

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

December 3, 2024 at 10:00am via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Adekunle Adeniyi, Julielynn Anderson, Kathy Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Richard Bowley, Elaine Burrows, Pix Butt, Brion Crossman, Kevin Dingwell, Heather Donnelly, Hugh Ellis, Tracy Friars, Sue LeMaistre, Faith March-MacCuish, Elizabeth Stevenson, Martha Vickers.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Jean Herman.

Equity Support**EQUITY SUPPORT TEAM**

Elizabeth Stevenson, Affirm Committee member, reviewed the Equity Self-Monitoring questions for the Executive. Two additional questions were shared for consideration today: are you prepared for this meeting; and are you entering this meeting with an Advent spirit?

Quorum**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL**Constitution of the Council

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

Acknowledgement of the Land**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND**

The President, Sue LeMaistre, 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 in becoming the community that God truly calls us to be.

Opening Devotions**OPENING DEVOTIONS**

The President, Sue LeMaistre, lit the Christ and Affirm candles, and led the Executive in opening devotions, based on a recent service in Bathurst, NB, led by Rev. Ivan Gregan. The President opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda**AGENDA****MOTION:** (Heather Donnelly/Adekunle Adeniyi)

That the agenda be adopted as circulated, with the addition of Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy under New Business.

CARRIED

Minutes**MINUTES****MOTION:** (Martha Vickers/Richard Bowley)

That the minutes of the September 9-10, 2024 meeting of the Executive be adopted, with an amendment on page RC16 to clarify the educational exercise as the Palestine-Israel Land Exercise.

CARRIED

Nominations**Nominations**

It was noted for the minutes that the following motion was approved by an email vote, which was declared on October 23, 2024:

MOTION: (Tracy Friars/Hugh Ellis)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive approves that Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson and Rev. Erasmus Madimbu be appointed to the Nominations Committee, effective immediately.

CARRIED

Elizabeth Stevenson abstained from the vote.

BUSINESS ARISING

Business
Arising

Regional Council Structure Evaluation

RC Structure
Evaluation

The President introduced a report from the evaluation consultant, Jenny Stephens. The Executive Minister noted that Seyi Adeyemo will provide administrative support to the consultant in the administration of the surveys. The consultant has requested to meet with a sub-group of the presidents and past presidents, as well as to attend committee meetings over the next few months. The Executive Minister noted that also having the Past President join this group would be helpful.

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Hugh Ellis)

That Jenny Stephens be a corresponding member to the executive meetings taking place prior to the annual meeting.

CARRIED

Property Policy Recommendation

Property
Policy
Recommendations

The Property chair, Brion Crossman, introduced the discussion regarding the distribution of funds to the region from the sale of property. The property chair and Executive Minister have had discussions regarding this issue and are now asking for input from the Executive. The Manual stipulates that property, investments and assets are the responsibility of the region. As many churches are facing financial difficulty, they are looking to their properties and investments as a way to continue operation. The Executive Minister shared that staff leaders have been sharing the various regional property policies. It was noted that all regional council policies have a percentage of the sale returning to the region in order to have funds to support the region, maintain cemeteries, support outreach ministries, pay legal fees and costs associated with demolition of properties, support the Indigenous church, etc. The Property chair will bring this conversation and discussion to the committee for a recommendation to bring to the next meeting of the Executive. Kevin Dingwell offered that the Financial and Mission Services Committee would be available for any assistance. There was general agreement that the allocation of 17% (seventeen) will remain. A proposed breakdown of this percentage will be brought to the next meeting.

United Church Policy Webinars

UC Policy
Webinars

The Executive Minister reported that the policies due to be presented in the planned webinars are in the process of revision with the General Council Office. The new policy will see the Workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence Response Policy and the Sexual Misconduct Policy and procedures turned into one new policy. Once the policy update becomes available, the workshop will be rescheduled. The Executive Minister will continue to work on this webinar preparation.

Sackville Office-Mount Allison Agreement

Sackville Office-
Mount Allison
Agreement

The Executive Minister noted that the agreement with Mount Allison has now been signed. The move to the Sackville Office will begin on December 9.

Communities of Faith Growth Group

Communities
of Faith Growth
Group

Elizabeth Stevenson provided an update from the working group. The group have been working to define its roles and responsibilities, and how to support the communities of faith of the region as this work continues. Work has been taking place in support of French ministry in the Moncton area, through St. Paul's United Church. The working group received a document titled *Evaluation of Opportunity within the Francophone Community within Greater Moncton* on December 1, 2024 from Dale Finnamore, Chair, Governance Committee, St Paul's United Church. The goal of this work is to determine the possibility for expanding French Ministry of The United Church in the Moncton area.

Elizabeth Stevenson highlighted several items from the document, including:
Brief Description of Initiative

In consultation with Cameron Fraser and Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo our new minister, David-Roger Gagnon, agreed to undertake a review of the opportunity for expanding French ministries in the Moncton area. With the support of the General Council through the Growth & Development Unit and La Table des ministères en français, St. Paul's has supported this initiative. The arrangement was that David-Roger would begin on August 1st, 2024 when he assumed his position at St. Paul's. From August 1 to December 31, 2024, he would spend approximately 10 hours per week outside his regular workload to conduct his investigation. The total compensation would be \$5000 (\$1000 x 5 months).

Reporting of the Results

At the end of the project David-Roger will prepare a report of his finding that will be shared outlining the information gathered and offer suggestions as to potential initiatives that could be undertaken in the future. This report could lead to additional proposals for funding or support at the local, Regional or National level. The report can be shared with the Regional Office, the National Office, and with St. Paul's and other Congregations in the Moncton area.

Desired Outcomes

The goal of this exercise is to find out if there is an opportunity for growth with respect French ministries. This opportunity may involve St. Paul's and or other congregations in the area. Specific partners would only be identified once the information has been collected.

Project Time Frame

The research component will finish on December 31, 2024 and the final report with recommendations would be made available early in the new year.

The Executive are asked to support this initiative, and communicate this support to the General Council.

MOTION: (Elizabeth Stevenson/Jim Blanchard)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive supports the initiative from St. Paul's United Church to explore French ministry in the Moncton area (As described).

CARRIED

Break

BREAK

Communications Group

Communications Group

Hugh Ellis updated the Executive on the work of this group. The goal of the group is to look at ways to improve communications, encourage clusters, and work with regional representatives to bridge the communication gaps. Hugh Ellis presented a draft PowerPoint of the communications plan for the region for comment and suggestion.

Investment Policy Review

Investment Policy Review

Kevin Dingwell, Financial and Mission Services chair, reported that this work is ongoing. Currently all investments are held with an external investment counsellor, in accordance with United Church policy. The Executive Minister noted that this policy has been added to the regional website.

Category H Commissioners

Category H Commissioners

The Executive Minister noted that each region was asked to submit names for a pool, from which additional commissioners were to be selected, to ensure diversity. This region forwarded three (3) names, and Adekunle Adeniyi and Erasmus Madimbu have been selected from this pool as commissioners to GC45.

100th Anniversary Commemoration

100th Anniversary Commemoration

The Executive Minister offered clarification on a recent email that was sent from "friends of the United Church Foundation". The Foundation president has stated that the foundation was not responsible for the email requesting clusters to gather to celebrate. Congregations are invited to celebrate on their own, or with others, as they so choose. Congregations are asked to use a link to add all celebration events in order to invite or join with others.

The Executive Minister offered to prepare an announcement to the region to clarify the activities and available funding.

REPORTS

Reports

PRESIDENT – Appendix A

President

The President, Sue LeMaistre, presented her report, included in the appendix. The President also shared a picture from a special service held recently in Bathurst, New Brunswick, with appreciation for the opportunity to represent the region in this way.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive Minister

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented her report. The Executive Minister offered her thanks and gratitude for the committees and staff for their prayers, support and work completed while she was off on compassionate leave. The Executive Minister noted that General Council Executive met during the last week of November. An update on this work will be available soon. In addition, the elders of the Indigenous church have also met recently. An update on this meeting will also be available soon.

AFFIRM – Appendix B

Affirm

Pix Butt, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that the educational webinars continue to be offered, and are also available on the regional website. The next webinar will take place in January.

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION – Appendix C

Faith Formation and Education

Heather Donnelly, chair, presented the report, included in the appendix. The committee hosted a successful workshop for licensed lay worship leaders in Sackville in October. The chair also noted that advent resources are available on the regional website.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) – Appendix D

United Church Women

Elaine Burrows, chair, present the report included in the appendix. The UCW representative noted that a service for the 100th anniversary has been prepared for use by congregations in March. In addition, planning has begun for a gathering in Bedford, NS, in April.

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES – Appendix E

Incorporated Ministries

Jim Blanchard, Chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that the committee recently held an in person meeting to continue their work, and thanked the Executive Minister for her support to this committee.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Archives and Records

Julielynn Anderson, chair, reported that the committee has not met, but that work regarding a display for the annual meeting in being planned.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH (JMO) – Appendix F

Justice, Mission and Outreach

Kathy Bigsby, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the request for information regarding the Tatamagouche re-matriation project. The chair also asked for feedback from the Executive regarding a suggested event on May 29, in advance of the joint annual meeting. It was noted that JMO is a joint committee, and members feel it would be helpful to have the same budget in both Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Bermuda-Nova Scotia regions. This matter will be referred to Financial and Mission Services.

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT – Appendix G

Tri-Regional Staff Support

Martha Vickers, reporting member of the committee, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The staff support committee representative highlighted the recent work of the committee to fill two (2) new positions in the eastern regions. Staffing announcements regarding these positions have been communicated to the region.

Pastoral
Relations

PASTORAL RELATIONS – Appendix H

Hugh Ellis, chair of the committee, presented the report, included in the appendix. The chair noted that this will be his last report from Pastoral Relations, as Kate Jones will fill this position in January. Pastoral Relations are currently working with the region's new administrative support person for several communications pieces and generation of online forms.

Property

PROPERTY – Appendix I

Brion Crossman, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the recent work of the committee and asked that communities of faith draw their attention to ongoing care of cemeteries.

Regional
Annual Meeting
Planning

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING – Appendix J

Richard Bowley, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that an online business meeting will take place in advance of the joint celebration with Bermuda-Nova Scotia in Sackville, New Brunswick. Work continues with the joint planning team for the in-person meeting.

Financial and
Mission
Services

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES – Appendix K

Kevin Dingwell, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair asked committees to carefully consider their budget requests and future planning as budgets become tighter for the region. The chair noted that there are no actions coming to Executive at this meeting.

Nominations

NOMINATIONS – Appendix L

Tracy Friars, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair noted that this will be a very busy time for the committee as many terms conclude in the spring. The Executive are asked to forward any names or recommendations for persons who may be interested in filling these roles.

MOTION: (Tracy Friars/Pix Butt)

That Micah Spencer be named to the role of Member at Large (Young Adult) on the Regional Council Executive on an interim basis until full approval can be granted at the annual meeting in June, 2025.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Elizabeth Stevenson/Richard Bowley)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

MONCTON HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

The Executive Minister reported that, in the old structure of the church, Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy feel under the responsibility of the presbytery. The region has been working with local pastoral charges and regional committees to support this ministry in the new structure.

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Hugh Ellis)

- That the proposal for Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy be accepted as follows:
- That the Moncton Hospital Chaplaincy be approved as a Regionally Accountable Ministry (serving those who arrive at the two hospitals from other parts of the region).
 - That Sackville Pastoral Charge, as part of the Collaborative Ministry Pilot Project, be the congregation that facilitates the functions of the Regionally Accountable Ministry (provide staff) for the chaplaincy.
 - That Sackville Pastoral Charge make application for the Mission Support Grant on behalf of the Region.
 - The Regional Office forward the granting funds to the treasurer of Sackville Pastoral Charge for administration of the chaplaincy.
 - That Sackville Pastoral Charge compensate the Ministry Personnel, as per their agreement with them.
 - That Sackville Pastoral Charge provide to the Region, through the Pastoral Relations Committee, a quarterly, activity and financial report. Indicating the number of pastoral contacts for the month, record of travel for emergencies, and funds dispersed.

CARRIED

EQUITY SUPPORT

Equity Support

Pix Butt and Elizabeth Stevenson, team members, offered feedback to the Executive members gathered. The members noted the inclusivity shown and the variety of voices heard throughout the meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing Prayer

The President extinguished the Christ and Affirm candles and closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Having no further business, the President declared that the meeting adjourn.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled on March 11, 2025 at 10:00am, by zoom video conferencing.

Susan LeMaistre
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

PRESIDENT

**REGIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
3 December 2024**

Following are the special events and activities I have undertaken, in addition to the usual messages for our website, and meetings of the Regional Annual Meeting Planning committees and Communication Working Group, since our in-person executive meeting in Sackville in early September:

- Exchanged vows on behalf of the Region at the Covenanting service for David-Roger Gagnon of St. Paul's Riverview (15 Sept.) and officiated at the Covenanting for Julia Ye at Central United Moncton (Oct. 20);
- Attended the funeral of Rev. Robert (Bob) Hutcheson Oct. 21st and read condolence letter from Executive Minister Faith March-MacCuish;
- Attended and shared the devotions at the PEI Gathering day of ministry personnel and lay leaders held on Oct. 29th;
- Sent message of condolence in the passing of Rev. Jim Crooks, Saint John NB on behalf of Region in mid-Nov.;
- Prepared and sent short video clip at request of JMOC to present justice-related priorities of FSLDW Region;
- Brought greetings Nov. 17th to Southwest River United Church, Margate PEI Charge, at the installation of Rev. Ches Boutilier as Minister Emeritus;
- Wrote President's Advent letter to FSLDW Region;
- Prepared letter to be read at the decommissioning service of the Wellington United Church PEI on Dec. 1st;
- Prepared letter of congratulations to the St. Andrew's United Church congregation in New Richmond, QC, to be read at their service celebrating their 185th anniversary on Dec. 1st;
- Attended and brought greetings to First United Church in Bathurst, NB at Sunday worship Dec. 1st;
- Attended and brought greetings at combined concert presented by the First and Central United Churches, Bathurst, NB the afternoon of Dec. 1st.

I wish to thank Elizabeth Stevenson for providing ministry in my stead on two recent occasions:

- The Covenanting of Rev. Alicia Walls with St. David's UC, Saint John; and
- The Anglican synod meeting in Fredericton Nov. 2nd as an ecumenical guest.

It has been a busy and exhilarating time since we last met! I have encountered so very many interesting and committed United Church people in my travels. For this and for the many collaborative and forward-thinking activities around the Region, I am eternally grateful.

In Faith,
Sue LeMaistre

Appendix B

AFFIRM

Affirm Committee Report – December 3, 2024

Since our last Executive meeting, our Affirm Committee has had to accept the resignation of Janice Fairney. We thank Janice for her willingness to join our work and hope, with her, for better health in future days.

We have met monthly since September and continue to plan webinars to help all communities of faith broaden their understanding of issues that may hinder deep welcome in our midst.

Our most recent webinar focused on discussion to broaden our understanding of Guaranteed Livable (Basic) Income. Our guest was Lauren King who is with one the GLI Working groups in our area. The recording of this Nov 27th webinar, can be found on our Regional webpage under Resources.

Our next session will be January 22nd with Indigenous educator Julie Pellitier Lush. Julie joined us at the Regional meeting last year, and always has interesting lessons to share with us.

Our February session will be on the 19th with Angela King who will help us focus on spiritual care and dementia. This is a topic that touches many of us.

Along with Webinar preparations, we have been reviewing our Action Plans. One to highlight for the Executive is #4: Encourage the FSLDW standing and ad hoc committees, units, and task groups to regularly assess their agenda and their ministry to see that they are in keeping with this (affirming) vision. Affirm Committee representatives will communicate this at each Executive meeting.

We are also hearing the need to help communities of faith who have gone through the process to become officially recognized as affirming, but are now inactive in living into the goals they set. We will take on this work in the months ahead.

We will also be encouraging activities for P.I.E Day on March 14th so that we'll see more and more UCC Public, Intentional and Explicit actions in 2025.

Submitted by Pix Butt on behalf of committee members:
Tony Burnett, Don Scott, Ross Sherwood, Elizabeth Stevenson,

Appendix C

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee

Report to Regional Executive, December 2024

Our biggest news since the last Executive meeting is the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Gathering which took place October 24-26 at the Office in Sackville. I would say it was generally a success, with 19 participants from both FSLDW and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regions, 65% being from FLSDW. (This is a greater proportion than last year at Tatamagouche, and that is what was expected.) The chairs of the licensing bodies from both Regions attended for part of the Gathering. BNS had a committee meeting and met with LLWS at the Office before the Gathering began.

Our two (excellent) instructors were Pix Butt and Mary Taylor. Mary guided us through some exercises in storytelling and Pix got us thinking about what "Progressive Christianity" might be. Of course, there was lots of information and discussion about the actual work of worship leadership and sharing of resources.

The LLWL group had a tour of Open Sky Cooperative led by Laura Hunter. Open Sky provides skills-training programs, vocational assistance, and community connections to improve opportunities and quality of life for people who consider themselves neuro-divergent. They also train community partners and citizens, to help neighbourhoods, organizations, businesses and society all become more safe, healthy, enabled and welcoming. Catherine Stuart provided a demonstration of Godly Play and a tour of the resources available in the Office.

Our Saturday morning was mostly filled with Kendall Harrison presenting the Boundaries Workshop he created particularly for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders. A boundaries training is required for LLWLs but those that have been available have not been effective as they are aimed at clergy and the situations are very different. We were able to have some attend via Zoom.

The program came in under budget. The fees to participants were based on the costs of hotel and meals and grants for the two regions covered the fixed costs. There were a lot of variations on registration and requests for individual meals and there were no complaints about the prices. Our meals were not cheap but they were very good. (Afterall, we were trying to be comparable to our experiences at Tatamagouche.) Because we tracked who was from which Region, Jennifer W. was able to charge costs to each the Regions proportionately.

