"Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch"

based on Luke 5:4-7

8th Annual Meeting

of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

June 10, 2026 & June 13, 2026

Record of Proceedings - Volume 2

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL Annual Meeting 2025

Regional Council Executive

President	Rev. Elsie Squires
Past President	Rev. Jocelyn Cook
President Elect	Rev. Susan Sheppard
Executive Minister	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Finance and Administrative Resources	vacant
Regional Council Services and Support	Ms. Rebecca Pike-Winter
Communities of Faith Support and Planning	Rev. Liberty Matabire
Human Resources	vacant
General Council Representative	Rev. Oliver Dingwell
Nominations	Rev. Emma O'Rourke
Member at Large	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Member at Large	Ms. Elizabeth Dawson
Member at Large	Rev. Oliver Dingwell
United Church Women Representative	Ms. Juanita Andrews
Tri-Regional Staff Support Representative	Ms. Doreen Cave

SESSIONS OF FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

YEAR/PLACE	PRESIDENT	EXECUTIVE MINISTER
2019 – Gander, NL	Ms. Wendy A. Lowden	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Peggy Johnson	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2021 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Peggy Johnson	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2022 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Grant Stuckless	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2023 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2024 – St. John's, NL	Rev. Amanda Barnes	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2025 – Corner Brook, NL	Rev. Jocelyn Cook	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2026 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Elsie Squires	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

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REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL

Ministry Personnel

Abbott. Vera	Ordained Minister	Retired
Adams, F. John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Adams, Gary	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Andrews, Christopher	Ordained Minister	Active
Barbour, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Active
Barnes, Amanda	Ordained Minister	Active
Bartlett, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Blackwood, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Bowlby, Miriam	Ordained Minister	Active
Boyd, Jason	Ordained Minister	Ministry Partner
Brace, Julie	Ordained Minister	Non-UCC
Brett, Kathy	Ordained Minister	Active
Bungay, Lorne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Bursey, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Burton, Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Case, Raymond	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Colbourne, E. Brian	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cole, Roscoe	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cole, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Conrad, Joan	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cook, Graham	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cook, Jocelyn	Ordained Minister	Active
Crewe, Dianne	Ordained Minister	Active
Davis, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davis, Marion	Ordained Minister	Retired
Dingwell, Oliver	Ordained Minister	Active
Elliott, Arthur G.	Ordained Minister	Retired
Elliott, Arthur W.	Ordained Minister	Retired
Feltham, Ernest	Ordained Minister	Active
Gale, Paula	Ordained Minister	Active
Ginn, Calvin	Ordained Minister	Retired
Guzzwell, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hamlyn, Victor	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Hann, Donna	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hannon, Brian	Ordained Minister	Active
Hillier, Eric	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hopkins, Yvonne	Ordained Minister	Active
Janes, Roger	Ordained Minister	Retired
Jarvis, Glenn	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Johnson, Peggy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Jones-Fitzgerald, Pamela	Ordained Minister	Active
Kean, George	Ordained Minister	Retired
Keddy, Darlene	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kingsbury, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Active
LeDrew, L. George	Ordained Minister	Retired
LeGrow, G.L. Sheldon	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lodge, Thomas	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Maich, John	Ordained Minister	Active
March-MacCuish, Faith	Ordained Minister	Active
March-MacCuish, Ian	Ordained Minister	Active
Marsh, Ricky	Ordained Minister	Retired
Martin-Carter, James	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Matabire, Liberty	Ordained Minister	Active
Matchem, William	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Matthews, Beverly	Ordained Minister	Active
Matthews, Guy	Ordained Minister	Active
Matthews, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Active
McClellan, Stephanie	Ordained Minister	Active
McGonigle, John	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Mercer, Hubert	Ordained Minister	Retired

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel - continued

Mercer, William	Ordained Minister	Active
Michelin, Lee	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mojica-Fisher, Nancy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moores, Alice Lenora	Ordained Minister	Active
Morgan, Denine	Ordained Minister	Active
Muwowo, Simon	Ordained Minister	Active
Newell, Tony	Ordained Minister	Retired
Noseworthy, Lawrence	Ordained Minister	Active
Oake, Harry	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
O'Rourke, Emma	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Pardy, A. Marion	Ordained Minister	Retired
Parsons, Clayton	Ordained Minister	Retired
Parsons, Desmond	Ordained Minister	Active
Parsons, Georgina	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Parsons, S. Boyce	Ordained Minister	Retired
Parsons, Scott	Ordained Minister	Active
Paul, Corey	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Pike, Linda	Ordained Minister	Active
Pike, Rebecca	Diaconal Minister	Active
Potter, Lisa	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ravenscroft, James	Ordained Minister	Active
Rees, Marilyn	Ordained Minister	Active
Reynolds, Royden	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rodgers, Raymond	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Rose, Stephanie	Ordained Minister	Active
Sandford, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Sellars, Clarence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Sellars, S. Dean	Ordained Minister	Active
Sheppard, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
Small, Russell	Ordained Minister	Retired
Spracklin, E. Bernice	Ordained Minister	Retired
Squires, Elsie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stockley, George	Ordained Minister	Retired
Templeman, Harry	Ordained Minister	Retired
Thorne, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
Tuck, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
van Vliet, John	Ordained Minister	Active
Vardy, Katelyn	Candidate	Active
Vardy, Paul	Ordained Minister	Active
Vincent-Bungay, Roberta	Ordained Minister	Active
Von Riesen, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Waite, Kimberley	Ordained Minister	Active
Warder, Nancy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Watkins, Lawrence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Williams, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wiltshire, Edison	Ordained Minister	Active
Worsfold, D. Scott	Ordained Minister	Active
Wright, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Active
Yohan, Deepak	Ordained Minister	Admission

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Elected Lay Members

Anderson, June	Burgeo	Andrews, Brenda	Mount Pearl-First United
Andrews, Juanita	Pool's Cove	Anthony, David	Grand Falls-Windsor
Anthony, Melinda	Grand Falls-Windsor	Badcock, Jack	Coley's Point-Grace United
Bartlett-Hickey, Sandra	Whitbourne	Bennett, Robert	Topsail
Bessey, Louise	Central Labrador	Best, Diane	Gander
Best, Sharon	Norman's Cove	Bixby, Lloyd	Fogo Island
Brett, Jerry	Springdale	Brown, Carol	Bell Island-Portugal Cove
Budden, Sandra	St. John's: Cowan Heights	Buffett, Gerald	Gander
Burry, Brenda	Churchill Falls	Burt, Constance	Botwood
Burt, Cynthia	Mount Pearl-First United	Burt, Kathleen	Heart's Content
Butt, Will	Carbonear	Button, Frances	Old Perlican
Button, Stella	Hant's Harbour	Case, Don	Salmon Cove
Cave, Doreen	Topsail	Chaisson, Joan	Port aux Basques
Cole, Brad	Topsail	Colbourne, Lloyd	Green Bay South
Collins, Mary	Carmanville	Collins, Stirling	Norman's Cove
Comerford, Karend	Carbonear	Cormier, Adrien	St. John's: Cowan Heights
Dalley, Jackie	Gander	Dalton, Don	St. George's
Dawe, David	Bishop's Falls	Dawson, Elizabeth	Central Labrador
Dingwell Pauline	Corner Brook United	Eddy, Art	Swift Current
Eddy, Una	Swift Current	Efford, Mary	Port Blandford
Elliot, Pansy	Raleigh Griquet	Evans, James	Bay Roberts-Shearstown
Eveleigh, Dianne	Lewisporte	Feltham, Charles	Pasadena-Howley
Fillier, Guy	Englee	Foote, Shane	Burin-Epworth
Foley, Rosalind	Topsail	Forsey, Bessanne	Grand Bank
Gill, Pamela	Corner Brook United	Ginn, Ray	Stoneville-Change
Green, Muriel	Clarenville-Deep Bight	Hamlyn, Lottie	LaScie
Hamlyn, Walter	Corner Brook: Oakland	Harris, Erika	St. John's: Wesley
Hancock, Loretta	Red Bay	Harnett, Jean	Campbellton
Henderson, Barb	Raleigh Griquet	Hoben, Daphne	Burin-Epworth
Hodder, Randy	Carmanville	Howell, Carl	Newtown-Lumsden
Howse, Ernestine	Newtown-Lumsden	Hudson, Neil	Pouch Cove-Bauline
Humphries, Junior	Labrador West	Hurley, Shriley	Buchans
Johnson, Roy	Catalina-Little Catalina	Jones, Marilyn	Shoal Harbour
Jones, Myrtle	Wesleyville-Valleyfield	Jones-Nichol, Wanda	Twillingate
King, Deann	Salmon Cove	King, Lilly	Victoria
Knight, Robert	King's Point	Knight, Morley	King's Point
Lacey, Natalie	Labrador West	Lake, Carol Ann	Burin-Epworth
Langdon, Susan	Botwood	Lavender, Michelle	Gambo
Lawson, Gwen	St. George's	Layden, Evelyn	Victoria
LeDrew, Daphne	St. John's: Wesley	Lefeuvre, Gloria	St. John's: St. James
Legge, Melinda	Green's Harbour	Legrow, Doris	Pouch Cove-Bauline
McDonald, Marie	Raleigh-Griquet	McKenna, Elaine	La Scie
Melbourne, Joan	Burgeo	Mercer, Susan	Bay Roberts-Shearstown
Mitchell, Georgina	Burin-Epworth	Mullaly, Linda	Lower Island Cove
Mullett, Betty	Wesleyville-Valleyfield	Myles, Gloria	Garnish-Frenchman's Cove
Noseworthy, Ella	Fortune	Norman, Pamela	St. John's: St. James
Osmond, Genny	Gander	Parsons, Marie	Newtown-Lumsden
Parsons-Collins, Elsie	Victoria	Paul, Ethel	Burin-Epworth
Paul, Mary	Bonavista	Penney, Geneva	Green's Harbour
Petten, Karen	Coley's Point- Grace United	Philpott, Cynthia	Summerville
Pike, Randy	Harbour Grace	Pike, Ruby	Harbour Grace
Purchase, Randy	St. John's: Cowan Heights	Ralph, Michael	St. John's: Wesley
Reardon, Maxine	Corner Brook United	Rideout, Mildred	Buchans
Rietkoetter, David	Freshwater	Roberts, Carol	St. Anthony
Rose, Sharon	Grand Bank	Rowsell, Hope	Green Bay South
Sheppard, Hannah	Bell Is-Portugal Cove PC	Simms, Peggy	St. Anthony
Skinner, Michelle	St. John's: St. James	Sharpe, Ruby	Bonne Bay
Slaney, Ken	St. John's: Gower Street	Smart, Chris	Summerville
Smith, Janet	Little Heart's Ease	Smith, Lorraine	Norman's Cove
Smith-Sparkes, Wanda	Carbonear	Snook, Glendene	Bonavista

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Elected Lay Members – continued

Sparkes, Helen	Bay Roberts-Shearstown	Spence, Myra	Deer Lake
Stevenson, Jonathan	St. John's: Gower Street	Stokes, Greg	St. John's: Cowna Heights
Stratton, Marion	Gander	Stringer, Carol-Ann	Clarke's Beach
Sturge, Sylvia	Wesleyville-Valleyfield	Taylor, Rowena	Elliston-English Harbour
Tibbo, Jennie	Garnish-Frenchman's Cove	Tindall, Elda	Bloomfield-Musgravetown
Trickett, Sylvia	Victoria	Tuck, Kelly	Mount Pearl-First United
Tucker, Joyce	Raleigh-Griquet	Verge, Joyce	King's Point
Warford, Kaye	Northern Arm	Warren, Haley	Gander
Wells, Brenda	Whitbourne	Wentzell, Eleanor	St. John's: Wesley
Wheaton, Marion	Carmanville	Wheeler, Nancy	Summerford-Moreton's Hr
White, Derek	Lewisporte	Williams, Jan Erik	Bell Island-Portugal Cove
Winsor, Hardy	Northern Arm		

Corresponding Members

Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Buffett, Margaret	Visitor
Gregan, Ivan	Staff
Henry, Jennifer	GC Representative
Laundry, Leona	Staff
Mountford, Cathy	Visitor
Munikwa, Shepherd	Staff
Piercey, Alison	Staff
Shearer, Rob	Staff
Squires, Maxwell	Visitor
Stuart, Catherine	Staff
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Tucker, Lydia	Visitor

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Annual Meeting

June 10&13, 2026

via video conference and at St. James United Church, St. John's, NL

RC60

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
June 10&13, 2026
via video conference and at St. James United Church, St. John's, NL

Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the June 10, 2026 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held online, via Zoom videoconference. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered a webinar on May 25, 2026, so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting.

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

GATHERING

The Zoom meeting opened at 5:30pm for members to gather and test connections.

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Elsie Squires, welcomed everyone to the eighth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President highlighted the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners, as printed in the docket of reports, as guidelines for the business proceedings.

Welcome

WELCOME

The President welcomed all who were gathered to the annual meeting. The President extended warm welcome to the clergy and lay council members, visitors, and guests. Special welcome was extended to Jennifer Henry, Executive Officer, Organizational Development and Strategy, in attendance as General Council Representative; and Rob Shearer, the new Growth and Stewardship Animator for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils.

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.

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.

Procedural Motion

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Jocelyn Cook)

That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2026 C.1.1 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.

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2026;
"The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present… If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 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."

That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space, and St. James United Church, St. John's, NL.

That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.

That the agenda, as distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.

That the business table be Kathy Brett, and Paula Gale.

That the minute secretary for the eighth (8th) annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

That 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.

That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.

That the Chaplain/Pastoral Care provider for this meeting be Beverley Matthews.

That the Process and Flow Support person for Regional Council be Paula Gale.

That the Friend in Council be Kathy Brett.

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 2026 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. (*Note 3.7 In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot's Rules) will be followed.*)

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 discussion clear and concise, and deal only with the motion

CARRIED

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 10&13, 2026 via videoconference and at St. James United Church, St. John's, NL

Consent Motion

CONSENT MOTION

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Jocelyn Cook)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, May 2-4, 2025 (RC60-RC76) as circulated.

2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
   a. President
   b. Executive Minister
   c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
      - Financial Accountability Investments & Trusts
      - Property
      - Incorporated Ministries
   d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
      - Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development
      - Justice, Mission & Outreach
      - Annual Meeting Planning
      - Children, Youth & Young Adults
   e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
      - Mission Consultation & Accountability
      - Future Directions in Ministry
   f. Division of Human Resources
      - Licensing
      - Pastoral Relations
      - Retiree Support
      - Chaplaincy
   g. Nominations
      INCLUDING THE NOMINATIONS REPORT AND THE 2026-27 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
   h. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
   i. Affirm Committee

3. Receives for information the following other reports:
   a. Atlantic School of Theology
   b. Centre for Christian Studies
   c. Emmanuel College
   d. Growth Animator
   e. Office of Vocation
   f. St. Andrew's College
   g. Ukulele Church
   h. United Church Rural Ministry Network

CARRIED

Opening Worship

OPENING WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by the Liturgy Team members of the Annual Meeting Planning Team; Oliver Dingwell and Brian Hannon. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch*. A scripture reading from Luke 5:1-11 was shared.

Music leadership was offered by Paul Vardy, Bonnie Vardy, Hertha Blackwood and Wayne Blackwood, leading the selections *Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore, In the Bulb There is a Flower,* and *Are You a Shepherd*. Oliver Dingwell offered the benediction.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM

As part of the opening worship, the Regional Minister, Heather Sandford, 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 Regional Minister offered prayer and asked for a moment of silence.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

Introduction of Candidates

Rev. Ivan Gregan, Office of Vocation Interim Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Katie Vardy; being Ordained this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. Katie was welcomed to the Regional Council and given two minutes to speak to introduce themself. Ivan Gregan also introduced candidate for ordered ministry, Melissandra Groza, and Admissionand Rev. Deepak Khristi, currently serving Labrador West Pastoral Charge.

GROWTH AND STEWARDSHIP

Growth and Stewardship

Rev. Rob Shearer was introduced to the region and took a few minutes to introduce himself to the members gathered. Rev. Shearer began his new appointment last week, as the Growth and Stewardship Animator for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

General Council Representative

The President, Elsie Squires, introduced the General Council representative, Jennifer Henry, Executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy. The General Council Representative thanked the members gathered for the invitation to be present during this annual meeting. The General Council representative shared information and updates from the General Council; highlighting the work on the strategic plan, Toward 2035; an internal report regarding growth and congregational wellbeing for the next 10 (ten) years of the United Church, and the structure review evaluation. The General Council representative also highlighted the upcoming retirement of General Secretary, Michael Blair, and the search process that will be implemented to fill this role. The President, Elsie Squires, thanked the General Council representative for her attendance at the meeting.

2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Audited Financial Statements

Brenda Andrews, Secretary of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the 2025 audited financial statements. Todd Rose, Convenor of the Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team, presented a detailed account of the region's finances during a webinar on May 25, 2026. The convenor led the regional council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor's declaration that the statements *present fairly… the financial position of the Regional Council.* It was noted that the balance sheet for the region is very consistent. The presentation highlighted the change in loans and notes receivable, due to the loan forgiveness of an outstanding loan, and offered definition and explanation of the various assets and liabilities, including restricted and unrestricted funds; which showed modest growth in 2025. Overall, the region finished 2025 in a consistently strong financial position.

MOTION: (Brenda Andrews/Cynthia Burt)

> That the 2025 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.
>
> **CARRIED**

BUDGET 2027

Budget 2027

Brenda Andrews, Secretary of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the budget for 2027. A detailed report on the budget was presented by Todd Rose, Convenor of Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts, at the May 25, 2026 webinar. The Convenor noted that there are not expected to be any changes in the Mission and Service and administrative grants from General Council for 2027. The presentation highlighted several increases in expenditures, including cost of living adjustments for salaries and an expenditure for the annual meeting, which will be in person in 2027. It was noted that the budgeted amounts proposed for 2027 are relatively stable, as the region has a better understanding of projected revenues and expenses, and have received budget requests from divisions and teams, based on their planned work for the next year. It was noted that a surplus of $667,477.61 (six hundred and sixty-seven thousand four hundred and seventy-seven dollars and sixty-one cents) is projected for 2027, indicating a very strong financial position for the region.

MOTION: (Brenda Andrews/Emma O'Rourke)

That the budget for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council for 2027 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Break

BREAK

President

PRESIDENT

(Jocelyn Cook assumed the chair)

The President, Elsie Squires, thanked the members of the region for their support and for allowing her to serve the region in this way. The President presented her report, included on pages 8-10 of the Reports to the Region. The President highlighted some of the joys and sorrows she experienced over the past year; attending celebrations, funerals, and services on behalf of the region. The President offered special thanks to the Britannia Pastoral Charge, Executive members and regional staff for their help, understanding and guidance. The President is looking forward to continuing her work as Past President and extended sincere best wishes to the incoming President, Rev. Susan Sheppard.

(Elsie Squires reassumed the chair)

Executive Minister

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented her report, included on pages 11-14 of the Reports to the Region. The Executive Minister expressed thanks and gratitude for the staff, ministry personnel, lay members, and to the division and team members who serve the region. The Executive Minister highlighted some of the work of the Executive, Toward 2035, and the recent work on the governance structure review and revision of the Regional Council priorities. The Executive Minister shared scripture from Isaiah 43:19 as inspiration for the work of the region; noting that we are now in the "messy middle". The messy middle is a place where, although capacity is restrained and uncertainty exists, a courageous space of possibilities exists; where faith deepens and becomes more real. The Executive Minister concluded her remarks with a poem entitled *Because* by Rosemary Trommer; as inspiration for learning to lead in the messy middle.

President-Elect

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Emma O'Rourke, chair of Nominations, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The chair introduced Oliver Dingwell and Dean Sellars as the President-Elect nominees. The nominees for President-Elect were introduced to the region during the May 25, 2026 webinar.

A poll was launched for members to vote for President-Elect. At the conclusion of the voting, the President named Rev. Oliver Dingwell as President-Elect.

MOTION: (Emma O'Rourke/Cynthia Burt)

That the ballots for the election of President-Elect be deleted.

CARRIED

The President-Elect, Rev. Oliver Dingwell, was offered a few minutes to address the members gathered. The President-Elect thanked Rev. Dean Sellars for his ministry and for letting his name stand for this election.

Elsie Squires, President, offered congratulations to the President-Elect, and blessings for his new call to serve the church in this way.

Justice, Mission and Outreach

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

The President welcomed Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach to the council. The presentation of the Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach highlighted the work of the committee, and offered that justice is at the heart of the church; its calling, and outlined the various working groups operating within the committee.

The presentation concluded with an invitation to members to attend a grass roots engagement network that works towards a welcoming, vibrant, intercultural and diverse church, and to make an important shift in our thinking; from tradition to mission, decline to growth, and charity to justice.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

Guaranteed Livable Income

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, Guaranteed Livable Income Coordinator, offered a presentation on Guaranteed Livable Income. The presentation included a video message from the Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, inviting members of communities of faith to join the call for a guaranteed livable income for all. The coordinator challenged the members gathered to put their faith into action and add their voices to the call to support this basic right.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Children, Youth and Young Adults

Catherine Stuart, Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, was welcomed to the Regional Council. Catherine provided an overview of her work over the past year, and highlighted some of the growth in programs and youth ministries in the three eastern regions. Highlights from 2025 included Camp Stuff, Youth@Region events, 100th anniversary events, Regenerate, camp accreditations, Ukulele Church and youth clusters. The Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults welcomes invitations to visit communities of faith, Sunday services and events, and thanked the members gathered for their ongoing support for these ministries.

COURTESIES

Courtesies

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, Kathy Brett, offered happy birthday greetings to all who celebrate and especially to this United Church of ours on its 101st birthday! Thanks were extended to all who participated, attended, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to the planning team, liturgy team, staff, and members who attended. Special thanks were offered to the General Council Representative, the Interim Office of Vocation Minister, and new Growth and Stewardship Animator for their attendance and participation, and to the President for chairing this meeting.

