

Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change



Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

The 8th Annual Meeting
Virtual Business Meeting
June 5-6, 2026

In-Person Service of Celebration
Mount Allison University
Sackville, NB
June 7, 2026

Volume 1 - REPORTS TO REGION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**Hugh Ellis**

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times”. These opening words from the Charles Dicken’s classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*, have come to mind several times in this past year.

This has not been the year I had planned for my presidency. I had some plans, yet God had something else in mind. My diagnosis of pancreatic cancer came less than 24 hours before I was installed as president of the FSLDW Regional Council. At that point I had no idea what might lie ahead.

I have a whole new respect and understanding for anyone who has walked or accompanied someone on their cancer journey. Walking a mile in another person’s shoes has been an exercise in understanding and humility.

Initially I learned how humbling a cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy can be. It controls almost every aspect of your life. Your routine, energy level, memory and your ability to complete even the simplest of tasks are affected. It takes control of your calendar.

As I write this message on a beautiful sunny but very cold winter’s day, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah 41:10

*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

These words have been my lived experience to date. I have received the best of medical care. I have been supported by my family and friends. I have experienced the love and grace of God from my local and regional church families. The Regional Executive and the Regional Staff have stepped up to fill in for me whenever required. I have been truly blessed in so many ways. Grace surrounds me constantly.

So far, I have been able to chair two of our Regional Executive Meetings. I continue to support the fostering of Regional Cluster Meetings in each zone of the Region to both local and regional communication. I cannot over emphasize the importance of local Pastoral Charges and

Communities of Faith electing their designated number of representatives to the Regional Council. This is the essential framework on which our governance model and communication system is built.

In addition, the completion and timely submission of the Annual Pastoral Charge Survey allow us to update our records to efficiently connect to leadership within each pastoral charge as the need arises.

The information sharing process about *Toward 2035* began in 2025 and will continue through 2026 and beyond. This reflective conversational process will allow each pastoral charge to look at their strengths and weaknesses and create the right plan for their future. The church is not immune to the changes we see and feel taking place in the world and yet, the need for community, justice, peace and a craving for spiritual guidance continues to grow. How do we meet these needs and become “church” outside the secure and comfortable walls of our routine Sunday morning worship? Our very future may lie in the answers we find to that question.

As a region we need to support the Self Assessment process whereby we evaluate our local governance and adherence to the essentials what is required of each pastoral charge by the Manual. We also need to find ways to better support our retirees, pensioners and pension survivors. A renewed task force has been created to evaluate what might be done to better provide that support.

We live in a world where things are not as they once seemed. Political alliances and trade alliances are rapidly changing. The rich become often outrageously richer wielding their wealth as power. We have seen how fear and violence can be used to force and justify political agendas. Immigrants are branded as villains and criminals. Our worldwide population of refugees continues to grow as powerful actors occupy and carve out territory for their own benefit. The magnitude of issues overwhelms us by times, until we remember that charity and empathy begin at home, often with the smallest acts of kindness and concern.

Be a point of hope and light no matter how insignificant you may think it to be. It is never insignificant to the recipient. A candle does not lose any of its brightness by lighting another candle. May each of your lights continue to shine brightly!

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

Blessings and peace,
Hugh

*More Voices #191 Rumbolt/McCarthy

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.

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.

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

REGIONAL RESOURCE PERSONS

President	Hugh Ellis
President-Elect	Rev. Rachel Campbell
Executive Minister	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Regional Planning Chair	Rev. Richard Bowley
Regional Planning Secretary	Alicia Walls
Proposals Unit Chair	Rev. Jack Spencer James “Jim” Blanchard
Equity Support Team	Rev. Pix Butt Sarah Clermont Linton Worrell
Local Arrangements	N/A
Worship Planning	Alicia Walls
Head Teller	Rev. Melaney Matheson
Retirees & Jubilarians Banquet Host	Susan (Sue) LeMaistre
Office Manager/Finance (Sackville Office)	Jennifer Whittimore
Communications and Administrative Support (Sackville Office)	Shari Kaster
Executive Assistant (UCC Regions East)	Jennifer Taylor

GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**The Reverend Doctor Jennifer Janzen-Ball
Executive Minister, Theology and Ministry Leadership**

Jennifer currently serves as the Executive Minister, Theology and Ministry Leadership at the General Council Office (GCO), living in Saskatoon.

Jennifer's ministry has taken her from the prairies to New Brunswick, where she was settled as a newly ordained minister. After serving her settlement charge, she moved to Toronto to undertake doctoral studies and earned her PhD in Christian social ethics through Emmanuel College and the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology.

Throughout her doctoral studies, she worked part-time as a teaching assistant and with various organizations, including as co-General Secretary for the Student Christian Movement of Canada, United Church congregations, and in the General Council Office, as well as teaching at Emmanuel College and Queen's School of Religion. Upon completion of her doctoral studies, Jennifer became the director of the Designated Lay Ministry Program (Calling Lakes Centre and then St. Andrew's College). She served as director for almost 10 years.

She is passionate about eco-theological ethics and the climate crisis. In her spare time, she likes to garden, knit, bird-watch, and most recently, play pickleball. During the long prairie winters, Jennifer and her partner like to build snow forts and create ice art, as a way to practice gratitude for the seasons and the gifts of the earth throughout the year.

INDIGENOUS GUEST



Nicole Porter

Nicole Porter is Mi'kmaq from Fort Folly First Nation, New Brunswick, located on the traditional unceded lands of her Mi'kmaq ancestors. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Holistic Nurse Coach, Knowledge Keeper, and the Mi'kmaq Cultural Coordinator for Mi'kmaq Child and Family Services NB. She also serves as Auntie in Residence at Mount Allison University and as a cultural advisor to Anglophone East School District, Mount Allison University, Beal University, and the CIINDE.

Nicole is a proud single mother of two boys and the owner of Mother Muin Artistry, a home-based business where she creates and sells Indigenous beadwork.

As an LPN and Holistic Nurse, Nicole works in areas of the community that continue to be impacted by oppressive and colonial systems — including addictions, mental health, and trauma. She recognizes these challenges as rooted in systemic racism and ongoing intergenerational trauma that continue to affect individuals and families in First Nations communities.

Nicole takes a Two-Eyed Seeing approach to healing, blending Indigenous knowledge systems with Western practices. She offers culturally specific prevention services grounded in the teachings passed down to her by Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Through the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and the Seven Sacred Teachings, she works to revitalize language, culture, and connection to land as pathways to healing.

She promotes holistic lifestyles by supporting balance across the four aspects of well-being: physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional. Nicole teaches classes in beadwork, porcupine quillwork, sewing, traditional medicine gathering, and food preparation. She emphasizes the importance of reconnecting with the land and using its natural resources and medicines. She also facilitates ceremonies, Sharing Circles, self-care workshops, an annual Holistic Wellness Month, and a Youth Powwow for her community.

Nicole is a recipient of the 2023 Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, honoring New Brunswick residents who have demonstrated exemplary service to others. In 2025, she received the Braiding Knowledge Award for her work integrating Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge into the Fort Folly Salmon Recovery Program in her community. She is also the 2025 recipient of the Molly Kool Award, which recognizes women in Southeastern New Brunswick for outstanding contributions in areas such as arts, culture, conservation, and the environment.

OPENING PROCEDURAL MOTION

1. That the Roll of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council be (Manual 2026 C1.1 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.
2. 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 (sixty) or more members, at least 20 (twenty) 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.”
3. That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room, and the telephone connections to that meeting space, and Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.
4. That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; the active and retired Lay Overseas Personnel; ecumenical guests and observers; the President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate); the Incorporated Ministries representatives; Youth@Region; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.
5. That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.
6. That the business table for the on-line meeting be Richard Bowley, Melanie Matheson and Jennifer Whittlemore.
7. That the minute secretary for the Eighth (8th) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.
8. 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.
9. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.

10. That the Proposals Team be Jack Spencer and Jim Blanchard.
11. That the virtual Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.
12. That the following shall be Tellers for this session of Regional Council: Melaney Matheson (Head Teller), Roland Easter and Sheila Gallant.
13. That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers be Blair Lewis and Wilson Gonese (June 5) and Wilson Gonese and Natasha Pearen (June 6).
14. That the Process Flow and Support for the on-line meeting be Jack Spencer.
15. 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 all discussion be clear and concise, and deal only with the motion

CONSENT MOTION

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Meeting, May 24 and May 30-June 1, 2025 (RC77-RC95) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Minister
 - c. Affirm Committee
 - d. Archives and Records Committee
 - e. Faith Formation and Education Committee
 - f. Financial and Mission Services Committee
 - g. Incorporated Ministries Committee
 - h. Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee
 - i. Nominations Committee
**INCLUDING THE LISTING OF NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES
AND THE 2026-2027 REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**
 - j. Pastoral Relations Committee
 - k. Property Committee
 - l. Regional Council Planning Committee
 - m. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
 - a. Atlantic School of Theology
 - b. Atlantic School of Theology Senate
 - c. Centre for Christian Studies
 - d. Emmanuel College
 - e. Growth Animator
 - f. Office of Vocation
 - g. Maritime United Church Women
 - h. St. Andrew's College
 - i. Ukulele Church
 - j. United Church Rural Ministry Network

EXECUTIVE MINISTER'S REPORT

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Report

Reflecting on the Year

Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change

Some years back when I was ordained and living in the manse, there was a very overgrown garden in the backyard. It had become a holding place for discarded appliances and bulk garbage. My grandfather who raised a family of 11 always grew his own vegetables, so I invited Pop to spend a weekend with me to help me learn about preparing the ground, planting the seeds and growing my own crops. That was 37 years ago, and I still grow some of my own vegetables. Just last week my 5-year-old niece and I sat at the table and planted seeds inside to get them started. We talked about how amazing it is that a little, hard, dormant, seed when planted and given what it needs; soil, water, warmth, light, it sprouts into something beautiful and sometimes something delicious. A seed must surrender its individual existence in order to produce its fruit; the fruit which gives life and hope for tomorrow. As we see the farms in full swing, preparing the soil and planting the seeds, our theme for this meeting "Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change" is most appropriate. For a moment I would invite you to think about those in your life who have planted a seed of hope for you that was able to help you grow and change to into the person you are today. I also invite you to think about a time when you have planted a seed of hope for someone else.

Isaiah 43:19 *"Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* I do not believe that we are just called to perceive it, I believe that we are called to be co-creators in it. God calls us into an unknown future; invites us into new challenges, new ways to care and new ways to touch the hearts of others. When we become fearful of the unknown, remember we do not go alone. When we worry that we are not up to the task, remember God has called you, because God knows you better than you know yourself. When we are tired and disappointed, remember that God brings resurrection hope to the most difficult of situations. 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"*. 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. "Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change".

What We Are About:

I have reflected on this past year in the life and work of our Regional Council. As I have traveled around the Region with some of our leadership team, it was 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. Planting seeds of hope, so that the roots of change are strong. Thank you, 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 September of 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.

Regional Council Priorities

One of the confirmations that came from the evaluation of our Regional Council structure was that the five 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 need 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 congregations and the ministries of the Regional Council.

Regional Council Evaluation

After receiving the final report from Rev. Dr. Jenny Stephens, which you will hear more about at our meeting, the Executive has spent some time looking at the key findings and the recommendations and have assessed what steps we have taken to meet some of the recommendations. While there is more work to do, we have made significant strides forward.

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 their discernment for their future ministries. As part of that continued discernment and conversation, our Executive will be to assessing our current policies to determine if our policies are in line with the priorities of the Regional Council.

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 Toward 2035 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.

Cluster Gatherings

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 mixed. Some clusters that were operating prior to restructuring continued into the new structure, some new clusters developed organically, however there were gaps. In recognizing these gaps, the Regional Council, through a small communication and renewal working group, have helped to organize clusters and support established clusters in our Regional Council. Organized primarily by our Regional Council President; staff and Executive leaders have held one meeting with each of our cluster areas. The hope, of course, is that these clusters will continue to gather. It is our hope that all congregations will be part of a ministry cluster.

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 Minsters and I could continue the work of the Institute and create a three-year plan.

The institute recognizes that:

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 and nurturing 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 may be 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. More information will become available as we continue our conversation with Credence & Company.

Reparation

As part of our commitment to the Calls to the Church coming out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, our Region; through my office, the Property Committee and the Tatamagouche Board, have been engaged in a conversation with the Women of First Light about the Tatamagouche Centre itself as a possible repatriation, (return of the land) to the Indigenous people whose ancestors were the caretakers of the land on which Tatamagouche Center is located. This place has been the place of Peace and Friendship and is considered a place of healing for all people who gather there. The Memorandum of Understanding, which solidifies our commitment to move forward with repatriation, has been signed and meetings continue to be held. While this is a slow process, it needs to be, so that we continue to build relationship and move forward in a good way.

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, a staff person will be deployed to the Regional Council to work specifically with Communities of Faith on renewal, invitation, and stewardship, and will work with our Regional Council in supporting emerging Communities of Faith. We are excited to have extra staff dedication to support our ministries 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.

Staff Updates

This year we have had some changes to our staff compliment. We said Goodbye to Oluwaseyi (Seyi) Adeyemo, who transitioned from our office to work in Alumni Affairs at Mount Allison University. We certainly wish him well in his new job. With his departure, the staff committee and I began the search process to fill the position, and we were very pleased to have Shari Kaster, who was a former employee with our office, return to the now full-time position of Communications and Office Administration. Welcome back Shari, we are so happy to have you join our team once again.

Rev. 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.

Rev. Lloyd Bruce has been hired for the position of Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Support. This means that we have our full complement of Regional Ministers, which is a gift as they work in collaboration with one another and share initiatives across our Regions.

Rev. Rob Shearer has accepted the position of Stewardship & Growth Animator, serving Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils. Once we have our full complement, one Growth and Stewardship staff in each Regional Council, these three positions will work in collaboration with each other and our Regional staff for the best possible outcomes for our Regional Council work.

Rev. Dr. 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 Rev. Ivan Gregan to the position of Office of Vocation Interim Minister for our three Regions on a contract until the end of August. Rev. 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 Jennifer Whittemore, Shari Kaster, Jennifer Taylor and Sarah Wallace. Our program staff including Rev. Lloyd Bruce, Rev. Catherine Stuart, and Rev. Dr. Shepherd Munikwa. Thank you to our deployed staff, Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, and Rev. 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 Committees and 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 committees and 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: let us continue to plant seeds of hope, and create roots of change, the world depends on it.”*

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

CANDIDATE FOR CELEBRATION

ORDINATION

Brian Andrew Botten, B. Comm., CITT, M. Div.



Brian Botten has worn many hats, serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, and spent many years in education and business.

Completing his Licensed Lay Worship Leader in 2018, he was encouraged to pursue his Master of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology in 2020 through their part-time Summer Distance Program.

Outside of studies, he has worked full-time and served in half-time ministry with the four-point Millstream Pastoral Charge outside Sussex.

At this service of ordination, Brian takes a moment to thank all who have encouraged him on this journey, especially his wife, Cheryl, and his son, Andrew, his circle of advising ministers, his colleagues and professors at AST, and the many congregants and friends who have blessed him with their wisdom and support along the way.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Reverend Rachel Campbell, M.Div., M.A.



Being born and raised in Prince Edward Island, I never ventured too far from home; except for higher education and my call to ministry. Since the summer of 2011, when I officially became a student minister, I have been blessed to be part of the ministry of the O'Leary West Cape Pastoral Charge, St. Matthew's United Church in Halifax, and the East Coast Forensic Hospital in Dartmouth (internship).

After ordination in 2015, I was called to the Whycocomagh East Lake Ainslie Pastoral Charge as their ministry personnel, and then back to Prince Edward Island in the fall of 2019 as the Coordinating Minister of Trinity United Church Summerside. As of July 1, 2026, I will begin a new covenant and call with the Bideford Pastoral Charge in western PEI. Each ministerial opportunity has been a blessing filled with deep connections, opportunities for growth, and a wealth of experiences that I draw on daily in life and work.

My husband, Jeremy, and our family love to hobby farm, hike around the Maritimes (literally... if there is a mountain to climb or trail to investigate, we are on it), and being out in nature is our happy place. Besides hiking, I love to read, sing, and bake. I am always pushing myself to learn new things and to be challenged. More recently, receiving the designation as an educational supervisor in 2024, and initial designation as an Intentional Interim Minister in The United Church of Canada in 2025.

I would consider myself a lifelong learner and love being a student. I enjoy people and an important part of ministry for me is getting to know you. I have a pastoral heart and that leads me in life and ministry.

I feel very humbled and blessed to step into the sacred role of President of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. The adventure we will go on over the next 12 months excites me. Buckle up... this will be fun... trust me.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Committee members: Pix Butt (Chair-ending term), Ross Sherwood, Don Scott, Gneid Lackey, Sarah Clermont, Van Sanico, Linton Worrall (incoming Chair)

This year we welcomed Sarah Clermont and Van Sanico to our committee. Linton Worrall has agreed to join the committee and take on the Chair's position, as Pix ends her 2 terms at the end of our Annual Meeting this year. Thank you all! Our thanks to Don Scott for continuing to be our minute keeper. Ross Sherwood has been a valued and active member of our committee and is taking some time away presently for family needs.

This year the committee decided to re-offer webinars that have already been presented. To find the complete list, go to our FSLDW website under www.ucecast.ca. From there find the Resources tab and webinars will be listed. We have covered many different topics.

This allowed the committee to spend our time reaching out to congregations that have not expressed an interest in becoming Affirming. It took some time to gather the contact information for each of these communities of faith. We sent a letter to the Chair of Board/Council, the minister, and the Admin person. This was to recognize that all congregations do not have full or part time ministers, or an office person for very many hours. We do hope our message of encouragement and offer to help reached everyone. The contact list is still being put together for NB churches. If you have any interest in a conversation, please contact one of our committee members.

Our only two new on line gatherings were "Getting Started" for those just beginning to ponder becoming Affirming; and our gathering for reps from our 10 already affirming congregations with reps from those congregations presently in the process. This was greatly appreciated last year. If you are an Affirming congregation, please consider sending a rep to this May 14th on line gathering. Contact Pix for information and the link.

One other responsibility is filling the Equity support roles for the Executive meetings and the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who enters into these practices when we gather.

Our congratulations to all those who celebrated an Affirm Anniversary this year! Bravo for continuing your processes and activities of learning and stretching your welcome. Bravo as well to our congregations who are in the process of becoming officially affirming – 4 of you in PEI! Our

committee members offer themselves to congregations for conversation about how you can join the process.

As outgoing Chair of this committee, I want to thank everyone I've worked with. A great group of committed and highly active people who see the value in stretching ourselves so that we can be more welcoming to all!

Pix Butt – out going Chair Linton Worall – incoming chair linton.worall@gmail.com

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS COMMITTEE

In the last two years of reporting, there has been discussion about the *Honouring Our Heritage* (www.uchheritage.ca) website. A project of the old denominational Archives and History Committee (hereafter AHC), interest was expressed in this region to reinvigorate the site and the commemoration selection process in time for last year's 100th anniversary. Though inquiries were made no complete response was received until after the 100th anniversary celebrations. It was felt that unless there was a new body to replace the AHC, the *Honouring Our Heritage* website would remain as it is – existing but not accepting new commemorations. There was discussion of a possibility of a new Archives and History committee or a network at the denominational level being created, but months later I have heard no updates on that. As the past few months have been a difficult time for me personally, I have not had a chance to chase down further answers. I will hope to do before the committee information webinar in June.

In past years, this report would mention that there would be a workshop on archives or artefacts at the Annual Meeting. However, with last year's meeting being the 100th anniversary and this year's meeting being on-line, this will be two years without the ability to do in-person workshops in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. It is hoped that in future years there will be opportunity to do workshops in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. For a committee with a small budget that forum gives us the most economical and efficient way to meet people from various parts of the region and gives respite from on-line meeting fatigue.

Sadly, owing to the illness and sudden passing of my mother, workshops and meetings I had hoped to have during the beginning of 2026 did not occur.

This very abbreviated report will be my last one as chair. I would like to thank the staff of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region and before that the staff of Maritime Conference for their work with the archives committees in the ten years I have been chair of first the Maritime Conference Archives Committee and more recently the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Archives and Records Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julielynn Anderson, Chair,
Archives and Records Committee
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region
April 28, 2026

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Faith Formation and Education Committee had challenges meeting regularly through the latter half 2025 due to the deaths of close family members among the leadership. However, regular events continued to take place.

Camp Stuff, an annual training event we share with BNS, was hosted by Camp Wegesegum. This was exciting because that camp has been reluctant to participate in Camp Stuff in the past. I believe this event has encouraged a closer relationship with this camp we share with the Atlantic Baptists, and a better understanding of United Church Camping Standards.

We were happy to have a presence at the Joint Gathering with Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region in Sackville at the end of May. Folks really enjoyed the Getting to Know You Bingo activity. This committee was also responsible for the colouring supplies provided on the tables. They were put to use.

Camping seasons were successful for all three camps in the Region. Despite challenges with fire bans, Camp Abegweit, Camp Wegesegum and Camp Ta-Wa-Si were able to finish their seasons with good registration numbers and talented staff and boards.

General Council Youth Forum happened in Calgary (August 7-11), with 4 youth and young adults under the age of 30 attending from our region.

The Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) Annual Gathering took place at the Tatamagouche Centre November 6-8 with the Rev. Mary Taylor and Kyle Grant as instructors. Feedback was very positive and the event will happen again this year at the Office in Sackville, October 22-24. This is another activity with shared with Bermuda-Nova Scotia.

This committee has some workshop-type materials prepared to help demonstrate use of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional website, which also helps with understanding the Region's organization, committees, and staff. We are hoping to be invited to present these materials at cluster meetings, so keep us in mind.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Donnelly, Chair
FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Financial and Mission Services Committee met via Zoom multiple times throughout the past year, normally on the second Wednesday of each month, to consider the business that came before it. One in-person meeting was held in Sackville, NB in February, primarily to attend to the 2027 budget.

The committee evaluated nine (9) requests for mission support grants in the fall, approving \$92.5K for valued ministries within the Region for 2026. Throughout the year, the Committee also attended to other requests for funding from the variety of funds held by the Regional Council. Those individual funds are all listed, with descriptions, on the FSLDW website and are available to promote the life of our denomination throughout the Region.

Quarterly we reviewed the financial statements both for the operational and regionally held funds, as well as the audited year-end financial statement which is being presented to this Regional Annual General Meeting (AGM). As this report is being prepared, we are planning our annual briefing from our investment management counsellor in May to ensure the Region's investments are managed in accordance with United Church polity.

The committee recommended a draft 2027 budget to the Regional Council Executive for review and submission for final approval to this AGM. It should be noted that although this is again a deficit budget, based on the committee's review of revenue and expenses in previous years and with the potential of investment income and property sales, it is hopeful there will be no draw on the Operating Reserve Fund.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, for her wisdom and guidance, as well as to Jennifer Whittemore, Office Manager/Administrative Support, for her steadfast assistance and diligent management of our Region's accounts.

Also, I want to thank the dedicated members of the committee for their support and guidance as we journeyed through the many and varied activities of this work. We were pleased to welcome three new members this past year, Kimberley Douglass, Gordon Furness, and Nancy Small, who assumed the role of Secretary of the committee. They joined with David Allan and Ron Naugler as, together, we attended to the ministry entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Kevin Dingwell, Chair, Financial and Mission Services Committee

BUDGET, 2027

	Actual				Budget				Budget	
	2025		2026		2025		2026		2027	2027
	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE
Prepared March 17, 2026										
REVENUE										
GC Grants										
General Council Administration Grant	\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00		\$ 325,000.00	
General Council Salary Grant	33,500.04		33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00		33,500.00	
General Council Cross Region Support Grant	33,500.04		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		\$ 180,000.00
Salary Top-up Grant	(0.08)		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
GC Contingency Grant	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
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	\$ 392,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Other Revenue from Operations										
Archives Rent	\$ 930.00		\$ 930.00		\$ 930.00		\$ 930.00		\$ 930.00	
Bank Interest	11,654.85		17,000.00		17,000.00		17,000.00		12,000.00	
Copying Recoveries	414.28								200.00	
Donations / Travel Donations	2,393.65									
Faith Formation & Education		0.00								
Ministry Resources	3,108.10								2,500.00	
Postage Recoveries	12.89									
Rental Income	23,687.50		4,000.00		4,000.00		8,500.00		24,500.00	
Youth@Region		7,930.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		5,000.00
Other Revenue	0.00									
Total Other Revenue from Operations	\$ 42,101.37	\$ 7,930.00	\$ 21,930.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 21,930.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 26,430.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 40,130.00	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 434,101.37	\$ 187,930.00	\$ 413,930.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 413,930.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 418,430.00	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 432,130.00	\$ 185,000.00
		\$622,031.37		\$599,930.00		\$603,430.00		\$617,130.00		
EXPENDITURES										
Personnel										
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$ 272,807.68	\$ 70,111.93	\$ 314,688.00	\$ 68,864.33	\$ 314,688.00	\$ 68,864.33	\$ 334,694.00	\$ 74,667.00	\$ 329,846.00	\$ 78,686.00
Executive Minister and Executive Assistant Travel & Office Shared Expenses	10,918.72		15,000.00		15,000.00		15,000.00		15,000.00	
Regional Minister Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc.	10,971.85		10,780.00		10,780.00		10,780.00		10,780.00	
Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults		2,993.82		6,760.00		6,760.00		6,760.00		6,760.00
Minister Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc		4,984.97		6,760.00		6,760.00		6,760.00		6,760.00
Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach										
Travel/Telephone/Study/Misc										
Archivist Travel	68.89		500.00		500.00		500.00		500.00	
Worker's Comp	(90.09)		1,300.00		1,300.00		1,300.00		1,400.00	
Contract Worker	0.00		10,000.00		10,000.00		0.00		0.00	
Sub-Total	\$ 294,677.05	\$ 76,090.72	\$ 352,268.00	\$ 82,384.33	\$ 352,268.00	\$ 82,384.33	\$ 362,274.00	\$ 88,187.00	\$ 357,526.00	\$ 92,206.00

	Actual						Budget					
	2025			2026			2026			2027		
	ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE		ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE		ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE		ADMINISTRATION	MISSION & SERVICE	
Prepared March 17, 2026												
MISSION AND SERVICE												
Mission and Service Grants Unallocated												
Mission and Service Grants Allocated		\$ 92,500.00			\$ 62,815.67			\$ 61,513.00			\$ 51,394.00	
Sub-Total		\$ 92,500.00			\$ 62,815.67			\$ 61,513.00			\$ 51,394.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES												
TOTAL ADMIN AND MISSION & SERVICE EXPENDITURES	\$ 407,170.48	\$ 195,699.35		\$ 480,518.00	\$ 186,000.00		\$ 470,474.00	\$ 185,000.00		\$ 503,726.00	\$ 185,000.00	
SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 26,930.89	\$ (7,769.35)		\$ (66,588.00)	\$ 0.00		\$ (52,044.00)	\$ 0.00		\$ (71,596.00)	\$ 0.00	
Other Income and Expenses												
Income												
Property Sales	\$ 10,898.66											
Investment Income	101,133.23											
Expenses												
Investment Management Fees	12,323.14											
Accounting Expense (Investment)	1,139.50											
Total Other Income and Expenses	\$ 88,569.25									\$ 197,800.00	\$ 95,000.00	
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	\$ 125,500.14	\$ (7,769.35)		\$ (66,588.00)	\$ 0.00		\$ 145,756.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 23,404.00	\$ 0.00	

AUDITED STATEMENT, 2025

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025



FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
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Year Ended December 31, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (the "Council"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the 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 Council in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the 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 Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the 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 Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the 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 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)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
(continued)

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the 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 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 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 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 Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the 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 26, 2026



Brian T. Scammell Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 211,140	\$ 312,345
Term deposits (Note 3)	400,000	350,000
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	25,845	29,662
Due from related parties (Note 6)	30,284	21,805
Prepaid expenses	2,667	3,527
	669,936	717,339
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 7)	1,886,372	1,745,339
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 8)	90,493	111,193
	\$ 2,646,801	\$ 2,573,871
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 27,095	\$ 25,344
Due to related parties (Note 6)	7,727	6,051
Other current liabilities	21,769	10,101
	56,591	41,496
NET ASSETS		
Operating Fund - Unrestricted	858,764	711,299
Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	1,569,871	1,659,993
Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	161,575	161,083
	2,590,210	2,532,375
	\$ 2,646,801	\$ 2,573,871

ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE (Note 9)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	2025	2024
REVENUES					
Grant - United Church of Canada (Note 6)	\$ 572,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 572,000	\$ 581,375
Miscellaneous	13,859	350	19,698	33,907	38,675
Rent	24,518	-	-	24,518	4,530
	610,377	350	19,698	630,425	624,580
EXPENSES					
Staff salaries and travel	300,760	-	-	300,760	324,656
Mission and support services	195,699	-	-	195,699	203,381
Other	-	101,786	22,572	124,358	84,542
Office operating expense	46,354	-	-	46,354	56,122
Standing committees	40,084	-	-	40,084	39,107
Administration	15,921	-	-	15,921	16,359
Regional Council executive	5,191	-	-	5,191	4,166
	604,009	101,786	22,572	728,367	728,333
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	6,368	(101,436)	(2,874)	(97,942)	(103,753)
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)					
Investment income	82,131	-	3,366	85,497	77,962
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	61,747	-	-	61,747	85,355
Gain on sale of marketable securities	30,657	-	-	30,657	35,355
Contributions from sale of church properties	10,899	-	-	10,899	141,905
Investment management fees	(12,323)	-	-	(12,323)	(10,230)
Amortization of capital assets	-	(20,700)	-	(20,700)	(11,405)
	173,111	(20,700)	3,366	155,777	318,942
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 179,479	\$ (122,136)	\$ 492	\$ 57,835	\$ 215,189

See note to financial statements

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	Operating Fund - Unrestricted	Internally Restricted Fund (Schedule 1)	Externally Restricted Fund (Schedule 2)	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 711,299	\$ 1,659,993	\$ 161,083	\$ 2,532,375	\$ 2,317,186
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	179,479	(122,136)	492	57,835	215,189
Interfund transfers (Note 10)	(32,014)	32,014	-	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 858,764	\$ 1,569,871	\$ 161,575	\$ 2,590,210	\$ 2,532,375

See note to financial statements

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 57,835	\$ 215,189
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	20,700	11,405
Gain on disposal of investments	(30,657)	(35,355)
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	(61,747)	(85,355)
	(13,869)	105,884
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	3,817	112,959
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,751	1,994
Prepaid expenses	860	(2,875)
Other current liabilities	11,668	8,826
	18,096	120,904
Cash flow from operating activities	4,227	226,788
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(122,597)
Advances to related parties	(6,803)	(19,814)
Purchase of term deposits	(400,000)	(350,000)
Proceeds from redemption of term deposits	350,000	-
Purchase of marketable securities	(322,115)	(1,218,022)
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	276,461	1,178,594
Investment income reinvested	(2,975)	(2,037)
Cash flow used by investing activities	(105,432)	(533,876)
DECREASE IN CASH FLOW	(101,205)	(307,088)
Cash - beginning of year	312,345	619,433
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 211,140	\$ 312,345
CASH FLOWS SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION		
Interest received	\$ 22,212	\$ 5,085

See note to financial statements

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**Note to Financial Statements****Year Ended December 31, 2025**

1. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council (the "Council") is a Council of The United Church of Canada. Its principal activities include the provision of services to the pastoral charges affiliated with The United Church of Canada in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Gaspé, Quebec.

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is a registered charity. As a registered charity, the Council is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 149(1)(f) of the Income Tax Act.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES***Basis of presentation***

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

Fund accounting

The Operating Fund accounts for the Council's program delivery and 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 Fund consists of funds maintained by the Council which are restricted in their purpose by the Council and cannot be used for general operations of the Council.

The Externally Restricted Fund consists of funds restricted outside of the Council to be used for specific purposes and cannot be used for general operations of the Council.

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.

Term deposits

Term deposits include guaranteed investment certificates that are recorded at cost. Any accrued interest is included in investment income receivable, which included in the total of accounts receivable on the statement of financial position.

Investments

Long term investments held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel consist of mutual funds and are carried at fair value.

The remaining long term investments consist of fixed income investment certificates and are carried at amortized cost.

Financial instruments

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

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, short-term investments, accounts 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, amounts due to related parties, and other current liabilities.

(continues)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Note to 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 subsequently measures all 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 5).

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.

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.

(continues)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Note to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2025

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Furniture and fixtures	20% declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	10 years straight-line method

The Council regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of capital assets cost.

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

Capital assets which are attributable to specific restricted fund(s) are recognized as assets in the year they are acquired, and amortized over their estimated useful lives using the stated rates & methods. The resulting amortization expense is reflected as an expense for the specific restricted fund(s).

Post retirement benefit plan

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

Revenue recognition

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters 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 revenues 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 reasonable 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)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Note to 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 amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.

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 earnings in the years in which they became known.

Contributed services

A number of volunteers contribute their time each year to the Council. Due to the difficulty in 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 2.700%, maturing on February 28, 2026	\$ 300,000	\$ -
Royal Bank of Canada, one year prime-linked redeemable GIC at prime minus 2.450%, maturing on February 28, 2026	100,000	-
Royal Bank of Canada, one year non redeemable GIC at 4.900%, matured on February 28, 2025	-	250,000
Royal Bank of Canada, one year prime-linked redeemable GIC at prime minus 2.450%, matured on February 28, 2025	-	100,000
	\$ 400,000	\$ 350,000

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2025	2024
Investment income receivable	\$ 9,312	\$ 16,607
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	16,533	7,670
Contributions receivable from sale of church properties	-	4,250
Other receivables	-	1,135
	\$ 25,845	\$ 29,662

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL**Note to Financial Statements****Year Ended December 31, 2025**

5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council, as a part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant liquidity, market or credit risks except as noted below.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Council is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds and payment of 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 rate risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Council is not exposed to currency 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 Council manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Council is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its 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 Council is exposed to other price risk through its investment in marketable securities.

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Note to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

6. RELATED PARTIES

The following is a summary of the 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 Council)</i>		
Grants - Operational	\$ 392,000	\$ 401,375
Grants - Mission work	180,000	180,000
Salaries expense	(271,533)	(300,532)
Mission & support services expense	(162,612)	(161,534)
Rent included in office operating expense	(18,000)	(18,000)
Information technology support	(6,083)	(8,588)
Funds received from the General Council	(105,401)	(110,703)
Repayments to the General Council	18,000	18,000
	\$ 26,371	\$ 18
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council		
<i>(Related through common control)</i>		
Expenses paid by the Council on behalf of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	\$ 115,001	\$ 111,370
Expenses paid by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council on behalf of the Council	(478)	(381)
Rental income (Split with Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council)	(24,518)	(4,628)
Copy income (Split with Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council)	(151)	(92)
Funds deposited by the Council due to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	(4,661)	(7,835)
Funds deposited by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council due to the Council	-	2,500
Repayments received from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	(96,595)	(202,432)
Capital assets purchased on behalf of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	-	105,505
Credits received by the Council due to Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	(6,490)	-
	\$ (17,892)	\$ 4,007
First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council		
<i>(Related through common control)</i>		
Expenses paid by the Council on behalf of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	\$ 1,304	\$ 1,878
Expenses paid by First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council on behalf of the Council	(27,717)	(23,249)
Copying fees charged to (from) First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	(267)	11
Funds deposited by the Council due to First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	(525)	(300)
Repayments to First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	25,529	15,277
	\$ (1,676)	\$ (6,383)

(continues)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Note to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

6. RELATED PARTIES <i>(continued)</i>	2025	2024
<u>Related party transactions (continued)</u>		
First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council (continued)		

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.

<u>Due to related parties</u>	2025	2024
Current portion due from related parties		
Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council	\$ 3,895	\$ 21,787
General Council of the United Church of Canada	26,389	18
	\$ 30,284	\$ 21,805
	2025	2024
Current portion due to related party		
First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council	\$ 7,727	\$ 6,051

Advances to and from related parties are non-interest bearing and have no set repayment terms.

7. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS	2025	2024
<u>Investment - interest for distribution as bursaries for ministerial candidates</u>		
Aitken Memorial Trust	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Vera Dickey Bequest	9,949	9,949
Wesley Memorial United Church	1,000	1,000
	13,449	13,449
<u>Investment - interest for distribution as support for special projects</u>		
MacRae-Belliveau Trust	4,070	4,070
William A. Crawford Trust	988	988
Metzler Bequest	411	411
Agnes J. Ross Bequest	36,383	36,383
J. Oscar Young Bequest	19,500	19,500
Robert Wells Bequest	229	229
	61,581	61,581

The investments above are investment certificates issued and held in trust by Financial Services, Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada. They represent long term in perpetuity trust fund investments at 4.5%.

(continues)

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Note to Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 2025

7. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (continued)

The investments below are mutual funds held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel.

<u>Investments held with RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel</u>			
Marketable securities		1,644,211	1,566,819
Unrealized gain on marketable securities		167,131	103,490
		1,811,342	1,670,309
Grand total		\$ 1,886,372	\$ 1,745,339

8. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 105,505	\$ 29,541	\$ 75,964	\$ 94,955
Leasehold improvements	17,093	2,564	14,529	16,238
	\$ 122,598	\$ 32,105	\$ 90,493	\$ 111,193

9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Council receives a substantial portion of its operating funds under a grant from The United Church of Canada. If this situation should change in the future, management is of the opinion that continued viable operations would be doubtful.

10. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

During the year, the Board of Directors authorized the transfer of \$32,014 from the Operating Fund to various Internally Restricted Funds to maintain the ongoing operations of these funds.

The Board of Directors did not authorize any transfers to the Externally Restricted Funds during 2025.

11. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS 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
Discretionary Fund	\$ 149,528	\$		\$ -	\$	\$ 149,528
Fresh Start Fund	10,934			-		10,934
Younger Ministry Personnel Retreat Fund	1,199		456	(456)		743
Youth@Region	1,932			-		1,932
Mission Support Grant	275,608		6,221	(6,221)	(7,769)	261,618
Archives Fund	156,321		26,897	(26,897)	5,385	134,809
Sackville Office Maintenance Fund	24,765		22,313	(22,313)	23,588	26,040
Property Reserve Fund	64,313		1,361	(1,361)	3,782	66,734
Camping Ministry Reserve Fund	65,905		20,238	(20,238)		45,667
Youth Opportunity Fund	29,077		500	(500)		28,577
New Ministry Initiatives Fund	373,507			-	6,911	380,418
Supervised Ministry Ed Site Fund	35,000			-		35,000
Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assist Fund	35,399	350	2,500	(2,150)		33,249
Ministry Personnel Con Ed Fund	25,082			-	117	25,199
Min Candidates/LLWL Ed Fund	24,549			-		24,549
Community of Faith Assistance Fund	40,701			-		40,701
Mission and Social Justice Fund	9,107			-		9,107
Silver Falls Memorial Fund	337,066		42,000	(42,000)		295,066
Grand Total	\$ 1,659,993	\$ 350	\$ 122,486	\$ (122,136)	\$ 32,014	\$ 1,569,871

See note to financial statements

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS 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
Bequest Funds	\$ 75,030	\$	\$	\$ -	\$	\$ 75,030
Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assistance Fund	7,250	978	2,500	(1,522)		5,728
Ministry Personnel/Licensed Continuing Education Fund	14,164	1,700	1,000	700		14,864
Ministry Candidate/Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Ed Fund	15,990	1,314		1,314		17,304
Mission and Social Justice Fund	10,000			-		10,000
Chaplaincy - Moncton	30,107	19,072	19,072	-		30,107
Be Ministry	8,542			-		8,542
Grand Total	\$ 161,083	\$ 23,064	\$ 22,572	\$ 492	\$ -	\$ 161,575

See note to financial statements

**FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
FUNDS**

Balances as at December 31, 2025

Following is a list of funds held and operated by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, through the Financial and Mission Services Committee. To view the funds and their guidelines in full go to the Regional website (<https://ucceast.ca/fundy-st-lawrence-dawning-waters-regional-council-14/funding-resources>).

01 – Operating Reserve Fund	\$858,763.37
Objective: To provide a source of operating funds for years when the Regional expenses exceed the General Council Assessment Grant.	
02 – Mission Support Reserve Fund	\$261,118.57
Objective: To provide a source of Mission Support funds for years when the regional mission support expenses/grants exceed The United Church of Canada Mission and Service regional allocation.	
03 – Archives Fund	\$134,809.21
Objective: To provide a source of funds for archives maintenance, repairs, equipment and projects.	
04 – Sackville Office Maintenance Fund	\$26,038.98
Objective: To provide a reserve fund to assist with the expenses for maintenance, repairs, and upkeep of the Sackville Office, the shared office space for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.	
05 – Property Reserve Fund.....	\$66,733.74
Objective: To provide a reserve fund of financial resources to manage real property that becomes the legal responsibility of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, including sale of property and legal protection of such property.	
06 – Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assistance Fund.....	\$38,976.96
Internally Restricted.....	\$33,249.43
Externally Restricted	\$5,727.53
Objective: For active and retired ministry personnel who have emergency situations that are not covered by other funds.	
07 – Ministry Personnel/Lay Continuing Education Fund.....	\$40,064.43
Internally Restricted.....	\$25,199.80
Externally Restricted	\$14,864.63
Objective: To provide a Regional fund that can offer grants to ministry personnel/lay members to undertake learning opportunities that enhance their leadership and education.	

- 08 – Ministry Candidates/Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Education Fund \$41,852.75**
Internally Restricted \$24,548.28
Externally Restricted \$17,304.47
Objective: To provide a Regional fund that can offer grants to ministry candidates and Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to undertake learning opportunities that enhance their leadership and education.
- 09 – Supervised Ministry Education Site Fund..... \$35,000.00**
Objective: To provide financial support to Communities of Faith who are approved as education sites and who have a student minister employed for up to one-year.
- 10 – Community of Faith Assistance Fund..... \$40,700.83**
Objective: To provide a reserve fund to assist Communities of Faith within Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council to meet unplanned financial demands on their resources for which there are no other financial resources within The United Church.
- 11 – Mission and Social Justice Fund..... \$19,106.98**
Internally Restricted \$9,106.98
Externally Restricted \$10,000.00
Objective: To support needy (financially struggling) communities of faith with their mission and social justice work.
- 12 – Camping Ministry Fund..... \$45,666.98**
Objective: To assist the operation of United Church Camps within Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council through the provision of financial support for the maintenance of camp facilities and the development of camping programs for children and families.
- 13 – Youth Opportunities Fund..... \$28,576.99**
Objective: To foster spiritual growth and faith development by providing financial assistance to youth and young adults in the Region to enable them to participate in expressions of Christian faith and gatherings of the wider church, primarily, but not limited to, participating in national and international events or ministries.
- 14 – New Ministries Initiatives Fund \$380,417.28**
Objective: To provide financial support for new innovative approaches to assisting existing communities of faith for the enhancement, expansion and/or growth of existing programs, or in the introduction of new programs and services within the Community of Faith and for committees of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council to support an event or new program which would be of benefit to the entire Region.
- 15 – Silver Falls Memorial Fund \$295,066.07**
Objective: The fund is open to any Community of Faith or Scout, Guide, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers, CGIT or similar group who is sponsored by a Community of Faith within the boundaries of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region.

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

The Committee has been meeting monthly since the fall of 2025. Some of our members are new, so this year has been a learning experience for all of us, as we had one new member and one who had to resign because of work commitments. We have asked the Nominations Committee to find a member from the Saint John, New Brunswick, area as our current members are spread out over the Region with no member near Saint John. With the committee member who covers the Moncton/Sackville area nearing the end of their second term, we would appreciate it if the replacement person were from that area.

We have liaisons assigned to work with the incorporated bodies and camps in our Region, and they have been attending as many of the annual meetings as possible given work schedules. We have received minutes, financial statements, and updated directors' lists from those who have met, with more annual gatherings coming up. Carleton Kirk Lodge in Saint John is now a legacy Ministry and no longer reports to the Regional Council through our Committee.

It was informative to the Committee having Grace MacMillan-Carter of Outdoor Recreational Ministries Committee join us in November to share her role as Chair of the ORMC in combination with our committee's role. Grace MacMillan-Carter has recently retired from that position. After Rev. Catherine Stuart's return this year, she joined us to explain her role in conjunction with our role. We are looking forward to working together in the future.

With the change in the United Church of Canada's structure, incorporated bodies had to update their bylaws and Letters Patent. Many have completed that work, and we are working with the remaining ones on that project. Camp accreditation is done on a three-year rotation, and we are looking at which ones are due this year.

We are grateful for the leadership that Rev. Faith March-MacCuish gives us as we complete this important work and to all the staff who give us assistance to help move our mandate from start to finish. Thank you!

Sheila Gallant
Chair, Incorporated Ministries Committee

Incorporated Ministries Reporting

	Name	Constitution/ Bylaws	GC Admin Approval	Liability Insurance	Directors Annual Report	Financial Report	Corporation Filing	Charitable Filing	Date of Most Recent Visit	List of Directors
NB	Abbey St. Andrew Inc.	Revised 2020	Jun 30/21	2026	2020	2025	2025		2024	2026
PE	Camp Abegweit Organization	Revised 2021	Apr 20/21	2024	2025	2025		2025	March 25/24	2024
NB	Camp Ta-Wa-Si Inc.	Revised 2019	Oct 30/19	2026	2025	2025		2025	2022	2026
NB	Camp Wegesegum	2001		2022	2022	2018		2018	April 29/20	2023
NB	Carleton Kirk Complex	1992								
NB	Centenary-Queen Square Care Centres Inc.	1989		2019	2018	2018		2018	2020	2022
PE	Church Extension Board - PEI Presbytery	Revised 2022	June 1/22	2026	2025	2025	2026	-	April 27/24	2026
NB	Financial Services of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada	1992		2025	2025	2025	2025	-	2020	2025
NB	Home Mission Council Saint John	Revised 2019	Oct 30/19	2026	2025	2025	2025	-	2020	2026
NB	Ken Val United Church Suites	Revised 2019	Oct 30/19	2026	2025	2025	2025	-	March 3/20	2026
NB	Mount Allison University	1994	Oct 30/19	2024	2016	2024	2023	2023	2022	2025
NB	Newport Village	Revised 2019	Oct 30/19	2025	2025	2025	2021	-	May 8/24	2025
NB	Ossekeag Place, Hampton	2011		2025	2025	2025	2023	-	Sept 19/22	2025
NB	Prince Place (Miramichi) Inc.	Revised 2021	Mar 30/21	2026	2025	2025	2025	-	Jan 15/24	2025
NB	United Church Home For Senior Citizens – Drew	Revised 2018	Dec 18/20	2025	2024	2024	2026	2024		2026

Incorporated Ministries Directory**Abbey St. Andrew Inc.**

Judith Arbow

Christopher Boudreau

Hailey Maillet

Kristian Murphy

Allison Ferris

Faith March-MacCuish

Judy Stiver

Davina McFarlane

Meredith Culberson

Mary Jo Thibault

Camp Abegweit

Sharon Howatt

Deborah Mitton Spence

Elizabeth Wall

Will Norcott

Catherine Dixon

Heather Walker

Mitch MacDonald

Victoria Murphy

Gary Paynter
Ben Grady
Blythe Martin
Faith March-MacCuish

Graeme McKillop
Linda Keel-Hale
Alex Corbett

Camp Ta-Wa-Si

Allison Bernardi
Sarah Rouse
Carolyn Garland
Roger Russell

Sara Mackay
Reg Deroche
Dave King

Camp Wegesegum

Not received at time of reporting

Centenary-Queen Square Day Care Inc

Not received at time of reporting

Church Extension Board - PEI

Eddie Trail
Carolyn Francis
Joan Linkletter
David Jenkins

Nancy Small
Larry Hale
Richard Boulter
Melaney Matheson

Financial Services of Maritime Conference

Mary Tingley
Heather Manuel
Maxine Smith
Terry Matthews
Sheila Gallant
Jane McDonald

Donald MacKay
Faith March-MacCuish
Jack Logan
Kimberley Douglass
Nancy Nicol
Anne Thompson

Home Mission Council - St. John

Dave Farnham
Marilyn Campbell
Linda Watson
Sharon Russell
Richard Fullerton
Ian Wilson
Terre Hunter
Robert Lynch
Gerry Higgins

Lloyd Keirstead
Tom Bayne
Robert Crowley
Carol Ann Nice
Margaret Cobham-Mollins
Brion Crossman
Bill Kearns
Luke Whalen
Bonnie Wilson

Ken Val United Church Suites

Yves Lapointe	Jill Jennings
Harold McKinnon	Shawn Jennings
Lisa Dunnett	Wendy McCann
Hally Kimball	Lisa Tiller
Sheree Trecartin	Mel Vincent
Bill Whittaker	

Mount Allison University

Robert A. MacKinnon	Alivia Warr
Lynn Loewen	Devandranauth Shastri
Gita Anand	Philip Tibbo
Sarah Crawford	Brent Hawkes
Ian D. Sutherland	Dorothy Greenidge
Michael Gibbens	Andrew Wilson
Paul Henry	Jeffrey Paiken
Zac McIsaac	Lisa Dawn Hamilton
Dale Noseworthy	Michael Roberts
Ben M. Broadbent	Mark Sevestre
Spencer N. Scott	Martine Savoie
Kevin Brent Spencer	Christina Vroom
Reid Delaney	Daniel Nowlan
Lisa Yarmoshuk	Cheryl Hodder

Newport Village

Ian Stead	Thomas Badiuk
Frances Meehan	Elizabeth Pugh
Evan Pugh	Sharon Melanson
Jean Pond	Peter Thompson
Sandra Winchester	David Andrews
Joan Murphy	

Ossekeag Place of Hampton UC

Bill Wallace	Lucy Hernandez
Darrell Kilpatrick	David Laskey
Dianne Moase	Anna Throop
Todd Beach	Daniel Charlong
Chris Oliver	Gneid Lackey
Ross Henderson	Al Lacey

Prince Place

Delbert Matchett
 Nancy Donald
 Gordon Russell
 Linda Treadwell
 Brenda Jardine

David Jardine
 David Watling
 Andy Prince
 Scott Russell

United Church Home for Senior Citizens

Sabine Beisser
 Judith Cairns
 Ted Doncaster
 Jane Gallant
 Catherine Gaw

Odette Gould
 Greg Kieley
 Barb MacIntosh
 Anne Pirie
 Ron Sutherland

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**Part 1 JMOC Activities**

Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee (JMOC) continues to operate as a bi-regional committee consisting of the chair or representative from each working group, members at large who may or may not also belong to a working group, and a co-chair from each region. The current active working groups are Just Peace, Guaranteed Livable Income, and Eco-Justice. The Mental Health working group is being re-developed. Refugees and Newcomers is an inactive group, in need of regional leadership. Indigenous Rights and Relations does not have a current working group, but JMOC as a whole has committed to doing this work as we are able. JMOC met five times over the year, including an in-person meeting at the combined 2025 annual meeting in Sackville.

JMOC met at Tatamagouche Centre October 23-24, 2025 for the annual Fall Gathering. The theme for the meeting was Clusters: Deep, Bold, Daring? Our guests for the meeting were Robyn Brown-Hewitt and Jordan MacDonald.

Robyn Brown-Hewitt was our guest speaker for our theme conversation on clusters. Robyn's position in BNS was created to support the establishment of the clusters that had been envisioned during restructuring. She described the main needs filled by clusters and what elements she identified as important for the success of a cluster. JMOC hopes to use clusters to connect the work of JMOC with communities of faith. It appeared that few clusters in BNS were ready to invite JMOC or any other outside speakers. There was a JMOC-themed PEI Cluster gathering planned for the next week. JMOC agreed that clusters are important for the health of communities of faith and the need for staff support for clusters would be communicated to the regional executives.

Jordan MacDonald participated in the Pilgrimage of Learning Initiative of the United Church of Canada (<https://united-church.ca/news/pilgrimage-learning-initiative-launches-global-engagement-2025>). Jordan was invited to share a presentation on his team's visit to UCC partners

in Kenya. His reflections included how we relate to international partners as equals, youth engagement and empowerment, and global perspectives on climate change and adaptation.

At the Fall Gathering, JMOC also asked “How can JMOC support the strong youth network in their justice work?” Catherine Stuart met with JMOC in February to discuss this, as well as to help JMOC with the task of addressing the loss of the Dalhousie campus ministry. There was strong endorsement from JMOC for the wider church embracing Youth and Young Adult Ministry as a priority, framing the need to address the lack of campus ministry in the context of “Toward 2035.” There was agreement that the issue of campus ministry should be under Youth and Young Adult Ministry. JMOC will bring forward a proposal for each region asking that Youth and Young Adult Ministry be assigned a high priority in our regions, including creating a task group to explore options for animating this priority, and (for BNS) that JMOC not be given responsibility for handling concerns related to loss of the Dal Chaplaincy.

Part 2 Working Group Activities

Guaranteed Livable Income, Eco-Justice, and Just Peace in Israel and Palestine have regular meetings throughout the year. The following summaries of their activities show their commitment to justice and how they provide communities of faith opportunities to make visible the members’ passion for justice.

Guaranteed Livable Income

The Atlantic provinces’ four GLI groups belong to a nation-wide UCC network of provincial groups which have advocated for GLI for many years. Together they encourage all communities of faith to join the GLI movement.

Eco-Justice

Eco-Justice continues to live into its goals to educate and advocate. It continues collaboration with other climate and environmental justice groups and has undertaken identifying a Green Enthusiast from each community of faith. See Appendix A for a report from the working group.

Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

The Just Peace working group continues to shine light on the tragedy unfolding in Gaza and the occupied territories. Facilitators are providing the Palestine Land exercise to communities of faith. Members of the working group continue their advocacy activities. Their Proposal: “Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community” will be presented at the annual meeting. See Appendix B for a report from the working group.

Mental Health

JMOC agreed to pause the Mental Health Working Group until the group’s mandate has been established. During the pause there will be no workshops or meetings. JMOC is in the early stages of redeveloping this working group.

Indigenous Rights and Relations

JMOC has not yet re-established this working group, but a small group of JMOC members are responding to the request from BNS region for a webinar on Land Acknowledgements. JMOC was

very sorry to learn that Tatamagouche Centre is closing its doors and will continue to monitor the progress towards rematriation of the property.

I would like to recognize and thank retiring FSLDW JMOC members Barbara Cairns and Keith MacPherson and BNS co-chair Sandra Tomsons for their many years of passionate service to social justice and the work of JMOC. I would also like to thank our regional minister for JMOC, Rev. Shepherd Munikwa, for his support and guidance.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Bigsby

Co-chair of JMOC, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters

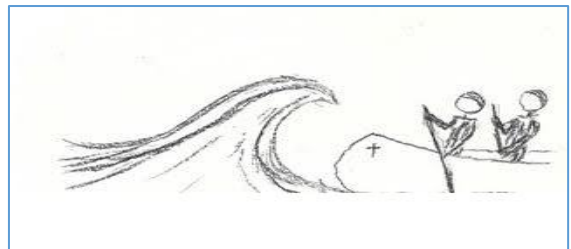
APPENDICES

Appendix A

Eco-Justice Working Group

In the face of climate change, come paddle with us

Our group is made up of 7 members and 1 regional representative. We have had 2 members step down for personal reasons. We will be actively searching for and recruiting new members during the two AGMs in May and June. Our members are in NS, NB, PEI and Nfld.



We met on Zoom almost every month and had interesting conversations while working towards our objectives. We use UCC foundational policies and documents to guide our direction, particularly “One Earth Community” and its application, as in “Energy in the One Earth Community.”

Summary of this year’s activities:

- assisted Faithful Footprints Program coordinator in spreading the word about their Road Show and inviting other churches to come learn more
- continued to add to our list of Green Enthusiasts from congregations in Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick; in March, eleven new Green Enthusiasts signed up; we can do more together!
- created a working document in Nov. stating our group’s Goals, Objectives and Activities; created our Group’s full “Terms of Reference” in April
- continued improving content on the Ecological Justice page of the UCC East website
- continued posting climate information in weekly UCC East E-newsletter
- continued working on a series of ‘Minutes for Creation’ for churches to use in their announcements
- connected and worked with ecological organizations: Clean Nova Scotia, Faithful Footprints, Seniors for Climate Action Now, Green Nova Scotia First, Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Climate Change Task Force, KAIROS, CRED-NB, Ecology Action Centre, East Coast Environmental Law, MiningWatch Canada and UCC members from organizations in other UCC Regions with related issues.

- read, discussed and forwarded Information on radioactive facilities planned within Ottawa River watershed and the St. Lawrence River, potentially affecting the Gaspé
- signed the petition against Bill 5 in Ontario, which is to remove protections such as Indigenous, species at risk, and environmental rights from zones slated for resource extraction, particularly to permit mining
- signed on to a letter about “Building Canada with Renewable Electricity”
- signed in August the Open Letter by faith organizations in support of El Salvador’s Ban on Metals Mining
- signed on to letter to Prime Minister and Ministers re: Civil Society Groups Support Renewable Energy and Oppose Federal Investment in New Nuclear Reactors
- signed on to letter from faith leaders urging Canada’s banks NOT to finance new LNG pipelines on Indigenous territories
- signed on to a letter about “Building Canada with Renewable Electricity”
- as an organization, signed a Petition on 2SLGBTQIA+ rights in Canada in July
- in July, signed a Petition to the federal government on the management of nuclear waste, multi-billion dollar contracts and against involvement of U.S. firms with connections to U.S. nuclear weapons

Some members participate in webinars or events and report to our Group:

- Canadian Food Grains Bank Webinar on June 19 World Refugee Day to learn more about ending global hunger
- KAIROS Book Study on “Serviceberry, Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World” (2024) by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- “In Peace and Friendship” webinar about the repatriation of the Tatamagouche property, led by Women of First Light.
- Parade for Life on Earth in Halifax, June 7
- NB Social Forum 2025 in Fredericton in Oct to inform and reflect on ways to strengthen social movements
- “Shoulder to Shoulder: We Are All Treaty People” event in Halifax in Nov.; a very worthwhile experience continuing in rallies together on important issues
- Seniors for Climate Action Now event “Later is too late!” at St. Andrews Church in Halifax in September, with an information table; one member was a speaker on “Climate Solutions – Don’t be Misled”
- Peoples Parade for Life on Earth in Halifax in April

Our Group’s participated in public awareness through CBC programs on the proposed Strange Lake Rare Earth Elements Mine which would impact areas of Quebec and Labrador:

- 2 members provided information to CBC in Labrador on potential impacts of this mine and were interviewed on CBC Morning Labrador
- 1 member provided information on the Impact Assessment process of the IAAC for the proposed Strange Lake Rare Earth Elements Mine to CBC researcher for the Fifth Estate program on that project.

We are monitoring draft policy proposals and government studies at federal and Atlantic provincial levels for other opportunities for our Ecological Justice Working Group to have input.

Our goal is to support improvements in:

- phasing out power sources that are GHG emitters or radioactive waste producers
- energy efficiency and appropriate modern renewable energy and storage (including church buildings - Faithful Footprints program)
- the equitable distribution of electricity with a priority for the poor
- plans and decisions concerning energy and climate-related policies
- environmental protection policies for land, freshwater and marine environments
- impact assessments and regulations of projects for greater social and environmental protection – including related to nuclear power, resource extraction, and mega projects
- consultation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada (UNDRIP)
- treatment of people negatively affected by projects and changes in policies for a just transition
- environmental justice and addressing the harm caused by environmental racism
- countering climate misinformation, greenwashing, and other deceptions
- regulation and accountability of mining for uranium, thorium, rare earth metals and other metals
- controls of nuclear energy projects because of the legacy chain of toxic radioactive wastes from uranium mining, milling, fuel fabrication, nuclear reactors, and used nuclear fuel storage.

We watch for proposed legislation, project impact assessments and other opportunities for advocacy, comments or submissions on ecological justice issues including:

- resource extraction projects
- development projects affecting protected spaces
- power-related projects: social and environmental problems of large scale, potential of small-scale
 - hydroelectric
 - wind energy - onshore and offshore, focus on safety issues
 - solar energy - individual, community, decentralized
 - grid systems - bi-directional, web format to accommodate small energy producers.
 - energy storage - batteries; innovation in storage systems
 - hydrogen industrial projects - inefficient with limited application
 - nuclear power/waste - costs and risks: economic, health, environmental, social and future generations
 - oil production, natural gas fracking and new fossil fuel power plants

Our focus is on issues related to UCC Regions East and, if our group has the expertise, we try to help other UCC Regions.

Some Documents by our Group during this annual report period:

March/April 2025

Letter to the NS Premier on the dangers of Fracking including the UCC Maritime Conference statement (2012).

Written submission and in-person presentation to the Nova Scotia Legislation Public Bills Committee to remove articles in Bill 6 on restarting Fracking and remove articles in Bill 6 on eliminating the ban on uranium mining.

Letter of Concern on the Churchill Falls and Gull Island Proposed Projects to NL Premier, pointing out the significant adverse impacts on people and ecosystems, the legacy of debt and the lessons that should have been learned from the grave errors of the Muskrat Falls dam.

May

Joint Submission to IAAC by UCC East-West Regions on proposed Peace River Nuclear Power project AB, raising ethical, social and environmental issues associated with this project.

August

Submission to Employment and Social Development Canada raising concerns that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and ESDC proposed changes did not address effective protection but in fact would worsen the systematic exploitation faced by temporary foreign workers.

Submission to IAAC on unacceptability of proposed gas power generation facility at Centre Village NB

Submission to Canadian Standards Association on inadequacies in CSA N292.8 “Characterization of radioactive waste and irradiated fuel.”

September

Submission to the Public Bills Committee, NS legislature, regarding Bill 137 “Making Business Easier Act” which emphasizes the need for amendments to ensure economic development is tied to responsible resource development projects that bring economic prosperity to NS without threatening the environment and quality of life.

October

Submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the proposed Wheeler River Mine and Mill, SK, the first proposed in-situ leaching uranium mine in Canada, on the failure of the proponent to address groundwater, watershed, environmental, health, and social impacts known from other countries.

Provided the material for the SK-based retired UCC minister, Rev. Vicki Obedkoff to report to the Wheeler River Project Panel Hearing in person on the documented harmful impacts of in-situ uranium mining in the US.

January 2026

Brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources on the ethical, financial, and record of failure of the Management of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories by U.S. companies with ties to military nuclear applications.

February

Submission to IAAC on the Proposed Deep Geological Repository for Canada’s Used Nuclear Fuel critiquing the project description including bringing forward the relevant conclusions of UCC multi-year work on this issue through the Seaborn Panel and the 3 years of UCC inputs to the NWMO process of Choosing A Way Forward.

Comments of concerns to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the Environmental Effects Review related to the application by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to proceed with decommissioning of the Gentilly-1 Waste Facility

Submission to IAAC on the proposed Wesleyville Nuclear Project in Port Hope ON calling into question the ethics, indicating the weakness of information and the serious risks of having up to 10 large nuclear power plants on this one site.

by Sheila Van Schaick, and the Eco-Justice Group
For the period from March 2025 to April 2026

Appendix B

Just Peace Working Group Annual Report to JMOC and Regional Councils

- I. Brief summary of the situation during this past year
 1. Last year in Gaza at this time there was constant bombing by Israel's military as well as IDF ground invasions resulting in deaths of many tens of thousands of Palestinians, including tens of thousands of children, and hundreds of thousands injured. There was total destruction of every type of building and infrastructure and large areas of former cities and towns were left as rubble. Gaza itself was clearly becoming uninhabitable. Very little food, medicine or humanitarian aid was allowed into Gaza. Young children and elderly Palestinians were dying of hunger and diseases and a famine was officially declared. And while the world's attention was on Gaza, violence, death and destruction by both Israel's military and Israeli settlers against Palestinians increased significantly in the West Bank.
 2. During the summer and early fall the United Church General Council 45 met in Calgary and held its final meetings online. A revised version of the Justice Principles to be used as the basis for all justice work of the United Church were approved as well as all proposals relevant to Palestine/Israel that had not previously been voted on. The UCC formally endorsed the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism and not the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews (or Jewish institutions as Jewish). The UCC is using educational resources to increase the understanding of United Church people of the background of Israel's military occupation of Palestinians and called for urgent action on the ongoing genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.
 3. After two years of intensive investigation, September 16, 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory reported that Israel met the definition of the crime of genocide and urged Israel and all States to fulfill their legal obligations under international law to end the genocide and punish those responsible for it.
 4. In mid-October, a ceasefire was declared between Israel and Hamas. Israel did not abide by the ceasefire agreement and continued the genocide in Gaza. Since that ceasefire, as of mid-April 2026, over 700 Palestinians have been killed by Israel in Gaza.

5. Trump created a Board of Peace which many countries signed onto with a plan to build many expensive high-rise buildings along the waterfront and to move Palestinians who remain in Gaza into small, well-guarded and monitored enclaves.
 6. Late November, Palestinian church leaders and other UCC partners wrote Kairos II: Faith in a time of genocide and their Christmas appeal to Christians, churches, and people of conscience everywhere. Here is some of what they wrote: They are on the verge of total annihilation of Christians in the land of Jesus where our Christian faith began. They are being destroyed by a destructive system and the world's silence. It is an urgent call that demands costly solidarity until there is justice and equality. Faith demands truth-telling about what international law and human rights organizations have confirmed: genocide, settler colonialism, apartheid and illegal occupation. Courageous action is needed for churches and governments to hold Israel accountable under international law. Theologies that justify oppression must be rejected. Use Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions and other nonviolent actions.
 7. When Israel and the U.S. began a bombing war against Iran in February, Israel closed all exits and entrances to Gaza which meant no food or other aid could enter and there is the renewed possibility of famine.
- I. Actions of the Just Peace Working Group since last year's annual report
1. **Speaking:** Returned Ecumenical Accompaniers Bill Chambre and Steve Berube continue to speak to churches and community groups educating them on the background of relations between Israel and Palestinians and what has been and is happening 'on the ground' there now. Steve also led a group of church people on a visit to church partners in the West Bank and Jerusalem through Canadian Friends of Sabeel. Linda Scherzinger spoke on a panel at New Horizons Baptist Church in Halifax.
 2. **The Palestine Land Exercise:** We have teams that continue to lead the Palestine Land Exercise (PLE) with churches and community groups throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI. As a result of our having done a training of teams in Toronto in 2024, many Palestine Land Exercises are being led by new teams throughout Canada. In March our Halifax team introduced the PLE to an online meeting of Friends of Sabeel North America and, as a result, there may be teams beginning to lead the PLE in the U.S.
 3. **Supporting Palestinian farmers:** We continue to support Palestinian farmers and their families and communities by promoting and selling Zatoun Fair Trade Palestinian olive oil – and also Palestinian dates.
 4. **Fund Raising and solidarity** with local neighbours from Gaza: We have responded to local neighbours whose families are in desperate need in Gaza by organizing a series of fundraisers with churches and donating funds raised to his family and their neighbours in Gaza. We also sold handiwork of, stood in solidarity with, and wrote letters on behalf of another neighbour who has applied to bring her family to Canada through the family reunification program. Unfortunately, she has still not been able to reunite with and bring her family from Gaza to Canada.
 5. **Advocating:** We have been writing letters and signing petitions for Canada to take various action such as: establish a complete arms embargo to/from Israel including ending the U.S. loophole allowing arms/weapon parts to go to the U.S. and then they go to Israel; speaking up for a ceasefire and release of all captives/prisoners before those happened; to speak up against a new settlement being built near Beit Sahour in the Bethlehem area; speak up to

release the doctor who was kidnapped from Gaza and mistreated (still not released); to use the names of the international crimes Israel is guilty of – genocide, apartheid, illegal occupation, settler colonialism; to exercise Canada’s legal and moral duty to use all its abilities to urge Israel to comply with international law; to ban trade with companies in the settlements; to disallow Israel’s players in the Davis Cup and FIFA; and to take a position against the death penalty law that was just passed by Israel that effects Palestinians and not Israelis. (Unfortunately, the Canadian government did not respond positively to almost all of our requests.)

6. **Promoting and participating** in the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement
7. **Promoting:** the growing Apartheid-Free Communities movement
8. **Organizing and participating** in a book club on: “The Cross and the Olive Tree”
9. **Proposing** that the Bermuda Nova Scotia Region and the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region Sign the Pledge to become Apartheid-Free Communities (to be voted on at the 2026 Annual Meetings)

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

During 2025 and 1st quarter 2026, Nominations met on several occasions to address vacancies and fill positions. The challenge of finding individuals willing to serve continues, however, when we least expect it, Spirit works as Spirit does and a call or email comes in saying “Yes” to our call to serve. We are most grateful for all of these “Yes’s” and even the “No’s” as we know they’ve come after much discernment.

Once again, this year, we are experiencing a number of positions that are or will be vacant, and this is especially so with Chair & Secretary positions on our committees. Our hope would be that in the future, committees would be selecting, especially the next Chair, from within the committee itself. This allows Nominations to fill the vacancy behind them with someone that is willing to join a committee and become familiar with the work required. Again, this year, the number of members ending their 2nd term is high resulting in significant vacancies. Our approach:

- We are proactively connecting with those ending 2nd terms in hope they will consider a new term on another committee.
- An announcement will be shared via the Region website in May.
- We hope the COF’s across FSLDW will carry an announcement that may stir a person in the pews to put their name forward.

We are beyond blessed in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters that so many people put their names forward to serve. Your commitment to your committees, the region and the church does not go unnoticed and is so appreciated.

I want to thank our Regional Staff for everything they do to support our committee and all committees of the Region. You are incredible people doing amazing work.

I extend my sincere gratitude to those who serve on our Nominations Committee including Nathan Zwicker, Elizabeth Stevenson, Audrey Louder, Erasmus Madimbu and Gneid Lackey. Thank you for your hard and heart work on this committee and the many places you serve the church. You are an amazing and fun group of people with whom to do the work of the church and the Holy Spirit!

Finally, I will leave you the reader of this report with a question; **Who do you know that could share their gifts and talents and are not currently serving on a Region Committee? Imagine how awesome it would be if each one of you provided one name to our committee to explore; we would be most grateful! Please send their name & email address along to me directly at tfriars@outlook.com. Thank you in advance!**

Respectfully,
Tracy Friars, Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

Committee List FSLDW

June 1, 2026

Regional Council Executive

Rachel Campbell	President	rachel@trinitysummerside.ca
Hugh Ellis	Past President	hughgellis57@gmail.com
VACANCY	President-Elect	
Faith March-MacCuish	Executive Minister	fmaccuish@united-church.ca
Linton Worrall	Affirm	linton.worrall@gmail.com
Catherine Ann Dickson	Faith Formation & Education	Islandlupin@hotmail.com
Kevin Dingwell	Financial & Mission Services	fsldw.finmsvcs@gmail.com
Sheila Gallant	Incorporated Ministries	sfgallant@bellaliant.net
Kathy Bigsby	Justice, Mission & Outreach	Kathryn_bigsby@hotmail.com
Tracy Friars	Nominations	tfriars@outlook.com
VACANCY	Pastoral Relations	
VACANCY	Property	
Richard Bowley	Regional Council Planning	revbowley@outlook.com
Elaine Burrows	United Church Women	ebmucwpresident@pei.sympatico.ca
Jim Blanchard	Tri-Regional Staff	James.blanchard@pei.sympatico.ca
Jean Herman	Member at Large	jean.herman.1@gmail.com
Micah Spencer	Member at Large	spencermr359@gmail.com

AGM Planning Committee (5)

Richard Bowley, Chair (2028, ^{2nd})	rev.bowley@outlook.com
Alicia Walls, Secretary (2027, ^{2nd})	minister@saintdavidsunited.ca
Isabelle Williams – young adult member (2028)	isabelle.willixms@gmail.com
Rachel Campbell, President	rachel@trinitysummerside.ca
Hugh Ellis, Past President	hughgellis57@gmail.com
VACANCY , President Elect	
Melanie Matheson (Teller; no term)	

Affirm Committee (6)

Linton Worrall, Chair (2029)	linton.worrall@gmail.com
Don Scott (2027, ^{2nd})	donscott39@eastlink.ca
Ross Sherwood (2028, ^{2nd})	rostia@nb.sympatico.ca
Gneid Lackey (2028)	hope_runs_freely@hotmail.com
Sarah Clermont (2028)	sarahmarieclermont@gmail.com
VACANCY	

Archives Committee (6)

Under Review

Faith Formation and Education (9)

Catherine Ann Dickson, Chair (2027)

Dennis Livingstone (2028, 2nd)Christine Johnson (2028, 2nd)Pierre Momberg (2028, 2nd)Lisa Folkins (2029, 2nd)

Jennifer Broomhead (2029)

VACANCY**VACANCY**

Chair/Designate of Youth @ Region

ORM Rep. Lori Perley

Islandlupin@hotmail.com

dennis.livingstone10@gmail.com

rev.christianjohnson@gmail.com

mompies@hotmail.com

lisa.folkins@gmail.com

revjen@harmonyunitedchurch.ca

lorianneperley@gmail.com

Financial and Mission Services (6)

Kevin Dingwell, Chair (2027)

Ron Naugler (2027, 2nd)

Nancy Small (2028)

Kimberley Douglass (2028)

Gordon Furness (2028)

VACANCY

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gordonfurness@outlook.com

Incorporated Ministries (4)

Sheila Gallant, Chair (2028)

David Cleveland (2027)

Kelly Hudson-Lewis (2028)

VACANCY

sfgallant@bellaliant.net

neronb1951@gmail.com

hudsonlewis2010@hotmail.com

Justice, Mission and Outreach (8)Kathy Bigsby, Chair (2029, 2nd)

Audrey Lounder (2028)

Christine MacLeod (2027)

Natasha Pearen (2027)

Mary Kennedy-Fulton (2028)

Jane Doull (2028)

Jordan MacDonald (2029)

VACANCY

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kennedyfultonmary@gmail.com

jvdoull@gmail.com

jm.jordan.macdonald@gmail.com

Maritime Conference Financial Services Board – (FSLDW (6); Region 15 (6))Sheila Gallant (2028, 2nd)

Heather Donnelly (2029)

Terry Matthews

VACANCY**VACANCY****VACANCY**

sfgallant@bellaliant.net

oldfarm1867@gmail.com

Nominations Committee (8)Tracy Friars, Chair (2028, 2nd)

Audrey Louder, Corr Sec (2027)

Nathan Zwicker (2027)

Elizabeth Stevenson (2027)

Erasmus Madimbu (2027)

Gneid Lackey (2028)

VACANCY**VACANCY**

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admin@springparkunitedchurch.ca

elizstevenson@gmail.com

emadimbu@yahoo.com

hope_runs_freely@hotmail.com

Pastoral Relations (8)Kate Jones (2027, 2nd)Aaron Billard (2027, 2nd)Greg Davis (2028, 2nd)

Ian Manson (2027)

Franklyn James (2028)

Neal Palmer (2028)

Sonja Wright (2029)

Brian Delong (2029)

Licensed Lay Worship Leader Coordinator

Barb Prowse

Oversight (Sub Group of Pastoral Relations)

Susan Estabrooks

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minister@cquc.ca

ian.manson98@gmail.com

westriverunitedminister@gmail.com

Palmer.dneal@gmail.com

sonja.wright@gmail.com

rev.brian.delong@gmail.com

Barbara.prowse@gmail.com

susanestabrooks@hotmail.com

Property Committee (7)Bette Ashley, Acting Chair (2029, 2nd)

Darin MacKinnon (2029)

David Atwood (2027, 2nd)

Timothy Wisnicki (2029)

Kyle Wells (2029)

VACANCY**VACANCY**

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Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee (2 x 3 Regions)

Jim Blanchard (2028)

VACANCY

James.blanchard@pei.sympatico.ca

AST Senate Representative

Linton Worrall (2029)

linton.worrall@gmail.com

Camp Wegesegum (2)Jim MacLeod (2029, 2nd)**VACANCY**

macleod.jim@yahoo.com

Mount Alison Sharpe Scholarship Reps (PEI only)Jack Spencer (2028, 2nd)Roland Easter (2027, 2nd)

jackrichardspencer@gmail.ca

easter@pei.sympatico.ca

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

*“We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”
(Romans 12:5)*

The Pastoral Relations Committee of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region works throughout the year to support the Communities of Faith within our Region, so that as a church, we can be who God calls us to be with appropriate leadership for each Community of Faith.

Our committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month via Zoom (including in July and August when a smaller committee executive meets), and as a committee, we strive for geographic representation from across the Region. Our 2025 Committee members were: Hugh Ellis (January – May), Barb Prowse (January – May), Kelly Burke (January – May), Neal Palmer (June – December), Franklyn James (June – September), Greg Davis, Aaron Billard, Ian Manson, Nancy Nicol (secretary), and Kate Jones (chair).

The most significant factor in the life of our committee this year came in the form of our staff support, the Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Support. Over the 12 months of 2025, our Region had 4 different Regional Ministers (Kendall Harrison from January – March; Debbie Aitken and Elizabeth Stevenson from May – September; Lloyd Bruce from November – December), and also received support from Heather Sandford (First Dawn Eastern Edge) and David Hewitt (Bermuda Nova Scotia) in the in-between months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 6 of these Regional Ministers for the support that they offered to our committee in 2025; to thank all of the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee in 2025 as we worked together in some very challenging circumstances this year; and to thank everyone in our Region who said “yes” when we approached you and asked if you would be willing to serve as a Pastoral Relations Liaison or a Pastoral Charge Supervisor. Truly, the work of Pastoral Relations is the work of all of us, and I am deeply grateful to all of the gifts that were shared for the work this year.

Some of the projects that we worked on as a committee in 2025 were:

- Had conversations around Covenanting Services. As per the Manual, a Covenanting Service is required for all calls, and for appointments of 3 months or longer. Our conversations were focused on short-term appointments (e.g. 3-6 months), and we discerned that there are two distinct types of appointments – appointments that fill a vacancy, and appointments that are intentional supply appointments while the search process continues. The former type of appointment should have a covenanting service if the appointment is 3 months or longer.
- Support for Collaborative Ministry conversations in different parts of the Region, including one cross-Regional Collaborative Ministry that has now been formed that straddles FSLDW and BNS.
- Worked on developing processes for requesting Marriage Officiant Licences for clergy entering one of our provinces for calls or appointments. This is a gap that was identified after Kendall’s death, and we apologize to anyone who was caught in the gap and thank you for your patience as we resolved this matter.

- Prioritized training more Pastoral Relations Liaisons to increase our pool of people able to undertake this work on our behalf. Thank you to everyone who has stepped in to this ministry!
- Approved a Stated Supply Ministry Agreement between St. Peter's Presbyterian Church and Rev. Chris Walker (Stanley Pastoral Charge and Kingsley-Birdton Pastoral Charge).
- Began a conversation about Lay-Led Congregations in this Region, and how we can better support them. This conversation is continuing into 2026.
- Began a conversation about implementation of the Sacraments Elders training and licencing in our Region. This conversation is continuing into 2026.
- Began a conversation about the need for a Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM) policy for our Region. After some initial conversations, it was determined that this was not the most pressing issue for our committee to work on at this time as there have been no requests for VAMs and no current situations where such a policy might be helpful.

In addition, we continued with our routine work:

- Approved 4 Calls and 23 Appointments
- Approved 7 Community of Faith Profiles
- Approved 4 position descriptions in situations that did not require a new Community of Faith Profile
- Approved Sacramental Privileges for 2 Candidates
- Approved 7 Changes in Pastoral Relations due to retirement or changing calls
- Gave our agreement to 2 Communities of Faith becoming Learning Sites (in collaboration with the Office of Vocation)
- Passed 4 motions related to Communities of Faith closing.
- Re-licensed 13 LLWLs in our Region, and continued to offer training, support, and regular interviews
- Re-Approved one Pastoral Charge as a "Lay-Led Community of Faith"
- Appointed Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Pastoral Relations Liaisons as required
- Offered support to Communities of Faith in times of upheaval and transition

There are three sub-committees or working groups related to our committee that report to the committee. These are:

- Pension Conveners (renamed in 2026 as Retirees and Pensioners Support and Advocacy Group)
- Self-Assessment Working Group
- LLWL Oversight

One gift that Lloyd Bruce brings to our Region in his new role as Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Support is bringing better organization to our spreadsheet of Pastoral Charges in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. There are now clear systems in place to keep this spreadsheet updated, and it has been reformatted to offer much more helpful information to us.

An additional benefit of this improved information management is that Pastoral Charge Supervisors and Pastoral Relations Liaisons are now appointed with much better efficiency than they were in

the past. (This is helped by our committee's focus this year on increasing the number of trained Liaisons in our Region.)

Some of the statistics for our Region, as of January 12, 2026:

- 108 Pastoral Charges
- 153 Preaching Points
- 13 Collaborative/Cooperative Ministries
- 50 Pastoral Charges filled by a call (46%)
- 25 Pastoral Charges filled by appointment (23%)
- 33 Pastoral Charges without call or appointment (31%)
- 18 Pastoral Charges were in an active search process (some of these currently have a call or appointment, while some are currently without a call or appointment)
- 20 Pastoral Charges are functioning as "lay-led" (this is an estimate, as there is not currently a clear demarcation line when a church stops actively searching and begins functioning as lay-led)
- 43 Pastoral Charges have a Pastoral Charge Supervisor in place
- 23 Pastoral Charges have a Pastoral Relations Liaison in place.

Looking ahead to 2026... My time as chair will be ending as of our annual meeting in early June, though I have one year left in my term on the committee so will be around to assist and mentor the incoming committee chair. Thank you to the Region's Nominating Committee for their ongoing work (as of the time of writing this report) to identify a new chair; as well as their work in filling the vacancy on our committee following last year's annual meeting. (We welcomed Sonja Wright to our committee in January 2026.)

We have a number of significant projects underway, though we are only a couple of months in to 2026. A Sacraments Elder training session has been planned for this spring, and we will be developing a licensing process for Sacraments Elders. A Pastoral Charge Supervisor appointment form, revised policy, and annual reporting document have been developed – Pastoral Charges currently with a Supervisor, as well as the Supervisors, received a copy of these documents and they are now available on our Region's website. And our work on developing processes for recognizing and supporting Lay-Led Communities of Faith continues.

We, together, are the United Church of Canada in the Gaspé, PEI, and New Brunswick; and as a Pastoral Relations Committee, we strive to support the church so that we all can be equipped for the work that God calls us to do. And may God bless each of us as we celebrate God's presence, and as we share God's love with the world.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Jones
Chair, FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Members: Bette Ashley, JD Kennedy, Delena Powell, Faith March-MacCuish, Rachel Campbell, David Atwood

Purpose: “The Property Committee is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and deciding all property request from communities of faith, and incorporated bodies of The United Church of Canada within its boundaries, in consultation with the Executive Minister all property request from matters before the committee.”

The committee was very active in 2025 processing a number of requests for property approvals. In addition to requests, there were several questions about the procedures to follow when a property transaction is in the planning stage or forthcoming.

Summery of activity - The committee has met many times for approval of the following activities.

Renovations of existing properties	Properties totaling \$333,251
Sale of Properties	Properties totaling \$486,900
Distribution of funds from sale	4 approved
Grant Request	4 approved
Loan request	2 approved
Transfer of cemetery property entity	2 approved

Monies raised from property sales are shared with the Pastoral Charge and a portion is redistributed within the Region to support new ministry initiatives, archives and property funds. A recent change to the funds, is that each fund has been capped, and excess will be applied to other funds as deemed necessary by the Property Committee in conjunction with the Financial and Mission Services Committee.

Also, congregations can apply for funds from the Property Fund to assist with the cost of dealing with abandoned or about to be abandoned cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,
Bette Ashley
Acting Chair

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

September 2025 - April 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF COMMITTEE

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 REPORTS

Atlantic School of Theology (AST)

2025 Annual Report to United Church of Canada Regions

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,

Susan MacAlpine Gillis

Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis
Academic Dean
Atlantic School of Theology

Atlantic School of Theology, Senate

Annual Report from BNS Regional Representative to AST Senate 2025-2026 on behalf of Bermuda-Nova Scotia and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Councils.

Luke 5:3-6

He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets. When they had they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish their nets began to break.

The Senate met on October 29, 2025 and February 4, 2026 with a third meeting scheduled for April 29, 2026. I attend all meetings via Zoom.

At Atlantic School of Theology (AST) staff and faculty are dedicated to carrying out the school’s mission of shaping faithful and effective leaders and understanding among communities of faith. The three denominational faculty include the Divinity Faculty of the University of King’s College ([Anglican Church of Canada](#)), Holy Heart Theological Seminary (The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax) and [Pine Hill Divinity Hall](#) ([United Church of Canada](#).)

I am currently serving on the Search Committee for the position of Professor of Pastoral Theology/Director of Contextual Theology. Interviews will take place in June. The successful candidate will begin teaching in January 2027.

At the Convocation Ceremony for 2026 graduates May 9th, at Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, John Roberto will receive the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa), while The Rev. Dr. Linda Yates and Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray will be named Associates of the University. Commenting on these recognitions, Rev. Dr. Heather McCance, President of AST shared, “John, Linda, and Rob show us what we aspire to be – a university that shapes faithful leaders, a place striving to be of service to church and world, and an ecumenical community where all are invited to share their gifts. In accepting these honours, they truly honour us.”

I would ask you to continue in prayer for all of those in leadership positions at AST, especially the President, Dean and Faculty. And, also please pray for our future leaders, our students, who have put out *into the deep* and answered the call to serve their respective communities of faith in so many different ways, all giving of themselves in the name of Christ.

Please direct any questions or concerns relating to the business of the AST Senate to me at s.s.gamblin@gmail.com.

This report is respectfully submitted this 21st day of April 2026 by Rev. Susan Gamblin, BNS Regional Council representative to AST Senate.

Centre for Christian Studies



The Centre for Christian Studies
Regional Council Report, for 2025 to the Fundy St.
Lawrence Dawning Waters 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

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 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).

***Curious about which CCS Diaconal Diploma and Certificate students
live in your region or relate to your candidacy board?***

Kim Inglis

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.

Emmanuel College



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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

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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:

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.

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.

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

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.

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”. – Toward 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
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Maritime United Church Women

May 2025 to April 2026

At last year's annual meeting in Bedford, NS held in April 2025, Ruth Kennedy was honoured and thanked with gifts recognizing her many years of service in various positions with Maritime United Church Women.

Berwick Camp: July 30, 2025

PEI supplied cookies and money to buy cookies for the “Cookie Cottage” at Camp Berwick. Wednesday July 30 was UCW day. Bishop Rev. Karen Oliveto, a retired bishop from the United Methodist church spoke of her journey in ministry. The offering was sent to the healing fund- a 65th anniversary project of the NUCW. A memorial service was held. Photos from previous MUCW and NUCW events were provided by the family of the late Letha Mowatt whose name was added to the memorial plaque at the Cookie Cottage. Refreshments followed at the Cookie cottage.

September 15-19, 2025 NUCW gathering

National United Church Women gathered in Mississauga at the Queens of the Apostles Renewal Centre 1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, Ontario. Representing the Maritime UCW were Betty Ann Watts, President; Ann Piper, Vice-President; Recording/Media Secretary: Myra Thiemann, and Anna Peters. Different regions from across the country offered morning worship, evening vespers, community building activities, and thank-yous to speakers. Speakers on Tuesday included the

General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair who spoke about “**Toward 2035.**” The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath shared concerns about the need for connection – we need to provide opportunities for that to happen. Amy Crawford joined the meeting by zoom with news about young ministry programs, and special projects for youth. On Wednesday, a speaker provided information on the Church in Mission with a focus on Justice work. Ruth Noble, Executive Director of Affirm United guided them through an information session. Rev. Jennifer Henry, Executive minister Organizational and Strategy Planning shared some successful growth programs. In the evening, there was a workshop on grant writing. Thursday morning worship was led by the Maritime representatives. Thursday morning was devoted to business: budgets, summary presentations from the regions, lack of UCW representation on some regional councils – a committee was formed to look into it. Later, Amy Crawford led the group in a bible study. She will be retiring from General Council staff soon. Joan Zaretsky led the group in a workshop based on the book “Holy Moments” by Matthew Kelly. There was an update on the 65th anniversary plans. An evening of fellowship and entertainment followed. The closing worship and communion and installation of the new president Barbara Dejeet was led by Rev. Japhat with a message of hope and encouragement. Friday morning's worship was led by the NUCW executive and unfinished business was dealt with. The meeting adjourned and members went to their homes across Canada, the next NUCW gathering will be Sept. 14-18, 2026.

December 29, 2025

The Healing Fund project chosen for the 65th anniversary of the UCW now stands at \$107,726.88. Each year a project is chosen that will benefit children and women and this will continue till the fund is emptied. A new project will be chosen for the 70th anniversary of UCW.

100th anniversary of the United Church. Over the course of the year, many United Church Women's groups from across the region celebrated with 100th anniversary services by leading services in their community of faith.

MUCW executive meetings were held on June 9, 2025 (in person) in Sackville, NB The next one was on October 6, 2025(in person) in Moncton. On January 23, 2026, the group over zoom On April 14, 2026, over zoom, executive members met to discuss the details of the annual meeting to be held on April 24-26 in Nashwaaskis United Church in Fredericton, NB. On June 15th we will be meeting in Sackville, NB

Maritime UCW newsletter. For decades, the newsletter was a subscription that was mailed out 3 to 4 times a year to members. That, then shifted to being sent out by email and being on the UCW page of the FSLDW website as well as print copies being mailed out to subscribers. Due to the rising costs of paper, printing and mailing the newsletters, they will only be available by email or on the website.

National UCW Keeping in Touch This newsletter is produced by the National UCW. The November 2025 (issue 11), and the January 2025 (issue 12) can be found on the FSLDW website on the UCW page. The most recent ones – Issue 13 – June 2025 and Issue 14 November 2025 can be found on the UCC website under United Church Women. They provide national news about the UCW and what is happening in other regions of the country with UCW.

The MUCW annual general meeting will be held on April 24-26, 2026, at Nashwaaskis United Church, 46 Main Street, Fredericton. The theme is “Creator, Creation, and I.” The scripture is Job 12: 7-10. Guest include National UCW president: Barbara Dejeet, and Tri-Region Executive Minister Faith March-MacCuish. There will a business meeting, worship, memorial service, workshops, speakers, entertainment and community. Around 80 have registered for this event.

Regional gatherings were held during the year. On **September 11th** Keswick Ridge UCW, NB invited local UCW members to join us in welcoming MUCW president Betty Ann Watts to an evening gathering. Around 40 were in attendance for fellowship, information and a program. On Saturday **October 4th**, Trinity UCW – Summerside, PEI hosted a Saturday gathering for around 50 UCW members with worship, an introduction to the new hymn resource “Then Shall We Sing,” and guest speaker Corina Bolo who spoke on “Lessons from Elephants.” The Chignecto District Annual meeting was held on March 28 in Sackville. The guest speaker was Rev. Karen Oliveto, who had been a bishop in the Methodist Church in the USA. There was a memorial service and communion. There may have been other gatherings, but those three found their way into the MUCW newsletter.

A few groups are getting new members, but the deaths have been many over the past few years. Reading through UCW groups reports for the past year, even small groups of women can accomplish a lot that contributes to the life of their local churches, the wider church and the communities where the live. Losing a UCW group in a church is a loss of faithful members who have contributed so much to the life and work of their community of faith and to the wider community.

July 19-23, 2027 National United Church Women will be celebrating their **65th anniversary in Ottawa**, Ontario at the Hilton Garden Inn Airport. Guaranteed hotel price of \$195+ taxes. Theme: “Hear Our Voices.” Theme Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide.” Scripture: Proverbs 8:1. More information will be coming soon.

“Toward 2035” will be apart of what we do over the next few months and year (s) as we move forward, adapt and change to the world around us.

Elaine Burrows
MUCW representative on the FSLDW executive.

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. Her 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.

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 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

St. Andrew's College

Dear Kin in Christ of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters 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

Stewardship

Report not received.

Ukulele Church



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.

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

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](https://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).

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)

Proposals

A “proposal” is a formal request for a council to take action. It is one way that a United Church member may raise an issue that is important for the church, and ask the church to discern appropriate action. The council that is being asked to take action is called the “council of action.”

- In general, a proposal may be started by any one member of a community of faith, the governing body, a committee, or other church body of a community of faith.
- A proposal may also be started by
 - a) a member of the regional council or General Council;
 - b) a committee or other church body of the regional council or General Council; or
 - c) the regional council.
- Members and councils are responsible for completing the parts of the process assigned to them. See Manual 2026 (F.1 pp. 104-108)
- When a member of a community of faith makes a proposal, the member gives the proposal to the governing body of the community of faith.
- When a council makes a proposal, the first step is for the council to pass the proposal on to the next council.
- When a member of a council makes a proposal, the first step is for the member to pass the proposal on to that council.
- When a committee of a council makes a proposal, the first step is for the committee to pass the proposal on to that council.
- If the governing body is the council of action, it makes a decision on the proposal.
- If the regional council is the council of action:
 - a) The governing body decides if it agrees with the proposal.
 - b) If it agrees, the governing body must pass the proposal on to the regional council.
 - c) If it does not agree, the governing body decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the regional council.

If the governing body does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to the regional council only if there is a compelling reason.

 - d) The governing body may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the regional council.
- If the General Council is the council of action:
 - a) The regional council decides if it agrees with the proposal.
 - b) If it agrees, the regional council passes the proposal on to the General Council.
 - c) If it does not agree, the regional council decides whether or not to pass the proposal on to the General Council.

If the regional council does not agree with a proposal, it normally passes it on to the General Council only if there is a compelling reason.

 - d) The regional council may include its own recommendations when passing a proposal on to the General Council.

- In determining if something is the proper subject matter for the regional council, consider if this is a matter for the full region, whether direction from the regional council is required, or whether it suggests a new policy or direction. (If the matter is currently the work of a committee or division, perhaps a discussion with the committee or division is the best action.
- In determining if something is the proper subject matter for a proposal to General Council, consider whether it pertains to the whole church, whether direction from the General Council is required, and whether it suggests a new policy or direction.
- The council making the decision must have the necessary information for a sound decision. In communicating from one council to another, it is important that the proposal gives an action and provides sufficient background to the emerging question, the consideration undertaken and the rationale for the proposed action.
- A well written proposal guides the decision makers through the process of discernment; from framing the question to a reasoned and wished for response and is no more than 2 (two) pages. A proposal may be accompanied by a more substantive report.
- The proposal, in order to be voted on as an action, must be made into a motion. Once a motion is made, it is put to the council. The normal rules of debate and procedure then are applied.

Response by Council of Action

The council of action is responsible for making a decision on the proposal. It has the following options:

- a) taking the action requested in the proposal;
- b) taking the action requested in the proposal with some changes;
- c) taking different action on the same subject matter as the proposal;
- d) referring the proposal;
- e) receiving the proposal but taking no further action; or
- f) taking some other action that the council of action decides is appropriate.

See Manual 2026 (F.1 pp. 104-108)

Proposal Template

Please see templates for completion of proposals:

- 1. Regional Council as the council of action**
- 2. *General Council Office is not accepting proposals for General Council until 2027 to allow for a review and update of process and form***

Proposal Template

Enter title of PROPOSAL here

Origin: Origin of proposals is usually a Division/Committee or Community of Faith

1. What is the issue?

Description in broad terms. We believe God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is calling us to do something about... / engage the topic of... respond to the challenge of...

2. Why is this issue important?

e.g. What are the key underlying theological, ecclesiological, missional, or justice issues?

What is the history/background of this issue?

What are the principles informing this issue?

What would be the implications of taking no action on this issue?

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

Name a possible response that the Region might consider:

A. Study/Discussion of the issue

B. Action on the issue. This could include:

- **Region directing that a policy/strategy be developed based on specified principles and parameters**
- **Region adopting a policy position/strategy**
- **Region directing the Executive Minister or Executive to act/operationalize**
- **Region encouraging/suggesting action by congregations and other communities of faith on the issue**

Note to 3.A: The Regional Executive could be asked to have a conversation about a particular issue as an end in itself without making a policy decision or taking other action.