The group gathered agreed to stay with the plan to go to Tatamagouche again next year. We have found going to Tatamagouche quite expensive in the past but I believe that what we know about how they structure their pricing and the experience of organizing this year, we can make next year's Gathering affordable, not requiring so much funding from the Regions. Bermuda-Nova Scotia's Licensing Committee has offered to participate in the planning for next year's LLWL Gathering and that is a great relief.

There was an attempt to organize an Advent Liturgy planning event headed by Alicia Walls, but it was cancelled due to a lack of registration. This was particularly disappointing since we were hoping that materials would come from this event that we could share with lay people (not just LLWLs) who find themselves being called upon to lead worship.

We became aware of a program developed by Annika Sangster called The Stories We Share which includes worship resources, weekly Zoom Advent retreats, and weekly Zoom discussion/planning sessions, among other items. The committee decided to support both Annika and our people by sponsoring the cost of signing up to Annika's program. Anyone in FSLDW, clergy and lay, can sign up for whichever level is appropriate and FFE will cover the cost (up to \$2000). If this works out, we may continue to support into other liturgical seasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Donnelly

Appendix D**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Maritime United Church Women report to FSLDW executive
December 3, 2024

The Maritime United Church Women Executive met in person in Sackville, NB on October 21, 2024. I wasn't able to attend due to illness, and have not seen any minutes so can not report from that gathering.

This information from the National UCW meeting came from **Deborah Hawkins, past co-president of Maritime United Church Women.**

- The National UCW annual meeting was held from September 16th to 20th 2024 at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, ON. The theme was "Lead not only by Word, but by action. Scripture: Nehemiah 2:20 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The theme hymns were "How Firm a Foundation VU #660 and "Let Us Build a House." MV #1.
- 34 regional representatives from each UCW region/district from across Canada, national UCW sub-executive, reps from Women Inter-Church Council, and Administrative Support Staff from Church in Mission General Office met for the four day meeting, The NUCW president Barbara Davison from Alberta was unable to attend due to health so the past-president Nancy Risco led the meetings.
- From Maritime UCW the following attended: Betty Ann Watts, President; Ann Piper, Vice-President; Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins co-past presidents.
- Music was provided by Margery Wright on keyboard, and Ann Piper on violin.
- A book table was available.
- **Angie Musonza**, UCW support staff at General office gave a report on the planned move in 2026 to join the Anglicans and Presbyterians in shared office space, and the new hymn resource: "Then Let Us Sing" plus some other initiatives.
- The Moderator, **The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne** spoke. The upcoming 100th anniversary services and General Council in August 2025 were highlighted among other things..
- **Amy Crawford** led a Bible study on based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 exploring the topic of "We are Christ's body acting in the world."
- There was a two part workshop planning a "**UCW Centennial Worship Service** to be used Canada wide for the 100th anniversary. The service can be used as is or adapted to meet the needs of the individual communities of faith. During an on-line vote of the NUCW executive, it was approved to make March 2, 2025 as the National Day for the UCW service. The date of the service can be held on that day, or on another Sunday that works better for the community of faith.
- Sara Charters, Executive Minister, Philanthropy/President UCC Foundation, and Jenna Yango Leonard, Foundation Coordinator, and Harry Li, executive minister, Finance UCC reviewed the **NUCW funds** and answered questions. There is funding available to support leadership training, education, projects or events that promote education, mission, outreach, and spiritual nurture of UCW members.
- Win Czum spoke on **World Day of Prayer 2025**, and how to download resources.
- Ruth Sandeau spoke on **French Ministeries** throughout Canada.
- Ruth Nobel, executive director of **Affirm** United did a presentation.

Appendix D – continued

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN - continued

- Jennifer Henry, Executive Minister Organizational Development and Strategy (Planning, Communication, and Growth) led a workshop called “**Deep, Bold, and Daring: Living the Denominations' new “Call.”** She shared the GCO Strategic Plan. There is more on the website.
- Joni Shawana, **Healing Program coordinator**, Indigenous Ministries and Justice spoke on the healing fund via Zoom. The 65th UCW anniversary is supporting the Healing Fund in the area of women and children. The first year the project was the **2023 Mother and Baby Welcome Bag Project** in Winnipeg. 100 handmade blankets were received from a UCW group or district in the Maritimes (no one knows who they are). The 2024 project is for the Fort McKay Metis Nation Association “**Healing in the Kitchen.**” (Fort McMurray). There will be a new projects for 2025, 2026, and 2027 when this project ends.
- There was a **65th anniversary** update from Kim Baird, Anniversary Committee Chair. It will be held July 19th -23rd 2027 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa. Theme: “Hear Our Voice.” Scripture: Proverbs 8. Theme Hymn: *Draw the Circle Wide*. The days of having these events on university campus' is over!
- Maritime UCW led the early Friday morning worship.
- **Rev. Jennifer Henry** led the closing worship before everybody headed for home.
- From the **2023-2024** statistics: 15 regions reporting 61 areas, 11,852 members, 90 individual members, and the presentation of 109 life membership pins. Maritime UCW reported 2151 members (including 10 individual members) almost double any other region in the country with ECOR reporting 1250 members.
- Debbie Hawkins reported that this was her third NUCW meeting and found it the most informative and enjoyable, and that a lot of effort had gone into planning the week.
- The **MCW page** under ministries on the FSLDW website has been updated to include the new **executive**, the latest **MUCW newsletters**, and the NUCW **Keeping in Touch** plus other information

Elaine Burrows
MUCW representative on FSLDW regional council.

Appendix E

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

**Incorporated Ministries Committee
Report to the Executive of FLDRC
December 3, 2024**

The Incorporated Ministries Committee met October 7, 2024 for an in-person meeting and welcomed two new members to the Committee.

The Committee members reviewed the Incorporated Ministries Policy for the Region to ensure all have an understanding of the role of the Committee within the Region. We also devoted time to reviewing the nature of the work carried out by each of the Incorporated Ministries designated as such within our Region. A big "THANK YOU" to Faith for her awareness of the work carries out by each of the Ministries.

The reporting requirements of the Incorporated Ministries were also reviewed and the role of Committee members with respect making the Incorporated Ministries aware of the reporting requirements. The meeting concluded with identifying the Incorporated Ministries for which each of the Committee members would be the contact person.

Jim Blanchard, Chairperson
Incorporated Ministries Committee

Appendix F

JUSTICE, MISSION & OUTREACH

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee Report to the Regional Council Executive

December 3, 2025

JMOC met in-person at Tatamagouche Nov. 14-15, 2024. Meeting minutes and working group reports are attachments. Sharon Ballantyne, Growth Animator, provided support during the meeting and led an evening session on engagement which was shared by videoconference. One JMOC member from FDEE was able to attend that session.

JMOC co-chairs are following up on the request for information on the status of the Tatamagouche re-maturation project and on the plan to host an event the evening of Thursday, May 29, 2025, adjacent to the Regional Council meeting in Sackville.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Bigsby, Co-Chair Justice, Mission and Outreach

Appendix G

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

December 3, 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 Report for FSLDW December 3, 2024.

Members: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister
Rev. Kim Waite (First Dawn Eastern Edge)
Doreen Cave (First Dawn Eastern Edge)
Rev. Derek Elsworth (Bermuda-Nova Scotia)
XXX (Bermuda-Nova Scotia)
XXX (FSLDW)
Martha Vickers (FSLDW)

The Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee for the Eastern Region of The United Church of Canada met virtually Sept. 6 and 13, 2024 via Zoom platform regarding the interview process for:

1. Communications and Administrative Support at the Sackville Regional Council Office
2. Cluster animator for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

Candidates were interviewed for each of the above positions. Once references were reviewed, offers were extended in each position respectfully by Rev. Faith March MacCuish. Once accepted, the names of the candidates were then forwarded to General Council HR.

1. A staffing announcement was shared October 7, 2024 announcing the new Communications and Administrative Support person for the Sackville office: Oluwaseyi (Seyi) Adeyemo.

<https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Staffing-Announcement-to-the-Regions-Adeyemo.pdf>

Seyi will oversee the daily communications with the two regional councils, support the administrative work of the two regions, share support for the Minister for the Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach and the Minister for Children Youth and Young Adults, as well as support the Regional Minister for the Regional Councils.

2. A staffing announcement was shared October 9, 2024. Robyn Brown-Hewitt accepted the position of Cluster Animator for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, effective October 14, 2024. She looks forward to meeting with individuals and groups in the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region to strengthen relationships and develop communities of common interest, mutual support, hope and hospitality.

Respectfully prepared and submitted,

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

Appendix H

PASTORAL RELATIONS

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

Greetings and peace from the members of your Pastoral Relations Committee. The committee met three times since our last Council Executive meeting in September. These meetings were held on September 17, October 8 and November 12, 2024. Our final meeting of this year will take place on December 10, 2024.

During this period the committee:

- Saw the final approval of the Fredericton Ecumenical Ministry between St Paul's United and St Andrews Presbyterian Churches.
- Approved the Congregational Ministry position at Park Royal United in Charlottetown.
- Greeted with pleasure the launch of the Institute of Health Joy and Excellence.
- Approved the functional closure of Wellington United and the amalgamation into Victoria West United creating a one-point pastoral charge.
- Approved the formal closure of Lorneville United.
- Was represented by the chair at the covenanting services for Julia Ye and Rev. Alicia Walls
- Continued to work closely with the Property Committee on a number of property issues.
- Continued revisions to a simplified step-by-step process for creation of a Community of Faith Profile. Final review of this document was deferred to December due to meeting time restrictions due to other issues.
- The Pensioner Working Group plans to meet again in early January to plan for 2025.
- Appointed liaisons and pastoral charge supervisors as available and required. Some reluctance is still being experienced regarding invitations to serve in these roles.
- Sacraments Elder Training continues to be developed for a spring training session in Sackville.
- LLWL Boundaries Training was delivered and positively received at the Fall LLWL Gathering in Sackville. The committee provided financial support to assist with this gathering.
- A Provisional Call policy (non DLM) draft is being developed again in collaboration with our Eastern Regional Partners and support from GC.
- We continue to follow the progress of the development of collaborative and cooperative ministries in several communities.
- We continue to monitor challenging pastoral relations issues in a number of pastoral charges due to medical and other issues and walk faithfully with communities considering changes including closure.
- Approved Sacrament Privileges for two candidates in the region.
- Approved 3 appointments/calls

The following list of items comprise our current workplan

- A review of mission churches, seasonal, and inactive communities, pastoral change names and pastoral charge composition. We hope to begin this work in the fall in conjunction with our Communications Working Group.
- A review of our website documents to make the documents more noticeable and organized as the number grows and we coordinate with the region and other committees.
- Participation in regional efforts to improve communications between our pastoral charges and the Region.
- See input from other regions on their oversight of covenanting requirements in the Manual
- Undertake a brief review of the definition and role of membership as currently defined and understood in the United Church.

Appendix H - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

There are currently (as of November 20) 13 charges approved for search (2 are suspended temporarily), 8 are preparing profiles, two are in discernment of their future and we have 6 longer term vacancies. We have two pending calls/appointments. There are currently 28 communities requiring Pastoral Charge Supervision on a temporary or longer-term basis and 22 communities have liaisons engaged for profile and/or search.

Barbara Prowse continues her wonderfully supportive and dedicated work as our Regional LLWL Coordinator.

As always, we are grateful to our committee members, working groups and our Regional Minister, Rev. Kendall Harrison for their dedication.

The committee has recently moved to share more broadly responsibilities within the committee. All committee members have begun to share a short devotion before each meeting and Rev Aaron Billard will take on the maintenance of our all-important tracking sheet in January. I will continue to oversee the implementation of the Self Assessment project assisted by the new Communications and Administrative Support staff Seyi Adeyemo and continue to provide support to the Pensioner Working Group until other leadership can be found.

This will constitute my final report as the chair of Pastoral Relations as I pass the office into the very capable hands of the Rev. Kate Jones on January 1, 2025. We are so very grateful that Kate has offered to step forth and fill this important role as I begin to prepare to assume the role of President. I will remain as a regular member of the committee until the annual meeting.

I wish to thank the regional staff, the executive, all of my committee and working group peers and of course Kendall for the support and patience I have received during my entire tenure on the committee. Over these 6 years you have all become like family, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all. I have learned more about the church and its governance in that time than I ever imagined possible! Thank you all!

Hugh Ellis
Chair
FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee

Appendix I

PROPERTY

FSLDW Property Committee Report to the Executive

As of November 10st, 2024

Activities, for the months of Sept, October and November 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 one (1) renovation totalling \$20,700
Consent was given for one (1) sale of property totalling \$5,000
Consent was given for one (1) Distribution of surplus from sales
Consent was given for one (1) exchange of land with third party
Consent was given for one (1) Modernization grant and Two (1) technology grants

For the province of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Consent was given for Two (2) Renovations totalling \$32,000
Consent was given to list one (1) property for \$79,900
Consent was given for two (2) modernization Grants

For the GASPE coast

No requests

% of Distribution of funds

As per the last meeting, it was requested that the Executive minister and property chair review the % remitted to Region from the sale of property and the closing of a community of faith from other regions and report to executive. After review Rev Faith and I agree that while the amount (17%) should stay, the distribution of that percentage should change as some of the funds are large amounts.