CLOSING MOTION

Closing Motion

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Kathy Brett)

> That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2026; and that the eighth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Saturday, June 13, 2026; and that the ninth annual meeting be held in Gander, NL, on April 30-May 2, 2027.
>
> **CARRIED**

CLOSING WORSHIP

Closing Worship

Members of the Liturgy team led the members gathered in closing worship to further reflect on the theme *Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch* and offered encouragement and prayers for all as we head into bold discipleship; letting us know that God is not finished and walks with us in whatever comes next. Music leadership was offered by Paul Vardy, Bonnie Vardy, Hertha Blackwood and Wayne Blackwood, leading the selection *Will Your Anchor Hold.*

Saturday, June 13, 2026

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Celebration of Ministries

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at St. James United Church, on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 1:00pm. 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.

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 10&13, 2026 via videoconference and at St. James United Church, St. John's, NL

Rev. Elsie Squires, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council President, led the service and was the preacher for the theme *Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch*. Katie Vardy was ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada, and Rev. Susan Sheppard was installed as the President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. The newly installed President presented her theme for the year as "The Church has Left the Building".

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Rev. Elsie Squires
President

_____
Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

ATTENDANCE

Andrews, Brenda
Anthony, Melinda
Bennett, Robert
Bowlby, Miriam
Brett, Jerry
Budden, Sandra
Bursey, Karen
Burt, Kathleen
Cave, Doreen
Comerford, Karen
Cormier, Adrien
Dingwell, Oliver
Eddy, Una
Feltham, Charles
Gale, Paula
Ginn, Calvin
Hann, Donna
Harnett, Jean
Humphries, Junior
Jones-Fitzgerald, Pamela
Lavender, Michelle
LeDrew, Daphne
March-MacCuish, Ian
Matabire, Liberty
Matthews, Stephen
Mercer, Susan
Mullaly, Linda
Nosworthy, Larry
Pardy, Marion
Parsons-Collins, Elsie
Paul, Ethel
Pike, Linda
Purchase, Randy
Rowsell, Hope
Sandford, Heather
Sheppard, Susan
Slaney, Ken
Smith-Sparkes, Wanda
Spencer, Mabel
Stevenson, Jonathan
Stratton, Marion
Taylor, Rowena
Trickett, Sylvia
Vardy, Paul
White, Derek
Winsor, Hardy

Anthony, David
Bartlett-Hickey, Sandra
Blackwood, Wayne
Boyd, Jason
Brett, Kathy
Buffett, Gerald
Burt, Cynthia
Button, Emily Frances
Cole, Brad
Cook, Jocelyn
Dalley, Jackie
Eddy, Art
Eveleigh, Dianne
Foley, Rosalind
Gill, Pamela
Green, Muriel
Hannon, Brian
Harris, Erika
Jones, Marilyn
Kingsbury, Valerie
Layden, Evelyn
March-MacCuish, Faith
Matchem, William
Matthews, Beverly
McClellan, Stephanie
Mojica-Fisher, Nancy
Muwowo, Simon
O'Rourke, Emma
Parsons, Georgina
Paul, Corey
Pike, James
Pike-Winter, Rebecca
Ravenscroft, James
Sellars, Dean
Sheppard, Hannah
Skinner, Michelle
Small, Russell
Spence, Myra
Squires, Elsie
Stokes Gregory
Stringer, Carol-Ann
Thorne, Karen
Vardy, Katelyn
Warford, Kaye
Wiltshire, Edison
Yohan, Deepak

Other

Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff	Buffett, Margaret	Visitor
Gregan, Ivan	Staff	Henry, Jennifer	GC Representative
Laundry, Leona	Staff	Mountford, Cathy	Visitor
Munikwa, Shepherd	Staff	Piercey, Alison	Staff
Shearer, Rob	Staff	Squires, Maxwell	Visitor
Stuart, Catherine	Staff	Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Tucker, Lydia	Visitor		

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 10&13, 2026
via videoconference and at St. James United Church, St. John's, NL

Appendix B

REGRETS

Barnes, Amanda
Bartlett, Bill
Dawson, Elizabeth
Lacey, Natalie
Lake, Carol Ann
LeFeuvre, Gloria
Moores, Alice
Morgan, Denine
Noseworthy, Ella
Rose, Sharon
Smith, Janet