

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

February 23, 2026 at 9:30am, via zoom video conference

Attendance

ATTENDANCE

Julielynn Anderson, Kathy Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Elaine Burrows, Pix Butt, Rachel Campbell, Kevin Dingwell, Hugh Ellis, Tracy Friars, Sheila Gallant, Jean Herman, Kate Jones, Sue LeMaistre, Faith March-MacCuish.

Regrets

REGRETS

Adekunle Adeniyi, Richard Bowley, Heather Donnelly, Micah Spencer.

Welcome

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Opening Prayer

The President, Hugh Ellis, welcomed everyone, and thanked the members for their attendance at this special meeting. The President lit the Christ and Affirm candles and opened the meeting with an opening prayer and the Lord's prayer.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Constitution of the Council

The President noted that a quorum was present and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for the business that shall properly come before it.

Equity Support

EQUITY SUPPORT

The Affirm Chair, Pix Butt, introduced the revised Equity Self-Monitoring questions. Executive members were asked to focus on one question of their choice for the duration of the meeting.

Acknowledgement of the Land

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

The President acknowledged the territory on which we gather, live, work and worship as the ancestral land of our indigenous siblings. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this land in becoming the community that God truly calls us to be.

Agenda

AGENDA

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

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Pix Butt)

That the agenda be adopted as presented, with the addition of Youth @ Region Budget.

CARRIED

Minutes

MINUTES

MOTION: (Sue LeMaistre/Kathy Bigsby)

That the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

Priority Setting

PRIORITY SETTING

The Executive Minister took the Executive through the Priorities updates that were circulated. The Executive went through each priority with suggested ways forward.

There was a question about support to congregations who do not have Ministry Personnel and who do not have regional representatives. The Communications working group have been, and will be, working on strategies for those congregations. The Past-President, and member of the communications team, Sue LeMaistre, offered to continue to do some work with connecting to the clusters and keeping the momentum going. The Executive thanked her for the offer and agreed that the Communications working group would further develop this initiative to communicate/invite/renew.

TOWARD 2035

Toward 2035

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, shared the continued roll-out plan for this church wide conversation. The Regional Ministers have developed a slide deck and have provided six session times for ministry personnel to begin engagement with them as important shareholders in the conversation. This is to be completed in February, 2026.

In March, 2026 there will be an invitation for Pastoral Charge leadership, governing bodies and Pastoral Charge Supervisors to register for a webinar to learn more about Toward 2035 and how to use the workshop tools provided by the General Council. The Annual Meeting will also have blocks of time dedicated to Toward 2035. The hope is to have all congregations engaged in the conversation.

UNITED CHURCH POLICY WEBINARS

UC Policy Webinars

The hope is to have webinar training for the “Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy”. Our Commitment against Discrimination, Harassment (including Bullying), Violence, and Sexual Misconduct”. The Executive Minister is working on this initiative.

APARTHEID FREE PLEDGE

Apartheid Free Pledge

The Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee will be presenting an educational session for the Executive at its March Meeting. The Executive Minister agreed to ask some questions about the pledge through the General Council office and share the information with the Executive as a way to help the Executive prepare for the conversation in March.

BEHAVIOURAL COVENANT

Behavioural Covenant

The Executive Minister shared a simpler version of some possible language. The Executive agreed that the simpler version had more gravity. The Executive Minister will send both versions to the Executive and seek comments before the next executive meeting. That will facilitate having one document to work with at the next meeting.

REGIONAL COUNCIL EVALUATION

Regional Council Evaluation

The Executive Minister is working with the communications staff person to develop an update on the evaluation with the key findings, recommendations and work to date undertaken by the Executive. This document will be distributed to the regional council members and pastoral charges.

YOUTH @ REGION BUDGET

Youth @ Region Budget

The cost to the participants of Youth @ Region has increased due to the rising costs of venues and meals. In order to keep individual costs down, the Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults has put in a request for extra funding. The Financial and Mission Services Committee will address the request at its next meeting on March 11, 2026. The Executive also gives its support to this important endeavour.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive will take place on March 26, 2026 at 9:30am.

BENEDICTION

Benediction

The President, Hugh Ellis, extinguished the candles, and closed the meeting with prayer.

Hugh Ellis
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister