

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
January 26, 2026 at 9:30am via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Doreen Cave, Jocelyn Cook, Elizabeth Dawson, Oliver Dingwell, Faith March-MacCuish, Emma O'Rourke, Rebecca Pike-Winter, James Ravenscroft, Elsie Squires, Dorcus Yohan.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Juanita Andrews, Liberty Matabire, Susan Sheppard.

Welcome**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**Opening Prayer

The President, Elsie Squires, welcomed members to this special, one-topic meeting. The President opened the meeting with prayer.

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

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

Acknowledging the Land**ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather, work and worship. The island of Newfoundland is the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We also recognize the Inuit and the Innu as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

Land Development St. James UC**LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

The President welcomed Stephen Pike (Strategic Planning Committee) and Pamela Norman (Board Chair and member of Strategic Planning Committee) from St. James United Church. The executive had invited members of the committee to have an open discussion regarding the proposal to redevelop the properties at 310-320 Elizabeth Avenue, including vacant land, the regional council office building and St. James United Church.

The representatives from St. James introduced themselves, background information on the pastoral charge and past redevelopment initiatives, and their role in this current process. The members gathered discussed various other development projects; the city's interest in high density developments; and the possible options for development of the joint properties. Kindred Works has also provided background information for the need and interest for sustainable ministry.

The members of St. James stated that past projects did not happen economically, as funds dried up. St. James is now looking to the regional office and surrounding property to determine if long term solutions could be available. No one wants to lose their heritage, but the congregation are open to seeing what could be and investigate the options. St. James understands that the city and government have identified a need for housing in this area, and the congregation would like to investigate the feasibility of this with Kindred Works for the entire property.

(Dorcus Yohan left the meeting)

Discussion continued, including points raised regarding the housing crunch, property values and funding availability. It was noted that the current Kindred Works options may not meet the needs of the region. We will need to look at all the options, including shorter term ideas, which the congregation would also be interested in exploring. The congregation also noted that they need to keep within what they can afford and the area of ministry that holds the most interest.

The President thanked the representatives of St. James for their time and attendance at the meeting.

CORNER BROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE REVIEW - File #2025-1118-01

Corner Brook
UC Review

The Executive Minister reported that a concern has been raised by the reviewer, Rev. Carol Hancock, that the annual meeting for Corner Brook United Church is planned for February 22, 2026. As the Review Report will not be ready for that date, it would be prudent to wait until the Review Report has been received before holding the annual congregational meeting.

File #2025-
1118-01

MOTION: (Rebecca Pike-Winter/Emma O'Rourke)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council directs that Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge delay their annual meeting until the review process is complete.

CARRIED

(Jocelyn Cook abstained from the vote)

BENEDICTION

Benediction

Having no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned, and closed the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Elsie Squires
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister