

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
December 4, 2025 at 9:30am via video conference

RC33

ATTENDANCE

Attendance

April Hart, Angela MacLean, Faith March-MacCuish, Donald Morrison, Ann Piper, Carol Smith, Janet Sollows, Mary Taylor, Donna Tourneur.

REGRETS

Regrets

Derek Elsworth.

WELCOME

Welcome

Mary Taylor, President, welcomed Executive members to the meeting.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Quorum

The President, Mary Taylor, noted that a quorum was present and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, for all the business that shall properly come before it.

Constitution of
the Council

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging
the Land

Mary Taylor, President, acknowledged the land on which we gather, live, work and worship, with respect for all peoples of this land as we live out the apology, and move towards becoming the community that God calls us to be together in peace and friendship.

AGENDA

Agenda

The President noted that the agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting.

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Donnie Morrison)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

OPENING DEVOTIONS

Opening
Devotions

The President shared an image from the Good News Bible, reflecting scripture from Galatians 6:2; to bear one another's burdens. The President invited the members gathered to check-in with one another. The President opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES

Minutes

MOTION: (Donna Tourneur/Carol Smith)

That the minutes of the October 29-30, 2025 meeting of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Business
Arising

Stairs Memorial Investigation – File #2025-0206-01

The Executive Minister provided an update on the items coming from this investigation. The workshops and training have taken place, with positive results reported from the parties involved. The Executive Minister will be in contact with the official board regarding next steps.

Stairs
Memorial
File #2025-
0206-01

(Ann Piper joined the meeting)

Tatamagouche Centre

The Executive Minister offered an update on the recent board meeting of the Tatamagouche

Tatamagouche
Centre

Centre. The current Executive Director has resigned, and there is some uncertainty regarding the future of the Centre. The Executive Minister is in conversation with the Finance Committees to consider possible solutions to assist with the way forward.

MOTION: (Carol Smith/Donna Tourneur)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive agrees in principle to hold funds for four (4) months for *Breaking the Silence*, to allow the group to work through the necessary pieces in continuation of programs during the uncertainty faced by Tatamagouche Centre.

CARRIED

Break

BREAK

Proposal for Structural Change

Proposal for Structural Change

The Executive Minister provided an update on the search for a consultant to work through the Regional Council Governance Review with the Executive. The Executive Minister has received a proposal for two possible ways of discernment, in order to assist in making clear decisions.

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Carol Smith)

That Patricia Zeggelaar Bower, Consultant, be engaged for consulting services, based on the service quote provided.

CARRIED

Toward 2035

Toward 2035

The Executive Minister provided an update on this initiative, and the upcoming work to communicate this initiative to the congregations in the region. The Executive Minister has been working closely with the three Regional Ministers to develop a proposed way to move forward with this communication plan, in order to have brave and bold conversation with communities of faith in the region. The Session 1 documents, as a resource for congregational use, are expected to be posted by General Council in the New Year. The Executive Minister presented a proposed draft of this information. It is suggested that the presentation of the Toward 2035 information would take place over several sessions. The Executive members offered feedback on the roll-out and offered endorsement for the staff to prepare a workplan for these conversations.

Reports

REPORTS

President

PRESIDENT

The President, Mary Taylor, offered her report. The President highlighted some recent activities, including preparation of an advent letter to the region, and leading worship at the closing service of St. Paul's United Church in Spryfield. The President thanked the Executive for their support, and for the honour of serving the region in this role.

Executive Minister

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

The Executive Minister provided her report. The Executive Minister offered an update on the St. Paul's United Church Property. In addition, the Executive Minister invited discussion on the Cluster Animator position, as this position is set to conclude on December 31, 2025. The Division of Finance and Administration has approved an extension of funding for this position, and Robyn Brown-Hewitt, Cluster Animator, has agreed to remain in the position until May 31, 2026.

MOTION: (Carol Smith/Janet Sollows)

That Robyn Brown-Hewitt be offered to continue in the position of Cluster Animator to May 31, 2026, for 12 (twelve) hours per week.

CARRIED

In addition to the work on structure evaluations and Toward 2035, the Executive Minister noted that two new staff have begun work in the Sackville Office.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations

Angela MacLean, chair, reported that work of the committee is ongoing. There are still several vacancies that the committee are working to fill. The chair noted that she will be resigning her position in the new year.

MOTION: (Angela MacLean/Donnie Morrison)

That Anne Cameron be named as Chair of the Division of Regional Services and Support.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Donnie Morrison/Angela MacLean)

That Michelle Green be named to the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee.

CARRIED

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

Tri-Regional Staff Support

In the absence of the chair, the Executive Minister noted that the two new staff have begun work in the Sackville Office. Staff interviews are planned for the new year.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

United Church Women

Ann Piper provided an update from the United Church Women. The representative noted that not all regional councils have a UCW representative on their executive. The representative may follow up with the regional council executive at another time for advice and assistance on encouraging other regional councils to have representation.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES

Finance and Administration

April Hart, chair, presented the report of the division.

MOTION: (April Hart/Ann Piper)

That the revised by-laws of North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

The chair highlighted the work of the committee, and recent grants monies that have been allocated for Mission Support grants.

(Donna Tourneur left the meeting)

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT – Appendix A

Regional Services and Support

Donnie Morrison, chair, presented the report of the division, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted some of the recent suggestions coming from Communications, and the recent work of the Faith Formation and Leadership Development committee.

MINISTRY RESOURCES – Appendix B

Ministry Resources

Janet Sollows, chair, presented the report of the division, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the concerns of the division regarding corresponding members, and brought forward the following information for discussion:

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Carol Smith)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia regional council approve the amalgamation of Community United and Brunswick Street United, Truro.

CARRIED

Community UC
Brunswick Street UC

(April Hart abstained from the vote)

Bridgewater UC

Bridgewater United Church

Janet Sollows provided background information regarding Bridgewater United Church, and shared a letter from the community of faith.

File #2025-1204-01

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/April Hart)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approves the request from Bridgewater United Church to initiate a review process according to the United Church Manual (J.4 – Regional Council Action for Community of Faith).

CARRIED

St. Peter's-Grand River-Loch Lomond PC

St. Peter's-Grand River-Loch Lomond

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Donnie Morrison)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approves that the St. Peter's-Grand River-Loch Lomond Pastoral Charge be renamed to St. Peter's Pastoral Charge.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Carol Smith)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Behavioural Covenant

BEHAVIOURAL COVENANT

The Executive Minister raised the discussion of a behavioural covenant for the Regional Council Executive. This concept is brought forward as follow-up from the October 29-30, 2025 meetings of the Executive. The Executive Minister offered to circulate some language that is currently used by General Council executive and committees, as a discussion point at the next meeting of the Executive, once members have had the opportunity to review the material and offer feedback.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Executive will take place on March 19, 2026 at 9:30am.

Benediction

BENEDICTION

The President, Mary Taylor, closed the meeting with prayer.

Mary Taylor
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

**Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council**

Division Name: Regional Services and Support

Dec. 4, 2025

Committee Names within the Division

Faith Formation and Leadership Development (FFLD)
Communications
Children, Youth and Young Adult (CYaYA)
Stewardship
Justice, Mission & Outreach (JMO)
Annual Meeting Planning (AMPC)
Affirm Ministries

Date of Divisional Meetings: The Division Committee met on Nov. 19, 2025 by Zoom.

Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:

Webinars

FFLD has engaged Janice MacLean, the host of Prayer Bench, to prepare a series of audio recordings to provide support to lay and ordered leaders who find themselves called upon to offer a prayer or lead a service. Others may find it a helpful review of prayer or welcome a personal spiritual practice of writing prayers. This resource is suitable for individual study or for use with a group learning about prayer or working together to offer prayers during worship or meetings.

The material is delivered in two ways: Content is delivered through an audio recording and with the use of a workbook with an opportunity to also use the workbook for reflection and practice writing prayers.

There are three sessions: (1) An Overview to the "Meaning and Place of Prayers in Worship," (2) "Let Us Pray," a closer look at the Prayers of the People and Intercessory prayer, and (3) "Reflecting the Daily in Prayers," incorporating the news and cultural events in prayer. The series also offers a grounding practice, samples of prayers you can use, handouts and links to helpful resources.

The cost is \$1,200.

FFLD also provided on Oct. 22 and Oct. 29 webinars led by participants in (Re)generate. (Re)generate is a leadership development program for ministers across the United Church created by our previous Moderator the Rt. Rev. Carmen Lansdowne. This program culminated in each of the participants completing a capstone project. The webinar series was an exciting opportunity to hear from 4 of the participants of this program; their experience and their capstone project. It garnered many positive responses.

The presenters for the two sessions were:

October 22nd –Rev. Penny Nelson, and Rev. Rick Gunn

October 29th – Rev. Katie Aven, and Rev. Michelle Johnson-Armstrong.

The cost was \$1,200.

Affirm is planning for a webinar from Ian Harrison on living with "invisible" disabilities.

Meetings

The in-person Division Committee planned for September was cancelled.

Due to a low turnout for our Nov. 19 Division meeting, the planned conversation about Toward 2035 and the regional structure evaluation will be scheduled for January. It will be via Zoom. Committee chairs and committee members will be invited to attend

Financial Report

The Division Committee financial reports up to June 30 and Sept. 30 were reviewed.

Faith noted that the Financial Accountability and Investment Committee really would like more detailed responses from committees (than they have been getting) when asked for suggested 2027 budget amounts.

Appendix A - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued**Strategic Plan**

Carried over: For the May 21 meeting, the Chair broke down the strategic plan and bullet-pointed for each action where division committees are at achieving the actions and where committees might adjust their response to the strategic plan. Committee chairs will consider what the Division Chair has done and make further suggestions at our next meeting. The Stewardship Chair has completed her comments and will forward them to the Division Chair.

Communications

Nothing new to report.

There was some discussion about how to proceed. The governance evaluation found that direct emails and weekly announcements are high priorities for regional council members and we are doing that. Shari Kaster's new position description has communication as a bigger portion.

We could use some public relations work to get the word out to folks about what is actually available. Maybe reach out to colleges where modern communication is taught to help us get up-to-date with social media.

It was suggested that somebody reach out and make presentations to communities of faith about what the region can provide.

Maybe there is money in the FFLD budget to pay someone to revive "News from the Pews" or a similar newsletter to share stories about discipleship.

Dates of Committee Meetings: *(since last Executive meeting)*

- Faith Formation and Leadership Development *(meet monthly)*: Nov. 3. Next meeting Jan. 5.
- Communications ∅
- Children, Youth and Young Adult: Dec. 3
- Stewardship: ∅
- Justice, Mission & Outreach: Oct. 23 & 24 in-person.
- Annual Meeting Planning meets monthly from Sept. to June (except for December) Oct. 2, Nov. 12
- Affirm meets monthly on the second Tuesday: Oct. 1, next meeting Dec. 3

∅ = no meeting dates reported

Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:**Faith Formation and Leadership Development**

Please see information on (Re)generate and Prayer discussed under the Webinar heading above.

FFLD is considering what events it should offer in the spring.

Four new members have been added to the committee: Thea Koenig Burton, Michelle Green, Darlene Brewer and Samuel Graham.

Communications

This committee has yet to be re-created.

Children, Youth and Young Adult

Submitted by Paige Fraser, Committee Chair

The Children, Youth, and Young Adult Committee has reconvened this fall with a renewed sense of direction after a year of pause. I stepped back from my role as chair while on maternity leave, and during that time the committee was unable to meet. We are now in a season of rebuilding, re-establishing our rhythm of work, welcoming a few new members, and adapting as our staff support, Catherine Stuart, is currently on leave. We are taking intentional time to reconnect, revisit our mandate, and discern our priorities for the year ahead.

Appendix A - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued

Our discussions have focused on reestablishing the committee's role in supporting "first third" ministry across the Bermuda–Nova Scotia Region. As part of this, we reviewed ongoing initiatives and considered how to steward our resources toward programs that meaningfully foster faith formation in children, youth, and young adults. This included approving funding to support two ministries this year: a \$2,500 grant to Biblewoolies for their children's ministry app project, with the intention of revisiting further support in 2026 when we have a clearer financial picture; and a \$1,000 grant to Katie Aven's Camp Is My Church initiative, which provides alternative, camp-based faith formation for young people.

The committee also spent time exploring regional gatherings and opportunities for connection among youth across the region. Early planning for Youth @ Region is underway with the theme Church 101, and we are discerning the best ways to support volunteers, clarify roles, and strengthen the structure of the program—especially as AMPC may shift to a four-day gathering this year. Looking toward Rendezvous in St. Catharines, we reflected on youth experiences from last year, noting areas where travel logistics could be improved, and began discussing options such as chartering a bus and coordinating more equitable travel stops.

As we rebuild, committee members have been asked to reflect on the needs of children, youth, and young adults in their own communities and return with ideas for collective action. Our hope for the coming year is to regain momentum, strengthen our regional network, and continue supporting ministry that nurtures belonging, spiritual growth, and leadership among young people. The committee will continue this work when we meet again on December 3.

Stewardship

Wanalda Parsons, Chair

Informal Report

1. Noticing some people in congregation not aware that we are now a Region.
2. When people inquiring about stewardship programs, find some not aware of Church X and how to access.
3. Found not many people in the congregations aware of the weekly, Region Newsletters.
4. There is one speaking engagement next month dealing with Stewardship.
5. The Certificate of Stewardship is ending. The other people taking the course are from our sister denominations, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian. It is refreshing to hear that Stewardship is acknowledged separate from fundraising.
6. The monthly Region newsletters Stewardship inserts continue.
7. Continue to educate myself on Stewardship and different ways to reach people. I am taking the AST Discipleship program and found the (Re) generate web series interesting.
8. Christmas is the time of year people give to the church, will be trying to increase the culture of giving.

Justice, Mission & Outreach (*Joint Committee with FSLDW*)**Bermuda-Nova Scotia**

Sandra Tomsons, Chair; Kathryn Anderson, DM (2026); Linda Scherzinger, (2026) Just Peace; Sheila van Schaik, (2026) Eco-Justice

Fundy, St. Lawrence, Dawning Waters

Kathy Bigsby, Chair (2026) ; Barbara Cairns, (2027, 2nd); Audrey Lounder (2028); Keith MacPherson (2026, 2nd); Jennifer Broomhead (2025); Christine MacLeod (2027); Natasha Pearen (2027); Mary Kennedy-Fulton (2028); Jane Doull (2028)

Corresponding members:

Karen Llewellyn, BIG; Norm Laverty, Mental Health; Minister for JMOC, Shepherd Munikwa

No report

Appendix A - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued**JMOC Minutes, Fall Gathering, October 23-24, 2025**

Attending: Jane Doull, Kathryn Anderson, Linda Scherzinger, Mary Kennedy-Fulton, Audrey Lounder, Natasha Pearen, Sandra Tomsons, Kathy Bigsby

Guest: Jordan MacDonald

Corresponding member for Basic Income Guarantee: Karen LLeWlyn

Regrets: Barbara Cairns; Shepherd Munikwa, Jen Broomhead, Keith MacPherson, Sheila Van Schaik, Christine MacLeod

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Kathy chaired the meeting; Sandi took notes and Audrey handled tech support.

At 11:00, Kathy welcomed members to the meeting and provided the Land

Acknowledgement.

Audrey Lounder provided an opening reflection.

Following the circle of introductions, we approved the minutes of the May 29, 2025 meeting by consensus.

Scheduling adjustments allowed for items of new business to be brought forward:

Jubilee 2025: Linda Scherzinger explained a "Year of Jubilee" happens every 25 years.

This year the UCC has been less involved and KAIROS has taken the lead in Canada.

Linda showed a KAIROS video which explained this year's campaign. Linda invited JMOC to support KAIROS in its goal to collect 100,000 signatures on a petition before the end of the year. The petition is online and Linda has copies of the paper petition and can share information. Kathy will add to regional weekly announcements.

Breaking the Silence: Kathryn Anderson provided a brief history of Breaking the Silence and showed the video Beyond the Bean. This video shows how Just Us Coffee supports farmers and communities. Motion that the video be shared via the weekly bulletin and be shown at Executive meetings and at the Annual Meetings. Carried by consensus. Kathy will add to regional weekly announcements and Kathy and Sandi will take to the Regional Council executives.

"Pilgrimage of Learning Delegations: Kenya": Guest speaker, Jordan MacDonald is a member of the O'Leary United Church in O'Leary, PE. He recently participated in the Pilgrimage of Learning Initiative of the United Church of Canada (<https://united-church.ca/news/pilgrimage-learning-initiative-launches-global-engagement-2025>).

Jordan reported on his team's visit to UCC partners in Kenya. His reflections included how we relate to international partners as equals, youth engagement and empowerment, and global perspectives on climate change and adaptation. Jordan was invited to attend the entire Fall Gathering as our guest and non-voting participant.

Working Group and other Reports

Indigenous Rights and Relations: David Hewitt previously asked JMOC to provide a Webinar on Land Acknowledgements. Natasha, Mary, Jane and Sandi will review the materials already available (including a Webinar done by the Affirm committee and a video on the JMOC Website) and ask David if these would meet the needs as he sees them. They will also brain-storm about the Working Group which does not currently exist. The Blanket Exercise is now only offered by Indigenous groups and is priced beyond most church budgets.

Chaplaincy Project: Linda explained that the three churches in Halifax which are becoming one will have ministry to students as part of their mission. Natasha will talk to Rev. Susan Chisholm, since the available funds from BNS region need to be used by the end of the year.

Theme Conversation Clusters: Deep, Bold, Daring?

Barbara Cairns and Robyn Brown-Hewitt joined remotely

Appendix A - continued

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT - continued

Robyn explained that her position for BNS was created because the organic clusters that were envisioned during restructuring were not happening. She described the disconnect between congregations and the regions as a “chasm”. The loss of relationship is especially acute for new clergy. She characterized the need for clusters as a place to “Meet, Eat and Feet (send out with renewed mission)”. Some clusters are forming. The success of a cluster seems to depend on the dedication of a single person. Few groups would be ready to invite JMOC or any other outside speakers. Robyn could share the names of clusters she thinks would welcome a JMOC presentation.

Barbara spoke about her success in obtaining a grant to support the PEI Cluster through the Rural Growth program at the national level. Grants are one-time grants and cannot be used for staffing. The money is to explore how to support rural ministry.

JMOC agreed that it wants clusters to have staff support because they are vital to having healthy communities of faith. Kathy will speak to this at the FSLDW Executive meeting.

Working Group and other Reports (continued)

3. Global Justice/Breaking the Silence Network (BTS): Kathryn brought us up to date about the 5 mining justice activists, who were in prison in El Salvador.
4. Just Peace: Linda explained that things are changing constantly. Members continue to offer the Palestine Land exercise. There are still requests for team training. Ecumenical Accompaniers went again this year. The UCC’s Principles for Justice are a new support for actions. UCC wants to stand in solidarity with Palestinian Christians. Some churches have done fund raising for local Palestinians to send to their families in Gaza. We are encouraging boycott and de-investment from Israel. Canada now supports a Palestinian state, but we are asking that the focus be on self-determination, adherence to international law and equal rights. Linda showed the video “Apartheid Free Palestine” and provided information about the Apartheid Free Communities network. Kathy will share this information through the Weekly Announcements. Kathy and Sandy will approach the Regions’ Executives about becoming Apartheid-Free Regions.

The Apartheid-Free Pledge:

- We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people.
- We oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination and oppression, and
- We declare ourselves an apartheid-free community

5. Eco-Justice:
 - Kathryn reported on the Mi’kmaq encampment at Hunter’s Mountain which she and Linda recently visited twice. The camp is protesting clear-cutting. The Mi’kmaq have traditionally used this land but have never been consulted.
 - Linda distributed a brochure from the Ecology Action Centre with information on the way faith communities in NS are making a difference in the climate emergency.
 - Linda addressed the response to Eco-Justice’s recommendations to put eco-justice into the church’s Justice Principles document. The recommendations were not accepted as submitted, but the document was re-written and included some of the suggestions. The approved version does acknowledge our concern about the expression “all my relations”. It was agreed we will ask for a conversation with the Standing Committee by inviting a representative to an upcoming meeting. Kathy will make that invitation,
 - Eco-Justice is grateful to Mary Lou Harley for her work related to nuclear power.
 - This working group has been setting priorities for the coming year.
6. Mental Health: The Mental Health Working group has been advised through their chair, Norm Laverty, about concerns raised about the content and presentation of material at the regional meetings in 2024, and about their vision for ongoing regional workshops whereby the WG offers to select resources to provide sessions. There was concern that this group is doing harm. After a long discussion, JMOC agreed that the MH working group should be paused until the composition and goals of the Working Group have been determined by JMOC.

Appendix A - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued**Webinar on Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Justice**

We joined a global conversation on Indigenous spiritualities, land rights, and climate justice, "[Voices of the Land: Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Justice](#)". The World Council of Churches established an Ecumenical Group of Indigenous People and declared a Decade of Ecumenical Climate Justice which has recently launched. Indigenous activists from across the globe provided their perspectives. A PDF of the webinar is available on ChurchX.

Friday, October 24

Opening Reflection

Audrey offered the opening reflection

JMOC Business

1. Meeting dates agreed upon for the coming year:
 - Zoom: Feb. 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to follow up on Fall Gathering items
 - Zoom: April 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to plan for Regional Council Meetings
 - Regional Council meetings are:
 - BNS (Acadia University, Wolfville, NS) May 29-31, 2026
 - FSLDW (virtual) June 5-6, 2026
 - Fall Gathering October 29-30, 2026 if Shepherd is available; October 22-23 is the alternate date. It was agreed that it is important for Shepherd to be at this meeting.
2. Budget update: JMOC was provided with a record of expenses to date:
 - Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
 - 01-01-2025 ACIC membership 18.75
 - 01-01-2025 deposit for October 2025 mtg Tatamagouche Centre 540.00
 - 06-05-2025 Marie Wilson Expense 18.63
 - 06-05-2025 honorarium Laura Hunter re: Marie Wilson 50.00
 - 10-15-2025 2024-26 Membership New Brunswick Enviro 33.34
 - Total Expenses \$ 660.72
 - Budget 8,500.00
 - Remaining Budget \$ 7,839.28

 - Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
 - 01-01-2025 ACIC membership 18.75
 - 01-01-2025 deposit for October 2025 mtg Tatamagouche Centre 540.00
 - 06-05-2025 Marie Wilson Expense 18.63
 - 06-05-2025 Honorarium Laura Hunter 50.00
 - 07-31-2025 Palestine Land Exercise, Audrey Louder 122.78
 - 08-21-2025 Copies Charge Back 21.00
 - 10-15-2025 2024-26 Membership, New Brunswick Env.Network Inc. 33.34
 - Total Expenses \$ 804.50
 - Budget 10,000.00
 - Remaining Budget \$ 9,195.50

 - Outstanding expenses include about \$4000 plus travel expenses for the Tatamagouche meeting, based on original contract.
 - Kathy will ask Jenn for a breakdown of expenses for the Marie Wilson tour.
 - Moved that JMOC cover the regional expenses for the Here From the Beginning Exhibition charges. The cost is \$750.00 per region. Moved by Kathryn. Seconded by Audrey. Motion carried.
 - Moved that JMOC give \$1500 to Debert Mi'kmawey Centre. Moved by Kathryn. Seconded by Natasha. Motion carried. Kathryn will provide Doreen Bernard's information.
 - Moved that JMOC give \$2,000 to support Shepherd's continuing education project. The project will support Just Peace in UCC East. Moved by Audrey. Seconded by Natasha. Motion Carried.
 - Moved that JMOC donate \$1,500 to the Silver Threads Fund of Breaking the Silence. Moved by Jane. Seconded by Kathryn. Motion carried. Kathryn will send background information.

Appendix A - continued

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT - continued

- Moved that JMOC donate \$1000 to support regional churches, such as those in Charlottetown, undertaking activities similar to churches in Halifax which are supported by the Chaplaincy Fund. Moved by Natasha. Seconded by Jane. Motion Carried. Natasha will make connections and arrange for distribution of funds.
 - Moved that JMOC donate the annual dues (\$40.00) for membership in the Environmental Network for KAIROS Halifax. Moved by Linda. Seconded by Audrey. Motion carried. (Addendum: there memberships are billed as \$80 every two years)
3. Review of interim decisions made and motions passed by email votes
 - JMOC voted in favour of writing to the President of the Atlantic School of Theology in support of their decision to award Honorary degrees to to Drs. Judy and Larry Haiven.
 - JMOC voted in favour of adding our support to a letter to the International Tennis Federation, Tennis Canada, the Davis Cup, and all organizing bodies involved in the 2025 Davis Cup events in Halifax, calling for the immediate cancellation of the Davis Cup Tennis Match between Team Canada and Team Israel, scheduled for September 12–13, 2025, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
 - JMOC shared a message through the weekly announcements from FSLDW and B-NS encouraging follow-up to the book launch tour by Marie Wilson, North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner.
 - JMOC voted in favour of adding our support to an Open Letter to Members of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, urging them to negotiate a Pharmacare Agreement with the federal government as soon as possible.
 - JMOC voted in favour of signing a letter supporting the work of international allies against mining in El Salvador.
 4. Website and social media accounts: It was agreed that we move away from Facebook after creating a Bluesky social media account. Kathy will ask Shepherd to create and administer a Bluesky account, then remove all FB and Messenger groups associated with JMOC.
 5. Bilingual letterhead: Christine, Sheila and Natasha have not yet met.
 6. Youth representative to JMOC and possible virtual meeting with Catherine Stewart: It was agreed that our “ask” is “How can JMOC support the strong youth network in their justice work?” Kathy will invite Catherine to February Zoom meeting.
 7. Collaboration with FDEE: Kathy will ask Shepherd for an update. Kathy invited FDEE to participate in the Fall Gathering, via Rebecca Pike.
 8. Refugee Support: This a difficult time for refugees coming to Canada. Kathy will ask Shepherd to look for someone who could take the lead in advocacy. We will provide support for advocacy as the need arises.
 9. Discussion regarding working groups with no verbal reports:
 - BIG: We have only a corresponding member from BIG. JMOC members agreed it would have been helpful if a member had been present to answer questions about recent advocacy opportunities.
 - Mental Health: Chris MacLeod plans to join the mental health working group, but was unable to attend this meeting, so there was no representation. JMOC agreed to pause the Mental Health Working Group until the group’s mandate has been established. During the pause there will be no workshops or meetings. JMOC is open to discuss the mandate with group members.
 10. There was then a broader discussion on the relationship between working groups and JMOC with respect to structure and accountability. By consensus, agreed that all working groups understand that they are accountable to JMOC and that JMOC will have oversight of working group activities and goals. Some JMOC members have heard that individuals who are not recognized as WG members are stating that they are. Working groups will maintain their membership lists and share these at least annually with JMOC. Kathy will communicate this to the two working groups not present at the meeting, Basic Income Guarantee and Mental Health, and request that each membership list along with contacts be forwarded for JMOC records. Working groups present at the meeting will also send their membership lists.

Audrey offered a closing reflection.

Appendix A - continued**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continuedAnnual Meeting Planning*Submitted by Jane McDonald, Committee Chair*

We have met twice this fall to review our last Annual Meeting and to check to see where we can improve on delivering an informative and useful Annual meeting.

Our members:

Jane McDonald - Chair; President – Mary Taylor; Past-President – Donna Tourneur; President-elect – Donnie Morrison; Connie McNamara; Fay Smith; April Hart; Shannon MacLean; Heather Manuel; Mary-Beth Moriarity; James O'Connell/ Catherine Stuart/ Alicia Cox; Staff: Jennifer Whittemore; Faith Mach-MacCuish

Our next Annual meeting will be held at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS from May 28 – 31st. Registration will take place in the afternoon of the 28th with programming starting after the supper hour. Webinars will be held in advance to cover orientation, proposals and the reviewing of financial Statements and budgets as we have done over the past few years.

The theme we have chosen is "Into the Deep". As we approach the second hundred years of the United Church we want to delve into a deeper understanding of our faith and to build deeper relationships within our communities and across communities to build stability across our region.

We have asked John Pentland to be our Theme speaker. He has graciously accepted. John is the author of "Fishing Tips" and is on the verge of publishing a new book. John was also a candidate for Moderator. He has indicated he is "very excited about the possibilities of this event being a catalyst for deeper faithfulness".

Staff are doing an audit of the facilities on November 24th to ensure it meets the needs for our meeting, accessibility and the proper facilities for our youth to gather.

We look forward to deep worship, deep discussions and many opportunities for the region to come together to build a stronger church for the future.

Affirm Ministries*Submitted by Julien Davis, Committee Chair*

Committee members: Julien Davis(Chair), Ian Harrison, Mary Jolynn Harrison, Michael Henderson, Katie Logan (Secretary), Shannon MacLean, Max Martin and. We also welcome the attendance of Donnie Morrison, Faith March MacCuish and Sharon Ballantyne as regional representatives.

We were sad to say goodbye to our chair Shelley Pick, but we are wishing her all the best in her ministry in her new home and region. Julien Davis was nominated for chair and has since taken on the role. Katie Logan is serving as our secretary.

Currently we are planning for a webinar from Ian Harrison on living with "invisible" disabilities. In his research he has learned those living with "invisible" disabilities share a lot of common experiences, not only in churches but beyond in regards to treatment, governance, etc. Only through proper visibility and education do we gain a greater cultural appreciation in our communities. A date for this had been drafted but has since passed and will be rescheduled. Further discussions on other webinars are to come with hopes to coordinate with neighbouring regions.

We are continuing our equity support work so we can continue to be a supportive and constructive presence at regional meetings and when opportunities arise.

Our Facebook page attempts to keep up to date with relevant events and resources for BNS Affirming people/communities. We make an effort to share any affirm-related events happening in affirming churches in BNS. The current moderators of the page are Katie Logan, Max Martin and Michael Henderson.

Katie and Max work on updating the region with announcements.

Appendix A - continued

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT - continued

We have recently been made aware of the resignation of Rev. Kim Curlett as the representative of Affirm national for Nova Scotia. We have not received communication from Affirm and have been discussing how to move forward and how we can be of support to affirming churches in our area. Further information will arise on this.

Our next meeting we will be planning ahead for the new year and looking further at book resources and how best to share them, significant events and equity support work for our regional work. *Our next meeting is set for December 3rd at 2pm.*

Concerns of the Division and the Committees:

We continue to be concerned about the low membership of the and JMO Committee.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive

None.

Donnie Morrison
Chair
Division of Regional Services and Support

Appendix B**MINISTRY RESOURCES****Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council****Division Name:** Ministry Resources**Committee Names within the Division**

Future Directions
 Retiree Support
 Pastoral Relations
 Faith Story & Community Covenant
 Licensing

Date of Divisional Meetings: November 13, 2025; November 27, 2025**Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:**

Amalgamation of Halifax churches – St. Andrew's, St. Matthew's and Fort Massey – There were concerns that some areas of the plan were lacking detailed information that was felt to be needed for an amalgamation as large and complex as this proposed amalgamation. Three areas of concern were noted: further details regarding property matters (both in the interim and going forward), further details regarding ministry personnel (such as giving notice to staff, hiring process and roles going forward), and the timing needed for the preparation for this amalgamation. The division will write to all three church councils and the amalgamation team requesting further elaboration before approval of the plan.

On November 27, the Division members and committee members were invited to a presentation on Toward 2035 by Faith March MacCuish. David Hewitt presented data specific to our region.

Dates of Committee Meetings: (since last Executive meeting)

Future Directions - none
 Retiree Support - none
 Pastoral Relations – November 14, 2025
 Faith Story & Community Covenant - none
 Licensing – November 6, 2025

Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:

Future Directions: This committee is without a chairperson. The Division has been dealing with matters that would normally come before this committee. David Hewitt has also been keeping the two members of the committee informed of matters and decisions.

Retiree Support: Ruth Gamble, Chair, reported that she placed an announcement in the weekly regional announcements on November 5 and November 12. She received some response. She has also sent an email to the current email list of retirees. She is in the process of getting some up-to-date emails for some of the retirees.

Pastoral Relations: This committee continues to meet monthly. Reports of their decisions are included in the weekly announcements following each meeting.

Faith Story & Community Covenant: This committee is without a chairperson. David Hewitt will be calling the three committee members together to discuss the Annual Report Review and the functioning of the committee.

Licensing: The Licensing Committee met in person on November 6, prior to the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) event at the Tatamagouche Centre (November 6-7). The committee continues to correspond with LLWLs about their responsibilities and their (re)licensing requirements. More conversation about recognizing LLWLs took place. The Licensing Committee would like to offer a workshop at the 2026 Annual Meeting on LLWLs.

Appendix B - continued

MINISTRY RESOURCES - continued

Two interviews were conducted in person. Barbara Bent and Donald Morrison were re-licensed as LLWLs. Two more interviews were conducted on Zoom following the LLWL event and Jane Keller and Arthur Smith had their licenses renewed. There are presently 13 LLWLs in our region. There is ongoing discussion about co-operation between our Region and the Fundy St. Lawrence-Dawning Waters Region with regard to LLWLs.

Concerns of the Division and the Committees:

Procedural point: A person with corresponding privileges can speak at meetings, but according to our region's governance handbook, cannot vote. When this person is replacing the regular representative of the committee, the committee loses their vote. It has been suggested that perhaps the Executive can look at this rule and consider revising it.

The directory of committees on the Bermuda-Nova Scotia website is not up to date.

The Policy for Part-Time Ministry is yet to be discussed by the Executive.

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive:

Motion: That the Executive of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approve the amalgamation plan of Community United and Brunswick Street United in Truro.

Motion: That the Executive of the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approve the request from Bridgewater United Church for a Community of Faith Review.

Janet Sollows
Chair
Division of Ministry Resources