

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

March 16, 2026 at 3:00pm via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Doreen Cave, Elizabeth Dawson, Faith March-MacCuish, Liberty Matabire, Emma O'Rourke, Rebecca Pike-Winter, James Ravenscroft, Heather Sandford, Susan Sheppard, Elsie Squires, Dorcus Yohan.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Jocelyn Cook and Oliver Dingwell offered their regrets, due to conflict of interest. Juanita Andrews was also unavailable.

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.

Corresponding Members**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

MOTION: (Susan Sheppard/Elizabeth Dawson)

That Heather Sandford, Regional Minister; Mimajoan Saunders, Pamela Gill, Linda Hurley, Kara Pye, Sonya Corbin-Dwyer and Jill Brown from Corner Brook United Church governing body; and Carol Hancock, Reviewer, be made corresponding members of the March 16, 2026 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

Agenda**AGENDA**

It was noted that the purpose of this meeting is to focus on the Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge review report, and the recommendations presented.

MOTION: (Elizabeth Dawson/Emma O'Rourke)

That the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Corner Brook UC Review**CORNER BROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE REVIEW** - File #2025-1118-01File #2025-1118-01

All members present from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Executive were provided with the Review report, as prepared by Rev. Carol Hancock, Reviewer. Representatives of the Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge governing body will join the meeting today at 3:30pm.

The Executive Minister discussed the process for this meeting. Those joining the meeting are invited to speak to the report's recommendations. It is the role of the Executive to hear their feedback and answer any questions for clarification before reconvening to make decisions. After decision making, a letter presenting any decisions made will be sent to all parties.

In addition, the Executive Minister reviewed the Manual sections regarding Community of Faith Review as background information for the meeting today. It was noted that the responsibility today is to focus on the governing body's response to the findings and recommendations, to support them in this journey, and to hear the feedback from the representatives before making decisions.

(Liberty Matabire joined the meeting)

WELCOME

Welcome

The President welcomed the invited representatives from Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge. Mimajoan Saunders (Co-Chair), Pamela Gill (Co-Chair), Linda Hurley (current Treasurer), Kara Pye (current M&P chair), Sonya Corbin-Dwyer (Secretary) and Jill Brown (incoming Treasurer), as representatives of the governing body, joined the meeting to speak to the review recommendations. The members gathered took time to introduce themselves to each other.

OPENING PRAYER

Opening Prayer

The President offered prayer for the Executive members and to the representatives joining this meeting.

CORNER BROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE REVIEW - continued

Corner Brook UC Review

The Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge governing body representatives read a prepared letter to the Executive, outlining some of their concerns regarding the report, and acknowledging that they agreed with most of the recommendations. The governing body understands that the decisions will come from the Regional Council Executive, but offered their feedback and comments.

The representatives, stated their acceptance of many of the recommendations in the report, saying that many of the recommendations are the kind of support that the pastoral charge needs. The board offered thanks to the Executive for the opportunity to speak to the report and the recommendations, and for the opportunity to discuss ways for the pastoral charge to move forward. It was noted that it is concerning for all involved to hear that the pastoral charge is in an unsatisfactory state.

After the presentation, the Executive Minister outlined the process for the review. The President, Elsie Squires, thanked the members of the governing body for their attendance, and for sharing their comments.

(Mimajoan Saunders, Pamela Gill, Linda Hurley, Kara Pye, Sonya Corbin-Dwyer and Jill Brown left the meeting)

BREAK

Break

(Liberty Matabire left the meeting)

CORNER BROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE REVIEW - continued

Corner Brook UC Review

The Executive welcomed Carol Hancock, Reviewer, to the meeting. The Reviewer has offered to be available to answer questions for clarification on the review report, if necessary. The Executive members took time to introduce themselves, and took the opportunity to further discuss the report and findings.

On behalf of the Executive, the President thanked Carol Hancock for her work with the Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge review and for her attendance at this meeting.

BREAK

Break

The Executive paused for prayer and silent reflection to consider the report and the information presented during this meeting.

Corner Brook
United Review

CORNER BROOK UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE REVIEW - continued

The President facilitated a discussion about the recommendations from the review. The Executive expressed concern for the members of the congregation and the fact that the community of faith is noted to be in an unsatisfactory state.

(Elizabeth Dawson left the meeting)
(Doreen Cave left the meeting)

MOTION: (Susan Sheppard/Rebecca Pike-Winter)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council accepts the Review Report of Corner Brook United Pastoral Charge, dated February 25, 2026, as prepared by Carol Hancock.

CARRIED

Having received the recommendations of the review report dated February 25, 2026, as completed by Carol Hancock, and having discerned the information contained in the report, the Regional Council Executive made action motions, contained in file 2025-1118-01. These decisions will be communicated to those named in the review by the Executive Minister and a small committee of the Executive.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

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

Benediction

BENEDICTION

The President closed the meeting with thanks and prayer for the members gathered.

Rev. Elsie Squires
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister