

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

October 3, 2025 at 9:30am via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Brenda Andrews, Juanita Andrews, Doreen Cave, Oliver Dingwell, Faith March-MacCuish, Liberty Matabire, Rebecca Pike-Winter, James Ravenscroft, Susan Sheppard, Elsie Squires.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Jocelyn Cook, Elizabeth Dawson, Emma O'Rourke, Dorcus Yohan.

Welcome**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**Opening Prayer

The President, Elsie Squires, welcomed members to the meeting. The President led the opening devotions, offering a reading from the book *Dipping Your Toes*, entitled *The Amazing V*, and 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 Member**CORRESPONDING MEMBER**

MOTION: (Susan Sheppard/Oliver Dingwell)

That Brenda Andrews be a corresponding member to the October 3, 2025 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

Agenda**AGENDA**

MOTION: (Oliver Dingwell/Susan Sheppard)

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Minutes**MINUTES**

MOTION: (Rebecca Pike-Winter/Doreen Cave)

That the minutes of the June 5, 2025 meetings of the Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

Business Arising**BUSINESS ARISING**Green Bay South Review File #2023-1012-01**Green Bay South Review (File #2023-1012-01)**

The Executive Minister provided an update on items coming from the review. There is just one remaining workshop to take place. The Regional Minister is currently working on the background materials in preparation for the workshop and will work with the pastoral charge to set a date for this work. It was noted that the Executive Minister has also been working with the pastoral charge on their governance structure.

United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) – Vacant Land Proposal

UPRC

The Executive Minister noted that the region has provided the requested information on office and archives space requirements, and is now waiting on a revised proposal. The Executive Minister will also send this update to the St. James congregation, for their information and planning.

100th Anniversary

100th
Anniversary

The Executive Minister reported that a regional event had been proposed for the Blackhead area, however the summer wildfires prevented further planning for a commemorative visit in this area. The Executive Minister asked for input for next steps. The Executive agreed that future events be consider for 2026, including Annual Meeting liturgy planning, to help kick off the next 100 years.

Garnish-Frenchman’s Cove

Garnish-
Frenchman’s
Cove

The Executive Minister reported that the commission has gathered and met. James Ravenscroft, commissioner, reported that the commission have been collecting background information, reaching out to stakeholders, and are planning a visit to the area in November.

Regional Grant for Repairs and Maintenance

Regional
Grant

The Executive Minister reported that this work is currently with the Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team. It was noted that the goal is to offer a grant that will help with general repairs and maintenance, with the hope that this will reduce insurance claims.

Cemetery Policy

Cemetery
Policy

The cemetery policy, drafted by the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, was circulated to Executive members for review and feedback. The Executive discussed this policy draft and offered comments for consideration.

MOTION: (James Ravenscroft/Susan Sheppard)

That the document *Cemetery Guidelines* be accepted, with the recommendation that the term *Undue Benefit* and policy section be added to page 2 section d, and the phrase “person designated by the governing body” to page 4 section 6.

CARRIED

Affirm Celebration

Affirm
Celebration

James Ravenscroft, Affirm chair, reported that the committee has not met, but planning for the Affirm Celebration will be the priority for the annual meeting when meetings resume this fall.

REPORTS

Reports

PRESIDENT – Appendix A

President

The President, Elsie Squires, presented her report, included in the appendix. The President reported that it has been a busy season, attending both sad and joyful events, including funerals, 100th Anniversary celebrations and church dedications. The President also attended General Council 45 in Calgary, AB, in August.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive
Minister

The Executive Minister presented her report, highlighting the work of the wider church. The Executive Minister thanked the Executive members for their patience and compassion in rescheduling the fall meeting dates. The Executive Minister named the Towards 2035 report as one of the priorities for the in-person gathering of the Executive in November. In addition, the Executive Minister will be sharing the Regional Council Structure Evaluation report and lead discussions on the priorities and strategic planning based on these pieces.

The Executive Minister also highlighted the work coming from General Council 45, which resulted in many pieces coming to a re-call meeting this fall. General Council is also completing a structural evaluation. A focus group of non-staff leadership from this region was hosted on October 1. The President offered some comments on the focus group discussions, noting that the meeting went well and the questions posed resulted in healthy discussions, although the group in attendance was small.

The Executive Minister offered personal thanks for the kind notes and support received since her brother-in-law's sudden passing.

Nominations

NOMINATIONS

In the absence of the chair, no report was available.

Break

BREAK

Finance and
Administrative
Resources

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES – Appendix B

Brenda Andrews, Secretary, presented the report on behalf of the Division. The report is included in the appendix. The Secretary highlighted several ongoing pieces of work.

George Street
UC Property
Task Group

George Street Property Task Group

The George Street United Church Property Task Group is currently awaiting a building audit. A comprehensive report will be prepared for presentation at the next meeting of the Executive.

CCOPC

Cochrane Community Outreach and Performance Centre (CCOPC)

It was also reported that the Executive Minister will be soon meeting with the chair of CCOPC, and will also prepare a report on this work for the next Executive meeting.

Loon Bay Camp

Loon Bay Camp

It was reported that after receiving a report regarding costly and necessary upgrades, the board made the very difficult decision to resign. The Canada Revenue Agency has given notice of its intention to revoke the charity's registration. The Executive Minister has asked for the Executive's wisdom on naming an interim board and how to address the next steps.

MOTION: (Doreen Cave/Liberty Matabire)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council appoint a transitional board for Loon Bay Camp.

CARRIED

Bridges to Hope

Bridges to Hope

MOTION: (Susan Sheppard/James Ravenscroft)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council approved that the members of the Bridges to Hope Board of Directors to be: Ken Peters (Chair) (Gower Street UC representative); Miriam Bowlby (Vice-Chair) (Community Representative); Kim Mayo (Treasurer) (St. James United Church representative); Cheryl Sullivan-Critch (Secretary) (Community representative); Pam Morgan (First United Church representative); Elizabeth Horwood (Wesley United Church representative); Aidan Moores (Cowan Heights United Church representative); Stephen Squires (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church representative); Heather Steele Morrissey (St. David's Presbyterian Church representative); Jim Oakley (Community representative); Colette Rogers (Community representative); and Barbara Morris (Community representative). Ex-officio Members are: Faith March-MacCuish (Executive Minister) and Ewan Cumming (Past Chair).

CARRIED

Corner Brook United Church

Corner Brook UC

MOTION: (James Ravenscroft/Rebecca Pike-Winter)

That the full amount of assessments outstanding be paid before the distribution of any funds from the sale of Humber United Church.

CARRIED

The Executive Minister has also received a request from Pastoral Relations that a mediator be named to assist with a conflict on the pastoral charge. The chairs of the board have subsequently asked that the matter be left in the hands of the new community of faith to resolve.

MOTION: (Rebecca Pike-Winter/Doreen Cave)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Executive send a letter to Corner Brook United Church stating that the pastoral charge be given 30 (thirty) days to prepare a report for the Executive regarding the progress towards resolution of issues on the pastoral charge, and if not, that a mediator be named.

CARRIED

Blanket Insurance Policy

Forms have been distributed to pastoral charges, which will enable the region to get a quote from UCC Protect for 2026 insurance coverage. In recent years, some pastoral charges have expressed an interest in seeking insurance quotes on their own. The Division will be continuing work on this piece throughout the fall; obtaining quotes, meeting with the region's current insurer and preparing a recommendation for Executive.

Blanket Insurance Policy

The Secretary noted that the Division is operating without a chair, and is in need of more members to do this important work.

REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT – Appendix C

Rebecca Pike-Winter, chair, presented the report of the division, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted recent work of the division, noting that the committees of the division are in need of chairs and members to enable the division to do this work.

Regional Council Service and Support

COMMUNITIES OF FAITH SUPPORT AND PLANNING

Liberty Matabire, chair, reported that the division has not met. A report will be available for the next meeting of the Executive.

Communities of Faith Support and Planning

HUMAN RESOURCES

It was noted that this position is currently vacant. No report was available for this meeting of the Executive.

Human Resources

GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

In the absence of the representative, no report was available.

General Council Representative

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

Doreen Cave, regional representative, reported that interviews and selection for the position of Regional Minister for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters have taken place. The next vacancy, Administrative and Communications Support in the Sackville Regional Council Office, will be filled this fall.

Tri-Regional Staff Support

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Juanita Andrews, United Church Women Representative, presented the report. The UCW has participated in several events this fall, and are currently planning speakers for spring gatherings. The Executive are asked to please consider supporting these events. The UCW representative noted that she also attended the National meetings in Ontario this summer.

United Church Women

MOTION: (Juanita Andrews/Susan Sheppard)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Regional

REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE EVALUATION

The Executive Minister introduced the final report on the Regional Council Structure Evaluation, as prepared by consultant Jenny Stephens. This work will be one of the core priorities for the November in-person gathering of the Executive. The Executive Minister asked the Executive to pay particular attention to the recommendations presented on page 4 (four), and to consider what these recommendations could mean for the region and, if accepted, how to move forward with proposed changes. The Executive Minister asked for volunteers from the Executive to help prepare strategies for the November discussions. The Executive Minister noted that once the Executive has discerned the recommendations, including the key findings presented in Appendix 6 (six), the Executive will need to work to prepare this material for presentation to the region at the annual meeting.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the in-person planning and visioning meeting be held on November 17-18, 2025 at the Regional Council Office in St. John's.

Benediction

BENEDICTION

The President, Elsie Squires, closed the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Elsie Squires
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

PRESIDENT

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Oct. 3, 2025

Since my installation at Spring Regional Meetings at Corner Brook, my presidency has been very busy.

Some events have been sad.

Funerals of Ministers:

May 10: I attended the funeral and brought condolences to family and friends of Rev. Ralph Moores at Gower Street United Church.

May 30: I attended the funeral and brought condolences to family and friends of Rev. Silas Rogers, St. Jones Within.

Some events have been very joyful:

Celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada:

May 27: 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada held at Gower Street United Church

June 7: Burin's (Scoff) to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church and their church journey.

June 9: As minister of the Britannia Pastoral Charge, I led celebration of 100th Anniversary at Hickman's Harbour as the four churches came together to celebrate. Certificates that were signed by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, were presented to each church. Following the service there was a time of fun, food, fellowship and thanksgiving for the 100 years.

June 9: National Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada held at Gower Street United Church.

Church Dedication:

June 13: I was blessed as I attended the opening of the new United Church at Pacquet which replaced the one destroyed by fire. Greetings and prayer were brought by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish and from the local clergy. As people worshipped from near and far, the Holy Presence was felt as the new church was formally opened and blessed.

General Council: (August 7-11): I was blessed to be a Commissioner to General Council, Calgary. It was wonderful to join with commissioners from across Canada and our World Partners as we joined in business, worship and song.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Rev. Elsie Squires
President, FDEE Regional Council

Appendix B**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES****FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES REPORT**

October 3, 2025

Cemetery Guidelines

- Circulated to Executive in the spring for decision in the fall

George Street

- Chair of the Transition Team has resigned for health reasons
- There are many issues that require much work
- Awaiting a building audit at present
- A comprehensive report will be prepared for presentation to the Executive at its December meeting

CCOPC - Ownership Proposal from First Light

- Financial Statement and Review Engagement Report for fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 received and approved by CCOPC on June 25th, along with 2024 fiscal year statement
- Altius Group have been asked to complete an appraisal of Cochrane Street United Church
- (This is the group that completed the 2015 appraisal)
- Executive Minister plans to meet soon with the CCOPC Chair to discuss recent events and next steps
- Potentially, a meeting of CCOPC, First Light, and regional representatives may be necessary
- Faith will prepare a report

Loon Bay Camp

- Regional Office has received a letter dated August 28, 2025, from Canada Revenue Agency giving notice of intention to revoke the charity's registration because 2024 T3010 has not been filed.
- We can file written objection with explanation within ninety days of notice
- A box of documentation also has been received at Regional Office.
- The Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Convenor will review this material in conjunction with the Executive Minister
- They will make a plan for next steps
- We have had an inquiry about what to do with donations received and cheques donated, Faith will be in touch with the treasurer from St. Matthews United Church.

Bridges to Hope Board – for approval

- Listing received of Bridges to Hope Board of Directors elected at the AGM held on June 12, 2025
- Motion made by Finance and Administrative Resources Division on September 29, 2025:

Motion: (Brenda Andrews/Dave Dawe)

That the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources recommend to the Executive for approval the members of the Bridges to Hope Board of Directors to be: Ken Peters (Chair) (Gower Street UC representative); Miriam Bowlby (Vice-Chair) (Community Representative); Kim Mayo (Treasurer) (St. James United Church representative); Cheryl Sullivan-Critch (Secretary) (Community representative); Pam Morgan (First United Church representative); Elizabeth Horwood (Wesley United Church representative); Aidan Moores (Cowan Heights United Church representative); Stephen Squires (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church representative); Heather Steele Morrissey (St. David's Presbyterian Church representative); Jim Oakley (Community representative); Colette Rogers (Community representative); and Barbara Morris (Community representative).
Ex-officio Members are: Faith March-MacCuish (Executive Minister) and Ewan Cumming (Past Chair).

Carried

Appendix B - continued

FINANCE AND ADMINSTRATIVE RESOURCES - continued

Corner Brook United Church

Finance and Administrative Resources has received a completed form for distribution of funds for approval from Corner Brook UC from the sale of Humber UC.

Motion:

- That the full amount of outstanding assessments be paid before the distribution of any funds.

Assessment Arrears

- The Executive Minister has received from General Council an updated listing of assessment arrears.
- Assessment arrears are significant nationally and for our Region.
- We will need to make this matter a priority, and we will need to develop a strategy to address it.
- A significant number of our congregations are paying regularly and are paid in full by year-end or shortly thereafter annually.
- However, we have several congregations who are chronically in arrears.
- It will be important for us to reach out to remind congregations of the importance of paying assessments in order of priority as outlined in the manual – second only to staff pay and Pensions and Benefits.
- For those who area chronically in arrears, we will need to gather information as to why payments are not made
- We will need to look at strategies in which the Region can work with congregations to ensure arrears are paid.

Regional Insurance Policy

- On August 11, 2025, the Executive Minister sent a letter to Pastoral Charges with an application form attached, to be completed by each congregation and returned by September 25th.
- The form collects information related to each property and will enable the Region to get a blanket quote from UCC Protect for 2026.
- It is hoped that UCC Protect can provide a quote for 2026 for our blanket insurance policy. We will also be getting proposals from Steers Insurance for 2026.
- The Division is also looking at the future of the blanket insurance policy and other possibilities. Currently we are not making any changes.

Leasing: We are currently working on a leasing guideline document for use l congregations. That will come back to the Region in December.

Appendix C**REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT****REPORT OF DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES & SUPPORT TO
EXECUTIVE OF FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGION OF THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA
October 3, 2025**

Since the last meeting of the Regional Executive, the Division hoped to meet in late September, but a date for the meeting has yet to be found for all parties.

Updates from Justice, Mission and Outreach:

- Hardy Windsor has heard from the Joint JMO group from the other two regions about reconnecting during their fall events. Plans are in the works.

Updates from Rev. Catherine Stuart:

- Camping seasons were successful for two of the camps in the region. Despite challenges with fire and some staffing issues, West Haven and Burry Heights were able to finish their seasons with good registration numbers and talented staff and boards. As I'm sure you're aware, Loon Bay, once again, was not able to open due to concerns outlined by the Fire Commissioner. The United Church accreditation visit was completed at Burry Heights by Catherine Stuart and Kathy Brett. The full report will be available in the fall. Catherine will continue to support all three camps in the fall, in terms of their programming and personnel.
- The General Council Youth Forum happened in Calgary, with 6 youth and young adults under the age of 30 attending from our region. We'll look forward to hearing more from them in the fall too.
- Upcoming- Planning will begin in September for the 2026 installment of Youth @ Region, happening at Lion Max Simms Camp, May 1-3. Encourage youth (grade 6-12) in your communities to hold this date!
- We've also received word that our national youth and young adult event is back for 2026! Collective (em)brace for Impact will be a joint event with the Presbyterian Church in Canada for youth (going into grade 9), young adults (to age 30) and their leaders, August 12-15, 2026, at Brock University in St. Catharine's. Conversations about travel will begin in September.
- Catherine is meeting with her national colleagues and the Growth Animators from Sept 15-19th, focusing on how First Third Ministries (Children, Youth and Young Adults) can be part of the conversation around Toward 2035.

Our division is currently relatively small and in dire need of chairs for multiple committees to enable us to do our work in support of the Region.

Submitted By:
Rebecca Pike-Winter, Chair.