

*"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**



Reports - Volume 1

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PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING A MEETING AND DECISION-MAKING

A WHOLE PEOPLE'S COVENANT

The 41st General Council 2012 used A Whole People's Covenant to help define the way in which the members of the General Council sought to work together. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

Each of us comes as a pilgrim to this gathering of siblings in Christ. Each of us comes with our own cultural values, assumptions, and world views. Each one of us, and the cultures we represent, are God's living letters of faith, hope, love, and beauty. Therefore, we embrace the following Christian virtues that honour God and promote right relationship between us as we gather together and learn from one another:

We promise to relate to one another with:

- respect;
- humility;
- patience;
- open-mindedness;
- courage; and
- the spirit of grace and forgiveness we have received in Christ Jesus.

We acknowledge the land that we stand upon by

- remembering that Indigenous peoples have walked these paths;
- understanding that we are one part of God's creation; and
- honouring future generations by preserving this land as they find their own paths.

In our Christian love for one another we will:

- invite the Spirit into both our worship and business;
- attend to others with our whole selves: our physical senses, intuition, imagination, and intellect;
- speak for ourselves in the spirit of truth and gentleness, avoiding unhelpful generalizations and racial stereotypes;
- not interrupt when others are speaking;
- be mindful of language that is not inclusive;
- affirm the deep wisdom of silence and pause, as necessary, to ponder what others have said;
- seek to understand rather than win arguments and assume best intentions;
- hold our beliefs and opinions lightly; and
- hold one another in prayer.

Today this pilgrimage will lead us to becoming a whole people. With God's help, I will leave behind what I must to make this journey. Thanks be to God.

PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING A MEETING AND DECISION-MAKING

HOLY MANNERS

The Very Reverend Marion Pardy introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38th General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.

We will:

- keep God at the centre of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honour the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.

PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING A MEETING AND DECISION-MAKING

GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES

- 1. Motion: A Council may only pass motions for which it has the authority and which do not contradict the decision of the higher council. A motion contradicting a motion already passed at the same meeting is out of order, unless it is a motion to reconsider.**
 - The mover reads the motion.
 - The seconder is named.
 - The mover has the privilege of speaking at the beginning and end of the discussion of their motion.

- 2. Discussion:**
 - Start by identifying yourself (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
 - All discussion should be directed to the President.
 - Each person may address the President only once about a motion, except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
 - The initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion is limited to three minutes.
 - All subsequent speakers limit their time to two minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
 - All discussion should be clear and concise and deal only with the motion.

- 3. Amendments:**
 - Any motion to amend a motion must be dealt with before dealing with the original motion.
 - Any voting member, except the mover and seconder of the original motion, may make a motion to amend the original motion.
 - An amendment is a suggestion to change a motion slightly by:
 - i. Removing words and replacing them with others, or
 - ii. Adding or deleting words
 - An amendment cannot change the intent of a motion.
 - When all motions to amend have been dealt with, the Council may deal with the final form of the original motion.
 - A separate vote must be taken for each motion to amend.

- 4. Amendment to the Amendment:**
 - A motion to slightly change the amendment.
 - See above

- 5. Voting:**
 - Voting will take place by raising hands
 - All those with voting privileges (members) are expected to indicate their vote by raising of hands.
 - i. If there is a close vote, tellers will count.
 - ii. If there is a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING A MEETING AND DECISION-MAKING**GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS PROCEDURES (Continued)**

- Ballots will be used for electing commissioners to General Council or other elections, as deemed necessary.

2. Motions that Interrupt the meeting:**At any time during a meeting, any voting member may make a motion to:**

- Close discussion without a vote on the motion;
- Fix the time to adjourn;
- Adjourn;
- Take an immediate vote (2/3 vote required);
- Limit or extend limits of discussion (2/3 vote required);
- Postpone discussion and decision on the motion to a definite time;
- Refer the motion to another body or commission;
- Amend/change the motion; or
- Postpone discussion and decision on the motion indefinitely (without a specific time).

An original motion may be interrupted by any of the above motions.

While these motions are being dealt with, they may only be interrupted by a motion above it in the list.

3. How to Reconsider a Motion:

- A motion to reconsider a motion already passed may be made if no motion is under consideration. A motion to reconsider has the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.
- Only a voting member who voted “yes” for the original motion may move the motion to reconsider. This motion must be seconded by a voting member.
- A motion to reconsider in an ongoing meeting must be approved by 2/3 of the voting members present.
- The revised motion may be reconsidered if a motion is changed on reconsideration and passed.
- A motion on which action has been taken may not be reconsidered.

4. Business Committee:

- Sort and clarify issues when things are bogged down in procedure, wrangles or wording problems.
- Deal with changes to the Agenda during the General Meeting.

5. Other:

- Other rules of order are contained in *The Manual*. In general, the conduct of the business is at the discretion of the President. The President may seek the advice of the Business Table. Where *The Manual* is silent, Bourinot’s Rules of Order will be used.

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTION

REGION ROLL

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.

QUORUM

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.”

BOUNDS

“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.”

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

“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.”

AGENDA

“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.”

BUSINESS TABLE

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

MINUTE SECRETARY

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

RECORDING

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.

ELECTIONS

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

CHAPLAIN/PASTORAL CARE PROVIDER

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

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTION (Continued)

PROCESS/FLOW SUPPORT

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

FRIEND IN COUNCIL

That the Friend in Council be Kathy Brett.

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

1. 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

R8

PRESIDENT

Truly wonderful things happen when we say “yes” to God: Saying “yes” brought me into the role of President Elect and then into a year as President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. The theme I chose for the year was the voice of Jesus in scripture:

“Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch”

That was good advice to the disciples and is still good advice for us today. When we launch out further from shore, we take a leap of faith and we try a new approach or perspective that could lead to significantly better results. With the **Toward 2035** initiative, we are encouraged to try something different to achieve success. The reality is that we are in changing times with aging and declining membership, along with the closure of church buildings, and we need to reflect on the present time and the future.

My presidency began with celebrations of 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada. I joined in the celebrations to which I was invited.

Celebrations of the 100th Anniversary that I attended:

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 which was held at Gower Street United Church.

Church Dedication:

June 13: 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. The Holy Presence was felt as the new church was formally opened and blessed.

General Council 45:

Aug. 7-11: As President, I was a Commissioner to General Council, Calgary. It was wonderful to join in business and worship with commissioners from across Canada and also with our World Partners. We were all blessed by the participation and leadership of the Youth and to realize their positive impact on the present and the future of The United Church of Canada. Another highlight for me was attending the installation worship service for the new moderator, the Right Rev. Kimberly Heath.

Aug. 12: Having been invited to extend my stay after General Council and participate in an informative session on **Toward 2035**, I took part in a highly informative day.

Funerals:

On behalf of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, I attended the following funerals and brought condolences to families and friends:

May 10: the funeral of Rev. Ralph Moores at Gower Street United Church.

May 30: the funeral of Rev. Silas Rogers, St. Jones Within.

Sept. 9: the funeral of Matthew Patey to be a support to his family and to Rev. Faith and her family.

Oct. 11: the funeral of Rev. Walter Biles at Fewer’s Memorial Chapel, Clarendville.

Oct. 17: the funeral of Mrs. Kathleen Newbury, wife of the late Rev. Ambrose Newbury at Memorial United, Clarendville.

Feb. 23: the funeral of Rev. Veronica Brett-Williams at Carnell’s Chapel, St. John’s.

PRESIDENT (Continued)**Retreat at Victoria:**

Nov. 1: I shared greetings from First Dawn Eastern Edge at Victoria United Church Retreat and led a Bible Study on the *Loaves and Fishes*.

A Remembrance Day Service:

Nov. 9: I was invited to Central United, Bay Roberts to attend their special Remembrance Day Service to honour the sacrifice of ten former congregants who gave their lives in either World War I or World War II. Their congregation dedicated a plaque in their remembrance. Unfortunately, a family illness prevented my attendance. On behalf of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, I wrote a letter for their Remembrance Day Booklet which assured them that their plaque and remembrance will honour those who served in the protection of our rights and freedoms. The letter also reminded them that the plaque was a reminder to both the present generation and to future generations of the faithful loyal service of veterans who fought for freedom.

Meeting of Presidents and President-Elects:

Jan. 21: I attended an on-line meeting with Regional Council Presidents and President-Elects across Canada and we were joined by the Moderator and General Secretary. Each of us was asked to share something interesting regarding each regional council. We were also invited to share a challenge experienced by the region and to report on the progress of **Toward 2035**.

Ocean Ranger Memorial Worship Service:

Feb. 23: I received an invitation from Gonzaga School to participate in the Ocean Ranger Memorial Service at the Basilica of Saint John the Baptist, St. John's. I was blessed to meet with students, staff and the Ocean Ranger families who attended. I offered a pastoral prayer for the deceased and their families. It was a very moving service.

Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Churches:

Oct. 19: Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Templeman United Church at 11 am.

Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Ebenezer (Brookfield) United Church at 2 pm.

Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Trinity (Newtown) United Church at 4 pm.

A time of food and fellowship followed.

Mar. 22: Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Southport United Church, Little Heart's Ease Pastoral Charge at 7 pm.

Disbanding of Caplin Cove United was also planned but delayed because of furnace problem.

Apr. 26: Service of Deconsecrating and Disbanding of Caplin Cove United Church, Little Heart's Ease Pastoral Charge.

Affirming Service of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

May 3: I participated in First Dawn Eastern Edge's Affirming Worship Service, held in person and by Zoom.

Thank You:

I thank my husband, Max, for his support. I thank him for accompanying me to and from the pastoral charges and for getting us safely over the roads. I thank the Britannia Pastoral Charge for their support and for their receiving the President's banner at my installation. At this year's Celebration of Ministries, members of our pastoral charge will present it to representatives of the Bell Island-Portugal Cove Pastoral Charge. I thank First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council for their confidence in choosing me as President and for their help and encouragement along the way. A special thank you is extended to the staff of Regional Office.

Each of us has unique talents. We are "One" as we work together. For all the people I have met on the journey, and for all the experiences and learning, I give God thanks. It is true I have sometimes found it a challenge balancing the needs of ministry on the pastoral charge with the needs and duties of President, but I have truly been blessed. I have rejoiced with the people in their joys and have shared compassion in their sorrows. I give thanks for this special journey in ministry.

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PRESIDENT (Continued)

I also thank the former Presidents for their help. I offer my support to Rev. Susan Sheppard as she takes on the duties and shares her gifts as your next President.

God Bless.

Rev. Elsie Squires, President
First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council
(2025-2026)

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Reflecting on the Year

“Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a Catch” (Matthew 5:1-11)

In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.

When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.

In you there is a future, in you we find our way.

When hope has shed its brightness, may you show us a new day.

(MV#84 v.2)

We have experienced unsettling moments this year. We hear everyday of war and violence, and, in some ways, we can feel very helpless. I also know that when we look at the acknowledged and documented decline in our church and for some of our congregations, we can also feel a sense of helplessness. I imagine, for some of us, we may feel like the disciples; “we have worked all night, and we have caught nothing.” And yet, when Jesus calls them to do something different, they responded, “Yet, if you say so, I will let down the nets.” Sometimes it may feel like we have worked hard long into the night, and we still find ourselves in a place of struggle. And yet, I believe that God still speaks and calls us forward into a place of faithful witness.

What does it mean for us as followers of the risen Christ, to go deep. As the Poem by Rosemary Trommer says, “the invitation is clear: we are called to be ridiculously courageous in love” to open our hearts, minds, and imaginations, to believe that we are being called to pursue a hope-filled future for the church. To explore and nurture the stories of our faith, to allow our spirituality to be deeply felt, and to really hear Jesus’ reassuring words, “Do not be Afraid.” As our General Secretary has named very clearly, this is a watershed moment for our church, we need to go deeply into our “why”? Society is changing, the world is changing, and the question before us is, where is God calling us as disciples? for “It is not so much the case that God has a mission for the church in the world, as that God has a church for God’s mission in the world”. That is our “Why”. The phrase, attributed to theologian Christopher J.H. Wright, highlights that the church's essential nature is to be sent into the world to participate in God's reconciling work. **“To love as if it matters, as if the world depends on it.”** I believe God is showing us a new day.

What We Are About:

I have reflected this past year on the life and work of our Regional Council. As I have traveled around the region, it is heartening to meet congregational members and their ministry leaders who continue to walk the path of discipleship, who nurture the spiritual life of people, who look after the basic needs of those who struggle; feeding and clothing others. Congregations who work for justice and make a commitment to living with respect in creation. Congregations who walk with the sick, support the grieving and nurture the old and the young. Thank you, for putting out into deep water and for your continued ministry.

This has been a busy year and, perhaps more so, a reflective year for our Regional Council; its leadership, our congregations, and our General Council. The following is a summary of some of the work that has been happening in our region this year.

Regional Council Executive

In the fall each year, our Executive takes a two-day retreat to focus on the work of the Regional Council from a higher level, “the balcony” or “birds’ eye” view. This year, we focused our time on several pieces of work; the Regional Council priorities, the Toward 2035 whole church initiative, and our Regional Council Evaluation.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER (Continued)

Regional Council Priorities

One of the confirmations that came from the evaluation of our regional council structure was that the priorities set by the Regional Council do continue to resonate with our Communities of Faith and the region's leadership. This is good news as the Regional Council Executive understands these priorities as being the work we are tasked to support, and the Executive's responsibility is to ensure that decisions about committee structure and its work needs to be reflective of the agreed upon priorities. Considering our denomination's call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice, the Executive has done some extra work on defining the objectives, and an action plan for each of the priorities. While more work is needed, and measurables put in place, we feel that we are beginning to more clearly define the work to better support Communities of Faith, the leaders and the ministries of the Regional Council.

Regional Council Evaluation

After receiving the final report from Jenny Stephens, the Executive has made the decision to engage a consultant from Integrated People Solutions to work with us to assess the recommendation of the evaluation and to prepare a way forward from the learnings. This work will begin in the fall, and we will have a progress report in the new year.

Toward 2035

By now, most of our Communities of Faith will have at least heard of the whole church conversation Toward 2035. As our General Secretary named *"One hundred years ago, [The United Church of Canada] began with faithful people seeing the possibility God guided them into, right there in the place they called home. We are convinced that God still calls, and that we can respond—we are not alone"*.

Toward 2035 is an invitation to prayer and a whole-church conversation about the future of God's call to The United Church of Canada. When we say whole church, we mean all of us—Communities of Faith, Regional Councils, and the General Council. It does not mean a one-size-fits-all solution, as we need to be contextual in our initiatives. Considering that call, our Executive and our regional staff have begun the conversation by offering presentations at annual meetings, hosting webinars for ministry personnel and lay leaders and now preparing for conversations in cluster groupings and with individual Communities of Faith to support discernment. As part of that continued discernment and conversation, our Executive will be to assessing our current policies to determine if the policies are in line with the priorities of the Regional Council and the work of Towards 2035.

General Council Priorities

The General Council has also been working on their strategic plan and this plan does, of course, intersect with the Regional Council's life and work. This is a three-year plan, which will take us into 2028 of the Towards 2025 initiatives. The General Council has been doing extensive work with their priorities of Growth, Leadership and Justice. In April of 2026, staff from the Regional Council and General Council met to work collectively on these three priorities, the objectives, and the actions associated with this work. More will be shared around these strategic priorities, which will see extra support given to communities of faith and regional councils in programing, policies and practices for ministry personnel. For Communities of Faith there are significant initiatives around the themes of strengthening invitation, renewal, and emerging ministries, as well as work with congregations to engage in contextual justice initiatives.

Pastoral Units

One of the things that we have heard from our Communities of Faith and our leadership is that Regional Council members, ministry personnel and Communities of Faith crave more connection. In the new denomination structure, the concept of clusters and networks was to be something that happens organically. Meaning if Communities of Faith or groups of people felt it was important to be connected, they would develop a cluster in their area and that would fill the gap of isolation and help with the development of initiatives and resource sharing. In our Regional Council, the experience has been that there are gaps. In recognizing these gaps, the Regional Council, through the Future Directions Team, presented the proposal of Pastoral Units. A Pastoral Unit would be formed with a number of pastoral charges that would support one another. The purpose is to enable pastoral charges to form stronger friendships and be able to share frustrations and successes with each other. To enable clergy and parishioners to

EXECUTIVE MINISTER (Continued)

share resources and use their gifts to enrich and strengthen the entire unit and if a pastoral charge within the Unit is unable to obtain a settled clergy, then the other clergy within the Unit would provide essential services to the vacant charge. It is our hope that all congregations will be part of a Pastoral Unit. While we have struggled this year to identify and gather these units, it is named as one of the priorities moving forward for 2027-2028.

Health Joy and Excellence Institute

After the passing of Rev. Kendall Harrison in March of 2025, the work of the Health, Joy and Excellence Institute took a little bit of a break as we were awaiting the position to be filled so that the Regional Ministers and I could continue the work of the institute and create a three-year plan for offering.

The purpose of the institute is:

- Good management practice recognizes that providing supports and developing skills are important to improving performance. Ministers, and other leaders, come into their roles with a range of education and experiences which equip them with many of the skills required to do the work. However, professional development is important to continuous improvement and to addressing the new challenges which arise.

It is significant to note that every time ministry personnel and lay leaders develop their skills or receive support, it benefits their personal development, but it also creates the possibility for them to play a leadership role in applying this new skill in their Pastoral Charge and bringing information back to other leaders to help in their development. To that end the institute's priority is supporting Ministry Personnel and then it will expand its reach to lay leaders. Part of the work is to make sure that clergy have a way of connecting with each other within the Regional Councils, which maybe monthly conversations on zoom, clergy retreats or personal conversations with staff. Another part of the work is to provide skill development and, to that end, we are working with Credence & Company to provide learning cohorts focused in several different areas; congregational leadership, conflict and communication, and nurturing equity, diversity and inclusion. More information will become available as we continue our conversation with Credence.

Things of interest

Growth and Stewardship

As part of the General Council's work and reorganization of the work of Growth and Stewardship, two departments have been combined and new positions created to further support Communities of Faith in Regional Councils. Therefore, each of our Regional Councils will have a staff person deployed to the Regional Council to work specifically with Communities of Faith on renewal, invitation, and stewardship and will work with our Regional Council with supporting emerging Communities of Faith. We are excited to have extra staff dedication to supporting our communities of faith as we look toward the future.

General Council Evaluation

General Council has completed their information collection and continue to discern the learnings from the information gathered. At General Council this year, the Commissioners were given a brief overview of some of the findings. One of the interesting, but not surprising things, was that some of their learnings mirror the information we heard from our Regional Council evaluation. As with the Regional Council, the General Council continues to work through the findings and discern what that means for the continued work of the church through its priorities and strategic plan. We will hear more about that as the work continues.

General Council 45

The General Council 45 met in Calgary, Alberta, in August 2025. If you are interested in reading about the work there and the work since by the executives, please go to the General Council news website <https://generalcouncil.ca/news> for updates and information.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER (Continued)

Staff Updates

Roger Janes retired in December. In conversation with him, he is doing well and is enjoying his retirement and is part of a singing group in his home church. As mentioned above, there has been a reworking of these positions. We wish Roger well in his retirement.

Rev. Rob Shearer has accepted the position of Stewardship & Growth Animator, serving Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils. Rev. Sharon Ballantyne and Rev. Rob Shearer will both serve First Dawn Eastern Edge. We anticipate that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council will have our position filled by January 2027. Once we have our full compliment, the three Growth and Stewardship staff will also be working in collaboration with each other and our regional staff for the best possible outcomes for our Regional Council work.

Andrew Richardson left his position as Office of Vocation Minister for our three eastern regions and has taken a new position with the General Council, as Director Emerging Ministry Leadership, Co-Director Office of Vocation. We welcome Ivan Gregan, to the position of Office of Vocation Interim Minister for our three regions on a contract until the end of August. Don Sellsted has accepted the full-time position and will begin as our Office of Vocation Minister on August 1, 2026. A warm welcome is extended to Don!

Thank you to our Staff

Thank you to all our staff. Our administration and archives staff including Alison Piercey, Jennifer Taylor, and Leona Laundry. Our program staff including, Heather Sandford, Catherine Stuart, and Sherpherd Munikwa. Thank you to our deployed staff, Sharon Ballantyne, and Ivan Gregan. All our staff have worked hard over this past year to support our Communities of Faith, our committees, our ministry personnel, and our laity. I take this opportunity to thank each one of them for their continuous support, faithfulness, and professionalism.

Thank you to our members

The vibrancy of our Communities of Faith and our region is realized through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. Thank you to our Elected regional members to the Regional Council for continuing to connect us. Thank you to our Divisions and Committees and to all members who have engaged by offering yourselves, your time and your skill sets to the work of discipleship in our Regional Council. None of this work is done by one person, it takes all of us. *"The invitation is clear: to be ridiculously courageous in love. To love as if it matters, as if the world depends on it"*. Rosemary Trommer

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES

The Division of Finance and Administrative Resources has had another busy and challenging year. We want to thank you all most sincerely for your work on behalf of our communities of faith, camps, and incorporated ministries.

The Division is comprised of a Chair, Secretary, and three Teams (Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts; Property; and Incorporated Ministries). As you may recall, Dr. Roy West, Chair, resigned last year. Just a few short weeks ago, we were immensely saddened to learn of Roy's passing. Dr. West was truly "one of a kind" who gave much of his time and talents to the work of the Church over the years. We are grateful for Roy's invaluable contributions. He is missed greatly.

This Division has operated without a Chair. The Executive Minister has provided leadership and guidance. The Division wishes to express sincere appreciation to the Executive Minister, the Division Secretary, and all of our Team Convenors and volunteers who have worked so relentlessly to meet the responsibilities of the Division. We also are very grateful to our Regional Office staff, who have provided exemplary support for the Division on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

The Division's Teams have been busy fulfilling the duties associated with their mandates. Some examples are noted below:

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts (FAIT) Team

- Allocating Mission and Support Grants received from General Council
- Evaluating church and manse modernization grant requests
- Evaluating regional church loan requests
- Management of investments
- Evaluating scholarship and specific trust fund requests
- Working with staff to develop annual budget

The FAIT Team is comprised of five members, and it has three areas of responsibility. The areas of responsibility are: general oversight over the financial decision-making of FDEE; monitoring and approval of expenditures from the various designated funds of FDEE; and vigilance regarding the investment performance of funds that are invested with RBC Wealth Management. FAIT meets, on average, eight or nine times a year electronically by Zoom, with strong attendance of the meetings by members.

During regular meetings, FAIT discusses various financial and administrative issues confronting FDEE, considers various requests for funding from many different individuals and groups, receives updated reports on the condition of FDEE's designated funds, and reviews the updated financial performance of investments with RBC Wealth Management.

Todd Rose, Chair

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team

Property Team

- Ongoing oversight of United Church property in the Regional Council
- Ensuring that policy and process is followed in the sale of property
- Recommending approval of repairs that cost in excess of \$10,000 or 15% of the operating budget, whichever is greater
- During the past year, issues related to property sales within the Region have continued to require considerable time and resources from our volunteers and Regional Staff. We continue to work diligently with our communities of faith as we work through the processes together.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

To say that 2024/2025 was a hectic year for the Property Team is probably an understatement. In 2024/2025 the property team assisted Pastoral Charges or Communities of Faith, in selling or placing on the market; many churches, manses, church halls, and parcels of land. So needless to say, we didn't rest much.

One of the problems that the committee and our congregations face when selling property is determining title. Some of our congregations have the deeds to their property, some are in held in the archives but for many we cannot locate the proper title documents. Legally, we need to prove we own the property before we can sell it. In some instances, the property was a grant from crown lands and the grant has restriction on it, noting for church purposes only. In these cases, we must make application to Crown Lands, and this can take anywhere from 3-4 years. It is prudent for all Boards to make sure that they have title to their land.

You might ask why so many churches and manses are being sold. Well, I can share some reasons with you;

(1) Declining and aging congregations, not so many people want to go to church anymore, mostly the younger generation, but not all. And with declining congregations comes declining funds. The roof needs to be repaired or re-shingled or both, the price of heating the church is gone through the roof and yes, the insurance must be paid and yes, if you are lucky enough to have a minister, he or she also must be paid. If any one of those are neglected, due to not enough funds to meet the demands, the church will eventually close. That's where we come in to help those communities of faith. We help them get the fair market value for the property and a portion of the funds realized, goes back to the remaining pastoral charge for future ministry.

(2) Lack of ministry personnel leadership. Leadership is important for the health of a congregation. While our lay people do a great job, providing leadership can at times be overwhelming. Some of our congregations who have not had ministry personnel for a long time, find it more difficult to continue.

As a reminder from your Property Team, if you are planning to sell United Church property, and by property, I mean churches, manses and anything inside of those buildings and land, you will have to complete forms and follow a procedure. I know no one likes having to fill out forms; they are sometimes long and sometimes confusing. But that's where we come in - the Property Team. We are here to help get you through those forms. The "Property Handbook" is also a good guide. You may wonder why so many forms and procedures. Having forms is part of good record keeping and once a property is sold, the full files with all the approvals are stored in our Archives for future use when and if needed.

My friends, as we have seen an increase of sales over this past year, we know that this will continue for a time. Please know that the Property Team is here to help you through the process. Not only help to sell the properties, but also to give you some direction on how best to use the funds acquired from these sales. So, let's work together and in doing so, we will have partnered in God's work and the work of the church.

*Dave Dawe, Convenor
Property Team*

Incorporated Ministries Team

- Over the past year, we have had difficulty in recruiting volunteers for this Team. We now have two members and are hoping to be able to put a renewed emphasis on rebuilding the important work of the Team. We still need two more members and encourage anyone interested in these outreach ministries for support and accountability we would love to hear from you.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)**2026 Regional Insurance Policy**

Following discussions with UCC Protect and subsequent meetings with Steers Insurance in December, it was determined that it was best for the Region to stay with Steers Insurance Inc. It has been more difficult to get a blanket insurance quote from UCC Protect. More time and a lot more information is needed from our individual properties to determine a quote. This is taking significant time and energy to accomplish. We continue to do our best to gather what is needed. This year, the Division recommended to the Executive that First Dawn Eastern Edge Region stay with Steers Insurance Inc. and maintain the policy that provides coverage for occurrence-based abuse.

Of the UCC Protect forms that had been distributed to pastoral charges during the summer, over 100 congregations completed and submitted the forms, while approximately 70 have not yet been received. The information gathered was provided to UCC Protect. However, if your community of faith/pastoral charge has not completed and submitted this form to the Region, we are asking that you please do so as quickly as possible as this information is important for us to gather if we are hoping to get a quote from UCC Protect for 2027.

For Information - Projects That Are "In the Works"

- **Property Reserve Fund**
 - ⇒ The Regional Executive has approved a Property Fund to help support congregations who have extraordinary expenses. The FAIT Team and the Division worked on terms for enhancing this fund, and the terms have now been approved. Additional information will be provided to pastoral charges in coming weeks.

- **Leasing Template**
 - ⇒ Some pastoral charges have expressed interest in leasing their manse. Pastoral Charges wishing to lease their manse will need to have approval from the Regional Council. To help with the rental, we have developed a template that has been prepared with the help of our Legal Counsel and takes into consideration the requirements of the Landlord Tenancies Act. This template is available as a guide that pastoral charges may wish to use if they are considering manse rental.
 - ⇒ Pastoral Charges who have long-term leases with outside groups in the church building or hall also need to have a lease agreement and permission from the Regional Council. Please be in touch with the Region for more information.

- **Cemetery Guidelines**
 - ⇒ The Regional Executive has approved Cemetery Guidelines for use by pastoral charges, and we expect the document to be finalized and distributed in coming weeks.

Brenda Andrews, Secretary
Division of Finance and Administrative Resources

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Budget 2027

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL									
<i>Prepared March 9, 2026</i>	Actual		Budget		Budget		Budget		
	2025 ADMINISTRATION	2025 MISSION & SERVICE	2025 ADMINISTRATION	2025 MISSION & SERVICE	2026 ADMINISTRATION	2026 MISSION & SERVICE	2027 ADMINISTRATION	2027 MISSION & SERVICE	
REVENUE									
General Council Grants									
General Council Administration Grant	\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		
General Council Salary Grant	33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00		
General Council Cross Region Support Grant	33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00		
General Council Mission and Service Grant		\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00	
Total	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	
Other Revenue from Operations									
Bookstore	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00		
Donations, Bequests, Pitts Fund, Loans Interest, Etc.	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		
Total Other Revenue from Operations	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 413,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 413,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 413,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 413,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	
		\$ 593,000.00		\$ 593,000.00		\$ 593,000.00		\$ 593,000.00	
EXPENDITURES									
Personnel									
Regional Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 394,601.70	\$ 70,091.46	\$ 389,918.00	\$ 70,986.00	\$ 400,473.86	\$ 76,668.09	\$ 413,322.39	\$ 81,186.78	
Executive Minister and Executive Assistant Travel & Office Shared Expenses	10,189.16		20,000.00		20,000.00		20,000.00		
Regional Staff Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc.	12,694.20	7,985.88	13,000.00	14,520.00	13,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	13,520.00	
Sub-Total	\$ 417,485.06	\$ 78,077.34	\$ 422,918.00	\$ 85,506.00	\$ 433,473.86	\$ 90,668.09	\$ 447,322.39	\$ 94,706.78	
Governance									
Regional Office Operations	\$ 62,839.11		\$ 83,300.00		\$ 72,300.00		\$ 69,400.00		
Shared Services (IT)	7,068.00		5,000.00		10,000.00		10,000.00		
President's Expenses	1,281.27		5,000.00		5,000.00		5,000.00		
Audit Expenses	15,197.75				16,000.00		17,000.00		
Sub-Total	\$ 86,386.13		\$ 93,300.00		\$ 103,300.00		\$ 101,400.00		
Regional Meeting									
Expenses	\$ 69,369.99		\$ 35,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 60,000.00		
Youth@Region								10,000.00	
Sub-Total	\$ 69,369.99		\$ 35,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 60,000.00		
Executive, Divisions and Teams									
Executive	\$ 6,132.71		\$ 7,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 6,500.00		
Division of Finance and Administrative Resources	1,223.69		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		
Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team	0.00		2,000.00		1,000.00		800.00		
Property Team	319.97		2,000.00		2,000.00		1,000.00		
Incorporated Ministries Team	0.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Budget 2027 (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL								
Prepared March 9, 2026	Actual		Budget		Budget		Budget	
	2025 ADMINISTRATION	2025 MISSION & SERVICE	2025 ADMINISTRATION	2025 MISSION & SERVICE	2026 ADMINISTRATION	2026 MISSION & SERVICE	2027 ADMINISTRATION	2027 MISSION & SERVICE
Division of Regional Council Services and Support	0.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Communications Team	0.00		1,000.00		500.00		500.00	
Faith Formation, Christian Education and Leadership Development Team		0.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ 7,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Justice, Mission and Outreach Team		\$ 1,259.73		\$ 10,000.00		\$ 7,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Stewardship Team	0.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		500.00	
Annual Meeting Planning Team	0.00		1,000.00		500.00		500.00	
Children, Youth and Young Adults Team		\$ 1,500.00				\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning	0.00		1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Mission Consultation and Accountability Team	0.00		2,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	
Future Directions in Ministry Team	193.67		2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00	
Division of Human Resources	0.00		1,000.00		500.00		500.00	
Licensing Team	0.00		1,000.00		500.00		500.00	
Pastoral Relations Team	4,262.22		6,000.00		6,000.00		6,000.00	
Retiree Support Team	0.00		500.00		500.00		500.00	
Chaplaincy Team	126.95		500.00		-		-	
Nominations	0.00		500.00		500.00		500.00	
Regional Council Advisory Committees	0.00		1,500.00		1,500.00		2,000.00	
Sub-Total	\$ 12,259.21	\$ 2,759.73	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 26,800.00	\$ 28,000.00
MISSION AND SERVICE								
Mission and Service Grants Unallocated		74,494.00		\$ 74,494.00		\$ 69,331.91		\$ 57,293.22
Mission and Service Grants Allocated		\$ 80,837.07		105,506.00		110,668.09		122,706.78
Sub-Total		\$ 155,331.07		\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00		\$ 180,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 585,500.39	\$ 155,331.07	\$ 584,218.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 568,273.86	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 635,522.39	\$ 180,000.00
TOTAL ADMIN AND MISSION & SERVICE EXPENDITURES		\$ 740,831.46		\$ 764,218.00		\$ 748,273.86		\$ 815,522.39
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS	\$ (172,500.39)	\$ 24,668.93	\$ (171,218.00)	\$0.00	\$ (155,273.86)	\$0.00	\$ (222,522.39)	\$0.00
Other Income and Expenses								
Income								
Property Sales	\$ 37,761.36		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	
Investment Income	897,710.37				\$ 1,032,000.00		\$ 950,000.00	
Administration of Trust Funds			706,357.00					
Expenses								
Investment Management Fees	(59,592.44)		(55,000.00)		(60,000.00)		(60,000.00)	
Loan Forgiveness	(215,514.55)							
Total Other Income and Expenses	\$ 660,364.74	-	\$ 651,357.00	-	\$ 972,000.00	-	\$ 890,000.00	-
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	\$ 487,864.35	\$ 24,668.93	\$ 480,139.00	\$0.00	\$ 816,726.14	\$0.00	\$ 667,477.61	\$0.00

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Index to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Opinion

I have audited the non-consolidated financial statements of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council (the "Regional Council"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the non-consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Regional Council as at December 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Regional Council in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the non-consolidated financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the non-consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Regional Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Regional Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Regional Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Non-consolidated Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the non-consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these non-consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

(continues)

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council (continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Regional Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Regional Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the non-consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Regional Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the non-consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the non-consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

St. John's, NL
March 24, 2026



Brian T. Scammell Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 460,515	\$ 449,646
Term deposits (Note 3)	295,001	283,111
Current portion of accounts receivable	94,256	99,860
Current portion of loans and notes receivable	11,583	71,001
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	33,978	13,742
Due from related parties (Note 4)	15,233	13,246
Prepaid expenses	-	525
	910,566	931,131
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	2,198	2,198
LOANS AND NOTES RECEIVABLE (Note 5)	83,759	255,391
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 6)	9,448,931	9,141,856
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 7)	134,045	142,913
	\$ 10,579,499	\$ 10,473,489
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accruals	\$ 49,878	\$ 333,314
Due to related parties (Note 4)	32,354	27,383
Due to United Church Bookstore (Note 8)	55,000	70,000
	137,232	430,697
NET ASSETS		
Operating Fund - Unrestricted	1,606,137	1,484,229
Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	7,090,342	6,825,999
Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	1,745,788	1,732,564
	10,442,267	10,042,792
	\$ 10,579,499	\$ 10,473,489

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Director
 _____ Director

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund	Externally Restricted Fund	2025	2024
REVENUES					
Grant - United Church of Canada (Note 4)	\$ 572,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572,000	\$ 583,375
Property sales	37,761	75,044	-	112,805	88,227
United Church bookstore	20,000	-	-	20,000	20,000
Miscellaneous	-	11,714	1,554	13,268	23,561
Student assistance repayment	-	-	2,325	2,325	13,150
Loan interest and Pitts fund	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,391
Donations	-	445	-	445	531
	630,761	87,203	3,879	721,843	730,235
EXPENSES					
Salaries and wages	417,485	-	-	417,485	389,464
Loan forgiveness	215,515	-	-	215,515	-
Mission and Support Services	155,331	-	-	155,331	155,303
Other	-	116,517	30,164	146,681	206,165
Office operating	54,899	45,359	-	100,258	86,090
Annual meeting	69,370	-	-	69,370	40,618
Professional fees	15,198	-	-	15,198	13,471
Amortization	8,870	-	-	8,870	10,622
Executive	7,414	-	-	7,414	13,602
Regional Council	6,138	-	-	6,138	3,717
Student assistance	-	4,000	2,100	6,100	5,500
Scholarships	-	6,000	-	6,000	7,200
Division of Human Resources	4,389	-	-	4,389	3,938
Division of Finance and Administrative Resources	1,544	-	-	1,544	738
Division of Faith, Support and Planning	194	-	-	194	255
	956,347	171,876	32,264	1,160,487	936,683
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES					
FROM OPERATIONS	(325,586)	(84,673)	(28,385)	(438,644)	(206,448)

(continues)

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Statement of Operations (continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund	Externally Restricted Fund	2025	2024
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)					
Investment income	404,147	-	-	404,147	332,381
Gain on sale of investments	306,892	-	-	306,892	383,073
Unrealized gain on investments	176,485	-	-	176,485	301,589
Interest on term deposits	10,187	-	-	10,187	15,752
Investment management fees	(59,592)	-	-	(59,592)	(54,511)
	838,119	-	-	838,119	978,284
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES					
	\$ 512,533	\$ (84,673)	\$ (28,385)	\$ 399,475	\$ 771,836

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund	Externally Restricted Fund	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 1,484,229	\$ 6,825,999	\$ 1,732,564	\$ 10,042,792	\$ 9,270,956
Excess of revenues over expenses	512,533	(84,673)	(28,385)	399,475	771,836
Interfund transfers (Note 11)	(390,625)	349,016	41,609	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,606,137	\$ 7,090,342	\$ 1,745,788	\$ 10,442,267	\$ 10,042,792

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 399,475	\$ 771,836
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	8,870	10,622
Unrealized gain on investments	(176,485)	(301,589)
Gain on sale of investments	(306,892)	(383,073)
	(75,032)	97,796
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	5,604	(26,726)
Prepaid expenses	525	(525)
Accounts payable and accruals	(283,437)	239,962
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	(20,236)	3,040
	(297,544)	215,751
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	(372,576)	313,547
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of term deposits	(11,890)	81,239
Repayment of loans and notes receivable	232,049	13,869
Addition to loans and notes receivable	(1,000)	(37,202)
Purchase of investments	(2,148,708)	(3,459,100)
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,325,009	3,141,555
Cash flow from (used by) investing activities	395,460	(259,639)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Advances from (to) related parties	2,985	(7,122)
Advances to United Church Bookstore	(15,000)	-
Cash flow used by financing activities	(12,015)	(7,122)
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	10,869	46,786
Cash - beginning of year	449,646	402,860
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 460,515	\$ 449,646

See notes to non-consolidated financial statements

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council (the "Regional Council") is a Regional Council of the United Church of Canada operating in Newfoundland and Labrador. Its principal activities include the provision of services to the pastoral charges and incorporated ministries affiliated with the United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Regional Council is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and is not subject to income tax.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The non-consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Fund accounting

The Operating Fund accounts for the Regional Council's administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants, as well as externally restricted contributions for which there is no corresponding restricted fund.

The Internally Restricted Funds are funds maintained by the Regional Council for various purposes and are restricted in their purpose and generally cannot be used for general operations of the Regional Council.

The Externally Restricted Funds are funds that have been established to honour the restricted purposes of the donors as set out in the Schedule of Externally Restricted Funds. Generally, only the income earned by the trusts may be expended.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks, and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less.

Investments

Long term investments, which consist primarily of equities, bonds, mortgage-backed securities, term certificates and cash are carried at market value.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

Buildings	5%	declining balance method
Computer equipment	55%	declining balance method
Furniture and fixtures	20%	declining balance method
Alarm system	20%	declining balance method

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

Financial instruments

The Regional Council recognizes its financial instruments when the Regional Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, term deposits, accounts receivable, loans and notes receivable, amounts due from related parties, and some long-term investments. Long-term investments held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel are measured at fair value.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and amounts due to related parties.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

At initial recognition, the Council may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Council has made such an election during the year with respect to the investments held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel.

The Council subsequently measures all other financial assets and liabilities at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in excess of revenue over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Related party financial instruments

The Council initially measures the following financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in a related party transaction ("related party financial instruments") at fair value:

- Investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments quoted in an active market.
- Debt instruments when the inputs significant to the determination of its fair value are observable (directly or indirectly).
- Derivative contracts.

All other related party financial instruments are measured at cost on initial recognition. When the financial instrument has repayment terms, cost is determined using the undiscounted cash flows, excluding interest, dividend, variable and contingent payments, less any impairment losses previously recognized by the transferor. When the financial instrument does not have repayment terms, but the consideration transferred has repayment terms, cost is determined based on the repayment terms of the consideration transferred. When the financial instrument and the consideration transferred both do not have repayment terms, the cost is equal to the carrying or exchange amount of the consideration transferred or received (refer to Note 4).

At initial recognition, the Council may elect to subsequently measure the related party debt instruments that are quoted in an active market, or that have observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value, at fair value. The Council has not made such an election during the year; thus all such related party debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

The Council subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Financial instruments that were initially measured at cost and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by, delivery of unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured using the cost method less any reduction for impairment.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of related party financial instruments are immediately recognized in excess of revenues over expenses.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)*Financial asset impairment*

The Council assesses impairment of all its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Council groups assets for impairment testing when 1) available information is not sufficient to permit identification of each individually impaired financial asset in the group, 2) there are numerous assets affected by the same factor, 3) no asset is individually significant, etc. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty or whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Council determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year.

With the exception of related party debt instruments initially measured at cost, the Council reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of the financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

For related party equity instruments initially measured at cost, the Council reduces the carrying amount of the asset (or group of assets), to the amount that could be realized by selling the asset(s) at the statement of financial position date.

For related party debt instruments initially measured at cost, the Council reduces the carrying amount of the asset (or group of assets), to the highest of: the undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by holding the asset, or group of similar assets, excluding the interest and dividend payments of the instrument; the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets at the statement of financial position date; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets.

Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess of revenues over expenses.

The Council reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in excess of revenues over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

Post retirement benefit plan

The employees of the Council participate in a defined benefit pension plan administered and held nationally by the United Church of Canada. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to this multi-employer contributory defined benefit. The Regional Council is not responsible for this obligation due to the employees under this benefit plan.

Revenue recognition

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year in which the contribution is received or receivable. All restricted contributions for which there is no specific restricted fund are recognized as revenue in the operating fund when the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the operating fund when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Investment income earned on restricted investments is recognized as revenue as it is earned in the appropriate fund. Other investment income is recognized in the operating fund.

(continues)

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of non-consolidated financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the non-consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Amortization of capital assets is based on the estimated useful lives of capital assets.

By their nature, these judgements are subject to measurement uncertainty, and the effect on the non-consolidated financial statements of changes in such estimates and assumptions in future years could be material. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in excess of revenues over expenses in the years in which they become known.

Contributed services

A number of volunteers contribute their time each year to the Regional Council. Due to the difficulty of determining the fair value of these items, no amounts are recognized in the financial statements.

3. TERM DEPOSITS

	2025	2024
Royal Bank of Canada, one year non-redeemable GIC at 2.850%, maturing on July 28, 2026	\$ 195,001	\$ -
Royal Bank of Canada, one year redeemable GIC, with a variable rate, maturing on July 28, 2026	100,000	-
Royal Bank of Canada, one year non-redeemable GIC at 4.200%, matured on July 26, 2025	-	283,111
	\$ 295,001	\$ 283,111

4. DUE TO RELATED PARTIES

The following is a summary of the Regional Council's related party transactions:

	2025	2024
<u>Related party transactions</u>		
General Council of the United Church of Canada		
<i>(Governing body of the Regional Council)</i>		
Grants - operational	\$ 392,000	\$ 401,375
Grants - mission work	180,000	180,000
Salaries expenses	(460,948)	(446,315)
Office expenses	(8,851)	(10,972)
Mission & support grants	(74,494)	(76,938)
Reimbursements	(32,593)	(54,497)
	\$ (4,886)	\$ (7,347)

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025

4. DUE TO RELATED PARTIES (continued)	2025	2024
<i>Related party transactions (continued)</i>		
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council		
<i>(Related through common control)</i>		
Expenses paid by the Regional Council on behalf of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters	\$ 27,717	\$ 23,249
Funds paid to the Regional Council by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters	(25,529)	(15,277)
Expenses paid by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters on behalf of the Regional Council	(1,304)	(1,878)
Funds deposited by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters due to the Regional Council	525	300
Copying fees charged to (from) Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters to the Regional Council	267	(11)
	\$ 1,676	\$ 6,383
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council		
<i>(Related through common control)</i>		
Expenses paid by the Regional Council on behalf of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	\$ 28,835	\$ 24,173
Funds paid to the Regional Council by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	(28,806)	(15,869)
Expenses paid by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council on behalf of the Council	-	(44)
Copying fees charged to (from) Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to the Regional Council	282	(3)
	\$ 311	\$ 8,257
United Church Bookstore		
<i>(Controlled by the Council)</i>		
Administration income	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Expenses paid by the Regional Council on behalf of the United Church Bookstore	9,054	8,704
Funds paid to the Regional Council by the United Church Bookstore	(29,139)	(28,704)
	\$ (85)	\$ -

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

4. DUE TO RELATED PARTIES (continued)

Related party balances

	2025	2024
Current portion due from related parties		
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	\$ 7,506	\$ 7,195
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council	7,727	6,051
	\$ 15,233	\$ 13,246
	2025	2024
Current portion due to related parties		
General Council of the United Church of Canada	\$ 32,269	\$ 27,383
United Church Bookstore	85	-
	\$ 32,354	\$ 27,383

Advances to and from related parties are non-interest bearing and are expected to be repaid within the next fiscal year.

5. LOANS AND NOTES RECEIVABLE

The Regional Council lends money to various organizations affiliated with The United Church of Canada. These loans are repayable in varying monthly installments at an interest rate of 2% per year. The \$83,759 (2024 - \$255,391) in loans and notes receivable include \$0 (2024 - \$198,371) due from Cochrane Community Outreach and Performance Centre Inc. This loan was forgiven in the year.

6. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
Equities	\$ 3,848,826	\$ 3,794,006
Fixed income	4,670,055	4,406,824
Other	930,050	941,026
	\$ 9,448,931	\$ 9,141,856

All these investments are presented at fair value. For the year ended December 31, 2025, there was an unrealized gain of \$176,485 (2024 - \$301,589) recorded in other income.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

7. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Land	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1
Buildings	546,313	417,859	128,454	135,215
Computer equipment	4,985	4,253	732	1,626
Alarm system	8,070	4,351	3,719	4,648
Furniture and fixtures	162,947	161,808	1,139	1,423
	\$ 722,316	\$ 588,271	\$ 134,045	\$ 142,913

8. DUE TO UNITED CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The amount due of \$55,000 (2024 - \$70,000) is payable to the United Church Bookstore which is controlled by the Regional Council. Interest is charged on the amount at the same rate as the other trust funds (2025 - 4%, 2024 - 4%).

9. INSURANCE ASSESSMENT RESERVE

In prior years, the Regional Council had a self-insurance program whereby a portion of the insurance premium levied to each pastoral charge was used for self-insurance. All claims by the pastoral charges under a specific amount were paid from the self-insurance funds. At the end of each fiscal year, the funds remaining in the self-insurance plan, if applicable, would be refunded to the Regional Council for use in future years, if the need arises. The balance of \$100,000 (2024 - \$116,772) represents the cumulative amount of self-insurance premiums of prior years, plus allocated income and expenses as disclosed in Schedule 1. The Regional Council no longer uses a self-insurance program and insurance costs are passed on to the individual pastoral charges. The balance remaining in the account will be used for insurance expenditures as determined by the Council's Executive.

Transactions in the reserve, which is presented in Schedule 1 as part of the internally restricted funds, included:

	2025	2024
Interest earned	\$ 4,671	\$ 5,678
Insurance expenses	(43,688)	(28,022)
Administration fee to Regional Council	(2,335)	(2,839)
Excess of expenses over revenue	(41,352)	(25,183)
Insurance reserve, beginning of year	141,352	141,955
Insurance reserve, end of year	\$ 100,000	\$ 116,772

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Regional Council is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Regional Council's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2025.

(continues)

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The Regional Council is exposed to credit risk from its accounts receivable and its loan and notes receivable. An allowance for doubtful accounts is established based upon factors surrounding the credit risk of specific accounts, historical trends and other information. The Regional Council is also exposed to concentration risk as 43% of accounts receivable relates to George Street United Church; this concentration risk is mitigated since the amount will be collected when the property in St. John's is sold.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Regional Council is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its charges and payments of its expenses.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Regional Council is mainly exposed to interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Regional Council manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Regional Council is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its long-term investments.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Regional Council is exposed to other price risk through its investment in quoted shares.

11. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund	Externally Restricted Fund	2025
Transfer of administration surplus	\$ (487,864)	\$ 487,864	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer of Mission and Support surplus	(24,669)	24,669	-	-
Interest allocated from discretionary fund	-	(68,991)	68,991	-
Interest allocated from discretionary fund to other internally restricted funds	-	(96,779)	-	(96,779)
Interest allocated to other internally restricted funds from discretionary fund	-	96,779	-	96,779
Transfer of administration fees from externally restricted funds and internally restricted funds to operating fund	150,394	(115,899)	(34,495)	-
Other transfers	(28,486)	21,373	7,113	-
	\$ (390,625)	\$ 349,016	\$ 41,609	\$ -

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notes to Non-consolidated Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025

12. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Regional Council received a significant portion of its operating revenue from the General Council of the United Church of Canada. Should the General Council of the United Church of Canada reduce its grants to the Regional Council, management is of the opinion that continued viable operations would be doubtful.

13. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Schedule of Internally Restricted Funds
Schedule 1
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Balance Opening Jan. 1/25	Revenue	Expenses	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	Interfund Transfers	Balance Ending Dec. 31/25
Archives	\$ 110,658	\$ 24,000	\$ 606	\$ 23,393	\$ 9,862	\$ 143,913
Capstone Project	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	3,000
Centennial 2025	2,000	-	1,190	(1,190)	-	810
Chaplaincy Fund	21,313	445	21,313	(20,868)	(445)	-
Compassionate Assistance Fund	108,333	-	11,000	(11,000)	2,167	99,500
Coughlan College Trust Fund	1,645,641	8,337	24,306	(15,970)	37,629	1,667,300
Discretionary Fund	3,570,803	-	5,000	(5,000)	230,045	3,795,848
Explorer Program	7,153	-	-	-	(7,153)	-
Health, Joy, Excellence	14,753	1,147	2,170	(1,023)	-	13,731
Insurance Assessment Reserve Fund (Note 9)	116,772	1,065	44,752	(43,688)	26,915	100,000
Intentional Interim Ministry Refresher	6,216	-	-	-	(6,216)	-
Mission Support Held	109,295	-	20,578	(20,578)	25,114	113,831
New Church Development	29,471	-	-	-	589	30,060
New Ministry Initiatives	341,323	47,999	10,000	37,999	19,724	399,047
Post-Graduate Education Fund For Ministry Personnel	83,233	-	4,000	(4,000)	1,665	80,898
Property Reserve Fund	194,622	3,045	26,960	(23,916)	-	170,706
Social Ministries Trust	379,854	1,166	-	1,166	7,620	388,640
Summerside Church	68,058	-	-	-	-	68,058
Syrian Refugee	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
Grand Total	\$ 6,825,999	\$ 87,203	\$ 171,876	\$ (84,673)	\$ 349,016	\$ 7,090,342

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

2025 First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Audited Statement (Continued)

FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Schedule of Externally Restricted Funds
Schedule 2
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Balance Opening Jan. 1/25	Revenue	Expenses	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	Interfund Transfers	Balance Ending Dec. 31/25
Agnes Pratt Home Fund	\$ 79,003	\$ -	\$ 1,580	\$ (1,580)	\$ 1,580	\$ 79,003
Ministers' Children Attending Post Secondary Education	43,909	-	2,000	(2,000)	878	42,787
Loon Bay Camp Fund	1,020	-	-	-	20	1,040
Carmanville Church Fund	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Curling Memorial Church Fund	18,041	-	361	(361)	361	18,041
Blackhead Historic Site Fund	2,600	-	52	(52)	52	2,600
Gulliford Bequest - CNIB	624	-	-	-	12	636
Pelley Estate Fund	856,450	-	7,000	(7,000)	9,657	859,107
Red Harbour (Port Elizabeth) Fund	213	-	-	-	4	217
William Seeley Mercer Memorial	6,600	-	132	(132)	132	6,600
Emmanuel House Fund	51,003	-	1,020	(1,020)	1,020	51,003
Methodist College Fund	230,000	-	4,600	(4,600)	4,600	230,000
Pine Hill Bursary Fund	10,000	-	200	(200)	200	10,000
Student Assistance Fund	144,265	2,525	2,600	(75)	10,129	154,319
Retired Ministers' Fund	48,679	1,354	9,200	(7,846)	8,300	49,133
Hant's Harbour Fund	1,000	-	-	-	20	1,020
Holy Land Visit Fund	49,431	-	-	-	989	50,420
Burry Heights Fund	44,003	-	880	(880)	880	44,003
Cochrane Street Fund	42,003	-	840	(840)	840	42,003
Greenspond Fund	10,000	-	200	(200)	200	10,000
Captain & Mrs. Leslie Winsor Fund	10,000	-	200	(200)	200	10,000
Prince of Wales Colligate Fund	7,400	-	148	(148)	148	7,400
Senior Citizens' Home Beatrice Gear Fund	7,000	-	140	(140)	140	7,000
Grates Cove United Church Fund	6,777	-	-	-	136	6,913
Elsie M. Oldford Trust	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Wallace & Muriel Baker Trust	5,000	-	100	(100)	100	5,000
John T. Murphy Memorial Trust	50,544	-	1,011	(1,011)	1,011	50,544
Grand Total	\$ 1,732,564	\$ 3,879	\$ 32,264	\$ (28,385)	\$ 41,609	\$ 1,745,788

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team

Trust Funds Report as of December 31, 2025

1. Methodist College Fund - James S. Pitts - \$230,000

This is commonly known as "**The Pitts Fund**". The Will provides for \$1,000 in annual earnings for each of the two church purposes: General Council Office Pensions Department gets \$1,000 and Regional Council the other. Remainder of earnings to go to the NL Schools; specifically, the Eastern Education Foundation so as to benefit students.

2. Lawrence & Ann Pelley Trust - \$750,000 (+ \$109,107 Accumulated)

The Lawrence and Ann Pelley Trust Fund was established in memory of the late Ann Pelley and her late husband Lawrence Pelley with the income from the trust to be used primarily for the benefit of children in the work being done by The United Church of Canada, First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council through their various youth organizations. Applications that focus on youth are available on the Regional Council website. **First Visit Home:** In recruiting Ordinands and Commissionands from other Regions, and to help their transition, the Lawrence and Ann Pelley Trust Fund will provide up to \$1,000 for the Ordinand/Commissionand (with a cap of \$2,000 per family) toward travel for one visit home, normally during the first year. Application is available on Regional Council website.

Retired Ministers' Fund: The Lawrence and Ann Pelley Trust Fund covers the deficit of the Retired Minister's Trust Fund Christmas Gift.

3. Elsie M. Oldford Trust - \$2,000

The Last Will and Testament of the late Elsie M. Oldford is meant to serve the needs of the United Church specifically within the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council with interest held in discretionary fund to be paid out at the discretion of the Board of Trusts Team.

4. Pine Hill Bursary Fund - \$10,000

Earnings to Pine Hill Divinity Hall to provide bursaries to United Church students at Atlantic School of Theology.

5. Student Assistance Fund - \$84,662 (+ \$24,656 Accumulated)

Objectives: To assist candidates for ministry in The United Church of Canada from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

Guidelines:

1. Assistance to a candidate for ordained/commissioned and designated lay ministry shall be granted, upon submission of an annual budget, at the discretion of the Executive Minister and Regional Minister, in consultation with others as deemed appropriate.
2. Assistance will be in the form of a loan to a maximum of \$4,000 per year (interest free). Upon Ordination/Commissioning/Recognition, \$1,000 per year will be forgiven for each year of service in the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council up to a maximum of \$3,000. The repayment of the remainder of the loan shall begin 8 months following Ordination/Commissioning/Recognition. Students not returning to the Regional Council shall begin repaying the loan beginning 8 months following Ordination/Commissioning/Recognition. Students who discontinue the program shall begin repaying the loan 8 months following that decision.
3. Each candidate who receives a loan from the fund will be required to sign a loan agreement accepting the terms of repayment.

6. Prince of Wales Collegiate United Church Scholarship Award Fund - \$7,400

Three bequests comprise this fund: Marshall, William Swan and John Leamon. Payable to Prince of Wales Collegiate for awarding of \$200 scholarship to a student who has demonstrated outstanding effort and commitment.

7. Ministers' Children Attending Post-Secondary Institutions - \$35,000 (+ \$7,788 Accumulated)

This fund was originally \$2,500 from the **Marshall Bequest**. This bequest is available to further and support the education and nurturing of children of ministers serving within The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador. This bequest supports ministers' children who attend post-secondary institutions. The guidelines are as follows: (a) a person can receive only one scholarship award; (b) the scholarship value to be determined by the Trusts Team depending on the strength of the fund; (c) the annual deadline be October 15; (d) there be a maximum of two scholarships awarded per year; (e) include all post-secondary institutions; (f) only one Regional Council Scholarship is available per person per year.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team (Continued)

Trust Funds Report as of December 31, 2025 (Continued)

8. Post-Graduate Education Fund for Ministry Personnel - \$60,000 (+ \$20,897 Accumulated)

Trust Objectives: To assist United Church ministry personnel in First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, with not less than ten years of active service, in post-graduate studies or educational travel. Guidelines for funding: 1. Maximum \$2,000 per person, maximum to be spent per year \$6,000 (if available). 2. Deadlines February 1 and October 1. 3. Applicants can apply every year but new applicants take priority. 4. Confirmation of enrollment required.

9. Coughlan College Trust Fund - \$1,536,032 (+ \$131,268 Accumulated)

Interest earned is to fulfill the Coughlan College Trust Fund objectives for programs and scholarships:
 (1) To further and support the education and nurturing of members of The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador; and
 (2) To assist candidates for ministry in The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Scholarship - Effective 2017, Coughlan College Scholarship applications will be administered by the Board of Trusts.

Objectives: To further and support the education and nurturing of members of The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador. The establishment of this scholarship is for awarding of grants to students who are enrolled in a degree program or a three-year diploma program at a post-secondary institution.

Policy: Scholarships are open to United Church students who are enrolled in a degree program or a three-year diploma program at a post-secondary institution. The scholarships are awarded annually by the Board of Trusts of The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador. Consideration will be given to financial need, church involvement and community involvement. Minister's Evaluation form to be discussed with applicant's Minister and applicant ensures submission. If you do not have a relationship with your new minister, please take the opportunity to connect with them to get to know each other. If your church does not have a minister or if your parent is the minister, we will accept the Board Chair completing and submitting the Minister's Evaluation. Applications will not be considered without Minister's Evaluation. Application forms and information concerning these awards are available on the website or from office. Confirmation of Enrollment must accompany application. Applications will be accepted at any time during the degree/diploma program, however priority will be given to new applicants. Scholarships will be awarded at a minimum of \$500 per person to a maximum of \$1,000 per person. Maximum disbursement from the Coughlan College Trust for Scholarships will be \$8,000 per year. Annual deadline of October 15.

Program Funding

Objectives: To further and support the education and nurturing of members of The United Church of Canada in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Guidelines: 1. Programs must be United Church sponsored or endorsed. 2. Requests for program funding may be initiated by an individual, a congregation/pastoral charge, a recognized United Church group or committee, a Division or a Region. 3. The types of programs eligible for funding are those that develop: a) theological understanding b) leadership skills/ability c) personal faith/spirituality d) sense of ministry and/or mission. 4. Programs receiving funding may address the needs of ministry personnel and laity. 5. It is understood that funding through the Coughlan College Trust Fund will provide "seed money" or supplement the budget for a program/workshop/event and will not normally cover the total cost of an event. Please note this fund does not include support for degree programs. 6. Requests for funding are to be made in advance of the planned program or event by providing the information requested on the application and an approved budget. 7. It is required that unused portions of the grant be returned.

10. Stella Burry Funds - \$186,000

The principal sum of \$29,000 which previously earned income through the Board as an annuity established several years ago was redistributed after her death. Payments were made to Agnes Pratt Home (\$5,000) and the Mental Health Association (\$4,000). The balance (\$20,000) was set up to earn income for the following: Burry Heights Camp; Cochrane Street United Church (2025- now UCC) Mission and Service Fund (\$3,000); and Family Life through Emmanuel House (\$12,000). Dr. Burry's Estate provided \$10,000 for Christian Education at her home of Greenspond, administered by the Board of Trust by agreement with the Official Board of Wesleyville Charge. The sum of \$156,000 will earn income through the Board in equal shares for Burry Heights Camp (\$39,003), Cochrane Street United Church (2025-now UCC Mission and Service) (\$39,003), Agnes Pratt Home (\$39,003) and Emmanuel House (\$39,003).

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team (Continued)

Trust Funds Report as of December 31, 2025 (Continued)

- 11. Agnes Pratt Home Fund - \$79,003**
Interest paid annually to Agnes Pratt Board. Agreement shall remain in effect provided that all Board funds, donations, bequests, gifts, entitlements & other funds shall be and remain the property of the present owner of Agnes Pratt Home, to be used by the owner in its direction in accordance with any directions governing the giving of such funds. Stella Burry Funds-Agnes Pratt Home (\$5,000) Agnes Pratt Home (\$39,003)
- 12. Gulliford Bequest - \$600**
All interest earned paid to the CNIB.
- 13. Cochrane Street United Church Fund - \$42,003**
Stella Burry Funds-Cochrane Street United Church Mission and Service Fund (\$3,000); Cochrane Street United Church (\$39,003) (*Jan 28/25-interest redistributed to The United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund*)
- 14. Emmanuel House Fund - \$51,003**
Stella Burry Funds - Family Life through Emmanuel House (\$12,000); Emmanuel House (\$39,003).
- 15. Beatrice Gear Estate - \$7,000**
Interest earned on this fund be given annually to the Agnes Pratt Home.
- 16. Council of Social Ministries Trust - \$300,000 (+ \$88,640 Accumulated)**
The interest from this fund is designed for people in United Church congregations who have special financial needs. Pastoral Charges may identify such needs and make application on behalf of those individuals. Priority will be given to children and young people and institutions that work with teenagers.
- 17. Retired Ministers' Fund - \$48,379**
That interest from the Retired Ministers' Trust Fund be given as a Christmas gift. All retiring ministers or their surviving spouses who retired from service in First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and whose membership remains with First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council qualify for the annual honorarium (Christmas gift) with any resulting deficit to be covered from the Pelley Fund.
- 18. Hant's Harbour Fund - Samuel Short - \$1,000**
Earnings are paid to Hant's Harbour Pastoral Charge for ministerial support.
- 19. Abraham Edison and Evangeline Green - \$50,000**
Provides \$500 annually to Carmanville congregation and the balance of earnings to Student Assistance Fund.
- 20. Curling Memorial Church Fund - Gilbert & Martha Pike Trust - \$18,041**
Earnings are paid to Curling United Church annually.
- 21. Blackhead Historic Site Fund - \$2,600**
Earnings are made available to the Trustee Board of Blackhead Church for care of the site and plaque commemorating the erection of the first Methodist Church in Canada.
- 22. Red Harbour (Port Elizabeth) Fund - \$200**
The **W.S. Collins Bequest** of \$200 was for continuing support of Port Elizabeth congregation. Since that congregation no longer exists but the majority of people are now located at Red Harbour, it was decided to send the earnings on the fund to that congregation.
- 23. William Seeley Mercer Fund - \$6,600**
Three purposes are to be served. The earnings on \$6,000 will be given to Central Labrador Pastoral Charge (60%) and Fogo Island Pastoral Charge (40%) as continuing memorial to Rev. William S. Mercer. Earnings on the amount of \$600 will provide for perpetual care of Rev. Mercer's grave on Fogo Island.
- 24. Greenspond Christian Education Fund - \$10,000**
Stella Burry Fund - Paid to Wesleyville Pastoral Charge for Christian Education involving Greenspond Congregation.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team (Continued)

Trust Funds Report as of December 31, 2025 (Continued)

- 25. Mrs. Annie Noel - Grates Cove United Church Fund - \$6,777**
Interest paid annually to ensure grave site of Mr. and Mrs. Noel be maintained and remainder used to maintain cemetery.
- 26. Wallace and Muriel Baker Trust – Elliston United Church - \$5,000**
Interest be paid annually (to a maximum of \$150) to the Cemetery Committee of Elliston United Church to provide annual care and upkeep of the Baker family plot in Elliston.
- 27. Holy Land Visit Fund - \$32,000 (+ \$18,420 Accumulated)**
The Holy Land Visit Trust Fund was created many years ago by the MacPherson family of St. John's. This trust fund is open to United Church ministers in Newfoundland and Labrador who wish to visit the Holy Lands and qualify as per below guidelines. It is the wish of the MacPherson family that those who are awarded would use it to enhance their ministry in Newfoundland and Labrador. Each year, the successful applicant can avail of \$3,000 from this trust fund to contribute to their trip. Applications available on Regional Council website.
Guidelines
1. Those considered for election include only those ministry personnel who have completed the required training for the stream of ministry in which they serve in Newfoundland and Labrador.
 2. One person selected per year.
 3. Application deadline is April 15 each year submitted to Executive Minister, who will check to ensure that applicants qualify for election, and submit the names of those qualified to Regional Council for selection.
 4. Retired persons and those within one year of retirement are not eligible.
 5. Each successful applicant will normally be expected to complete the trip within 12 months of being elected.
 6. Candidates will be introduced to the electing court so that members will have information on which to base their voting.
 7. A Minister shall not be ineligible because he/she is not in the active pastorate.
- 28. Loon Bay Camp Fund - \$1,000**
Elizabeth French bequeathed \$1,000 for purposes related to Loon Bay Camp. The annual earnings are paid to the Camp Committee.
- 29. Burry Heights Camp Fund - \$44,003**
Stella Burry Fund - Burry Heights Camp (\$5,000); Burry Heights Camp (\$39,003)
- 30. The Rev. John Murphy Fund for Burry Heights Camp - \$50,544**
Interest income will be used to provide campership attendance at Burry Heights Camp. The funds, if not needed each year by campers, may be used to provide for capital expenses, i.e. painting, repairs, equipment purchases.
- 31. Captain & Mrs. Leslie Winsor Fund - \$10,000**
Earnings on which are to be used by VOWR.
- 32. New Church Development Fund - \$30,060**
Provide financial assistance to two or more congregations in the designated area that wish to come together to share or combine worship and/or other facilities, with some of the cost of studying and investing the physical and financial implications of doing so. Eligible projects include initial concept studies, congregational opinion surveys, preparing cost estimates and preliminary designs/drawings of new or combined facilities, and related activities.
- 33. Compassionate Assistance Fund - \$99,500**
Originally the Disability Fund, the Compassionate Assistance Fund is used to assist needs that are out of the pockets of clergy. Examples are travel assistance, alleviate financial strain with a move, assist with significant unexpected expenses during hospital stays, assist with significant unexpected expense due to a serious illness. To respect the privacy of clergy, applicants' names and amounts will not be released. Applications, found on the Regional Council website, will be reviewed by the Regional Minister who will need to support the request.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team

The Agnes Pratt Home Inc.



**The Agnes Pratt Home, Long Term Care
Eastern Urban Zone**
239 Topsail Road
St John's, NL
Canada, A1E 2B4
t: 709 752 8950
w: NLHealthServices.ca



The Agnes Pratt Home Annual Report

Executive Summary

I am pleased to provide you with this annual report for The Agnes Pratt Home (APH) on behalf of Nikki Williams, Administrator. My name is Robyn Viau, and I assumed the role of Acting Administrator on February 23rd, 2026 covering for Nikki during her extended leave. I am a registered nurse with extensive management experience in Long Term Care and Quality, Accreditation and Risk Management. This report summarizes major activities, accomplishments, and challenges during April 1st, 2025 to March 31st, 2026. It reflects ongoing commitments to high-quality care, operational excellence, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

Leadership

The home experienced several leadership transitions throughout this past year which impacted workflow stability and required significant onboarding and support processes. As mentioned, I was onboarded as acting administrator in February 2026. Flora Brushett joined the Resident Care Manager Team in September 2025 covering Catherine Dillon, RCM, who has worked with APH for 23 years. Catherine is currently transitioning back to the workplace while Flora continues to provide RCM coverage. Despite these changes, leaders have been integrating well into their roles, helping restore continuity and strategic alignment. Lastly, a new Infrastructure Support manager was hired in March 2026. Jim Yetman will be responsible for APH, Glenbrook Lodge and Saint Luke's Homes. We welcome Jim and look forward to collaborating with him to address the many infrastructure needs of the facility.

Spiritual Care

A new Chaplain, Rev. Kathy Brett, joined the organization this year, restoring a vital component of holistic resident-centered care. Spiritual care services have been re-established and have already made a meaningful impact on residents and families seeking emotional and spiritual support.

Foundation

The Foundation continued to provide generous support for many initiatives benefiting residents and staff. The Home's Pastoral Care program was reinstated thanks to the funding provided for the new chaplain. Wall painting and new local prints were purchased for our front entrance, and the Hair Salon underwent a beautiful transformation. A new sound system for recreation activities was gratefully received, and the Fry Family continues to sponsor garden work that saw the addition of flowers, decor, and the purchase of durable furniture for gardens and patios. New chairs and prints were also provided for our staff lounge. All these upgrades have contributed to a more uplifting, therapeutic, and welcoming environment for residents, families, and staff.

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

The Agnes Pratt Home Inc. (Continued)

Quality Improvements

Quality improvement efforts continued through participation in various initiatives:

- The Agnes Pratt Home participated in the AUA Collaborative, resulting in improved dementia care outcomes and recognition through the Sparking Change in AUA Awards Program, including \$27,000 in awarded funding. Core strategies introduced through AUA, such as structured biweekly Behaviour Management Rounds, interdisciplinary review of residents experiencing responsive behaviours, and ongoing antipsychotic medication monitoring remain embedded in daily practice. Award funding is being reinvested to enhance dementia friendly environments, including improvements to outdoor spaces, dining experiences, murals, and bathing areas, further promoting comfort, dignity, and quality of life for residents.
- Preparations for the implementation of CorCare, the new provincial electronic record, have added an additional workload for management and staff. However, this will ultimately result in better coordination and clinical workflows across the system and safer care for our residents.
- The LTC program was also audited by the Office of the Auditor General with frequent requests for information and short turnaround times. We look forward to the reports and recommendations that will result from this audit.
- Work also began on restarting the renovation program, representing a key step toward addressing long-standing infrastructure needs. Aging infrastructure continues to challenge daily operations despite renovation progress.

Simultaneous implementation of new programs and initiatives increased management pressures; however these initiatives will strengthen documentation, clinical workflows, accountability structures, and interdisciplinary communication.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Discussions to establish a new MOU are set to resume in May 2026. A renewed agreement will be essential in clarifying roles, expectations, and collaborative processes between NL Health Services (NLHS) and The APH Board of Directors. Strengthened alignment will support shared priorities, including addressing infrastructure needs, improving standardization, enhancing operational support from NLHS, advancing our collective goal of delivering the highest quality care to residents.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the dedicated team of the APH for their continued efforts to provide compassionate, safe and high-quality care, and promoting a home-like environment for our residents and their families.

Respectfully,



Robyn Viau BNRN MBA CHE
Administrator (acting), The Agnes Pratt Home

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Alexander Bay United Church Homes Inc. (ABUCHI)

A Category 2: Multi-Party Incorporated Ministry with multiple participants (United Church of Canada and NL Housing).

Board of Directors:

Robert Briffett (Chairperson)

Rev. Paul Vardy (Secretary)

Bonnie Vardy (Treasurer)

Irvin Rideout

Jane Taylor

Colleen Wyatt

Eileen Lynch (Tenant Rep.)

Officially opened in the Fall of 1990, ABUCHI (located in Glovertown) is now the home of eleven residents. In partnership with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, the ten apartment complex provides safe affordable housing to seniors in the area. Though all residents still live independent lives, the Board of Directors oversee the management of the home. The Board of Directors, along with the residents, plan functions such as; Christmas Dinners, Summer Social, and Social Hours as a means of maintaining the strong sense of family that exist in the home. Each year, at our Annual Meeting, we meet with all tenants so that we can incorporate their vision of the Home into any future direction(s).

All inspections: Fire Extinguishers, Fire Alarm System, Building Inspections have been completed.

The next project we will be working toward is the replacement of plumbing throughout the building.

Robert Briffett (Chairperson)

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Bridges to Hope Inc.

Dear Supporters,

Because of your generosity and commitment, Bridges to Hope continues to be a vital lifeline for individuals and families across St. John's. We are grateful to share an update on the impact your support has made throughout 2025.

So far this year, our Food Bank has recorded **17,910 client visits**, serving **5,541 unique individuals** in our community. The need remains significant, particularly for families with children—**31% of those we served were children aged 1–17**. At the same time, **seniors accounted for 7.1% of total visits**, reminding us that food insecurity affects people at every stage of life.

Your support also made several key programs possible:

- Our **Bag to School Program** helped **900 kindergarten to Grade 12 students** start the school year with essential supplies, easing the burden on families and setting students up for success.
- Our Christmas Hamper program, **Miracle on Cookstown Road**, provided holiday support to **665 households**, ensuring that families could experience dignity, warmth, and hope during the holiday season.

These numbers represent more than statistics—they represent neighbours, children, seniors, and families who were able to access nutritious food and meaningful support when they needed it most.

Thank you for standing with us. Your compassion helps ensure that Bridges to Hope can continue responding to growing needs in our community with care, respect, and hope.

With sincere gratitude,

Ken Peters

Chair of the Board-Bridges to Hope

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre Inc.



320 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, A1B 1T9
burryheights@hotmail.com •
(709) 229 7883 •

Megan Stead

Board of Directors Chair

This has been a year of learning for the Burry Heights Board of Directors. With a large turnover in Board Members over the past couple of years, it has been a year of trying to figure out all of the things we didn't know we needed to know! The biggest struggle has been in Finance, as there are a lot of moving pieces and tiny details, made even more complicated by the fact we have not been able to find a Treasurer with a knowledge of accounting. In the interim, everyone on the Board has really stepped up to help out and it has been a lifesaver. While we are still learning the ropes, I have no doubt that it will all work out.

This year has been a challenging year for our physical space, as well, with the building and equipment needing many, many repairs. It seems like every other week something that is vital to our operations needs to be repaired or replaced, which has been a drain on the small amount of savings we had managed to amass. Over the past twelve months, we have: replaced our dishwasher at a cost of \$35,000, done major electrical repairs costing nearly \$10,000, and just last week our septic system backed up which cost over \$6,000 in a single day! We are so lucky to have the continued support of Jacob Brentnall, head of our Maintenance Committee. As a Journeyman Carpenter, Jacob always knows exactly who to reach out to when he can't complete the repairs himself and while it has been an expensive year of repairs we are so lucky to have his expertise.

Summer 2025 was another extremely successful year for our Summer Camping Program, with over 600 campers signing up to attend. Even more impressive, over a hundred and fifty young people signed up to volunteer a week of their time to work with our campers. The summer did not pass without issues however, as a backlog in Police Record Checks meant some volunteers did not get theirs in time for their week and we were impacted by the wildfires in our area. With a fire in Holyrood and then near Paddy's Pond, we made the difficult decision to end two weeks of camp early. It was not an easy decision to make, but with all of our campers having to travel the highway and a large portion of our population coming from towns affected by the Kingston Fire it felt like the right thing to do. While it was obviously not ideal, the way our camp community came together was impressive. From the staff who made ninety phone calls in record time, to the volunteers who made sure the kids were kept calm and entertained, and the parents who showed up without complaint as quickly as possible; it was a truly remarkable sight to behold.

As we head into Summer 2026, we are once again in great shape, with camps filling in record time and a large number of volunteers. We would like to send a sincere thank you to everyone who has helped out this year, especially those who sent donations to help with the cost of our new dishwasher!

Megan Stead
Chair

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Humber Valley Day Care Centre Inc.

Humber Valley Day Care Centre Inc. (HVDC) was established by the congregation of Humber Valley United Church as an Incorporated Ministry to establish a day care centre in the town of Pasadena. After renovations to our church hall and kitchen, HVDC proudly welcomed our first children 10 years ago, in the fall of 2016. The centre is a fully licensed facility with 26 spaces for children from 18 months to school age. We provide families with child care from the Deer Lake, Pasadena and Corner Brook areas while employing 7 full-time Early Childhood Educators, 3-4 part-time substitute Educators and 1 part-time cook.

We operate the daycare facility with assistance from the Government under the Provincial Operating Grant program that allows us to provide \$10/day childcare and allows us to pay our ECEs based on a provincial wage grid and provide them with a benefits package. While our grant payments have increased in the past couple of years, so have our expenses with the cost of food, supplies and wages climbing. We continue to have a lengthy waitlist for families seeking childcare at our centre.

Shortly after opening the day care centre, the Board embarked on another project building 10 adult living cottages. With the assistance of Government programs, HVDC built these housing units for adults (rent controlled, 50+ residents) on existing church property. We welcomed our first residents in late spring of 2018 and currently have a substantial waitlist for the cottages as well.

HVDC was established to assist our congregation with meeting the financial obligations of the church and we are proud to say that we have been able to achieve that goal. We are happy to be able to help our own church family financially, while also providing some much needed services within our community in the form of child care and seniors housing.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Wright
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Parkview Apartments Inc.

Parkview Apartments had another successful year. We continue to fulfill all requirements of both the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC) and the Bank of Montreal. The debt with NLCH is forgivable as long as we continue to satisfy their requirements. The debt to the Bank of Montreal will be retired in under five years.

We are in good shape financially and in regard to the conditions of the property. There will be a need soon to replace all of the hot water tanks. An application for a grant was made, however, there has been no response. It will likely need to be resubmitted.

There were some minor maintenance matters that were readily resolved by the dedicated efforts of the Property Committee. Charles Cameron, Alan Kirby, and Calvin Pretty were consistently available to manage the issues of the apartments, and that worked well for us.

The apartments were rented for the entirety of 2025. We maintain a current waiting list for these apartments.

The tenants had a craft sale and book sale during the year. By all accounts, the tenants are quite happy in the apartments.

A thank you to the members of the Board of Directors, the Property Committee and members of the congregation that responded to the various needs of Parkview.

Jeff Follett
on behalf of the Parkview Apartments Directors

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Stella's Circle



Stella's Circle
Creating Community Together

Report: Accountability Report
From: Stella's Circle
Date: April 2026
Submitted by: Laura Winters, LEO, Stella's Circle

Stella's Circle was honoured this year to receive the Provincial Literacy Award from the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. This recognition reflects a core truth of our work: literacy is foundational to dignity, inclusion, and justice.

Across our programs, literacy is embedded in how people rebuild their lives. It shows up in everyday moments, completing housing applications, preparing for employment, managing health, and building the confidence to use one's voice. These skills are essential to stability, independence, and belonging.



From left to right: Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador Tony Wakeham, Jessica Lee-Middleman, Laura Winters, Sarah Mills, and Honourable Minister Paul Dinn.

This work is deeply aligned with the values of The United Church of Canada. Your commitment to justice and supporting those most marginalized is reflected in the impact you help make possible at Stella's Circle. Through your support, individuals facing barriers related to poverty, mental health, homelessness, and justice involvement can access the tools they need to move forward.

This award is not only a milestone, but also a reflection of the collective impact of our community, including The United Church of Canada. It demonstrates what is possible when people are met with compassion, respect, and opportunity.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Stella's Circle (Continued)

Housing

- Naomi Centre is Newfoundland and Labrador's only emergency homelessness shelter for young women and gender diverse people ages 18–29. We offer safe, temporary housing within a harm reduction model. Our staff provide person-centered housing services to both current and former residents of Naomi Centre. The past year we have connected 41 residents with Peer Support for additional mental health support and the average length of stay doubled since 2020 (now ~40 days vs. 18 days pre-crisis). Julie said: *"Naomi Centre felt like family when I didn't have one. I'm forever thankful."*
- The Brian Martin Resource Centre (BMHRC) is a lifeline for those seeking stable housing. Our walk-in housing help connects people experiencing homelessness with housing options to support movement out of shelters and unsafe living conditions. Beyond this, our team offers eviction prevention work to maintain housing stability and safety. BMHRC had 181 new participant intakes, with 96 individuals finding permanent housing, 1,726 housing retention activities, with 133 units of affordable and supportive housing (3rd largest provider in NL). Paul shared: *"I used to sleep on couches or outside when it was warm. I never thought I'd have a place that's mine. Now I got keys in my hand, my own bed, and I cook supper every night. It feels like a real home; and like I matter."*

Mental Health and Addictions

- Emmanuel House is the only community-based residential program for mental health and addictions in the province. Individual and group counselling is offered through long term residential stays and day treatment, with support to help participants transition back into the community. 90% of participants arrived experiencing addictions and 1/3 of participants are choosing the new day treatment program. Delia expresses: *"I used to think I didn't deserve support. Emmanuel House showed me I do. I got routines, medication that works, and people who check in. That's everything."*
- Just Us Women's Centre is the only program in the province dedicated to supporting women and gender diverse people with criminal justice experience. We offer a variety of individual and group counselling, release planning, advocacy and support services at the NL Corrections Centre for Women in Clarenville, Her Majesty's Penitentiary, and at our Centre in St. John's. Just Us Women's Centre had 134 groups delivered in prison, 97 groups delivered in community, 97% of incarcerated women voluntarily participated and 31% increase in individuals served. Anita states: *"My head used to be full all the time. I didn't know how to slow it down. Coming here, I learned how to breathe again. The counsellors listened when no one else would. I smile more now. I sleep better. I feel like me again."*

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

Stella's Circle (Continued)

- Community Support Program provides the highest level of support to enable adults with severe and persistent mental health needs to live in community. Our goals are to help participants avoid hospital admissions and incarcerations, remain stably housed, and improve their quality of life. 93% remained stably housed and 80% had no incarcerations or hospital admissions. Dave expresses *"I used to feel invisible. With CSP, I feel like someone's finally in my corner. I'm not doing this alone anymore."*

Employment

- Employment Services helps people overcome barriers to work and build pathways to meaningful, sustainable employment. It's designed for adults who may face challenges like mental health issues, poverty, justice involvement, or limited work experience. The program is based on the belief that everyone can work and benefit from meaningful employment. Employment Services had 99 participants started jobs or academic programs and 285 total people started/maintained employment or education. Stacey explains: *"I never thought I could work again after everything I been through. But the team helped me step by step. Now I got a job I'm proud of and I wake up excited. I didn't just get a paycheck; I got my confidence back."*
- Our Social Enterprises – Stella's Brasserie, Hungry Heart Café and Home to Stay had 76 training placements completed, 18 participants transitioned from Clean Start to competitive employment, with \$230,000 in wages paid to participants, and 14,342 supported employment hours worked. Charlie states: *"Getting a job changed more than just my income. It gave me a routine, confidence, and something to be proud of. I can see a future now; and it actually looks good."*

Connectedness with The United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada's relationship with Stella's Circle highlighted at the Board level with the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, as member ex-officio.

The ongoing support and generosity of The United Church of Canada is invaluable and vital to the organization. We were honoured to attend The United Church of Canada's Centennial Celebration in June and to host a group of national United Church volunteers for a garden clean up at one of our employment services locations. Most notably, Gower Street United Church continues to serve as a dedicated community partner, hosting our annual Christmas Service, and performance sharing opportunities for our Inclusion Choir with their rich music ministry. Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald officiated our Alternative Christmas Service again this year, a non-denominational celebration for our participants and the broader community. During the Christmas season, numerous United Church Men's and Women's groups across the province, Sunday Schools and others provided gifts, financial donations and supplies. Each year, the Mission and Service Fund provide funding to Emmanuel House and Naomi Centre.

Thank you for all your support for Stella's Circle. Please visit www.StellasCircle.ca and our social media channels for more information.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

West Haven United Church Camp Inc.

The running of West Haven camp is ongoing throughout the year with at least 4 board meetings. The board consists of 7 members who are also the committee. Whom continues to work hard to keep West Haven a viable camp. Most of us wear 2 hats. It is very difficult to recruit new members.

This last summer camp was a success, only because of our committed volunteers. We struggled with hiring, but managed to complete staffing to move forward with the camps. We continue to meet and carry on the work of West Haven. Constantly looking for more volunteers! You will find more information in the Program Committee and Grant Chair reports. As this camping year is upon us, at the moment we are undetermined how we are moving forward. I am stepping down as Board Chair after our AGM, but will continue on as Health Care Coordinator. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved for making 2025 camp season a success.

Respectfully submitted
Mimajoan Saunders
W.H. Board Chair

West Haven Program Report for 2025

We had 4 camps during the summer of 2025.

Summary of Camp numbers:

Intermediate Camp 1, July 20-25, 2025: 18 total, 12 Girls, 6 Boys, 4 student staff, 2 CITs, 2 adult leaders, ½ week each. 8 Full Subsidy, 2 Half Subsidy=10

Junior 2, July 27-Aug. 1, 14 total, 10 Girls, 4 Boys, 3 staff, 2 CITs, 1 Adult leader, 1 helper. 4 Full Subsidy

Intermediate 2, Aug. 3-8, 28 total, 17 Girls, 11 Boys, 4 staff, 3 CITs, 1 adult volunteer (in kitchen). 6 Full Subsidy, 1 Half = 7

Teen, Aug. 10-15, 14 Total, 4 Boys, 10 Girls, 4 staff, 3 adult leaders (overlapping). 4 Full Subsidy, 2 Half Subsidy = 6

Total Campers: 74 Campers (down from 82 in '24)

36% access subsidy. Invoices for \$10,837.50 submitted to March Fund.

Where campers live: Corner Brook area (from George's Lake, Massey Dr, Mt. Moriah, N. Shore) 38; Deer Lake/Reidville 14; Pasadena, 6; Springdale, 5; 1 each from Codroy, Trout River, Parson's Pond, Burgeo.

Info gathered from Registrar, plus checking through registration forms at camp.

Submitted by Judy May, August 18, 2025

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

West Haven United Church Camp Inc. (Continued)

Despite having to overcome many challenges, there were several **Positive Aspects** of summer 2025 from a program perspective.

Nature Program:

- Our trail system was cleared and widened by the Forestry Department in Pasadena.
- New signs for all trails were donated by the Centre for Innovation and Research in Corner Brook. (These signs have not yet been installed as they need to have a sealant applied and we need a ladder.)
- We were very fortunate to have Mr. Kevin Barnes do a Nature Walk with each camp. Kevin is a member of the Qalipu First Nation, former nature interpretive guide with Gros Morne National Park, and did extensive work with Kildevil Anglican Church Camp during its operation. His knowledge of all aspects of the natural world and his ability to relate to the campers made his walks enjoyable and informative. He expressed an interest in returning to future camps.

Mental Health Initiatives:

We enhanced the mental health aspect of our program which was started in the summer of 2024 and this year were able to avail of 3 workers from the Community Mental Health Initiative. David Jones worked on developing positive mental health attitudes by incorporating nature activities and games. Peter Parsons and a student assistant, Kelsey Green, did sessions on mental health vs mental illness, addictions, where to get help, discovering personal strengths & weaknesses, online safety, and mindfulness. Peter is also eager to continue with these sessions at future camps.

Camp Cook:

While not directly related to Programs, it was a relief after 2 years of doing without one, to have had a wonderful cook, Ms. Karen Butt, who not only kept campers very happy with nutritious meal selections, but she was also a wonderful support for staff and volunteers as they faced day to day challenges.

Challenges:

- 1.** Insufficient number of staff, and particularly not enough male staff. We started the summer with 5 paid staff (not counting the cook); 4 female and one male. We had to hire a 2nd male (adult) to help with supervision in the boys' bunkhouse at night as our by-laws state that no staff are to be alone with campers. A low number of staff also meant that each staff member had to fill many roles.
- 2.** Staff who were not suitable or not able to cope with their roles. Our Camp Director and a female councillor quit after the first camp. Even though roles, job descriptions and times were clearly identified during the interview and in orientation sessions, staff were not happy that they were not being paid for 24 hours/ 5 days a week.
- 3.** A lack of adult volunteers, not only as camp volunteers, but also for our Camp Board of Directors, Program Committee, and especially for our Maintenance Committee. The Camp is 60 plus years old with an aging infrastructure and it is unfair to expect 2 or 3 existing Board members to also be responsible for repairs and upkeep.

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DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (Continued)

Incorporated Ministries Team (Continued)

West Haven United Church Camp Inc. (Continued)

What We Learned: (in no particular order of importance)

1. The interview process for staff needs to have more than 2 people conducting the interview.
2. Letters of referral should be verified with a phone call and should NOT be the only reference sought. Contact should be made with the applicant's school or previous employer. Often letters provided are done by someone who would not share inappropriate traits or performance.
3. **We need to have a website that is current and running with someone responsible for keeping it current.**
4. Banning cell phone/device usage for our junior camp was an excellent idea and needs to be expanded to our intermediate and teen camps. This past year, we had restricted usage for the 2 latter camps.
5. The schedule for both campers and staff needs to have free time allotted, not just the afternoon FOYB (Flat on your Bunk) for campers.
6. Adult volunteers need to be informed of their duties in advance of camp and need to be competent as an adult figure. Age is not an indication of maturity.
7. Trails need to be cleared before the first camp, ideally before staff orientation.
8. Mental health activities need to be continued and enhanced.
9. There is an urgent need to upgrade our sporting equipment and facilities.
10. We need an assistant cook. Food services is too much responsibility for a single cook.
11. Nature activities could be enhanced. (Outsiders have already indicated a willingness to come on board as indicated above.) More thought needs to be given to all activities; alternative activities need to be designed for rainy days, fire ban days, or extreme heat.
12. More role playing should be incorporated into daily activities. Young people are accustomed to using their cell phones as a primary mode of communication with others, and, I feel, have lost much of their ability to express emotions and feelings in a real-life setting. For many, this is often a source of anxiety and fear of how others view them.
13. We should not be disclosing any mental health concerns of staff (ie. autism) to other staff members, unless they pose a safety concern. Such information can often manifest pre-disposed stereotypes, negative expectations and behaviour towards the person with the issue.
14. Where possible, previous campers &/or Board/Committee members should visit schools in the spring to encourage others to come to camp either as a camper, a CIT, or a staff member.
15. The apartment needs to be made usable to help attract a Cook or Camp Director.
16. With the help of First Dawn, we need to have more UC parishes involved in the operation of Camp. More than just neighbouring churches need to have a sense of ownership in WH. Maybe have a rep from each parish on the Board?

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Wells
Chair, West Haven Program Committee

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Membership:

- Chair - Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter
- Secretary - Vacant
- Convenor Communications Team - Vacant
- Convenor Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development Team - Vacant
- Convenor Justice, Mission and Outreach Team - Hardy Winsor
- Convenor Stewardship Team - Vacant
- Convenor Annual Meeting Planning Team - Rev. Kathy Brett
- Convenor Children, Youth and Young Adults Team - Rev. Liberty Matabire
- Staff Support - Rev. Catherine Stuart

Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development Team

The team had several meetings over the past year to plan for the Clergy Symposium and Clergy Retreat. Advent and Lenten Lunch and Learns did not happen this year, but remain on the list of possible things to offer in future.

The Clergy Retreat and Symposium happened this year in October at Lion Max Simms Memorial Camp in Bishop's Falls. The speakers for the events were Rev. Oliver Dingwell and Rev. Shepherd Munikwa.

Currently, we are hoping to recruit a few new members to our team, including a chair, so please be in touch with us with your ideas for events we could offer, as well as new team members!

Justice, Mission and Outreach Team

Introduction

The Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee (JMOC) United Church of Canada East continues to nurture a shared vision of justice, compassion, reconciliation, and faithful outreach across the Atlantic regions. Our hope and dream are to work collaboratively as JMOC United Church of Canada East, bringing together FSLDW, BNS, and FDEE JMOC as one united Atlantic regional ministry. Throughout this year, we have continued strengthening relationships, encouraging grassroots engagement, and equipping Communities of Faith to live out justice as a central expression of Christian discipleship.

Justice, Mission & Outreach Workshop

On April 23, 2026, JMOC hosted a Justice, Mission & Outreach Workshop at the United Church offices 320 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The workshop emphasized that justice is not only a social or humanitarian concern, but a deeply spiritual calling rooted in our faith and commitment to God's vision of wholeness, dignity, reconciliation, and love for all creation. The workshop explored three major themes: identifying justice issues present in our Communities of Faith, discerning how we can act justly in an unjust world, and understanding how Justice, Mission & Outreach operates within our regions. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, reflection, and discernment regarding the changing realities facing churches and communities across Atlantic Canada.

Reflective Questions for Communities of Faith

As part of our ongoing discernment and ministry, JMOC encouraged Communities of Faith to reflect deeply on several important questions. Are we truly connecting with our neighbours, or simply serving them from a distance? Are our ministries transforming unjust systems, or only responding to their symptoms? Are we creating spaces of belonging where all people, especially the marginalized, are seen, heard, and valued? Are we living out reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and caring for creation in meaningful and tangible ways? In a rapidly changing Canadian society, how is your church being called to move from tradition into bold, life-giving mission? These questions continue to guide our ministry and inspire faithful action within our Communities of Faith.

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DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Current JMOC Working Groups

JMOC United Church of Canada East currently supports several active working groups and networks that continue to shape and strengthen our regional ministry. These include the Ecological Justice Working Group, Just Peace Israel/Palestine Working Group, Refugee Matters Working Group, Indigenous Relations Working Group, Mental Health Working Group, Guaranteed Livable Income Network, and the Anti-Racism Network. These groups continue to provide leadership, education, advocacy, and support in addressing the pressing justice concerns facing our communities and the wider world.

Emerging Networks

In response to the evolving needs of both church and society, JMOC has also begun planting and developing new ministry networks. These include the Intercultural Network, Grassroots Engagement Network, and Revival & Evangelism Network. These emerging networks seek to strengthen the church's witness, deepen community engagement, and encourage transformative mission across the Atlantic regions.

Justice, Mission & Outreach Grassroots Engagement Network

One of the major areas of focus this year has been the development of the Justice, Mission & Outreach Grassroots Engagement Network within the Eastern Communities of Faith of The United Church of Canada. This network is a locally rooted and faith-driven initiative that empowers congregations and community members to embody justice, compassion, and reconciliation through active participation in addressing social, economic, environmental, and spiritual needs.

The vision of the network is to nurture a just, compassionate, and inclusive United Church of Canada where Communities of Faith actively participate in transforming society, uplifting human dignity, fostering reconciliation, and nurturing right relationships with all people and creation. Its mission is to equip and mobilize Communities of Faith across United Church of Canada East to practice justice as a core expression of faith, engage in meaningful outreach rooted in local needs, build inclusive and resilient communities, advocate for systemic change alongside marginalized voices, and live out reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and all creation. The network is grounded in the core values of justice and dignity for all, compassion and hospitality, community and belonging, reconciliation and decolonization, stewardship of creation, and faith in action.

Expected Activities of Communities of Faith

JMOC continues encouraging churches to move beyond charity-only models toward relational and justice-oriented engagement. Communities of Faith are encouraged to foster community connection and belonging through hosting meals that build relationships rather than simply providing services, creating safe spaces for newcomers, youth, and isolated individuals, and developing intergenerational programs that reduce loneliness and strengthen community bonds.

Churches are also encouraged to participate in justice-oriented ministries by advocating around housing affordability, poverty, and food insecurity, supporting refugees and immigrants through settlement and integration, engaging in communal ministry and restorative justice initiatives, and creating diverse, inclusive, and intercultural Communities of Faith.

In the area of Indigenous reconciliation, Communities of Faith are encouraged to learn the histories of local Indigenous nations, including Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati peoples, support Indigenous-led initiatives, and practice land acknowledgments with meaningful action and accountability.

Environmental stewardship remains another important focus area, including community gardens and food sovereignty projects, climate justice advocacy and education, and sustainable church practices such as energy stewardship and waste reduction.

Spiritual and educational formation also continues to be emphasized through Bible studies focused on justice, peace, and liberation theology, workshops on diversity, intercultural ministry, anti-racism, equity, and inclusion, and youth engagement in justice leadership.

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Partnerships and collaboration remain essential to the work of JMOC through cluster collaboration, shared ministry initiatives, partnerships with NGOs, municipalities, and other faith groups, ecumenical and interfaith justice initiatives, and support for regional and national justice campaigns.

Revival & Evangelism Network

The Revival & Evangelism Network seeks to keep the church spiritually alive and outward-focused. Its role extends beyond organizing events and instead seeks to shape a culture where faith is deeply experienced and actively shared.

The network encourages ongoing spiritual renewal through prayer movements, discipleship, repentance and renewal, rekindling passion for God, and nurturing vibrant Spirit-led Communities of Faith. It also equips members to share the Gospel in meaningful and context-sensitive ways through personal evangelism, community engagement, relationship-building beyond church walls, and outreach to those not yet connected to faith communities.

Important Shifts in Ministry Practice

JMOC continues emphasizing several transformative shifts in ministry and mission. These shifts include moving from charity to justice, from doing for others to doing with others, from programs to relationships, from institutional control to community empowerment, from “we have always done it this way” to discerning “what are we being called to do now?”, from tradition to mission in a global village, and from decline toward growth. These shifts reflect our commitment to becoming a more responsive, relational, and justice-centered church that faithfully responds to the realities of our time.

Looking Ahead

As JMOC United Church of Canada East moves forward, we remain committed to walking together in faith, justice, reconciliation, and mission. We believe the church is called not only to respond to the needs of the world, but also to participate actively in transforming communities through love, dignity, compassion, and courageous action.

We give thanks to all leaders, volunteers, Communities of Faith, and regional partners who continue supporting this important ministry. May we continue growing together as a church rooted in justice, hope, reconciliation, and faithful witness.

Respectfully submitted, Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee (JMOC)

- United Church of Canada East

Hardy Winsor, FDEE Convenor Justice, Mission and Outreach

Annual Meeting Planning Team

With 2025 being the 100 Anniversary of Union within the United Church of Canada, it was decided that First Dawn Eastern Edge would forgo the meeting-in-person every second-year policy so that we could meet together to celebrate this wonderful milestone of our ministry together on May 2-4th at the Corner Brook Civic Centre, Corner Brook.

Leading up to the meeting there was a great deal of planning carried out by our Team to honour the theme chosen by the Rev. Jocelyn Cook, President of First Dawn Eastern Edge; “What Do You Want with Us Jesus?” Instead of engaging a theme speaker, it was decided that the theme and the 100th Anniversary of the church would be highlighted through a series of vignettes presented by members of the Planning Team, highlighting topics, of our Methodist/Congregational roots, 100 years of worship and praise, The First Third Ministry, Indigenous/Reconciliation work, UCW, Home Grown Saints, Ministries and changes through the years, AOTS, LGBTQ+ Ministry, what we believe. The Gathering with Worship times at our meetings honoured the hymns of the past 100 years with the singing of the favourites from each of hymn books and supplements that have been used in our congregations from the Hymnary to More Voices. What joyous and powerful singing.

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DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

During our meetings many Members of the Region shared 'Good News Stories' of events happening within their Communities of Faiths and Pastoral Charges. Also on Saturday, seven workshops were offered on topics such as the importance of Communion to church vitality, Youth ministries, Unity in Diversity, selling church properties, being a welcoming church, Ukulele church, and Faithful Footprints.

We are grateful for the Sub-Committees of our team, Liturgy, who planned and carried out meaningful worship; and the Youth@Region, Children@Region committees provided great programs for the children and youth who were present and the Proposal Team to lead us in the proposal that led us in becoming an Affirming Region.

Since the last Annual Meeting our committee has met to plan the meetings for 2026. It was proposed that in this upcoming meeting that we would meet online just for one evening, on June 10th, plus a webinar to do the work that needs to be attended to, such as: proposals, budget, financial reports, election of the President Elect. The Celebration of Ministries Service will take place on Saturday, June 13th at St. James United, St. John's. We have already begun plans for next year's meeting which will take place in Gander, May 2026.

A big thank you to the members of the Committee: past members, Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher and long-time member Cecil Noseworthy; and current members Rev. Valerie Kingsbury (Secretary), Rev. Elsie Squires (President of Region), Rev. Oliver Dingwell (Coordinator-Liturgy), Rev. Paula Gale (Coordinator-Proposals), Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter (Coordinator-Youth@Region), Lynda Morgan (Coordinator-Children@Region), Rev. Jocelyn Cook, Rev. Amanda Barnes, staff support during our committee meetings is provided by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish (Executive Minister), Rev. Heather Sandford (Regional Minister) and Rev. Catherine Stuart (Children, Youth and Young Adults Minister). I am in awe of your creativity, humour, dedication and diligence with which you carry out the work. We are also in gratitude for members of the sub-committees. Many hands, perspectives, minds and hearts get all the work together. I would be remiss in not mentioning how valuable the support from the Regional Office offered by Alison Piercey, Jennifer Taylor and Leona Laundry is to our committee in preparing for the Annual Meeting.

Blessings,

Rev. Kathy Brett, Convenor

Children, Youth and Young Adults Team

The small but mighty team continues to work at exploring ways it connects with those who are working with children and youth in our Region and how we can support those groups. The Youth@Region program continues to grow, thanks to a number of leaders who have stepped up to ensure that the program happens. Attendance has increased, due to a number of youth groups we have become aware of across the province. We had a very successful program in Corner Brook, commemorating the 100th Anniversary of The United Church. This year, we had six youth and young adults attend General Council in Calgary in August 2025. Support continues for our camps at Burry Heights and West Haven. With support from the executive, we continue to be aware of the challenges for Loon Bay.

In an effort to connect with leaders across the region, we have included a place on the pastoral charge form to tell us if you have leaders for children and youth in your communities of faith—please fill that part out so that we can connect with you to find out what your needs are and to offer learning opportunities.

As with other teams, we are always looking for passionate people to share gifts and skills with this ministry. Please be in touch with Rev. Catherine Stuart (Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults) to find out how to be part of this team!

Call for Support

You will notice that our Stewardship and Communications teams are without Convenors and many of our teams could use more designated volunteers. I would encourage you to consider joining our teams or reaching out to us to learn more about the work we are doing.

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Appreciation

I wish to extend deep gratitude to all of you who have stepped into roles and offer your gifts to our division. Ministry really can't happen without all of us offering what we can, and this division is no exception.

This year, we wish to extend congratulations to Rev. Rebecca Pike-Winter, as she and her partner Kyle welcomed a baby boy into their family! We wish her family well and look forward to her return to ministry.

Rev. Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults
Staff to Division of Regional Council Services and Support

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DIVISION OF COMMUNITIES OF FAITH SUPPORT AND PLANNING

This team provides leadership and support to our local Communities of Faith. We do this through our teams who work with Communities of Faith through their Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) and exploration of Future Directions in Ministry. This is done through two Teams - Mission Consultation and Accountability Team and Future Directions in Ministry Team.

The Mission Consultation and Accountability Team is to provide leadership and resources to Communities of Faith. This team looks at the Annual Reports, the new self-assessment forms and the Mission Articulation Plans. One of the big pieces that this team strives to do is to appoint a liaison to Communities of Faith for their MAP Process. This team makes sure that there is training that happens for liaisons. We will be looking to continue the training of new liaisons in this coming year. If you are a Community of Faith who has had a liaison work with you, please consider offering a name to be trained as a liaison.

The Future Directions in Ministry Team is to provide oversight, leadership and guidance for the boundaries within the Regional Council. This team has had restricting issues this year. We are looking forward as new people come on board to work with Pastoral Charges as we look to our future.

It is with gratitude that we express a sincere thank you to all who are involved with this Division, for their time and talents and the great work you are doing for the Regional Council. Please consider becoming a member of this Division. A sincere thank you to all the staff at the Regional Office for their continued help and support.

Rev. Heather Sandford, Regional Minister
Staff to Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Division of Human Resources consists of: Carol-Ann Stringer (Secretary), Heather Sandford (Regional Minister), Jocelyn Cook, Stephanie McClellan, Jason Boyd, Beverly Wells and Carolyn Robinson.

The Division of Human Resources is comprised of three teams: Licensing, Pastoral Relations and Retiree Support. All teams meet on a regular basis and bring recommendations to the Division. While Teams and the Division are able to act on certain recommendations, others are brought to the Regional Executive for final approval - especially those that pertain to policy or require further work by the Region.

On June 30, 2025 we as a Region have pulled out of chaplaincy as we have known it to be. Our chaplains Rev. Karen Thorne and Rev. Stephanie Rose finished their positions as denominational chaplains. After years of trying to work towards something different with the hospitals and other denominations, we as a Region made the challenging decision to pull out of the denominational chaplaincy as it was known. Since June 30, Doreen Barbour, chaplaincy treasurer, has been working with Alison Piercey to close the books and the bank account. ROEs have been given and T4s have gone out to each of the chaplains.

Licensing Team (Convenor: Jocelyn Cook)

This Team consists of: Jocelyn Cook (Convenor), Donna Hann and Stephen Matthews.

The team met several times during the year for the purposes of:

1. Renewing Sacrament Elders' Licenses
2. Interviewing new candidates for Licensed Lay Worship Leadership and to renew licenses for those LLWLs already practicing (licenses are renewed in June of each year).

The team usually meet by Zoom and the meetings have been pleasant with business accomplished. Occasionally, motions for licenses have been done by email, as well. We currently have two (2) LLWLs serving in First Dawn Eastern Edge Region with one awaiting an interview. We'd like to thank them for their service and leadership at this time.

We also have seven (7) Sacrament Elders within our Region. We want to thank the Rev. Paul Vardy for his time and wisdom as he led the Sacraments Elders Course for the Region. Paul has decided to step away from this piece of work for the Region. It is with deep gratitude that we say thank you for this work. We also want to thank the Rev. Oliver Dingwell for offering his expertise to lead the Sacraments Elders Course for the Region.

Pastoral Relations Team (Convenor: Jason Boyd)

The Pastoral Relations Team consists of: Jason Boyd (Convenor), Dave Anthony, Derek White, Oliver Dingwell, Bob Bennett, Kathy Brett, Ethel Paul, Georgina Parsons and Heather Sandford.

Pastoral Relations continues to fulfill its mandate of support and guidance to communities of faith, ministry personnel and their relationship with each other. With a significant amount of work to be done, Pastoral Relations had as a goal to increase the number of persons on the team, and was successful in doing so. We find ourselves particularly blessed to have added even more faithful and committed people to continue our ministry work.

The issues we continue to face in working with communities of faith are not unknown to anyone. We are pleased that there are churches which look toward collaboration to maintain full-time positions for prospective ministry personnel, and we are challenged with decisions made which have the effect of making attracting or maintaining ministry personnel (and ministry itself) more difficult. We continue to work with churches as they move toward the end of their ministry, but also with churches who envision new horizons and new beginnings in their ministry. Our work is indeed varied.

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DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)

Pastoral Relations has found great rewards in working with communities of faith which open themselves to new things to which God is calling them. With great joy we are eager to work with them to discover what new things God wishes to do through them.

We again want to extend profound gratitude to our Pastoral Charge Supervisors. All are aware that we face a great need in our Region, and for all who have welcomed the opportunity to journey alongside a community of faith as a Pastoral Charge Supervisor, please know you have our thanks. We invite others to consider this.

We extend the same profound gratitude to liaisons, volunteers, and all of those whose work keeps ministry moving forward in our communities of faith.

Thank you also to the Pastoral Relations Team for their continued dedication to the work that we are called to do. We are well aware that work we are called to do often exceeds our numbers and our time, but you have recognized the importance of this work and found joy in following this call together.

Retiree Support Team (Convenor: Stephanie McClellan)

This team consists of: Stephanie McClellan (Convenor) and Darlene Keddy

This team fulfills the following mandate: To provide guidance and oversight and support to the retirees of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Region. To start this process and achieve success we feel we need to focus on the following area. Please note that the absence of volunteers for this Team means that we have, unfortunately, not been able to fulfill our mandate.

1. Open the lines of communication between Region and the Retirees. Initial calls will be made to each Retiree/Spouse to introduce our team, its mandate and how we hope to be of service to them. We'll also explore any ideas or feedback they might be willing to share to help further establish successful communications.

2. Establish a regular program of communication with each individual so we can become familiar with each other. Communication by phone will happen regularly but we will also set up an email program so when the need arises a comfort and trust level will have been established.

3. Confirm our availability and support with matters relating to Pension, Benefits and Administration issues or concerns. We will be clear we may not have all the answers but we will help get the information needed.

4. Assist Retirees to maintain communication with each other. We will set up and provide (with their prior approval) a list of all Retirees geographically so they can communicate with each other and "keep in touch". This can be achieved in several ways and we will look at setting up email information for the group as well.

5. Ensure Retirees are receiving pastoral care from their home congregations

Many of our teams are in dire need of people who are willing to serve. If we are to be effective in doing God's work, we need volunteers. Please share your gifts and talents to the work of the church by volunteering. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Respectfully,
Rev. Heather Sandford, Regional Minister
Staff to Division of Human Resources

NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS REPORT (as of June 14, 2026) (Continued)

Updated May 26, 2026

REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

President.....	Susan Sheppard (O)	bipcunitedchurch@gmail.com
Past President	Elsie Squires (O)	e.squires@nf.sympatico.ca
President Elect.....		
Chair-Finance and Administrative Resources	VACANT	
Chair-Regional Council Services and Support.....	Rebecca Pike-Winter (DM) (1 st Term 2024-27)	rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com
Chair-Communities of Faith Support and Planning	Liberty Matabire (O) (1 st Term 2025-28)	pastorliberty@gmail.com
Chair-Human Resources	Jocelyn Cook (O) (1 st Term 2026-29)	13scoutie@gmail.com
General Council Representative.....	Dorcus Yohan (L) (2025-28)	dorcusyohan1711@gmail.com
UCW Representative	Debra Sparkes-Mercer	kinder414@gmail.com
Nominations	Emma O'Rourke (O) (1 st Term 2024-27)	emmaorourke30@yahoo.com
Tri-Regional Staff.....	Doreen Cave (L) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	jonasnana@hotmail.com
Member at Large	Elizabeth Dawson (L) (1 st Term 2025-27)	lizdawson497@gmail.com
Member at Large	Oliver Dingwell (O) (1 st Term 2025-27)	odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca
Member at Large	James Ravenscroft (O) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	james@stjamesuc.org
Executive Minister.....	Faith March-MacCuish (O)	fmaccuish@united-church.ca

DIVISION OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES

Chair.....	VACANT	
Secretary	Brenda Andrews (L) (Term 2025-27)	brendaandrews@bellaliant.net
Convenor, Fin. Accountability, Investments & Trusts	Todd Rose (L) (1 st Term 2024-27)	t.rose@nf.sympatico.ca
Convenor, Property	VACANT	
Convenor, Incorporated Ministries.....	VACANT	
Member at Large	Michael Ralph (L) (1 st Term 2025-27)	michaelralph@legalaidd.nl.ca
Member at Large	Don O'Rourke (L) ((1 st Term 2025-27)	dorourke27@icloud.com

Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team

Convenor	Todd Rose (L) (1 st Term 2024-27)	t.rose@nf.sympatico.ca
Secretary	Randy Purchase (L) (1 st Term 2025-27)	rpurchase@nf.sympatico.ca
Designated Volunteers	Calvin Efford (L) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	effordc@nf.sympatico.ca
.....	Fred Douglas (L) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	douglas_fred@yahoo.ca
.....	David Lewis (L) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	dave3hairs@gmail.com
.....		

Property Team

Convenor	VACANT	
Secretary	Brian Hannon (O) (1 st Term 2026-28)	bchannon60@gmail.com
Designated Volunteers		
.....		

Incorporated Ministries Team

Convenor	VACANT	
Secretary).....	Alice Moores (O) (1 st Term 2025-27)	alice-gardner2010@hotmail.com
Designated Volunteers	Elizabeth Dawson (L) (1 st Term 2025-27)	lizdawson497@gmail.com
.....		

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Chair.....	Rebecca Pike-Winter (DM) (1 st Term 2024-27)	rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com
Secretary	VACANT	
Convenor, Communications	VACANT	
Convenor, Faith Form., Christian Ed. & Leader Dev ...	VACANT	
Convenor, Justice, Mission and Outreach.....	Hardy Windsor (L) (1 st Term 2024-27)	hardywinsor@live.com
Convenor, Stewardship	VACANT	
Convenor, Annual Meeting Planning	Kathy Brett (O) (1 st Term 2025-28)	kathy.brett101@gmail.com
Convenor, Children, Youth and Young Adult.....	Liberty Matabire (O) (1 st Term 2024-27)	pastorliberty@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS (Continued)

NOMINATIONS REPORT (as of June 14, 2026) (Continued)

Updated May 26, 2026

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Communications Team

Convenor **VACANT**
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers

Faith Formation, Christian Education and Leadership Development Team

Convenor **VACANT**
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers Karen Bursey (O) (1st Term 2025-27) theburseys@nl.rogers.com
 Edison Wiltshire (O) (1st Term 2026-28) ezra@ezra.ca

Justice, Mission and Outreach Team

Convenor Hardy Windsor (L) (1st Term 2024-27) hardywinsor@live.com
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers D. Jagger-Parsons (O) (1st Term 2025-27) desmondkeith@yahoo.ca
 Marion Pardy (O) (2nd Term 2024-26) m-pardy@nf.sympatico.ca
 Frank Fry (L) (2nd Term 2025-27) ffry@nl.rogers.com

Stewardship Team

Convenor **VACANT**
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers

Annual Meeting Planning Team

Convenor Kathy Brett (O) (1st Term 2025-28) kathy.brett101@gmail.com
 Secretary Valerie Peyton-Kingsbury (O) (1st Term 2025-27) vlpkingsbury@gmail.com
 President Elsie Squires (O) e.squires@nf.sympatico.ca
 Coordinator-Liturgy* Oliver Dingwell (O) (1st Term 2025-27) odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca
 Coordinator-Proposals* Paula Gale (O) (2nd Term 2026-28) revpaulagale@gmail.com
 Coordinator-Youth@Region* Rebecca Pike-Winter (DM) (2nd Term 2026-28) rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com
 Coordinators-Children@Region* Lynda Morgan (L) (2nd Term 2026-28) lyndadmorgan@gmail.com
 **VACANT**
 Coordinator-Registration* Kathy Brett (O) kathy.brett101@gmail.com
 Coordinator-Local Arrangements* N/A
 Coordinator-Milestones in Ministry* President Elect

**Each Coordinator would have a Team working with them for the allotted tasks*

Liturgy*

Coordinator Oliver Dingwell (O) (1st Term 2025-27) odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca
 Designated Volunteers Brian Hannon (O) (1st Term 2026-28) bhannon60@gmail.com

Youth@Region*

Coordinator Rebecca Pike-Winter (DM) (2nd Term 2026-28) rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com
 Designated Volunteers

NOMINATIONS (Continued)

NOMINATIONS REPORT (as of June 14, 2026) (Continued)

Updated May 26, 2026

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Children, Youth and Young Adults Team

Convenor Liberty Matabire (O) (1st Term 2024-27) pastorliberty@gmail.com
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers Lynda Morgan (L) (2nd Term 2026-28) lyndadmorgan@gmail.com

DIVISION OF COMMUNITIES OF FAITH SUPPORT AND PLANNING

Chair Liberty Matabire (O) (1st Term 2025-28) pastorliberty@gmail.com
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 Convenor, Mission Consultation and Accountability.... Larry Noseworthy (O) (1st Term 2024-27) revlar1952@gmail.com
 Convenor, Future Directions in Ministry Amanda Barnes (O) (1st Term 2026-29) amandambarnes@hotmail.com
 Member at Large Georgina Parsons (DLM) (2nd Term 2026-28) georginaparsons3@hotmail.com
 Member at Large

Mission Consultation and Accountability Team

Convenor Larry Noseworthy (O) (1st Term 2024-27) revlar1952@gmail.com
 Secretary Brian Hannon (O) (2nd Term 2025-27) bchannon60@gmail.com
 Designated Volunteers Stephen Matthews (O) (1st Term 2025-27) ministerganderfucc@gmail.com
 Jocelyn Cook (O) (2nd Term 2025-27) 13scoutie@gmail.com

Future Directions in Ministry Team

Convenor Amanda Barnes (O) (1st Term 2026-29) amandambarnes@hotmail.com
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers Patricia Hooper (L) (2nd Term 2025-27) patricia.hooper1@gmail.com
 Deepak Yohan (O) (2nd Term 2026-28) deepakjohan10@gmail.com
 Susan Mercer (L) (1st Term 2026-28) susanmercercer@nf.sympatico.ca

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Chair Jocelyn Cook (O) (1st Term 2026-29) 13scoutie@gmail.com
 Secretary Carol-Ann Stringer (L) (1st Term 2025-27) carolann25@live.ca
 Convenor, Licensing **VACANT**
 Convenor, Pastoral Relations **VACANT**
 Convenor, Retiree Support **VACANT**
 Member at Large Bev Wells (L) (1st Term 2026-28) bevlwells1951@gmail.com
 Member at Large Carolyn Robinson (L) (1st Term 2026-28) carolynrobinson0728@gmail.com

Licensing Team

Convenor **VACANT**
 Secretary **VACANT**
 Designated Volunteers Donna Hann (O) (1st Term 2026-28) hanndonna13@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS (Continued)

NOMINATIONS REPORT (as of June 14, 2026) (Continued)

Updated May 26, 2026

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES (Continued)

Pastoral Relations Team

Convenor.....	VACANT	
Secretary.....	Dave Anthony (L) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	gfwmuffin@hotmail.com
Designated Volunteers.....	Bob Bennett (L) (Term 2025-27)	bobbennett728@hotmail.com
.....	Oliver Dingwell (O) (Term 2025-27)	odingwell@cowanheightsunited.ca
.....	Derek White (L) (1 st Term 2026-28)	bettywhite201@hotmail.com
.....	Kathy Brett (O) (1 st Term 2026-28)	kathy.brett101@gmail.com
.....	Ethel Paul (L) (1 st Term 2026-28)	donandet123@gmail.com
.....	Georgina Parsons (O) (1 st Term 2026-28)	georginaparsons3@hotmail.com

Retiree Support Team

Convenor.....	VACANT	
Secretary.....	VACANT	
Designated Volunteers.....	Darlene Keddy (O) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	dgidgekeddy@rogers.com
.....	Brian Hannon (O) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	bchannon60@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS

Convenor.....	Emma O'Rourke (O) (1 st Term 2024-27)	emmaorourke30@yahoo.com
Secretary.....	Brian Hannon (O) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	bchannon60@gmail.com
Designated Volunteers.....	Kelly Tuck (L) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	kellytuck01@gmail.com
.....	John Maich (O) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	revmaich@yahoo.ca

REGIONAL COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Affirm

Convenor.....	James Ravenscroft (O) (2 nd Term 2026-29)	james@stjamesuc.org
Secretary.....	Paul Vardy (O) (1 st Term 2025-27)	jpaulvardy@gmail.com
Designated Volunteers.....	James Martin (DLM) (2 nd Term 2025-27)	jameslmartincarter@gmail.com
.....	Cynthia Burt (L) (1 st Term 2025-27)	cynthiaburt@nl.rogers.com

Tri-Regional Staff

Designated Volunteers.....	Doreen Cave (L) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	jonasana@hotmail.com
.....	Kim Waite (O) (2 nd Term 2026-28)	rev.k.waite@gmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER GROUPS

Agnes Pratt Home Board	Karen Bursey (O)	theburseys@nl.rogers.com
Atlantic School of Theology/Pine Hill: Board	Kim Waite (O)	rev.k.waite@gmail.com
Atlantic School of Theology: Senate.....	Simon Muwowo (O)	smuwowo2002@yahoo.com
St. John's & Area Council of Churches.....	Kathy Brett (O)	kathy.brett101@gmail.com
St. John's Airport Chaplaincy Advisory Council	Scott Parsons (O)	scottparsons73@hotmail.com

Notes

The Terms of Reference for the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council chairs of divisions and convenors of teams will be for three (3) years, renewable once and terms for secretaries for a division or team would be for two (2) years, renewable once, to create a cascading membership and reappointment process.

Code: O=Ordained, DM=Diaconal Minister, DLM=Designated Lay Minister, L=Lay

REGIONAL COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Affirm

Committee: The Affirm Advisory Committee for FDEE Regional Council is comprised of four main members: Cynthia Burt, James Martin-Carter DLM, Rev. Alice Moore and Rev. James Ravenscroft. In addition, Rev. Faith March-McCuish offers support to the committee's work. We are seeking new members, with preference given to members whose own identities will help ensure that the committee reflects FDEE's goals of inclusion as well as regional representation.

Previous Work: The Affirm Advisory Committee was created following the 2020 vote that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council would study the possibility of becoming an Affirming Ministry. After much hard work and dedication, a motion was brought to the last meeting of the Regional Council that we become an Affirming Ministry. This motion was passed with official recognition to come following a public celebration by the Regional Council.

This Past Year's Work: After some deserved time off, the committee focused its efforts on:

1. *Expanding membership.* To this end, we were pleased to welcome Rev. Paul Vardy of Glovertown Pastoral Charge, and Rev. Alice Moore from Central Labrador Pastoral Charge. Sadly, Rev. Paul had to step down. We are looking for additional members and invite people of all ages, identities, experiences and geographic locations to discern if they feel called to help us live into our inclusive vision.
2. *Holding the public celebration.* On May 3, FDEE Regional Council held a public worship service to celebrate our new status. In order to reflect the breadth of who we are as a region, this was a hybrid celebration with physical locations across the province linked via Zoom with others joining digitally also by Zoom or watching through YouTube. The locations were Carol United Church in Labrador City, Memorial United Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, and St. James United Church in St. John's, with a worship watch party hosted by Pasadena United Church. Memorial United Church was the main location with youth from Youth at Region helping to lead and receiving the official certificate from Affirm United-S'affirmer Ensemble. Rev. Grant Stuckless, former president of FDEE Regional Council, gave the sermon.

In addition to the above, the team received enquiries from pastoral charges considering becoming Affirming ministries. If your pastoral charge is thinking about becoming an Affirming Ministry, or you have questions or concerns, please feel free to email [fdeeaaffirm @ tutamail.com](mailto:fdeeaaffirm@tutamail.com).

Looking Ahead: With the public worship now celebrated, we begin the work of living into being an Affirming Region. Our prime focus will be on education, encouraging people in the region to learn more about being inclusive by viewing the recordings of webinars produced by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Affirm Committee. We also plan to make some of our own which we will share with the other regions. We will also continue to field requests for more information about becoming Affirming and are willing to support pastoral charges in the process.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Ravenscroft
Convenor, FDEE Affirm Committee

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REGIONAL COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (Continued)

Tri-Regional Staff Support

The Tri-Regional Staff Committee met regularly throughout the past year, online through Zoom.

Our role is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Tri-Region staffing model, including how the cost-sharing arrangements are working and help to identify improvements in this arrangement from time to time; to share experiences and insights about transitional work, including the possibility of any other shared projects; to advocate for and express care, appreciation and support for staff; to support the Executive Minister in matters of staff including hiring, working conditions and responsibilities.

Members are Rev. Faith March-MacCuish (Executive Minister), Rev. Derek Elsworth (Bermuda-Nova Scotia), Rev. Dr. Linda Yates (Bermuda-Nova Scotia), Doreen Cave (First Dawn Eastern Edge), Jim Blanchard (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters), and Rev. Kimberley Waite (First Dawn Eastern Edge). We are awaiting the appointment of one additional new member from Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters.

Included in our work this year was the exit interview for Seyi Adeyemo, Communications and Administrative Support. We then received and reviewed applications, interviewed a number of candidates, and checked references, which resulted in the hiring of Shari Kaster. The hiring process also was carried out for Regional Minister of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, with Rev. Lloyd Bruce accepting.

Faith reported on the annual review process for staff, and all were positive. There were online "Check In" gatherings with the staff and staff were recognized at Christmas with gifts.

The Committee members would like to recognize and commend the staff of all 3 regions for their ongoing dedication, insight and caring commitment. We are all truly blessed!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Derek Elsworth
Tri-Regional Staff Committee
Executive Liaison, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS

Atlantic School of Theology

Atlantic School of Theology serves Christ's mission by shaping effective and faithful ordained and lay leaders and understanding among communities of faith. We did this in a variety of ways in 2025. With students and alumni in almost every United Church of Canada Region, we bring together a community with an extensive understanding of the varied needs of the church. The Summer Distance MDiv continues to be the degree with the highest enrollment. This form of the MDiv is normally 5 years and integrates the 2-year SME required for ordination into the program of study. This program brings students together for 6 weeks of intensive learning on campus in the summer and online, synchronous, and asynchronous classes are taken in the fall and winter. This integrated MDiv, suitable for those who have been approved as candidates and deemed eligible for a pastoral appointment outside of SME, enables candidates to be working in a ministry site at the start of their degree, or at any point within it, integrating the study of theology with the practice of ministry, allowing them to earn an income, serve the church and experience 6 weeks each year of in person community, formation and learning. Many of our graduates will be ordained at spring meetings of their regions and we rejoice in their success and the ministry they will continue to share with the church.

In addition to the MDiv degree, we have United Church of Canada Students enrolled in the MA as well as 3 diplomas and a wide range of continuing education options. The Diploma in Theological Studies and the Diploma in Intergenerational Faith Formation are lovely steppingstones for those interested in theological education but not sure if they want to commit to a degree. AST is also beginning to offer micro credentials for those looking to develop recognized skills in practical aspects of pastoral ministry. We believe these short term, specifically focused areas of learning, will provide people with credentials that will be valuable for the wider church.

The Bachelor of Theology degree, which includes a "Ministry Specialization" stream, is proving popular with UCC students. We anticipate our first UCC graduates in this stream in May 2027. This degree reduces the barrier for those without an undergraduate degree who feel called to serve the church and want academic excellence at a bachelor's level combined with opportunities for practical experience serving the church. Students who complete the degree and all the requirements for Testamur can be approved for SME as the final requirement for ordination. We are excited about the ways this may meet the identified needs of our founding parties. We value our relationship with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards across the country as we seek to respond to the educational needs of the church for shaping effective and faithful leaders. We are grateful to Pine Hill Divinity Hall who offer all United Church of Canada Candidates for ministry with a full tuition bursary, allowing them to follow their calling without incurring huge debt.

Our President, the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance works closely with the other heads of UCC colleges and schools as we seek to find ways of sharing ideas and resources. As part of that consortium, AST is pleased to be part of the large-scale Lilly Grant, Reimagining Theological Education Across the United Church of Canada Affiliated Schools. In addition to this grant, AST is the lead school in a second large-scale Lilly grant given to work with schools from other denominations and the Canadian Council of Churches on Ecumenical Shared Ministries. We are excited to move this initiative forward and help congregations, students and judicatories develop and work successfully in these ecumenical partnerships. AST is involved in various accreditation processes to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of theological education.

Like all educational institutions, we face challenges and the road ahead is not always clear, however, there is a spirit of optimism and a sense of renewal within our school community as we chart a path for the future. It is a joy to work with United Church of Canada students as well as those who support them within the administrative structure of the church and individual communities of faith. We welcome your input as we seek to serve the ever-changing needs of the church. It has been a pleasure to serve as Dean at AST for these past 3 years.

With the Deepest Respect and Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology/Academic Dean
Atlantic School of Theology

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Centre for Christian Studies



**CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN STUDIES**
Imagine Church Differently

**The Centre for Christian Studies
Regional Council Report, for 2025 to
the First Dawn Eastern Edge
Regional Council**

The Centre for Christian Studies is a national theological school grounded in the tradition of *diakonia*. We prepare people for ministries in the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada, and offer lifelong learning for anyone who wants to deepen their faith-in-action

2025 Students and Programming

Central to the preparation of diaconal ministers and lay leaders are the learning circles, the vessels through which learning, growth and development occurred. In addition to the regular circles, a 2-week Learning on Purpose circle was held in Winnipeg in June 2025. The Theme circles offered in 2025 included

Ministry as Community Building,
Worship,
Grief and Loss,
Ministry as Listening,
Power and Privilege, and

Health, Pain and Trauma, as well as the three Integration Year Circles.

Learning on Purpose and all Theme circles are open to lay people, candidates for all ministry streams, and ministry personnel for Continuing Education. More information is available online about [upcoming learning circles](#), for both online and in-person 6-day intensives and 6-week circles.

In Winter, 2025, we also offered a course on Intercultural Leadership for Educational Ministry, in collaboration with Emmanuel College and St. Andrews College.

Two students and one programme staff person were able to be part of the meeting of the Diakonia World Federation (DWF) in Tanzania, in July 2025, and that formed their Global Perspective Experience.

In other programming news, we continued our free, monthly, 'lunchtime' Zoom CCS Fridays on topics such as

Punching Up or Punching Down: Comedy, Politics, and Social Justice
Unbounded Stories from Palestine,
Our Daily Bread: Resisting the Central Lie of 'Diet Culture',
Decolonizing Diakonia,
God and Money, and
Microaggressions

Respectfully submitted by Marlene Britton, Principal, April 2026.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Centre for Christian Studies (Continued)

2025 Milestones and Celebrations

The 2025 graduates were Hyerim Park, Letitia Berger, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Lisa Leffler, and Lynda Dickson.

Ann Naylor was recognized as a beloved and honoured Companion of the Centre. Ann's commitment to diaconal ministry and to the Centre for Christian Studies is unquestioned, as was evidenced by the number of former students who spoke of the profound influence Ann had on their personal formation and ministry identity. Her service to the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada as staff and then as Acting General Secretary in the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education was acknowledged.

It was with a deep sense of gratitude that CCS accepted and acknowledged the retirement of Cheryl Thiessen. Cheryl served faithfully as the Office Administrator for 10 years and was also celebrated at the graduation event.

Later in the calendar year the contract period of Gwen McAllister came to an end. Gwen held the role of Interim Development Coordinator for 2 years.

The Centre welcomed two new members of staff: Robyn Cruz and Marlene Britton. Robyn assumed the role of Finance and Administration Coordinator, having previously worked as a manager with the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council. She has brought to CCS her love for administration and her deep understanding of her own roots as an Indigenous person.

Marlene assumed the role of Principal for Leadership and Development, having previously served at the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada, as the Director of the Office of Vocation.

2025 Strategic Planning and Deeper Partnerships

The recommendations in the areas of governance simplification and staffing restructuring have been put into place. New staff was hired as detailed above, and significant, deep conversations were held with potential partners in theological education. While those conversations were taking place, town hall meetings were also held with the various constituencies of CCS in order to share the progress of the conversations, as well as to garner helpful contributions and to have concerns aired.

2025 Sustainability and Partnerships

Amidst the shifting sands of theological education, funding challenges, and volatile investment markets, we continue to be sustained by generous donors, creative collaboration, dedicated and visionary volunteers, Council members, and staff, a diaconal imagination of what church can be in the world, and God's grace. We are thankful for the mutual partnerships with which we engage in this sacred ministry of education, spiritual

Respectfully submitted by Marlene Britton, Principal, April 2026.

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Centre for Christian Studies (Continued)

care, and justice. Particularly with; Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, St Stephen's College, St Andrew's College / Saskatoon Theological Union, associate schools in the United and Anglican Churches of Canada, and the national staff who support them, Diakonia of the United Church of Canada, Anglican Deacons Canada, Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC), and all who support CCS and its students (particularly, diaconal Mentors, Field Placement organizations & communities of faith, Learning Facilitators, Local Committee members).

In addition...

The 2026 Learning on Purpose course will be held in June at Five Oaks, in Paris, Ontario. Come deepen your self-awareness as a leader in these changing times, discern your next steps in ministry or formation, learn practical tools like the Spiral model of theological reflection, and engage liberative perspectives of the bible, theologies, and social analysis. And it's fun! From puppets to Paulo Freire to prayer, music to Miriam to social movements, come learn together.

To know more...

- Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter Common Threads: <http://ccsonline.ca/blog/common-threads/>
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram to hear about happenings and upcoming events.
- For information about the program and studying with us: <http://ccsonline.ca/about-ccs/>
- For more details and numbers, 2025 Yearbook, 2025 Annual Report, and financial statements: <http://ccsonline.ca/event/ccs-annual-general-meeting-2025/>

Respectfully submitted by Marlene Britton, Principal, April 2026.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Emmanuel College



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Emmanuel College – Principal's Report to United Church of Canada Regional Councils *Spring 2026*

Dear friends in the United Church of Canada,

Greetings from Emmanuel College at Victoria University in the University of Toronto. We give thanks for your ongoing partnership in theological education, leadership formation, and the shared work of nurturing ministry across the Church. It is a privilege to share a brief update on the life and work of the College.

Lilly Endowment Grants: Pathways for Tomorrow

Emmanuel College is deeply engaged in the *Pathways for Tomorrow* initiative, supported by the Lilly Endowment. This includes:

- \$1M USD awarded directly to Emmanuel College
- \$10M USD awarded to the United Church of Canada (Collaborative Grant)
- \$6.5M USD awarded to the Toronto School of Theology (Collaborative Grant)

These grants are enabling us to strengthen leadership pathways, expand continuing education, and deepen collaboration with the United Church of Canada.

As part of this work:

- We will be hiring a Manager for the Emmanuel Professional Advancement and Continuing Training Centre (EMPACT Centre) this spring. This role will help coordinate Emmanuel's work within the Lilly initiative and support collaboration with United Church partners.
- We are also launching a pilot Artist-in-Residence program, supporting creativity, worship life, and experiential learning within theological education.

New Centre for Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling

We are pleased to share that Emmanuel College has secured \$750,000 in funding over 10 years to establish the:

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Emmanuel College (Continued)

Tung Lin Kok Yuen (TLKY), Canada Society Research and Education Centre for Buddhist Spiritual Care and Counselling

This groundbreaking Centre will:

- Launch a new academic journal in Buddhist Spiritual Care and Practical Theology
- Host academic conferences and scholarly gatherings
- Offer psychospiritual continuing education for healthcare professionals
- Serve and support Buddhist communities in Canada and beyond

This initiative reflects Emmanuel's growing leadership in multifaith theological education and its commitment to equipping leaders for diverse spiritual care contexts.

Faculty Updates

We celebrate important milestones among our faculty:

- **Dr. Glenn McCullough – Interim review:** Successfully completed his interim (pre-tenure) review.
 - **Dr. Henry Shiu – Tenure and promotion:** Approved for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2026, along with a year of research leave.
 - **The Very Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne – New appointment:** We were pleased to welcome Dr. Lansdowne to Emmanuel College on December 1, 2025, following the completion of her term as Moderator of the United Church of Canada. She serves as Assistant Professor of United Church Studies—the first appointment of its kind at Emmanuel—and will serve as the Director of the Master of Divinity program, as of July 1, 2026. We are deeply grateful for the leadership and insight she brings from across the national Church, enriching the formation of our students and strengthening our shared work of preparing future ministry leaders.
-

Student Admissions

- **Continued growth in applications:** Emmanuel is experiencing another year of strong application growth, with sustained and increasing interest in our multi-faith Master of Psychospiritual Studies program.
- **Steady MDiv enrolment with renewed focus:** Applications to the Master of Divinity program remain steady. Through our participation in the Lilly Endowment *Pathways for Tomorrow* initiative, we are intentionally deepening engagement with United Church communities—supporting vocational discernment and encouraging potential leaders for ministry.
- **Strong doctoral interest:** Emmanuel has received a growing pool of applicants, including 26 PhD applications in the first round, among the highest in recent years.
- **TST-wide doctoral trends:** Across the Toronto School of Theology, there were 54 PhD applications (32 international, 22 domestic).

We continue to discern ways to strengthen financial support for students, ensuring accessibility and competitiveness within the broader University of Toronto context.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Emmanuel College (Continued)

Psychospiritual Continuing Education Initiative

Supported by a generous gift from Ms. and Mr. Price, Emmanuel has launched a three-year pilot in Psychospiritual Continuing Education:

- A dedicated program coordinator has been hired
- A soft launch will take place online on April 24, 2026
- Initial instructors include Prof. Jenny Bright and Dr. Agnes Wong (SickKids Hospital)
- A formal public launch is anticipated in 2026–2027

This initiative aligns closely with Emmanuel's commitment to equipping leaders for spiritual care, counselling, and ministry in complex contexts.

Alumni Update: Centennial 2028

As Emmanuel College prepares for its Centennial in 2028, we are updating our alumni records and reconnecting with graduates across generations. [If you are an Emmanuel College alum, please reach out to emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca to ensure we have your current contact information and can keep you connected to the celebrations ahead.](mailto:emmanuel.admissions@utoronto.ca)

We are also delighted to invite alumni to our annual Alumni Day on May 11, 2026, a special opportunity to return to Emmanuel, reconnect with the community, and celebrate the life of the College as we begin this journey toward our Centennial. Two of our faculty members, Prof. Natalie Wigg-Stevenson and Prof. Nazila Isgandarova will be workshop leaders for the Day.

Closing

We remain deeply grateful for the United Church of Canada's ongoing partnership in theological education and leadership formation. Your communities continue to shape and send students to Emmanuel, and we are committed to forming leaders who embody deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

With gratitude and every blessing,



HyeRan Kim-Cragg
Principal and Professor of Preaching
Emmanuel College

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Growth Animator

Message of Hope to the Regions of UCC-East

Dear Friends across the Regions of UCC-East,

Grace and peace to you in this season of reflection and renewed hope. As we look back on the ministry, we have shared through this past year, there is much to celebrate. Across communities of faith, we have experienced people gathering with courage, deepening spiritual practices, listening, praying, experimenting with new forms of community, getting beyond our walls, developing community partners and being intentional to “invite! Invite! Invite,” building vital connections, strengthening invitation, discipleship identity, and deepening relationships grounded in care, belonging, and faithful presence. The work unfolding in congregations, pastoral charges, and regional gatherings reflects the Spirit moving persistently among us, always meeting us where we are, accompanying us in our next small step forward.

Our shared call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice continues to shape our path. These words are more than vision statements. These words are lived daily in worship, pastoral care, outreach, equity, diversity, advocacy, and the quiet acts of kindness that build trust and hope. We have witnessed ministries adapting with creativity and resilience, and we give thanks for the many leaders and volunteers who continue to offer themselves generously.

This year has also held meaningful milestones. As we celebrated our one-hundredth centenary, we rejoice that 34 pastoral charges across UCC-East participated in the One Hundred Tables Project, joining 117 tables nationally. Around tables both ordinary and sacred, people gathered to share stories, nourishment, and build community — a powerful sign that belonging continues to expand when we make room for one another, making ourselves visible and present in our neighbourhoods. Keep embracing resilience to think outside the box, getting to know neighbours, listening, learning and working together.

We have gratefully explored neighbourhood profiles, noting surprises about the community around us, wondering and trying new things to connect with our neighbours. Continued curiosity to survey the fertile soil around us, finds us considering new possibilities. It is another tool in ongoing conversations about our renewal and new ministries possibilities. If you have not yet connected with me, do reach out and let’s discuss what tools and resources will support you in your context.

We have used the “A Place at the Table” photograph in our worship, lunch and learns, workshops and webinars to help invite conversations beyond our walls, using the postcards as topics for wider outreach, invitation and connection.

Through our workshops on strengthening invitation, visioning, belonging, collaboratively working together-imagining, and in conversations 1:1, with communities of faith, leadership, and groups of churches we’ve been vulnerable in our situations, and explorations. Weekly growth ideas have found their way to your in-boxes through the weekly regional announcement newsletters. Seasonal letters and resources I have shared, continue to plant seeds of possibilities. The Wednesday 30-minute virtual drop-ins have helped us build community across the regions and share ideas, as we support one another.

We recognize some work has felt too big and overwhelming, and with grace, adapted our action plans to fit our unique contexts. We celebrate the wins of each small risk, when we’ve dared to try that new thing, always learning from it.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Growth Animator (Continued)

We hear again the words of scripture: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19 (NRSVUE)

These words invite us to notice the new life already emerging. As we look ahead, we embrace “Toward 2035” — not as a distant plan, but as a hopeful movement grounded in faithful small steps. Together, we are learning what it means to simplify, to collaborate, and to focus on what gives life so that communities can thrive in changing times.

Learning and shared reflection will continue to guide us. Opportunities such as the 2026 Toward 2035 webinars, and resources for our communities of faith, remind us that the wider church is dreaming together about how we might reshape the future. We are invited to imagine new ministry models, vibrant worship, and governance that supports energy and mission. These conversations strengthen our sense that we are part of something larger than ourselves — a church seeking to embody Christ’s presence in every context.

“Inspired, resilient, and diverse contextual communities of disciples seek to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. The church is present and deeply connected coast-to-coast-to-coast in rural and urban settings, and in ecumenical and global relationships. Guided by hope-filled, adaptive and effective ministry leaders, the denomination is increasingly multigenerational, multiracial, and intercultural”. — Towards 2035 Vision Statement

As Growth Animator, I want to offer encouragement and gratitude. The work you are doing matters. Every small step taken toward welcome, inclusion, justice, and spiritual depth contributes to the unfolding future God is already preparing among us. Transformation often comes through steady, faithful movement rather than large leaps.

Please know that you are not walking alone. I invite you to reach out, to share ideas, questions, hopes, and challenges. Together we can continue to nurture communities shaped by belonging, invitation, and hope.

With gratitude for all that has been and trust for all that is still emerging,

Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne
Growth Animator, Atlantic Canada (UCC-East)
Growth and Ministry Development
The United Church of Canada
sballantyne@united-church.ca 506-306-0500

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Office of Vocation

The work of the Office of Vocation is to ensure that the United Church of Canada has effective ministry leadership. We support that work in a variety of ways, including supporting new leaders through the candidacy pathway process, and assisting ministers in becoming more effective and accountable through the remedial and support processes.

The 45th General Council gave us a frame worth holding close. "Vocations of the Whole People of God" (a new statement on ministry adopted by 4th General Council) is not merely a programmatic theme - it is a theological claim about who belongs to the ministry of the church and whose calling the institution is responsible for honouring. It pushes the Office of Vocation to ask whether our processes, our formation pathways, our governance structures, and our culture of accountability genuinely reflect a conviction that God's call is wider than any one form of ordered ministry. This question has animated much of the work reported here.

That question also has a strategic partner in Toward 2035. The call to be "guided by hope-filled, adaptive and effective ministry leaders" is not a slogan - it is a mandate. In a church navigating rapid cultural change, significant financial constraints, and an ongoing reckoning with its own history of harm and exclusion, the quality of its leadership matters immensely. The Office of Vocation is one of the principal bodies responsible for ensuring that the people called to lead communities of faith are genuinely equipped, genuinely supported, and genuinely accountable. This report reflects how seriously the Board and staff team take that responsibility.

As in the whole church, the office of vocation has been navigating real transitions within its own team. Staff changes - including a renewed leadership configuration within the Office of Vocation staff, the departure of long-serving colleagues, and the welcome of new ones - have tested the resilience of the team even as the work has continued without pause.

In October 2025, all the committees of the Board of Vocation gathered in Toronto to begin its work as a community. One hundred and five elected members and seventeen staff came to that gathering with the intention of building something more than a functional governance committee, and something more was indeed what happened. There was an electric quality to the connections being made across committee lines and across the country - ideas beginning to flow, enthusiasm kindling, people discovering in each other colleagues they could not wait to work alongside. Committee members left with a palpable sense of the importance of their work and a genuine eagerness to get on with it.

Staff

In 2025, the Office of Vocation experienced significant change within the staff team. Most significant was the departure of Marlene Britton from her role as Director of the Policies and Programs for Ministry Personnel and staff leader of the Office of Vocation. Here position was reconfigured and the work of the Office of Vocation was divided into two halves. I was appointed as the Director of Emerging Ministry Leadership, essentially having responsibility for policy and procedures leading to ordination and commissioning and managing the Vocation Ministers. As well I am devoting significant time to continuing a General Council Executive priority of co-operative ministry. Adam Hanley was appointed as the Director of Emerging Ministry Leadership which includes remedial processes and support to clergy leadership. Together we co-direct the Office of Vocation.

In addition we had two Vocation Ministers leave and began a search for the Vocation Minister for the Atlantic Regions. By the time of the AGMs these positions will be filled.

Candidacy Pathway

The Candidacy Pathway is served by 66 elected members of seven Candidacy Boards across the church including our own Atlantic Board. These individuals commit to three to five days a month of service to the Boards and bring tremendous dedication, wisdom and skill, including the commitment to on-going learning and practice, to the work they have taken on, on behalf of the church.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)**Office of Vocation (Continued)**

As opportunities are taken for Candidacy Boards to meet and work together regionally and denominationally, the commitment for greater consistency of practice across the Candidacy Boards is being realized. The pathway is built to ground the discernment and preparation for ordered ministry on the Competencies for Formation for Ministry and Lifelong Ministry Leadership. This is also the document that links theological education, field education and supervised ministry with the Candidacy Board's assessment of readiness for ordered ministry, making the candidacy process coherent, collaborative and focussed on hope-filled, adaptive and effective practice of ministry.

Candidacy Pathway Trends

- increased number of candidates from other denominations;
- candidates are trending slightly younger;
- no significant increase in number of racialized candidates
- many second-career applicants and candidates who desire to be bi-vocational;
- younger candidates are without much United Church experience or formation;
- candidates tend to enroll in local theological school, without much knowledge of the variety of theological education opportunities and streams of ministry (an area of improvement for Candidacy Boards)
- applicants with a call to serve their own congregation are turning to opportunities to train for lay-led/clergy-supported ministry rather than entering the candidacy pathway.

One significant piece of work for the next triennium is a re-examination of the current model of supervised ministry education. The many factors leading to this widespread call include:

- fewer congregations able to offer an appropriate learning site;
- off-site supervision proving less effective;
- working students in part-time programs which include SME
- emerging models of church suited to SME but without finances for compensation.

A decision was made in 2025, as part of a successful application to the Lilly Foundation with the church's theological schools, to employ a Supervised Ministry Education specialist to take on the re-examination of SME and DFE in partnership with all related parties. I am delighted that Rev. Dr. Sally Shaw has been hired to this position. This position began on April 1st and will be funded through the Lilly grant.

In 2025, five Supervised Ministry Education sites were made available through a memorandum of understanding between the community of faith and the Office of Vocation which offered grants for two years of half-time salary for SME candidates eager to be formed on-the-ground for a model of ministry that is lay-led and clergy-supported, rather than clergy-led and lay-supported. This model of 'mutual' or 'cooperative' ministry was supported by Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, Strategic Lead for Cooperative Ministry. The initial report of these varied SME opportunities demonstrates that no single model of cooperative ministry is emerging in the denomination, but rather a variety of models, each with its own challenges to governance, sustainability, staffing and ministry focus. All candidates report commitment to, and gratitude for, learning from these challenges and opportunities. The Pilot will be evaluated at the end of 2026.

Atlantic Candidacy Board

In the Atlantic Region we are well served by an excellent and competent candidacy board that is a model for boards across the country. At the beginning of the new triennium Susan Butler-Jones began her term as the chair and several new members were added. The board members are: Susan Butler-Jones; Barbara Cairns; Erasmus Madimbu; Kathleen Anderson; Kimberly Douglas; Liz Dawson; Stephen Fram; Alicia Walls; Marie-Beth Wright; Gneid Lackey. In 2025 the board held 28 interviews with candidates and applicants. Currently there are 21 candidates with 4 being ordained at the various AGMs. The majority of candidates are from the two mainland regions with only 2 from FDEE

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Office of Vocation (Continued)

Regional Council. Eight of the candidates are in or beginning their Supervised Ministry Education all of whom are in appointments on the mainland. Overall there has been a decrease in the number of applicants to the candidacy pathway. All of those in the pathway are in the ordained ministry stream and all but one are doing theological studies at the Atlantic School of Theology.

This is my last report as Vocation Minister for the Atlantic Regions. I have been working with candidates and ministers in these regions since the inception of the Office of Vocation in 2019. During that time I have been supported in that work by the Regional Staff across the regions. I have had opportunity to talk and support ministry leaders and candidates in their vocational journey. It has been a privilege and an honour to work with such dedicated and able leaders, many of whom are exceptional. To all those who continue to minister among us I can only offer deep gratitude for your dedication, commitment and continued calling. This is not an easy time to be church, but I am inspired and strengthened by your leadership and faithfulness.

Respectfully

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson
Director Emerging Ministry Leadership and Co-Director of the Office of Vocation

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

St. Andrew's College

Dear Kin in Christ of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council,

I am grateful for the continued support and encouragement of the Regional Councils, and I am pleased to share an update on the life and work of St. Andrew's College. There is much to be thankful for, and a strong sense that we are building on solid foundations while responding faithfully to the needs of the church today.

The Oliver & Gruchy Learning Centre continues to emerge as a central platform for accessible theological learning. It is serving both congregations and the wider church with programmes that are flexible, grounded and responsive. The Centre has become a trusted space for ongoing formation, supporting lay leaders, ministry personnel and those exploring new questions of faith and practice. Its reach and impact continue to grow, and it reflects our shared commitment to learning that is open, hospitable and connected to the realities of ministry.

Our collaboration through the Saskatoon Theological Union remains a significant strength. Working alongside our partner colleges, we are expanding learning opportunities through shared faculty, joint programmes and a spirit of genuine collegiality. This collaboration allows us to steward resources wisely while also enriching our students' academic and formational experience. The current alignment with the STU is strong and life-giving, and it continues to shape our teaching and community in constructive ways.

The College continues to welcome a strong cohort of students preparing for leadership in the church. Our students bring diverse experiences, cultural backgrounds and vocational stories, alongside a deep commitment to ministry and service. Their presence enriches classroom learning and community life, and their engagement gives us confidence in the future leadership of the United Church. We remain attentive to the changing patterns of ministry and are committed to preparing leaders who are adaptable, reflective and grounded in faith.

Alongside this, important work is underway to strengthen pathways of leadership development and vocational discernment within the United Church. We are paying close attention to how people are invited, accompanied and supported as they explore calls to ministry and other forms of leadership. This work is relational and collaborative, and it reflects a shared desire to nurture gifts with care, clarity and integrity.

We also continue to value and deepen our local and international partnerships. These relationships broaden our perspective and root our work in the global church. We are especially pleased to name our new relationship with Murray Theological College in Zimbabwe. This partnership is already opening opportunities for mutual learning, shared reflection and deeper solidarity, and we look forward to where it may lead.

Overall, there is a strong sense of momentum and hope. We remain committed to serving the church with humility, imagination and faithfulness, and we are thankful for the ongoing relationship with the Regional Councils as partners in this shared ministry

In Christ,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Ukulele Church

Ukulele Church: Report to First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council - April 2026



Hello from Ukulele Church!

For those of you who might be unfamiliar with this ministry, we are a worshipping community that has been meeting weekly since October 2020 over Zoom. A ministry founded here in the Atlantic Regions, we currently have participants from NL, NB, PE, NS, ON, MB, BC, Nunavut, and India! Our membership includes folks who have regular “in person” communities with whom they worship, but for some, this is their only experience of church. We continue to be surprised when people of all ages and stages join us because of the ukulele, which we still describe as the “world’s happiest instrument.”

We’ve been blessed at Ukulele Church with consistent and dedicated leadership. Our team includes Linnea Good from Summerland, BC, Nancy Callbeck from Borden-Carleton, PE, Isaac Jonsson-Good living in Vancouver, BC and me, Rev. Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters, Bermuda-Nova Scotia and First Dawn Eastern Edge. From time to time, we are also happy that a few of our regular worshipping members take on leadership roles to both teach music and lead in art. Together, we plan and lead our programme for the participants that receive our weekly email, consisting of a reflection, our music pages, art resources, and occasional pictures that we share. We meet at 12:30pm Atlantic time/ 1pm NL Time, for an hour and 15 mins of worship.

Our weekly worship continues to follow a pattern that we’ve developed over our time together. We follow the pattern of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), focussing on biblical stories that we tell for three-four weeks (what we call a mini-series), as well as music and art that fit those themes. Highlights this year included our annual Christmas pageant and a Readers’ Theatre version of the story of Esther that included several pieces of music from secular sources, including “Be our Guest,” from Beauty and the Beast, “Roar,” by Katy Perry, and Abba’s “Dancing Queen,” among others. We do take a break for the summer months—at least, online.

Linnea travelled once again to the Maritimes, and we enjoyed a week spent together under the hemlocks as part of the offerings at Berwick Camp. We met together at Linnea’s family cottage in Harvey Station, NB to work on a resource that will soon be published that will include many of our Ukulele favourites. This resource is made possible by the Rev. Alison Etter Memorial Grant, through Atlantic School of Theology. We are excited about this project, so please stay “tuned.”

Catherine continued to offer workshops and worship leadership across all three regions. We are still exploring how Ukulele Church provides a model for skill-based intergenerational ministry, both in person and online. For us, this means that all ages are together as they learn based on the level of skill that they have with the instrument.

Behind the scenes, Ukulele Church accomplished a great deal this year. We continue to send out weekly emails to our base, which has grown to 112 recipients, across the country and around the world. We are exploring how to continue to offer this resource in sustainable ways that will help us to grow and learn together.

We continue to be open to invitations for worship, workshops, and other events where we can provide leadership and resources. We are still spending time taking already existing music and putting it into musical keys and formats that are Ukulele specific, so send us your ideas!

As mentioned above, now in All THREE Atlantic Regions, Catherine has access to an ever-growing Ukulele Lending Library, so please be in touch with her (cstuart@united-church.ca) to find out how she can visit your community/ministry, or how you can make use of this resource. We particularly wish to thank the Mary Stuart Van Mater fund for financially contributing to grow both of these libraries, this year in First Dawn Eastern Edge. Catherine and Linnea are also available for coaching if you have your own instruments and are wondering how to use them in your communities. Now that we have our method, please ask us how we do it so that this ministry can be available on the ground where you are.

We are, as always, grateful to the three Atlantic Regions who have provided funding from each region’s New Ministries Funds. We are also receiving increased support through the regular offerings of Ukulele Church community members, and are exploring other avenues of funding to broaden our base.

OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

Ukulele Church (Continued)

If you're appreciative of this ministry and would like to contribute, please find us on Canada Helps, through the [regional website](https://ucceast.ca/make-a-donation) <https://ucceast.ca/make-a-donation> . Thank you for all of the ways you have supported, and continue to support, this ministry!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Ukulele Church,

Rev. Catherine Stuart
Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults
& Co-Minister for Ukulele Church

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OTHER GROUPS/REPORTS (Continued)

United Church Rural Ministry Network

The United Church Rural Ministry Network (UCRMN) is a national network, connecting 515 subscribers from all of the Regions in Canada, an electronic network sharing stories and news of rural communities across Canada (and around the world), and bringing together leaders of rural communities of faith – lay and clergy. In 2020, we received a one-time start up grant of \$5,000 from United Church Foundation and got going. UCRMN is a charitable organization that receipts donations from Regional Councils, Congregations or interested people. At UCRMN.ca, there is a link for online donations, and information for emailing e-Transfers or mailing cheques. UCRMN has requested that all Regional Councils (or tri-Region groupings) put UCRMN in their annual budgets; 70% of United Church congregations across the country are in rural or small towns, therefore this support is a relevant cost to each Regional Council.

Our primary ways of connecting with people are e-Newsletters (10 times a year), quarterly Zoom workshops and the ongoing presence of our website, <https://ucrmn.ca>, online. Peter Chynoweth of Cochrane, AB, has been our Web Minder since October 2022.

The e-Newsletters are always available for sharing worship ideas and hopeful stories from rural congregations. Regularly, there is excellent tech advice and challenges from Martin Dawson in PEI and from Peter Chynoweth in Cochrane, AB, who write the regular 'Tech Corner'. In addition, the e-Newsletters publicize events happening throughout the Church which are of interest to rural folks, advertising from Regions and committees like Affirming Connections, Learning on the Way, etc. Rural Routes Through the Holy conference held in the Maritimes for a number of years receives good coverage through the UCRMN newsletter and website as Catherine Smith is a partner of the UCRMN Board. Chinook Winds has also held rural ministry conferences publicized by UCRMN. If other Regional Councils would like to connect with the wider rural constituency, let us know through editor@ucrmn.ca. We invite all rural congregations to connect and receive e-newsletters through registering on the website (ucrmn.ca).

Our Zoom workshops this year: Jan. 20 "LLWL Check in" (continuation of conversation with Licensed Lay Worship Leaders across the country. So interesting and helpful finding out the different practices within Regions, and supporting each other. Continued in June.) May 15, "How to Save your Computer" (as Windows 10 reached the end of its life and Windows made demands for new systems, Martin and Peter, our tech gurus, talked about open source software as a secure, ethical and economic option for churches). Nov. 20, "The gifts of Rural Culture" (Shawn Sanford-Beck led some thinking about the gifts rural communities offer the wider church shaped by Joyce Sasse's observations on rural culture). Jan. 22, 2026, Christine Jerrett who is leading the ChurchX Lenten Study on book, Bless, Break and Share, led a discussion to hear a rural perspective on the theme. Feb, 19, 2026, Lay-Led Congregational Leadership. These workshops are advertised in the e-Newsletters and offered free of charge. Registration is done through Eventbrite. Reports on a number of the workshops that were held are found on the UCRMN website.

IRCA (International Rural Churches Association) Day of Prayer will be hosted by UCRMN folks again this year, on April 16, with some stories of local ministries and opportunity to pray for them. You can check last year's program out on the IRCA website ([https://irca.online/24-hour-prayer-zoom - the Americas](https://irca.online/24-hour-prayer-zoom-the-americas)).

UCRMN members take part regularly in the "Rural Townhalls" by United in Learning to hear peoples' thoughts about what is going on in rural churches, and how rural ministries can be supported.

Finally, UCRMN always is looking for members to serve on our national Board, as e-Newsletter Editor, Workshop Coordinator, or on the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted

Catherine Christie - President, UCRMN (Abbey, SK)

2024 Mission and Service Certificate of Thanksgiving for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

Certificate of Thanksgiving ♦ Témoignage de reconnaissance à

First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

is recognized for giving/pour son don de

\$384,224

*in 2024 for the Mission and Service of
The United Church of Canada*

*Through Mission and Service we help transform lives,
inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world.*



*en 2024 à Mission et Service
de l'Église Unie du Canada*

*Grâce à Mission et Service, nous aidons à transformer des vies, à
insuffler un sens et une raison d'être, à bâtir un monde meilleur.*

Carmen Lansdowne

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator ♦ Le pasteur Carmen Lansdowne, modératrice

June/Juin 2025

God's Mission, Our Gifts ♦ La mission de Dieu, pour nous, par nous

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2024 Mission and Service Certificate of Thanksgiving for All The People of The United Church of Canada

Certificate of Thanksgiving ♦ Témoignage de reconnaissance à

The People of The United Church of Canada

is recognized for giving/pour son don de

\$19,575,199

*in 2024 for the Mission and Service of
The United Church of Canada*

*Through Mission and Service we help transform lives,
inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world.*



*en 2024 à Mission et Service
de l'Église Unie du Canada*

*Grâce à Mission et Service, nous aidons à transformer des vies, à
insuffler un sens et une raison d'être, à bâtir un monde meilleur.*

Carmen Lansdowne

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator ♦ Le pasteur Carmen Lansdowne, modératrice

June/Juin 2025

God's Mission, Our Gifts ♦ La mission de Dieu, pour nous, par nous

AGENDA – Draft

DRAFT AGENDA

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

“Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch” based on Luke 5:4-7

Annual Meeting, June 10 & 13, 2026 Via Zoom

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 (5:30 pm – 9:00 pm NDT)

- 5:30 Zoom Meeting Opens (to test connections and gather)
- 5:55 President Practice Voting
- 6:00 Call to Order/Quorum and Constitution of the Court/Welcome
Acknowledgement of Place
Opening Procedural Motions and Consent Motions (for Reports)
Worship & In Memoriam
Introduction of Candidates
- 6:40 Growth and Stewardship Animator
- 6:45 Introduction of General Council Office Representative
- 6:50 General Council Updates
- 7:20 Division of Finance and Administrative Resources - Audit 2025, Budget 2027
- 7:45 President’s Remarks
- 7:50 Executive Minister’s Remarks
- 8:05 Elections - President-Elect Nominees
- 8:20 Justice, Mission and Outreach
- 8:30 Guaranteed Livable Income
- 8:40 Children, Youth and Young Adults
- 8:50 Courtesies and Closing Motion

Saturday, June 13, 2026

- 11:00 Practice for Celebration of Ministries Worship
- 1:00 **Celebration of Ministries Service** (St. James United Church and Live on UCCEast YouTube and Facebook)
- 2:30 Reception following Celebration of Ministries Service for Presidents and New Ministers

