

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

September 2025 - April 2026

Since September, the Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee has met regularly to prepare for the 2026 gathering. Our work has been guided by the theme, **Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change**, shaping both the spirit and structure of the meeting as we seek to nurture hope while remaining grounded in the ongoing work of the church.

This year's planning has centred on hosting the meeting online, a format that offers accessibility while also presenting its own challenges. The committee has worked intentionally with questions of engagement, pacing, and how to foster meaningful connection and sacred space in a digital setting. Worship and reflection have been woven throughout the meeting to support this. As part of the weekend, we have been preparing for an in-person worship service in Sackville on Sunday, June 7 to celebrate our ordinand and mark the installation of our new Regional President. We are encouraging congregations across the region that have access to streaming technology to view the worship in place of their regular services.

We have also collaborated with regional youth ministry coordinators, who are planning an in-person youth gathering in Sackville that same weekend. Our hope is that these efforts reflect a commitment to fostering Youth@Region even when our AGM is online.

Alongside immediate planning for this year's meeting, the committee has also given attention to the future shape of Regional Meetings. The 2027 meeting is planned as an in-person gathering in Sackville, with Rob Fennell and Russ Daye as theme speakers. We anticipate gathering at the University of Prince Edward Island in 2028, with the next online meeting in 2029. In considering locations, options such as the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton were explored but found to be financially unfeasible, leading us toward a more sustainable pattern of alternating sites such as Sackville and UPEI where possible. This pattern of two years in person and one year online was born out of a desire of the region to lower our AGM's environmental footprint while still maintaining connection.

I appreciate the commitment and dedication of the members of this committee and staff support as we strive to create the best experience that we can regardless of the setting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Richard Bowley
Chair of the Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee