

Rooted in Faith – Growing in Leadership



6th Annual Meeting

**Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
The United Church of Canada**

Dalhousie Agricultural College, Truro, NS

May 10-12, 2024

Record of Proceedings – Volume 2

BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL Annual Meeting 2024

Regional Council Executive

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

SESSIONS OF BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

<u>YEAR/PLACE</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</u>
2019 – Sackville, NB	Rev. Catherine MacDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Re-Call Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2021 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2022 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Jane McDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2023 – Halifax, NS	Dr. Sandra Tomsons	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2024 – Truro, NS	Ms. Shauna MacDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

TABLE OF CONTENTS - VOLUME 2

BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL Annual Meeting 2024

Regional Council Executive.....	i
Sessions of the Regional Council.....	ii
Roll of Regional Council 15.....	iv-x
Minutes- Regional Council Executive.....	RC1-RC120

(Pages RC1-RC93 distributed throughout the year, and can be found on the Regional website)

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL**Ministry Personnel**

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedMinistry Personnel - continued

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

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

Kerr, Gerald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kierstead, Emily	Diaconal Minister	Retired
King-Darby, Susan	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Lawrence, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Le Roux, Pieter	Ordained Minister	Active
LeBlanc, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Little, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Active
Llewellyn, Hallett	Ordained Minister	Retired
Llewellyn, Karen	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Lloy, Marion	Ordained Minister	Retired
Logan, Katherine	Candidate	Active
Lohnes, Sharon	Ordained Minister	Active
Lovelace, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Lutes, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynch, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynk, L. Allan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAlpine-Gillis, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAskill, Lorraine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacCuish, Laurie	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacCulloch, Lynda	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Iain	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Neil	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, R. Marilyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDougall, Gary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mack, A. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacKenzie, Bruce	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLachlan, David	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Alexander	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Angela	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Glenn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Janice	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Mark	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Shannon	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLeod, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLeod, Victor	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacNaughton, Barbara	Candidate	Active
MacNaughton, James	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
MacNeill, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
MacPherson, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacQueen, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacVicar, R. Diane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manchester, R. Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manuel, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
March-MacCuish, Faith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marcotte, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Marmura, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Marple, Meredith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marple, Norman	Ordained Minister	Retired
Martin, Martha	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Martin, Maxwell	Candidate	Active
McBride, Jennifer	Candidate	Active
McCarthy, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCulloch-Taylor, Shelagh	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCurdy, Brenda	Ordained Minister	Active
McDonald, Curtis	Ordained Minister	Retired
McEwen, Neil	Ordained Minister	Active
McFadden, L. Joanne	Ordained Minister	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continuedMinistry Personnel – continued

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel – continued

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Elected Lay Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>
Algar, Rosemary	North Highlands	Armstrong, Tillie	Truro: First
Aucoin, Guy	Stellarton	Bain, Gina	River John-West Branch
Bergfeldt, Wendy	Sydney: United Heritage	Betts, Patricia	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Birch, Elizabeth	Margaree	Boldrini, Gabriela	Riverview
Boulger, Sean	Middleton	Brown, Wendall	Waverley
Burke, Cheryl	North Sydney	Burrows, Leslie	Clifton
Canning, John	Westville	Canning, Pamela	Westville
Carrigan, Pat	Salt Springs- Scotsburn-Lyon's Brook	Carson, Dorothy	Cobequid
Chivers, Wally	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	Churchill, Vanessa	Riverview
Cleave, Pat	Dartmouth: Grace	Cochrane, Norma	Springhill
Cook, Carolyn	First South	Cruickshank, Jocelyn	Greenhill-Alma-Merigomish
Curtis, Kathy	Three Harbours	Curtis, Sandra	North Highlands
Custance, Joyce	Rawdon	Dauphinee, Beverley	Halifax: Hope
Davis, Allan	New Glasgow	Davis, Julien	Orchard Valley
Dicks, Nancy	New Glasgow	Dixon, Helen	Dartmouth: Woodlawn
Dodson, Margaret Anne	Pictou	Douglas, Ruth	Halifax: Hope
Doyle, Nancy	Westville	Flemming, Cathy	Shubenacadie
Forbes, Marg	Bridgewater	Francis, Paula Jane	Sydney Mines
Francis, Paula Jane	Sydney Mines	Gould, Alice	Walton
Griffiths, David	Halifax: Fort Massey	Griffiths, Lesley	Halifax: St. John's
Gunn, Sharon	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk	Hall, Jim	Halifax: St. John's
Hayes, Judy	Sackville: Knox	Henderson, Kenneth	Truro: St. Andrew's
Hoeg, Marlene	Hopewell-Eureka-East River	Hughes, Barbie	Windsor
Hughes, Lois	Petite Riviere	Ingraham, Abbie	Truro: First
Izenor, Margaret	Sydney River	Jamieson, Gina	Three Harbours
Jensen, Arthur	New Germany	Joudrey, Susan	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's
Joudrey-King, Michelle	Tatamagouche	King, Jim	Tatamagouche
Langille, Lynn	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk	Langley, Anna Marie	Port Hawkesbury
Langley, John	Port Hawkesbury	Layton, Albert	Berwick - Trinity
Logan, Jack	Bridgewater	MacArthur, Ann	Windsor
MacAskill, Alice	West Bay	MacDonald, Shauna	Dartmouth: St. James
MacDonald, Ian	Halifax: Fort Massey	MacDonell, Claire	Antigonish
MacGillivray, Joan	Antigonish	MacInnis, Janice	Sydney River
Mackay, Donald	Sydney: United Heritage	MacKenzie, May	Antigonish
MacLeod, Malcolm	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	MacLeod, Shannon	Stellarton
MacNeil, Kelly	Dartmouth: Woodlawn	Mallett, Jo	Central United - Lunenburg
Martell, Beulah	Hopewell-Eureka-East River	Martin, Sharon	Eastern Guysborough
McDonald, Jane	Orchard Valley	McKay, Kathy	Halifax: St. Paul's, Spryfield
Melanson, Shelley	Yarmouth: Beacon	Messenger, Sally	Lawrencetown-Lake Echo
Mills, Leopold	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley	Morrison, Donald	Sydney River
Morse, Ewart	Bridgewater	Mosher, Karen	Kingston
Nauss, Joan	Riverport	Nolet, Joanne	Three Harbours
O'Connell, Trudi	Brookfield	Orlando, Tony	William Black
Pagel, Marthinus	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley	Parks, Kevin	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Patterson, Helen	Walton	Penney, Cindy	Dartmouth: Grace
Phillips, Roberta	Margaree	Randall-Collins, Joan	William Black Memorial
Reid, Ian	St. Luke's	Robertson, Susan	Dartmouth: Port Wallis
Roszel, Anne	Lockeport	Scherzinger, Linda	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Sellsted, Cheryl	Orchard Valley	Skelhorn, Elizabeth	Windsor
Skinner, Tom	Aylesford	Smith, Vera Faye	Brookfield
Smith, Fay	Truro: Brunswick St-North River	Sollows, Janet	Yarmouth: Beacon
Steadman, Anna	St. Paul's Mount Uniacke	Stewart, James	Onslow-Belmont
Thompson, Keith	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's	Thompson, Shirley	Aylesford
Thompson, Michael	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	Thomson, Mary	Coldstream
Unruh, Diane	Annapolis/Granville	Van Jaarsveldt, Burgert	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley
van Schaick, Sheila	Boularderie	Vroegh, Krista	Noel
Watts, Betty Ann	Pugwash	Wellwood, Dan	Musquodoboit Harbour
White, Linda	Caledonia	Williams, Jennifer	Sackville: Knox

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Appointed Members

Cameron, Anne	Division of Ministry Resources Chair
Hardy, Peter	Executive Member at Large
Hawkins, Deborah	United Church Women Representative
Tomsons, Sandra	Past President

Corresponding Members

Ballantyne, Cliff	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Bowman, Chris	Resource Person
Chambers, Bill	Visitor
Janes, Jason	Visitor
Kalvaitis, Mark	Ecumenical Guest
Lansdowne, Carmen	GC Representative
Laundry, Leona	Staff
Lavery, Norman	Resource Person
Layton, Patricia	Visitor
Matheson, Ruth	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Staff
Noble, Janice	Visitor
Parsons, Wanalda	Visitor
Piper, Ann	Visitor
Reid, Sue	Visitor
Richardson, D. Andrew	Staff
Stuart, Catherine T.	Staff
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Thompson, Sharron	Visitor
Watts, Raymond	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
May 10-12, 2024
Dalhousie Agricultural College, Truro, NS

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Rooted in Faith – Growing in Leadership

Friday, May 10, 2024

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council registered online for the May 10-12, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held at Dalhousie Agricultural College in Truro, NS. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered two webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting. In person registration began at Dalhousie Agricultural College at 6:00pm on Thursday evening, May 9, 2024, for members to pick up registration packages and be assigned table groups.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE – Appendix A

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

Regrets

REGRETS – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

Gathering
with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with music was led by Chris Bowman, with Holden Hoover and Ethen Neil.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Introductions
and Greetings

INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS

Shauna MacDonald, President, welcomed all to the meeting. She extended warm welcome to the council members, clergy, lay, visitors, and special guests. Special welcome was extended to the Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, who will join the council on Saturday; ecumenical guest, Rev. Mark Kalvaitis, from the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, theme speaker; and Elder Patsy Paul-Martin, Indigenous guest.

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER

Shauna MacDonald, President of Bermuda-Regional Council, welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the regional council, and called the meeting to order.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Constitution of
the Council

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

Opening
Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

Shauna MacDonald, President, opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer.

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. We are all Treaty people.

GREETINGS FROM INDIGENOUS GUESTGreetings
from
Indigenous
Guest

Elder Patsy Paul-Martin as a master speaker, reader and writer of the Mi'kmaw language was invited to the meetings as our indigenous guest. Elder Paul-Martin sent a message to thank the regional council for inviting her to bring greetings, however a death in the family prevented Elder Paul-Martin from attending. The President and Executive Minister offered prayers on behalf of the regional council.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONProcedural
Motion**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Stephen Mills)

1. That the Roll of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council be (Manual 2024 C1.1 and C.1.2):
 - a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
 - b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
 - c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
 - d) Appointed members, lay members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their Community of Faith.
2. That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2024; "The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 (sixty) or more members, at least 20 (twenty) members must be present; and that there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose."
3. That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be Dalhousie Agricultural College, Truro, NS.
4. That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; the active and retired Lay Overseas Personnel; ecumenical guests and observers; the President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate); the Incorporated Ministries representatives; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.
5. That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.
6. That the business table be Jane McDonald, Heather Manuel, Mary-Beth Moriarity and Jennifer Whittemore.
7. That the Proposals Team be April Hart and Ivan Gregan.
8. That the minute secretary for the Sixth (6th) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.
9. This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the Record of Proceedings. Once the Record of Proceedings has been produced, the recording will be destroyed.
10. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.
11. That the Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.
12. That the following shall be Tellers for this session of Regional Council: Fay Smith (Head Teller), Joyce Custance, Kevin Cox, Cathy Flemming, Wendy Kean, Dianne Kempt, Tony Orlando, Alice MacAskill, and Ruth Matheson.
13. That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers for this weekend be Wendy Kean (Friday), Catherine MacDonald (Friday), Don Sellsted (Saturday), Robyn Brown-Hewitt (Saturday)
14. That the Process Flow and Support for Regional Council be Mary-Beth Moriarity.
15. That the Friend in Council be Jane McDonald.
16. The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2024 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making.

Speakers will:

- Start by identifying themselves (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- Direct all discussion to the President.

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

CARRIEDConsent
Motion**CONSENT MOTION****MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Jack Logan)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, June 9-11, 2023 (RC77-RC102), as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Minister
 - c. Division of Finance and Administration
 - i. Financial Accountability & Investments
 - ii. Incorporated Ministries
 - iii. Property
 - iv. Archives, Records & History
 - d. Division of Regional Services and Support
 - i. Communications
 - ii. Faith Formation & Leadership Development
 - iii. Children, Youth & Young Adults
 - iv. Stewardship
 - v. Justice, Mission & Outreach
 - vi. Annual Meeting Planning
 - vii. Affirming Ministries
 - e. Division of Ministry Resources
 - i. Pastoral Relations
 - ii. Licensing
 - iii. Faith Stories & Community Covenants
 - iv. Future Directions
 - v. Retiree Support
 - f. Nominations Committee
INCLUDING THE DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONS AND STANDING COMMITTEES
AND THE 2024-2025 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
 - g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
 - a. Atlantic School of Theology
 - b. Atlantic School of Theology Senate
 - c. Centre for Christian Studies
 - d. Emmanuel College
 - e. Growth Animator
 - f. Hunter United Church Building Fund
 - g. Office of Vocation
 - h. United Church Women
 - i. St. Andrew's College
 - j. Ukulele Church
 - k. United Church Rural Ministry Network

CARRIED

OPENING WORSHIP**Opening
Worship**

Opening worship was led by Donna Tourneur, President-Elect. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *Rooted in Faith – Growing in Leadership*. The President-Elect offered the reflection, based on a scripture reading from Mark 13:28-31, and asked, *where do you see signs of hope?* Music leadership was offered by Chris Bowman and choir, leading the selections *Where Two or Three are Gathered* and *Those Hearts that We Have Treasured*.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**Service of
Remembrance**

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

BREAK**Break****THEME I****Theme**

Theme Presenter, Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, was introduced by Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, and welcomed to the council. Rev. Dr. Bartlett currently is the United Church Formation Director at the Atlantic School of Theology. Rev. Dr. Bartlett is a minister, trainer, author, and has offered leadership at all levels of The United Church of Canada. He recently completed a term as the founding President of the Association of United Church Clergy.

The theme presenter focused on the third pillar of the region's strategic plan: Leadership; to develop curious, brave and faithful leaders. The United Church enjoyed a period of unprecedented growth throughout the "golden years". This period of time was an anomaly; an unusual set of circumstances that no longer exists. Brave leaders look at where we are, and recognize that we are not going back. Society has changed, and we, as a church have to respond to that change to do what God calls us to do. What is church life like after the anomaly? In the future the church will look different. It will be nothing like the past. Could we have done things better? Did we make mistakes? We are aware there are challenges, but we need to start taking about it. Change is not tragic. Decline does not need to be terminal.

The theme presenter invited the members gathered to consider the concept that we are all leaders. In the scripture from 2 Corinthians 12:7-11; Paul calls us all to be leaders. To be God's people in our time, we need to deal with the new reality and context so that the gospel is heard. The theme presenter encouraged the members gathered to think more broadly about ministry and prepare for the hard work of change; knowing it will take time and patience.

TABLE GROUP TIME**Table Group
Time**

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

- Who are you; where are you from; what role do you play in your community of faith?
- Tell a story about when your Community of Faith was at its best
- Use three words to describe your congregation;

and to consider what conversation you could start at home in your own community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Announcements**

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

LUNCH AND GRACE**Lunch and
Grace**

Grace was offered musically by Chris Bowman with the selection *God Bless to us Our Bread*.

GATHERING MUSIC**Gathering
Music**

Gathering music was led by Chris Bowman, with Holden Hoover and Ethen Neil.

General
Council
Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS – Part 1

Alicia Cox, Chair of Nominations, introduced the council to the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 45 (GC45). Those nominated as General Council Commissioners attended a webinar on April 30, 2024, and were each given two minutes to speak to introduce themselves. It was noted that Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council is eligible to have 15 (fifteen) commissioners to GC45; five (5) Ministry Personnel; five (5) Lay members; and five (5) to ensure the diversity of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council. Nominations will continue to be received until the close of business tonight. All members are encouraged to consider putting their names forward for this important work.

The vote at this time is based on those names who were put forward before the annual meeting. The Nominations chair introduced the six (6) ministry personnel candidates for the five (5) positions available. Ballots were distributed to elected members for the vote. Results of this vote will be announced once tabulated.

The chair continued to announce the two names of those who put their names forward for the lay representative positions.

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Ruth Gamble)

That Natalie Moyes and Burgert van Jaarsveldt be acclaimed as two of the elected Lay Commissioners to the 45th General Council.

CARRIED

The President thanked the Nominations Committee for their work.

Growth
Animator

GROWTH ANIMATOR

Sharon Ballantyne, Growth Animator, was welcomed to the council. A video presentation was shared in which the Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, Rev. Shepherd Munikwa, offered a message of welcome to The United Church of Canada. Sharon Ballantyne brought greetings from the General Council, as she is deployed to the region from the General Council to support the work of growing communities of faith in this region. The Growth Animator challenged the members gathered to consider what is something to be celebrated in their community of faith and what is a worry or wish for the community of faith that they bring to this meeting space. The Growth Animator shared that our congregations have gotten stuck. We are caught up in the worry of closing buildings and empty pews. The Growth Animator challenges the members to consider what do we need to let go of, so that new life might emerge. How can we be open to the new ways that God is calling us to be. The Growth Animator highlighted the acronym: Welcome, Attract, Retain, Transform, and Send (WARTS), and challenged all to consider who is welcome, who is missing, and how can we open the doors wide and nurture everyone who comes through the door.

General
Council
Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS – continued

The President announced the results of the vote for the five (5) Ministry Personnel Commissioners to the 45th General Council. It was announced that Rev. Dr. Kathleen Anderson, Rev. Katie Aven, Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, Rev. Daniel MacDonald and Rev. Penny Nelson be the elected ministry personnel to General Council 45.

MOTION: (Catherine MacDonald/Alicia Cox)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

The chair thanked all those who put their names forward.

Introduction of
Candidates for
Ministry

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council.

Welcome and congratulations were extended to Norma Mils, Carol Joy Shafford, Jim MacNaughton, Dianne Kempt and Ruth Gamble; being Ordained; and to Sandi Irving, who is to be recognized as a Designated Lay Minister, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. The celebrants were welcomed to the regional council. Andrew Richardson introduced candidates for ordered ministry Dana Pardy, Angela Clifton, Heidi Cleary, Katie Logan, Max Martin, Ron Shaw, Shane Doucette, Caitlin Smithers, Jenna Reese, Donna Kelly, Jamie McLellan, Tamsin Robson, Jessie Crabtree, Aidan Legault, Kevin Parks and Mike Griffin.

Betty Ann Watts, UCW President, presented a gift to Mission and Service, in honour of the celebrants, on behalf of the United Church Women.

2023 AUDITED STATEMENTS

Audited
Statements

April Hart, chair of the Division of Finance and Administration, presented the 2023 Audited Statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on May 2, 2024. The chair led the regional council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor statement that the financial statements *present fairly the financial position of the regional council*. The Chair also highlighted two areas to note: that the change in term deposits is due to having moved some cash to investments; and the unrealized loss in investments is due to fluctuating market conditions, that have since recovered.

MOTION: (April Hart/Mac MacLeod)

That the 2023 audited financial statements for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

2025 BUDGET

Budget 2025

April Hart, chair, reviewed the 2023 actual expenditures, and presented the budget for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council for 2025. An information webinar for the 2025 budget took place on May 2, 2024. It was noted that the Mission Support Grant amount received from General Council had been reduced from \$240,000 (two hundred and forty thousand) in the 2023 budget to \$180,000 (one hundred and eighty thousand) in the 2024 and 2025 budgets. It was also noted that there is a new budget item for the Cluster Animator position. A projected deficit of \$127,477 (one hundred and twenty-seven thousand, four hundred and seventy-seven) is budgeted, which will be covered by previous year's surplus.

MOTION: (April Hart/Phillip Kennedy)

That the budget for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council for 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PROPOSALS

Proposals

April Hart and Ivan Gregan outlined the process for the proposals that are coming to this session of the regional council meeting. There are four (4) proposals that are being presented and decided upon today.

Proposal 1 – Appendix C

Proposal 1

Ivan Gregan and April Hart, of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Sustaining University Chaplaincy in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region*, received from Betsy Hogan and Robyn Brown-Hewitt. This proposal was presented at the May 2, 2024 webinar, and calls upon Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to provide additional support for university chaplaincy. Currently, chaplaincy depends upon Mission Support Grants to fund its ministry, however as grants have been reduced, the chaplaincy will no longer be able to continue. The proposal asks that the Dalhousie Campus Ministry Committee become a part of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, as it works to continue important outreach, including meals and counselling support for students. Robyn Brown-Hewitt and Betsy Hogan provided background information on the proposal and clarification.

Sustaining
University
Chaplaincy in
Bermuda
Nova Scotia
Region

MOTION: (April Hart/Kim Curlett)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council agrees to:

- formalize and strengthen the relationship between Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council and the Dalhousie Chaplaincy by including chaplaincy representation on the Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee and
- direct the Executive to assemble a Task Group to receive the request to establish and approve the Dalhousie University Chaplaincy, as a Regional Accountable Ministry, as per the policy circulated on May 1, 2024; and
- direct the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee to work with the Chaplaincy Committee to identify options for ongoing, sustainable funding and staffing for university chaplaincy within the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region.

CARRIEDChildren,
Youth and
Young Adults**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTER**

Catherine Stuart was welcomed to regional council. Catherine discussed her role as Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, and highlighted some of the main pieces of work that she carries out in the three eastern regions, with the support of Mission and Service. Catherine highlighted the growth in youth registration this year, and thanked the members gathered for their support.

Break**BREAK**Proposals**PROPOSALS** - continuedProposal 2**Proposal 2** – Appendix DClergy
Housing
Assistance

Ivan Gregan and April Hart, of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Clergy Housing Assistance*, received from Betsy Hogan. The proposal was presented at the May 2, 2024 webinar, and calls upon Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to address the concern around clergy who may be called to areas without a manse or where housing costs have skyrocketed, but who have not yet entered the housing market and are now unable to arrange a down payment. The proposal asks that congregations work with Pastoral Relations to explore possible ways to negotiate a down payment loan. Betsy Hogan spoke to the background of the proposal and offered clarification.

MOTION: (Ivan Gregan/April Hart)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council:

Agrees to encourage congregations in the Pastoral Relations process to prayerfully explore possible ways in which a down payment loan can be negotiated for a preferred candidate, when necessary, in consultation with Pastoral Relations Liaisons and the Regional Minister.

CARRIEDProposal 3**Proposal 3** – Appendix EClergy
Housing
Assistance

Ivan Gregan and April Hart, Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Clergy Housing Assistance*, received from Betsy Hogan. The proposal was presented at the May 2, 2024 webinar, and calls upon General Council to consider capital assistance in fulfilling housing. Betsy Hogan offered background information on the proposal.

MOTION: (April Hart/Ivan Gregan)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council agrees with the proposal *Clergy Housing Assistance* as amended and passes the Proposal to the General Council for action.

CARRIED

Proposal 4 – Appendix F

Ivan Gregan and April Hart, Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Next Step on the Reconciliation Journey*, received from Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett and Rev. Sean Handcock. The proposal was presented at the May 2, 2024 webinar, and calls upon Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to develop a task group to facilitate the return of lands to first nations communities or direct proceeds from the sale of land to the indigenous church in order to live into right relations. Ross Bartlett and Sean Handcock were available to provide background on the proposal and answer any questions for clarification.

MOTION: (Ivan Gregan/April Hart)

The Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council:
Directs the Executive Minister to create a task group to develop a policy for those situations where a Community of Faith ceases to exist without prior disposition of lands/buildings which would facilitate:

- a. The return of said lands to First Nations communities, and/or;
- b. The provision of the proceeds of sale to the Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada, or
- c. Alternative arrangements as agreed with the local indigenous community
- d. and be in cooperation with similar discussions/actions undertaken at the denominational level.

In preparing such a policy the following principles should be honoured:

- a. Consulting as widely as reasonably possible with different Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and communities
- b. Conformity to the various United Church and secular legal standards governing church property.
- c. Working in concert with national efforts.
- d. Reporting to the Region not later than the 2025 Annual Meeting with proposals for implementing this intention, and that;

Should the Executive Minister determine that such a Task Group fits reasonably within the responsibilities of an existing division or committee she may refer the project there as an item for urgent action.

MOTION TO AMMEND: (Pat Cleeve/Gloria Churchill)

That the first paragraph be revised to ...Directs the Executive Minister to create a task group to explore the development of a policy for those situations where a Community of Faith ceases to exist without prior disposition of lands/buildings which would consider:

CARRIED**MOTION:** (Ivan Gregan/April Hart)

The Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council:
Directs the Executive Minister to create a task group to explore the development of a policy for those situations where a Community of Faith ceases to exist without prior disposition of lands/buildings which would consider:

- a. The return of said lands to First Nations communities, and/or;
- b. The provision of the proceeds of sale to the Indigenous Church within the United Church of Canada, or
- c. Alternative arrangements as agreed with the local indigenous community
- d. and be in cooperation with similar discussions/actions undertaken at the denominational level.

In preparing such a policy the following principles should be honoured:

- a. Consulting as widely as reasonably possible with different Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and communities
- b. Conformity to the various United Church and secular legal standards governing church property.
- c. Working in concert with national efforts.
- d. Reporting to the Region not later than the 2025 Annual Meeting with proposals for implementing this intention, and that;

Proposal 4**Next Step on the Reconciliation Journey****Motion to Amend**

Should the Executive Minister determine that such a Task Group fits reasonably within the responsibilities of an existing division or committee she may refer the project there as an item for urgent action.

CARRIED

President

PRESIDENT

(Jane McDonald assumed the chair)

The President, Shauna MacDonald, thanked the region for the privilege of serving the region in this way. The President presented her report, as presented in the reports to the region on page 3. The President thanked the staff, the members and those who serve in the committees and divisions throughout the region for all of their work and support.

(Shauna MacDonald reassumed the chair)

Stewardship
and Gifts

STEWARDSHIP AND GIFTS OFFICER

Roger Janes, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, highlighted the many resources and programs available to congregations in the region. Roger encouraged members to reach out with any questions, and thanked members gathered for their generous gifts through Mission and Service. Roger shared a video on Mission and Service, and asks that we continue to encourage one another to be generous.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Grace and
Supper

GRACE AND SUPPER

Grace was offered by Chris Bowmen.

Gathering with
Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering music was led by Chris Bowman, with Olivia Gouthro, Holden Hoover and Ethen Neil.

Executive
Minister

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented her report, included in the reports to the region on page 17. The Executive Minister began her address to the council with thanks for the regional members gathered. The Executive Minister presented a process for the planned evaluation of the regional council structure as we approach the 5 (five) year mark of living into the new structure. The process Executive has approved a process, a consultant and the evaluation question. The over-arching question that will form the basis for evaluation is: *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?*

Rev. Dr. Jenny Stephens has been engaged as the consultant who will prepare three reports; one for each region, based on the results of interviews, questionnaires and focus group meetings with staff, members of the region, the Executive and divisions/committees.

The final report, with recommendations, as necessary, will be brought to the 2025 annual meeting of the regional council.

Welcome

WELCOME

Tom Woods, chair of Pastoral Relations, welcomed new ministers to the region; Jessie Crabtree, St. Paul's-Mt. Uniacke; Elizabeth Hayward, Halifax: Fort Massey; Donna Kelly, LeHave-New Dublin; Karen MacNeil, Wycocomagh; Linda Marcotte, Orchard Valley; Tamsin Robison, Halifax: Rockingham; Carol Joy Shatford, West Bay; Rhonda Schofield, Halifax: St.

John's; Johannes van Nie, Bridgewater; Webster Vhembo, Aylesford; and David Zub, Aylesford; with thanks for their new ministry with us. The Pastoral Relations chair also welcomed Susan Butler Jones, Boyd Drake and Patricia Ritchie, who have retired to the region.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, was introduced to the court. Members of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, each spoke about work taking place in several of the working groups within the committee.

Justice,
Mission and
Outreach

Guaranteed Livable Income

Sherpherd Munikwa introduced the regional representatives working to secure a guaranteed livable income and shared a video presentation.

Guaranteed
Livable
Income

Eco-Justice Working Group

Kathryn Anderson, member of the Eco-Justice Working Group, introduced Sarah Gingles to the council. Sarah joined the meeting from Ottawa, Ontario, to speak about the environment and how working together can have a positive impact on our communities of faith. Sarah suggested some tangible ways of fostering community engagement to stop climate change and make a positive transformation. Members were asked to take table group time to talk about how "talk might move to action" in our local congregations.

Eco-Justice
Working
Group

Just Peace Working Group

Bill Chambers, member, presented the report of the Just Peace Working Group. A photo story was shared with the members gathered about some of the experiences witnessed during visits to the Gaza region; including demolitions, evictions, check-points, and visiting communities at risk. The human cost of the Israel-Palestinian conflict has increased. The presenter left the members with the question how do we stand up for people in crisis? Committee member, Linda Scherzinger, offered that a land exercise will be offered during a workshop tomorrow to aid in learning about the conflict. The presenters stated that we have so much more to learn and understand as we work towards a just peace.

Just Peace
Working
Group

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Catherine MacDonald, chair of Future Directions, was welcomed to the council. The chair reviewed the mandate of the committee, and highlighted the work that the committee can do to help communities of faith, including; offering support and guidance during times of change; encouraging new visions of ministry; analyzing options; and making connections with other committees. The committee currently works closely with the Growth Animator, and looks forward to envisioning new ministries in the future.

Future
Directions

UNITED CHURCH CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION

Shannon MacLean was welcomed to the council. A video presentation was offered to highlight the Berwick Camp experience.

United
Church Camp
Meeting
Association

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Heather McCance, President of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), was welcomed to the regional council, to provide an update on the work of AST. Dr. McCance highlighted some of the programs available to the region, including the new Bachelor of Theology degree, public events, and several short; not for credit courses. AST is also developing new certificate programs which support congregational leaders. The President also announced the Rev. Alison Etter Memorial Fund, as a lasting legacy to an AST alumnus who was lost too soon.

Atlantic
School of
Theology

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane McDonald, chair, offered the announcements of the region.

Announcements

CLOSING PRAYER

Shauna MacDonald, President, offered the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer

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

Shauna MacDonald, President, hosted a reception, where a cake was cut and shared with members gathered, as thank you from the region for this past year of presidency.

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Gathering
with Music**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

The members of regional council were gathered together with music ministry led by Chris Bowman, with Olivia Gouthro, Holden Hoover and Ethen Neil. President Shauna MacDonald welcomed all back to the meeting.

Opening
Worship**OPENING WORSHIP**Affirm
Celebration**Affirm Celebration**

Opening worship was led by the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Affirm Committee, in celebration of the Affirming Status of the Region. Kim Curlett, eastern representative of Affirm United presented Shauna MacDonald, President, with the Affirm United certificate. Katie Logan shared the story *God Made Me Wonderful*, and reflection was offered based on the scripture reading from Genesis 1: The Creation Story. The celebration continued with the Litany for Pride and singing of *We Are a Rainbow* by David Kai. The celebration concluded with a benediction and the singing of *Queerly Beloved*. A letter of congratulations from the Moderator was shared.

Table Group
Time**TABLE GROUP TIME**

Members of the Region took a few minutes to check-in with each other and share their experiences from the meeting and what has been a highlight so far.

Theme**THEME II**

Theme Presenter, Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, was welcomed back to the council. The theme presenter summarized the discussion from the previous session regarding church life after the anomaly. We fear what comes after an ending. We face the challenge of language, of false perception, and of missed legacy. There are programs and resources about thriving churches and the way that churches can grow. The theme presenter highlighted that congregations need:

- Clear self-identity; who are you and why are you there?
- Leadership; developing people in leadership roles and taking ownership of ministry
- Innovation and risk taking; comparing the cost of remaining the same vs the cost of a significant undertaking
- Structure and process; structure should further the mission and enhance the work

The theme presenter continued with examples and possibilities of being the church after the anomaly; once we have answered the question of who we are. Members gathered were asked to consider different models that will strengthen the foundation, and develop characteristics of vitality. Members are encouraged to remember to be brave, curious and faithful leaders in their congregations.

The President thanked Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett, theme presenter, for his thoughtful and insightful presentations.

General
Council
Commissioners**GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS – Part 2**

Alicia Cox, Chair of Nominations, introduced the council to the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 45 (GC45). It was noted that Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council is eligible to have 15 (fifteen) Commissioners to GC45. The vote at this time is based on those names who were put forward from the floor of the meeting in order to fill the lay members positions. The Nominations chair introduced the nominees for the three (3) remaining lay commissioner positions available. Ballots were distributed to elected members for the vote. Results of this vote will be announced once tabulated.

The Nominations chair introduced the Youth and Young Adult nominees for representative to General Council 45.

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Jane McDonald)

That Eliot Chambers be acclaimed as the Young Adult Commissioner to the 45th General Council from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Jim Webber-Cook)

That Daly Rutherford be acclaimed as the Youth Commissioner to General Council 45 from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

CARRIED

BREAK

Break

MODERATOR

Moderator

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, joined the meeting through Zoom video conferencing, to bring greetings and blessings from the office of the Moderator to the members gathered.

The Moderator shared that General Council Executive is also currently gathering, and provided an update on the budget for 2025 and the United Property Resource Corporation (UCPRC). The Moderator introduced the members gathered to the flourishing project; an inspiring series of conversations about how our regions and communities of faith can flourish. The Moderator shared some of her experiences since becoming Moderator. The Moderator has been working on leadership development through a program developed at the General Council Office. Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council is well represented in this group; which explores modules to elevate the skills of those in ministry.

The Moderator noted that The United Church of Canada will turn 100 in June, 2025. A national service will be held on June 9, 2024 in Toronto, and commemorative events are planned throughout this year leading up to General Council in August, 2025. The Moderator thanked the members of the region for their dedicated work to this United Church of ours, and asked for prayer for just peace in Israel and Palestine.

The President thanked the Moderator for joining the annual meeting and for her thoughtful comments.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice,
Mission and
Outreach

Indigenous and Right Relations

Indigenous
and Right
Relations

Kathryn Anderson, member of Justice, Mission and Outreach, introduced Doreen Bernard. Doreen is a Mi'kmaw grandmother, water protector and residential school survivor. Doreen was welcomed to regional council. Doreen began by offering a water blessing to honor and respect the water that the creator has provided. Doreen worked as a social worker, but is now involved in the development of the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre (MDCC); a sacred site in Debert, NS, which will share and protect the stories of those who have come before, and offer indoor and outdoor spaces for gathering and healing. Doreen shared that elders look to the past for knowledge, as well as for healing. This space will provide for the return of cultural belongings and help preserve and support traditional language and customs. The space is specifically designed for healing and reconciliation.

The President thanked Doreen Bernard for her presentation and for her work with residential school survivors.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

President-
Elect

Alicia Cox, Nominations Chair, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The nominee for President-Elect was welcomed to the council and was given five minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Joan Giffin)

That Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor be acclaimed as President-Elect of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

CARRIED

General
Council
Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS - continued

The President announced the results of the vote for the three (3) remaining Lay Commissioners to the 45th General Council. It was announced that Jane McDonald, Tony Orlando and Fay Smith be the elected lay members elected to General Council 45.

MOTION: (Alicia Cox/Mac MacLeod)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

Alicia Cox, Nominations Committee chair, introduced Angela MacLean, the incoming chair of Nominations. Angela thanked Alicia for her leadership on the committee. The incoming chair introduced the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 45 (GC45). It was noted that the vote at this time is to fill the remaining three (3) positions available. Ballots were distributed to elected members for the vote. Results of this vote will be announced once tabulated.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald offered the announcements of the region. April Hart, chair of Finance and Administration also announced that the Financial Accountability & Investments Committee met and has agreed that the region will donate \$10,000 (ten thousand) to the Rev. Alison Etter Memorial Fund.

Lunch and
Grace

LUNCH AND GRACEWorkshops**WORKSHOPS**

A total of seventeen (17) workshops were offered to members in two sessions on Saturday afternoon; at 1:30pm and at 3:15pm. The workshops offered were: An Educational presentation about AUSE and The Affirming Ministries Program; Ecumenical Shared Ministries; Future Directions; Mental Health and Clusters; Region Theme Presentation; The Indian Residential School Commemorative Project: A Call to United Churches; The Palestine Land Exercise; Ukulele Church; United Fresh Start Learning Modules; What to do when you don't know what else to do - Part 1 and 2; Canadian Responses to the Apocalypse in Gaza; Keeping up to date on new (and old) discoveries in mental health; Resources for Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults; and Righting Relations with the Land: Rematriation, the United Church and Tatamagouche Centre.

Celebrating
Milestones

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

A banquet celebrating the retirees and jubilarians, hosted by Jane MacDonald, former President, was held at 5:30pm on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, welcomed everyone and our special guests, and offered grace. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events. Celebrants in attendance were presented with a certificate and a small gift from the region, and were invited to say a few words.

Retirees**Retirees**

The Reverend Karen A. Ralph
Mr. Hubert Den Draak
The Reverend Dana E. Feltmate

Jubilarians**Jubilarians**

The Reverend Blake C. Caldwell	50 years
The Reverend G. Curtis McDonald	50 years
The Reverend Wayne G. Schurman	50 years

The Reverend Donald M. A. MacQueen	55 years
The Reverend Roland R. Murray	55 years
The Reverend Alfred F. Woodworth	55 years
The Reverend Foster B. Jenkins	60 years
Emily F. Kierstead	60 years
The Reverend Victor A. MacLeod	60 years
The Reverend A. Fred Archibald	65 years
The Reverend Louis Ihasz	65 years

YOUTH WORSHIP

Youth Worship

The youth were welcomed back to regional council. The Youth led the regional council members in worship, offering music and prayer to help animate their weekend theme *Rooted in Joy*. Catherine Stuart, Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults offered the land acknowledgement and Paige Fraser lit the Christ candle. Youth of the region presented “pillows of joy” to the President and Executive Minister and shared the video *What Brings us Joy* to help animate the theme. The youth of the region posed the question *What Sparks Your Joy?* and distributed seeds of joy to the members gathered.

Music ministry was offered by Tony Janes and the Youth at Region, including *What Can I Do? The River is Here, Revival in my Soul, Your Love is Amazing* and *Go Make a Difference*. The worship service concluded with the presentation of a mural, prayer and benediction.

ECUMENICAL GUEST

Ecumenical Guest

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, introduced our ecumenical guest, Rev. Capt. Mark Kalvaitis, who brought greetings on behalf of the bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Our ecumenical guest expressed his gratitude to the regional council for being affirming and welcoming. Rev. Capt. Kalvaitis offered appreciated for the willingness of the region to support chaplaincy; to welcome a stranger; and to make amends for mistakes of the past. He expressed gratitude for sharing our stories and showing that God is alive and well in the work we do. We are not alone.

The President thanked Mark Kalvaitis for his attendance at these meetings and for his remarks.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS - continued

General Council Commissioners

The Executive Minister announced the results of the vote for the three (3) remaining elected Commissioners to the 45th General Council. It was announced that Alicia Cox, Donna Tournour and Mary Jo Harrison be the elected commissioners to General Council 45, and that Martha Robichaud, Malcolm MacLeod, Linda White, Grace MacMillan-Carter, Nancy Doyle and Shauna MacDonald be named as alternates.

MOTION: (Jane McDonald/Sheila van Shaik)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

CLOSING MOTION

Closing Motion

MOTION: (Jane McDonald/Dan Millwood)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2024; and

that the sixth annual meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 12, 2024; and

that the seventh annual meeting be held virtually for business that may come before it, via video conferencing at a date to be announced, and in person on May 30 - June 1, 2025, at Tantramar Veteran’s Memorial Civic Centre, with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

CARRIED

Courtesies**COURTESIES**

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

Kitchen Party**KITCHEN PARTY**

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

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Celebration of
Ministries**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE**

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Dalhousie Agricultural College, Truro, on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 10:00am. The service was also live streamed so that all members who were unable to attend in person were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Shauna MacDonald, was the preacher. Katherine Ruth Gamble, Dianne Kempt, James MacNaughton, Norma Mills and Carol Joy Shatford were ordained as ministers in The United Church of Canada, and Sandi Irving was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister. Rev. Donna Tourneur was installed as the President of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

Shauna MacDonald
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

ATTENDANCE

Algar, Rosemary	Anderson, Kathleen E.
Anderson, Kathryn J.	Armstrong, Tillie
Aven, Katherine	Bartlett, I. Ross
Birch, Elizabeth	Blois MacNaughton, Barbara
Boldrini, Gabriela	Boulger, Sean
Brewer, Darlene	Brown, Wendall
Brown-Hewitt, Robyn L.	Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie F.
Burke, Cheryl	Burrows, Leslie
Cameron, Ross	Canning, Pamela
Canning, Jack	Carrigan, Pat
Carson, Dorothy	Chivers, Walter (Wally)
Chon, Jun-Hyok	Churchill, Vanessa
Churchill, Gloria E.	Clark-Ettinger, William Martin
Cleave, Pat	Cochrane, Norma
Collins, Joan	Cook, Carolyn
Cox, Alicia	Cox, Kevin
Crabtree, Jessie	Crawford, M. Dale
Crooks, Catherine J.	Curlett, Kim
Curtis, Kathy	Curtis, Sandra
Custance, Joyce	Dauphinee, Beverley
Davis, Julien	Davis, Allan
Doucette, Shane	Douglas, Ruth
Doyle, Nancy	Duggan, Emily M.
Eisener, Jenny	Elsworth, Derek G.
Ferrier, Heather	Flemming, Cathy
Fram, Stephen D.	Francis, Paula
Fraser, Heather G.	Gamble, K. Ruth
Gamblin, Susan	Gregan, J. Ivan
Griffin, Joan B.	Griffiths, David
Griffiths, Lesley	Gunn, Sharon
Gunn, Rick	Handcock, Sean A.
Harrison, Ian W.M.	Harrison, Andrea
Harrison, Mary Jolynn	Hart, April
Hawkins, Debbie	Hayes, Judy
Hayward, Beth	Henderson, Ken
Henderson, Michael	Hewitt, David W.
Hoeg, Marlene	Hogan, Betsy
Hoganson, Anne	Hughes, Lois
Hughes, Barbara	Irving, Sandra
Isenor, Margaret	Joudrey, Susan
Kean, Wendy	Kelly, Donna
Kempton, Dianne E.	Kennedy, Phillip
Kerr, Gerald	Langille, Lynn
Langley, Anna	Lawrence, Donna
Layton, Albert	LeBlanc, David A.
Logan, Katie	Logan, Jack
Lohnes, Sharon M.	MacArthur, Ann
MacAskill, Alice	MacCulloch, Lynda
MacDonald, Catherine A.	MacDonald, Daniel
MacDonald, Shauna	MacDonell, Claire
MacDougall, Gary A.	MacInnis, Janice
MacKenzie, May	MacLean, Angela
MacLean, Shannon L.	MacLeod, Malcolm (Mac)
MacLeod Langley, John	MacNaughton, Jim
MacNeill, Karen L.	MacQueen, Don
Mallett, Jo	Manuel, Heather D.
March-MacCuish, Faith	Martell, Beulah
McCurdy, Brenda	McDonald, Jane
McEwen, Neil A.	McLellan, Jamie
McNamara, Constance A.	Mills, Norma

Appendix A – continued

ATTENDANCE - continued

Mills, Stephen R.	Moriarity, Mary-Beth
Morse, Ewart	Mugford, Michael
Nauss, Joan	Nolet, Joanne
O'Connell, Trudi	Orlando, Tony
Pardy, Dana	Parks, Kevin
Parsons, A. John	Penney, Cindy
Pick, Shelley M.	Ramsay-Moore, Norma
Reardon, Pam	Reid, Ian
Robertson, Susan	Robichaud, Martha
Scherzinger, Linda	Schofield, Rhonda
Sellsted, Donald	Shatford, Carol
Shaw, Ron	Skelhorn, Elizabeth
Skinner, Dale	Smith, Fay
Smith, Peter A.	Smith, Vera Faye
Stewart, James	Taylor, Mary E.
Thompson, Keith	Thompson, Michael
Thomson, Mary	Tourneur, Donna E.
Unruh, Dian	van Jaarsveldt, Burgert
Van Schaick, Sheila	Vroegh, Krista
Watts, Betty Ann	Webber-Cook, James W.
Wellwood, Dan	White, Linda
Woods, Thomas R.	Worrell, Linton

Other:

Ballantyne, Cliff	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Bowman, Chris	Resource Person
Janes, Jason	Visitor
Kalvaitis, Mark	Ecumenical Guest
Laundry, Leona	Staff
Lavery, Norman	Resource Person
Layton, Patricia	Visitor
Matheson, Ruth	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Munikwa, Shepherd	Staff
Noble, Janice	Visitor
Parsons, Wanalda	Visitor
Piper, Ann	Visitor
Reid, Sue	Visitor
Richardson, D. Andrew	Staff
Stuart, Catherine T.	Staff
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Thompson, Sharron	Visitor
Watts, Raymond	Visitor
Whitemore, Jennifer	Staff

Appendix B

REGRETS

Aucoin, Guy
Bain, Gina
Betts, Patricia
Burke, Kymberely (Kym)
Embree, Cynthia
Flemming, Michele
Hann, David
Hardy, Peter
Jensen, Arthur
Joudrey, Michelle
King, James
Lloy, Marion
Lynch, Karen
MacDonald, Ian
MacGillivray, Joan
MacMullin, Norman
MacNeil, Kelly
Martin, Sharon
Martin, Martha
Martin, Maxwell
McKay, Kathleen (Kathy)
Moores, L. Vivian
Morrison, Donald
Nelson, Penny
Nesbitt, John
Pagel, Marthinus
Phillips, Nick
Ross, Karen
Roszel, Anne
Sagar, Margaret
Sangster, Annika
Shaw, Sally
Sollows, Janet
Steadman, Anna
Stewart, Sheila
Taylor, Valerie
Thompson, Shirley
Tingley, Jocelyn
Tomsons, Sandra
Whyte, Mary Lynne
Winn, Krista Elizabeth
Wiseman, Keith
Wright, Heather

Appendix C

PROPOSAL 1 - Sustaining University Chaplaincy in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region

PROPOSAL: Sustaining University Chaplaincy in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region

ORIGIN: The UCC Chaplaincy Committee at Dalhousie University

(Betsy Hogan and Robyn Brown-Hewitt prepared to speak to this proposal)

1. WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

The UCC Chaplaincy at Dalhousie University -- which is the only UCC ministry in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region specifically directed towards young adults -- has suffered declining support, is not currently financially sustainable, and faces dissolution by the end of 2024.