Cemeteries

There have been a number of issues regarding church closing and no one with the financial or physical means to look after the cemetery. The property committee is requesting that Communities of Faith should be allowed to apply to Region for a grant of some of the funds in the property fund in order to help with the cost of cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,

Brion Crossman
Chair, FSLDW Property Committee

Appendix J

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING

Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Business Meeting Planning:

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee (FSLDW RAMP) has been preparing for our upcoming regional business meeting, which will take place entirely on Zoom this year.

Recognizing the importance of balancing efficiency with accessibility, we are working towards condensing the business portion of the meeting into a single day. We hope to reduce the burden on participants while ensuring all necessary discussions and decisions are addressed. While the agenda is still in the draft stage, we hope to have something finalized early in the new year.

The meeting is scheduled for the weekend of May 24th, and final details are currently being fine-tuned. We look forward to providing a streamlined and engaging meeting experience that reflects our commitment to collaborative leadership within the region.

Joint Celebration:

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters RAMP is also collaborating with the Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee to mark a joint 100th anniversary celebration. This event will take place over the weekend of May 30 to June 1.

Where responsibilities overlap or are shared, the committees have formed teams to ensure smooth coordination. One example of this teamwork is the collaboration between past presidents from both regions in planning the Retirees and Jubilarians banquet, an event that is meant to be attended by all as we have done in the last few years at UPEI.

The gathering's theme centers on both reflection and aspiration: celebrating the past 100 years while envisioning the future. Right now the working theme is "*Back to the Future*," as suggested by Donna Tourner from BNS. Janet Gear has been invited as the theme speaker, offering insights and inspiration for our collective journey ahead.

This event will feature worship, celebration, and conversation, since both regions will have had their business meetings in weeks previous.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Rev. Richard Bowley

Appendix K

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES

**Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Financial & Mission Services Committee
Report to the Executive 3 December 2024**

The Financial and Mission Services Committee has no action items to bring forward at this time.

Since the last Executive meeting, in addition to the regular monitoring of the Investment Funds and the Quarterly Financial Statements, the Committee was pleased to approve requests to an individual for a \$1K grant from the Ministry Personnel/Lay Continuing Education Fund, a \$10K grant to a Community of Faith from the Silver Falls Memorial Fund, and a \$5K grant to a Community of Faith from the Supervised Ministry Education Site Fund.

Prior to the September deadline, the Region received nine requests from ministries for Mission Support grants, the same nine as submitted requests in 2023. From the available funds, including a withdrawal of \$30K from the Regional Mission Support Reserve Fund, the Committee was able to authorize \$92.5K be disbursed to these applicants, the same level of support that was approved in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Kevin Dingwell
Chair, Financial and Mission Services

Appendix L

NOMINATIONS

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Executive Meeting December 2024 Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations committee met on 3 occasions since September to discuss vacancies across the Region and for discussion on communications in terms our purpose/role in the region and how best to share opportunities to serve with communities of faith.

With regret and sadness, we accepted the resignation of Nominations Committee member Kathy Roy due to a persistent health issue. We will miss Kathy's wealth of knowledge on our committee and as Recording Secretary. We wish her a speedy return to good health. With joy, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson and Rev Erasmus Madimbu to our committee. Thank you to them both for saying "Yes" the region will be well served.

Successful placements:

Nomination Committee – Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson and Rev. Erasmus Madimbu
Category H Commissioners – Rev. Adekunle Adeniyi, Rev. Erasmus Madimbu and Rev. Franklyn James

Active recruitment:

Nominations Committee – 1
Executive Young Adult – 1
Affirming Committee – 1
Justice Mission & Outreach - 1
Wegesegum Camp Board – 1

Opportunities to Serve:

Over the last couple of months, our committee has been discussing the significant changes that will take place across most committees in 2025. We have several members whose 2nd term will be coming to an end resulting in vacancies and movement that Nominations will need to facilitate. In anticipation of that, we want to be proactive in sharing the opportunities to serve the region to all COF's and also approach current members whose terms are ending and asking where they might see themselves next. It will be important to have a good marketing/communication strategy in place to achieve success. To that end, we met with Rev. Roger Janes (our Stewardship Leader for the region) and he shared valuable thoughts on how we might proceed. This activity will be our focus in the coming months and we are gearing up for success!

Much like the season of Advent that is upon us, we look forward with anticipation to what the coming months holds for us as a committee and trust that Spirit will guide us as we serve the region and engage with all people in our communities of faith to do the same.

Respectfully,

Tracy Friars Chair