, it was requested that the Executive minister and property chair review the letter received from Trinity with their remittance of \$105,000 (final funds) to decide where to put the funds to best suit their letter.

It was decided that it would be broken down as follows, 20% to M&S, 10 % to Archives and the remaining 70% to new incentives fund as that best fits their request.

Respectfully submitted,

Brion Crossman
Chair, FSLDW Property Committee

Appendix J

NOMINATIONS

Nominations Report to the Executive April 17, 2024

The work of the Nominations Committee continues monthly as there always seems to be a vacancy pop up. There has also been considerable turn over in the Committee itself; we have three new members. We expect more changes following the AGM when the Chair, the Secretary and another long-term member finish their terms.

This means time is needed to integrate new people, and new ideas. Time is also spent passing on and reviewing how we work together. All of our committees will regularly experience this phase of their work.

My biggest concern at this point in time is that it seems to be getting more and more difficult to recruit people in leadership roles-for example Chairs of the committee. You have seen the result of this recently with regard to Chair of Financial and Mission Services. Can you think of ways to make the workload more manageable for Committee Chairs and members?

I have the following motion for your consideration:

Moved by Tracy Friars, Seconded by Pix Butt that Rev. Audrey Lounder be appointed to the Nominations Committee immediately.

We will then have 3 positions to fill on Nominations by June. Please encourage others to volunteer to serve the Region in this way.

Rose-Hannah Gaskin
Chair