Young adults' needs continue to increase rapidly for mental health support, spiritual care and counselling, and spiritual guidance as they navigate questions of identity and purpose into adulthood. Our church is at serious risk of losing our most focused capacity to build relationships with this generation, to respond to their needs, to bear witness to our inclusive faithfulness where they are, and to be enriched by their own gifts and faithfulness.

Therefore, we believe that God is calling our Region to recognize the critical import of this unique ministry at this time, to recommit to its value as an outreach ministry to young adults, and to sustain it as a Regional Accountable Ministry, as per the policy circulated on May 1, 2024.

Like all university chaplaincies, Dalhousie Chaplaincy exists outside the walls of church buildings and beyond the boundaries of congregational membership. While in the past, direct and supportive relationships with local congregations could be fostered through Halifax Presbytery, these relationships have been difficult to sustain since restructuring. The Chaplaincy's visibility has been greatly reduced, and financial support from congregations has declined.

At the same time, although the Chaplaincy has continued to be supported by an annual Mission & Service Grant, these grants have not been able to keep pace with rising costs and indeed this funding from the General Council is also expected to decline.

This is the funding upon which Dalhousie Chaplaincy depends. While we have been grateful to receive support for the Chaplaincy's *programs* through Gifts with Vision and Seeds of Hope, even fully funded programs cannot be offered in the absence of sufficient funding for staffing.

2. WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

The Dalhousie Chaplaincy touches the lives of hundreds of young adults every year. Rooted in Matthew 25:31-40, the Chaplaincy feeds, comforts, counsels, clothes, and cares for people, not because they'll become members of the church, but because they're hungry, lonely, lost, cold, and suffering.

In recent years, the priorities for the Campus Minister's work have expanded in the following four areas:

Appendix C - continued**PROPOSAL 1** - continued

1. **Counselling:** A reflection of the wider community, the **mental health challenges being experienced by students have increased exponentially**. The Campus Minister counsels young people dealing with problems of all kinds -- addiction, gender identity, grief, spiritual questioning, vocational crises, etc.
2. **Food Insecurity:** The number of students experiencing food insecurity has grown enormously in recent years, with 56.4% of students being food insecure at some time while as many as 74% of all students are food insecure during the most stressful academic periods, e.g. exam time. In response the Campus Minister collaborates with other groups on campus who are working to relieve student hunger. The UCC Chaplaincy organizes the Monday Night Meal, a free meal for students. In the past three years (Fall Term 2021 to Winter Term 2024) **the Monday Night Meal served 4228 individual meals**. Not only does the Monday Night Meal offer good food, but it also provides students with safe space, the opportunity to develop friendships and a relationship with the Campus Minister.
3. **Affirming Ministry:** The first university chaplaincy in Canada to be designated an 'Affirming Ministry', the UCC Chaplaincy at Dal has developed a strong relationship with DalOUT (Dal's Queer Student Society). The Campus Minister has organized Fall Retreats in 2022 and 2023 for the DalOUT Executive Team, providing an opportunity for leadership development and program planning. In 2024 we collaborated on our 6th Annual PIE-Day fundraiser and raised \$1000 for 2SLGTBQIA+ student bursaries. The Campus Minister has been asked to accompany and advise DalOUT students who have been made to feel unsafe by the presence of aggressive religious groups on campus.
4. **Fostering Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity on Campus:** The UCC Chaplaincy has been at the forefront of embodying **respectful multifaith community** at Dalhousie, particularly via Monday Night Meal menus, timing, and rituals that students of *all* faiths can trust are attentive to their observances. Students often express both surprise and great pleasure that a Christian ministry shows them caring in this way. Likewise, as noted above, the UCC Chaplaincy bears **public, intentional, and explicit witness** on campus to a Christian faithfulness that actively affirms all gender identities and sexual orientations, and this has been deeply meaningful not only for students whose experience with Christianity has been hurtful and harmful, but also for students who were unaware this was possible. Finally, the UCC Chaplaincy's **nurture of student leadership** in relation to Monday Night Meals and DalOUT has helped equip students for continued advocacy and activism – at Dal and otherwise -- in relation to food insecurity, living in a multifaith society, and upholding human rights for all.

In short, the implications of taking no action on this proposal will be the loss of:

- essential counselling support for students,
- the Monday Night Meal (and with it the loss of a regular meal for students and intentional work on food insecurity on campus),

Appendix C - continued

PROPOSAL 1 - continued

- the only designated Affirming ministry on campus, committed to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and to the creation of safe space on campus for all,
- an important connection between the UCC and multifaith partners,
- a theologically liberal Christian voice and interfaith-focused voice on campus.

3. HOW MIGHT THE REGION RESPOND TO THE ISSUE?

Dalhousie Chaplaincy serves students from all over our Region, and people and congregations from all over our Region are encouraged and invited to support this important ministry via PAR.

As a ministry of the entire Region, it may be appropriate for Dalhousie Chaplaincy to become a Regional Accountable Ministry, as per the policy circulated on May 1, 2024.

Therefore, we believe that the Holy Spirit is calling our Region to:

- formalize and strengthen the relationship between BNS Region and the Dalhousie Chaplaincy by including Chaplaincy representation on the Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee.
- approve the Dalhousie University Chaplaincy as a Regional Accountable Ministry, as per the policy circulated on May 1, 2024.
- direct the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee to work with the Chaplaincy Committee to identify options for ongoing, sustainable funding and staffing for university chaplaincy within the BNS Region.

4. WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

Our Region's Strategic Plan identifies the importance of noticing opportunities for creating mission and spirit filled communities. We believe this is one such opportunity for the Region to embrace in relation to our largest university, and perhaps others. Nova Scotia has the highest population of university students per capita of all the provinces. They are a significant part of the community we're called to serve as a Region.

We hope that deepening the formal connection between the Region and the Chaplaincy will increase the visibility of the Chaplaincy and promote its support via PAR. We believe that sustaining the impact that our Chaplaincy has on university life and student well-being, representing for many students their first positive experience of inclusive Christian spiritual care and community, is critical and worthwhile.

Appendix D

PROPOSAL 2 - Clergy Housing Assistance (Region)

Proposal: Clergy Housing Assistance

Origin: Betsy Hogan

1. WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Like many other faith groups in Canada, congregations of The United Church of Canada have always accepted responsibility for ensuring that their paid accountable leaders are housed for the duration of their ministries. While for many decades this housing was a manse held in trust by the congregation, the past fifty years have seen a significant shift away from the provision of manses toward the provision of a housing allowance.

As the cost of housing in Canada has skyrocketed, however, congregations and clergy of The United Church of Canada are now facing the following serious problems:

1. Clergy who have not yet entered the housing market and are living in manses cannot leave them. They cannot accept a call elsewhere. They have no equity to make a downpayment that secures a mortgage sustainable with a clergy housing allowance.
2. Clergy who own homes in less expensive housing markets cannot accept a call that requires a move to more expensive housing markets. They do not have sufficient equity to make a downpayment that secures a mortgage sustainable with a clergy housing allowance.
3. Congregations are not able to call either of the above unless they
 - a. have a manse, or
 - b. are able and are willing to negotiate a loan for a downpayment.

2. WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

Our capacity as a church to uphold the Spirit's work in calling ministers and congregation into new covenants with one another is being severely limited by the simple cost of housing and the financial structures that govern access to the market.

Not only are real senses of call being set aside, real hopes for new ministry faltering, and real gifts for ministry not landing where they can flourish, but clergy who cannot move are being left increasingly vulnerable.

3. HOW MIGHT THE REGION RESPOND TO THE ISSUE?

We recognize that this situation is not new. Congregations in some parts of Canada have been grappling with it for some time. Many congregations have been able to assist the clergy they wish to call with direct loans for downpayments or by other means.

Appendix D - continued

PROPOSAL 2 - continued

Therefore

We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling the Region

to encourage congregations in the Pastoral Relations process to prayerfully explore possible ways in which a downpayment loan can be negotiated for a preferred candidate when necessary, in consultation with Pastoral Relation Liaisons and the Regional Minister.

4. WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

As our church continues to accept its responsibility for ensuring housing for ministry leadership, we believe that these actions will mitigate some of the barriers to moving that clergy are currently facing due to the extremely high cost of housing.

Attentive to this issue, our Region and its Pastoral Relations Liaisons will encourage and assist congregations to consider ways in which a downpayment loan can be negotiated for a preferred candidate when necessary, so that a call can be accepted.

The expansion of the Capital Assistance Fund by General Council to include the provision of downpayment loans when no other resources are available would presumably have staffing and financial implications. These extent of these would depend on the amount of infrastructure change required and on the degree to which this is – and continues to be -- an issue across the church.

Appendix E

PROPOSAL 3 - Clergy Housing Assistance (General Council)

Proposal: Clergy Housing Assistance

Origin: Betsy Hogan

1. WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Like many other faith groups in Canada, congregations of The United Church of Canada have always accepted responsibility for ensuring that their paid accountable leaders are housed for the duration of their ministries. While for many decades this housing was a manse held in trust by the congregation, the past fifty years have seen a significant shift away from the provision of manses toward the provision of a housing allowance.

As the cost of housing in Canada has skyrocketed, however, congregations and clergy of The United Church of Canada are now facing the following serious problems:

1. Clergy who have not yet entered the housing market and are living in manses cannot leave them. They cannot accept a call elsewhere. They have no equity to make a down payment that secures a mortgage sustainable with a clergy housing allowance.
2. Clergy who own homes in less expensive housing markets cannot accept a call that requires a move to more expensive housing markets. They do not have sufficient equity to make a down payment that secures a mortgage sustainable with a clergy housing allowance.
3. Congregations are not able to call either of the above unless they
 - a. have a manse, or
 - b. are able and are willing to negotiate a loan for a down payment.

2. WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

Our capacity as a church to uphold the Spirit's work in calling ministers and congregation into new covenants with one another is being severely limited by the simple cost of housing and the financial structures that govern access to the market.

Not only are real senses of call being set aside, real hopes for new ministry faltering, and real gifts for ministry not landing where they can flourish, but clergy who cannot move are being left increasingly vulnerable.

3. HOW MIGHT THE GENERAL COUNCIL RESPOND TO THIS ISSUE?

Some congregations of our church simply do not have the resources to offer a down payment loan themselves. The United Church of Canada has long provided loans to congregations through the Capital Assistance Fund, for purchasing, constructing, or renovating manses. We believe this speaks to our denomination's commitment to ensuring that ministry leaders are

Appendix E - continued

PROPOSAL 3 - continued

housed for the durations of their ministries, and that expanding the Capital Assistance Fund to include provision of down payment loans/grants would therefore be consistent with its existing mandate.

Therefore

We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling the General Council

to expand the Capital Assistance Fund to include the provision of down payment loans/grants, in part or in full, to clergy who require them in order to move to accept a call.

4. WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

As our church continues to accept its responsibility for ensuring housing for ministry leadership, we believe that these actions will mitigate some of the barriers to moving that clergy are currently facing due to the extremely high cost of housing.

Attentive to this issue, our Region and its Pastoral Relations Liaisons will encourage and assist congregations to consider ways in which a down payment loan can be negotiated for a preferred candidate when necessary, so that a call can be accepted.

The expansion of the Capital Assistance Fund by General Council to include the provision of down payment loans/grants when no other resources are available would presumably have staffing and financial implications. These extent of these would depend on the amount of infrastructure change required and on the degree to which this is – and continues to be -- an issue across the church.

Appendix F**PROPOSAL 4 - Next Step on the Reconciliation Journey**

**Regional Council For Action
April, 2024**

Next Step on the Reconciliation Journey

Origin: Rev Dr Ross Bartlett and Rev Sean Handcock

1. What is the issue? Description in broad terms.

We believe that the Spirit continually urges the Church to move forward in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. One step in that journey has been the commitment to act as a respectful ally in a range of efforts by Indigenous communities and groups to secure justice and genuinely right relations. A further step is the widely adopted practice of land acknowledgements at the outset of meetings and worship services as well as the policy of forwarding a portion of proceeds of sale of churches to the Indigenous Church. We believe that the Spirit is inviting us to another step, namely the returning of land or full proceeds of sale when Communities of Faith cease to exist without making provisions for their real estate and/or buildings. While there is currently work in process at the General Council, through this proposal Bermuda Nova Scotia is both signalling its support of such work and forging its own path in response to the Spirit's call.

2. Why is this issue important?

Such an action responds to the *Calls to the Church* from the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle (GC 43, 2018) and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and make tangible our theological and missional commitments to just and right relations. In acknowledging but not accepting the United Church apology (1986) our Indigenous siblings have laid before us the expectation that just relations require more than words, however sincerely given.

Regularly, Communities of Faith "cease to exist" without making provision for the disposal of lands and buildings. In such cases, they become the responsibility of the Region. (*The Manual: G.1.5.7*) In the "Calls to the Church" (2018), we read these words from Indigenous elders within the United Church: "A policy be developed to that would ensure there is a percentage of the proceeds of property liquidation allocated to Indigenous ministry and justice work." (8.B)

This proposal is part of the process of understanding what that call might mean in Bermuda Nova Scotia Region.

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

- a) Direct the Executive Minister to create a task group to develop a policy for those situations where a Community of Faith ceases to exist without prior disposition of lands/buildings which would facilitate:
 - a. The return of said lands to First Nations communities, and/or;
 - b. The provision of the proceeds of sale to the Indigenous Church within the United Church of Canada
 - c. Alternative arrangements as agreed with the local indigenous community
 - d. Cooperation with similar discussions/actions undertaken at the denominational level.
- b) In preparing such a policy the following principles should be honoured:

Appendix F - continued**PROPOSAL 4** - continued

- a. Consulting as widely as reasonably possible with different Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and communities
 - b. Conformity to the various United Church and secular legal standards governing church property.
 - c. Working in concert with national efforts.
- b) Report to the Region not later than the 2025 Annual Meeting with proposals for implementing this intention.
 - c) Should the Executive Minister determine that such a Task Group fits reasonably within the responsibilities of an existing division or committee she may refer the project there as an item for urgent action.

4. What will be the impact? How does it align with the Strategic plan/Vision?

The Strategic Plan casts a Vision of a “transformed, courageous, Spirit-filled community, risking discipleship” in the image of Jesus, living into numerous core values including “Modelling Christ’s humility and justice” and “Moving forward in hope and generosity.”

What is the cost? Staff time + budget

1. The expertise to complete this task should be available within the structures of the United Church of Canada and its member congregations.
2. Some expenditure related to consultation may be anticipated.

Who will be impacted? How?

Given that the proposal specifically refers to property that has come into the stewardship and management of the Region, there is no anticipated further impact on the previous Community of Faith. Positive impacts will include strengthened relationships and deeper knowledge.

What are the risk management issues?

None foreseen.

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

By deliberately expanding our practices in responding to the Calls to the Church we are acting more equitably in the sphere of how we live in Creation and share resources with other.

6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region: Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal? NA**7. Who will speak to this proposal on behalf of the originating body? The mover and seconder**