Note to 3.B: Suggestions for wording of a policy/strategy could be offered as possibilities for consideration in the decision-making process but not as expectations of a particular outcome.

4. What will be the impact?

How does it align with the Strategic plan/Vision?

What is the cost? Staff time + budget (*If the cost is estimated to be over \$10,000.00 the proposal will need to be referred to the Finance committee for review and affordability before being approved*)

Who will be impacted? How?

What are the risk management issues?

5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?**6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region:**

Are there comments, affirmations, suggestions you would like to make with respect to this proposal?

7. Who will speak to this proposal on behalf of the originating body?

PROPOSAL 1

Title: Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community

Originating Body:

The Just Peace Working Group of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee of Bermuda-Nova Scotia and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regions

What is the issue? Why is this issue important?

For decades, Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza have experienced military occupation, displacement, restrictions on movement, and unequal access to resources. Within Israel, Palestinian citizens also face systemic inequalities.

The term “apartheid,” once associated primarily with South Africa, is now used in international law to describe systems of institutionalized racial domination and oppression. In 2022, following years of first-hand experience, extensive research and documentation, several international human rights organizations such as [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), the Israeli human rights organization [B’Tselem](#) as well as the International Commission of Jurists, applied this term to the situation in Israel and the occupied territories. They were followed by nations such as South Africa and Ireland that concluded that the current system experienced by Palestinians amounts to apartheid.

The [International Court of Justice](#) addressed the issue of Israeli apartheid under [Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#), which obligates states to prevent and eradicate all forms of segregation and apartheid in an [Advisory Opinion issued in 2024](#). In a historic ruling the International Court of Justice found multiple and serious international law violations by Israel towards Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, including finding Israel responsible for apartheid.

Palestinians have reached out to the international community to support them in becoming free of Israel’s apartheid. As followers of the Gospel, we are called to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The situation in Palestine and Israel raises urgent theological and moral questions about human dignity, equality, and the use of power.

The United Church of Canada has a long history of prophetic witness in matters of justice, including opposition to apartheid in South Africa. This proposal invites the Bermuda Nova Scotia Region to continue that legacy by responding in our own context to present-day realities with courage and integrity.

Theologically, the United Church of Canada affirms that all people are created in the image of God (*imago Dei*) and are deserving of dignity, justice, and peace. The biblical witness consistently calls for the protection of the oppressed and the pursuit of justice.

We believe that God is calling us to respond to this unjust treatment of God’s children by recognizing and responding to the reality of apartheid including systemic discrimination and segregation faced by Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Israel, and

committing to concrete actions that resist complicity in these systems as our faith demands of us. God loves all people and calls us to liberate the oppressed (which also liberates the oppressor).

At this Kairos moment, we must accompany the Palestinians who are on the verge of total annihilation of Christians in the land of Jesus where our Christian faith began. Our silence would only contribute to their destruction. Our faith demands truth-telling, courageous action, and solidarity. Silence, delay or cautious diplomacy while people are knowingly being killed and abused would be a betrayal of our faith and humanity.

All of us have seen horrific, heartbreaking scenes of death, destruction, and inhumane treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank - on TV, our computers and cell phones. We are called and we long to do more towards a just and sustainable peace for Palestine/Israel.

The Just Peace Working Group of JMOC (Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee) has been educating United Church Communities of Faith and others in our regions about the unjust oppression, 59-year military occupation, and conditions amounting to apartheid. We have done this through leading many Communities of Faith in the Palestine Land Exercise, modeled after the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, in the B-NS Region and in the FSLDW Region. Many Communities of Faith in both regions have learned of the injustices and oppression of Israel over Palestinians from personal witness accounts of returned Ecumenical Accompaniers Bill Chambre and Steve Berube, from others who have visited the West Bank and Jerusalem, and from local neighbours whose families are still in danger in Gaza and/or in other parts of the occupied Palestinian territories.

As people have learned about these injustices, we have shared resources for them to learn more and to take action against apartheid and for international law and equal human rights for Palestinians. Actions we've encouraged have been: signing petitions; writing letters to federal government representatives; and joining the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement supported by the United Church of Canada. In October 2024, following GC44 affirmation of the Justice Principles for advocacy work, the Moderator of the United Church of Canada wrote a pastoral letter to those of us of the United Church of Canada encouraging participation in strategies including: the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction movement; the Apartheid-Free Communities movement; and the international human rights community in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system of laws and legal procedures towards the Palestinian people.

The Apartheid-Free network is a coalition of communities who pledge to work together to end Israeli apartheid. Originally created by faith groups in North America, the network currently includes congregations, faith communities, solidarity organizations, non-profits, campus groups, businesses, and more. This network is based with the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers). Over 1,000 communities have signed the pledge and joined the growing movement – including over 300 communities in Canada – church congregations and others. April 20, 2026, we sponsored and promoted a webinar, “Is it time to Become an Apartheid-Free Community?”

How might the Region respond to the issue?

1. **affirm** the educational work of the Just Peace Working Group of JMOC focused on recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system towards the Palestinian people.
2. **endorse** the Just Peace Working Group of JMOC signing the Apartheid-Free Pledge:
“WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;
WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and
WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-free community and to that end,
WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.”
3. **invite** Communities of Faith in its Region to sign the Apartheid-Free pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism and military occupation; or after engaging in further study if the Community of Faith deems such further study necessary.
4. **sign** the Apartheid-Free Pledge as a Region, to join other faith-based communities in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism and military occupation; and engage in further study and action as the Regional Executive deems necessary.
5. **request** that the Just Peace Working Group report back at the next Regional Annual Meeting.

What will be the impact? Palestinian Christians and our other church partners in Palestine/Israel will be strengthened by our public witness and costly solidarity.

How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity? It calls the Region to focus directly on recognizing and addressing an issue of inequity – Apartheid - in a way that calls us, Israelis, and Palestinians to live into equity. This is part of our commitment to freedom, justice and equality for all peoples.

For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region: The Just Peace Working Group and JMOC are ready and willing to assist the Region and its Communities of Faith in learning and in taking actions.

Who will speak to this proposal on behalf of the originating body? Audrey Louder

PROPOSAL 2

Proposal: First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region

Origin: Faith Formation and Education Committee

1. What is the issue?

The General Council, at its most recent meeting in August of 2025, named “First Third Ministry” (known in this region as ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults) as a priority for the denomination (in GCE04 Funding Strategic Growth Initiatives, WF37 National Youth Council, and GC45 Vocations for the Whole People of God). This action names and centres the ministry in ways that make it a priority in action and in our use of resources (both people and financial). Further to that, a national strategy is being developed to centre this ministry for the current triennium that will help both the General Council and the Regional Councils to attain goals that will enhance the ministry that is before the whole denomination in the report “Toward 2035.” We recognize the support that Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters has consistently offered in the past; most notably a full-time staff person devoted to a shared youth ministry with Bermuda-Nova Scotia and First Dawn Eastern Edge, a decent-sized budget to provide regional youth programming and support towards First Third Ministry events organized at the national level. We also recognize the unimaginable donation of volunteer hours and clergy’s unpaid overtime to ensure that First Third Ministry remains vital in our region. While this region has named priorities: 1. Three New Communities of Faith 2. Communicate/Invite/Renew 3. Support for Ministry Personnel 4. Education and 5. Toward 2035 we feel that this unwritten priority of First Third ministry should be named in a way that recognizes and ensures a continued intentional commitment. In keeping with larger church trends and goals, we recommend modifying the current strategic plan, updated in 2025, to ensure that our understanding of and the language we use to describe this vital ministry is in line with larger church language and goals. First Third Ministry is not just ministry activities for those who “do” this ministry. It promotes commitment to Faith, growing Discipleship, and a deeper understanding of Justice. A declared commitment to First Third Ministry also helps Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters with its mission to build trusting, respectful, and affirming relationships within the world.

2. Why is this issue important?

Actively naming and claiming a First Third Ministry offers a commitment to growth, the full integration of children, youth, young adults, their families and leaders into the ministry of the wider church, and because these age groups are already engaged in ministry, this will provide examples, activities, and guidelines for the rest of the region to consider and engage in when looking “Toward 2035.” By intentionally naming this often-overlooked cohort, we are ensuring that the voices of those in their first third of life and their families and leaders are able to contribute easily in meaningful ways and their contributions are sought and accepted as valuable to the church.

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

Therefore, we believe that God is calling our Region to recognize the critical importance and vitality of these ministries in all aspects of its life and they need to be intentionally included by naming them in the current strategic plan.

This proposal recommends:

1). Naming, 'First Third' Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults in the strategic plan by updating the priorities so that actions specific to First Third Ministry appear in each priority - a promise of mutuality in making this vision a reality.

2). Empower the Faith Formation and Education committee to review and update the priorities, following the pattern named—and bring them to the executive for full consideration and implementation.

3). The Nominations Committee, with help from Faith Formation and Education and the Regional Minister for CYAYA, will actively seek out people within the First Third of their lives to serve in all areas of regional ministry to ensure full integration of the updated Objectives and Actions.

4. What will be the impact?

Enacting this proposal will ensure that First Third Ministry will be considered crucial to the ministry of the region, recognizing and prioritizing it as ministry that provides discipleship, mission, and leadership.

5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity? Voices of Children, Youth, Young Adults, their families and their leaders are underrepresented in key areas of the region. This proposal seeks to invite First Third church members into all areas of the conversation, keeping their presence at the forefront of conversations.

6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region:**7. Who will speak to this proposal on behalf of the originating body?**

Heather Donnelly, Chair of Faith Formation and Education

Catherine Stuart Regional Minister to Children, Youth & Young Adults

PROPOSAL 3

Proposal: Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawnig Waters (FSLDW)/Bermuda-Nova Scotia (BNS) Region

Origin: Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee

1. What is the issue?

The report “Toward 2035” shows starkly the drop in membership in the United Church of Canada. It challenges us to look to the future with optimism rooted in our recognition of the changes in our society and the constancy of our need for the Holy Spirit. While we search for new ways to live our faith, we cannot forget what has served us well in the past. UCC campus ministries have eroded over time and our current ministries are not reaching our youth. Campus chaplaincies can touch the lives of hundreds of young adults every year.

Recognizing the social justice work done by that ministry, when financial support for the Dalhousie campus ministry ended Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council assigned JMOC the task of responding to that loss. In responding to this request, JMOC asked: *Where does Campus Ministry most naturally belong so it can thrive?*

2. Why is this issue important?

Young adults need spiritual care and counselling and guidance as they navigate questions of identity and purpose into adulthood. Campus ministry builds relationships with this generation, offers outreach to respond to their current needs, and encourages an inclusive faith where Christian Nationalism and Fundamentalist ideologies often take hold. A positive experience of faith in the first third of one’s life allows a person to identify their own gifts and learn to use them to serve others. Thus, it creates a great sense of purpose, nurturing resiliency and mental well-being.

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

Therefore, we believe that God is calling our Regions to recognize the critical importance of this unique type of ministry at this time, and to recommit to its value as an outreach ministry to young adults.

This proposal recommends moving the responsibility of “Campus Chaplaincy” from JMOC to Children, Youth and Young Adults (BNS) and Faith Formation and Education (FSLDW).

4. What will be the impact?

For the denomination, the need to connect with young adults is crucial to our sustainability. For communities of faith, opportunities to expand intergenerational reach adds different perspectives, beliefs and rituals that benefit the whole body of Christ. For young adults, the presence of accessible spiritual care at a time of existential questioning can be life-changing and life-saving. There is a strong need to feel loved and accepted as one seeks to find their place in the world.

This is not just an administrative shift, but a correction of alignment. Campus Ministry is fundamentally a relational, developmental, and formational ministry, not primarily a justice

program. Its day-to-day work is centered on accompanying young adults in their spiritual growth, identity formation, and faith exploration. JMO is structured to address systemic issues, advocacy, and outreach. Having Campus Ministry under JMO risks treating young adults as recipients of outreach rather than as people being formed, mentored, and integrated into the life of the Church. Moving it recognizes that young adults are not a “mission field”; they are part of the Church’s present and future.

Campus Ministry is deeply about faith formation. That work aligns directly with Faith Formation and Education. When Campus Ministry sits alongside Children, Youth, and Young Adult ministries, it becomes part of a lifelong faith journey rather than a disconnected initiative. Placing Campus Ministry in formation-focused bodies ensures that justice engagement emerges from deep roots rather than being the sole organizing framework.

5. How does this proposal help us live into the commitments on equity?

Campus ministries work to include the most vulnerable, such as foreign and racialized students, those who identify as 2S&LGBTQIA+, and individuals struggling with poverty. This proposal also helps to affirm the important role that youth and young adults play within faith communities and society at large. It also empowers voices that have been historically missing or under-represented at the table.

6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the Region:

Yes, this proposal is going to both regions.

Yes, this proposal is originating in a bi-regional committee and is directed at two committees, one from each region.

7. Who will speak to this proposal on behalf of the originating body?

Dr. Kathy Bigsby (co-chair of Justice, Mission and Outreach)

Rev. Natasha Pearen (member of Justice Mission and Outreach)

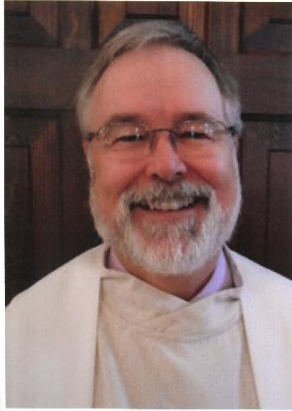
Rev. Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults (resource, if needed)

Rev. Shepherd Munikwa, Regional Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach (resource, if needed)

JUBILARIANS

50 Years in Ministry

The Reverend G. Robert (Bob) Campbell, B.A., M.Div.



Ordained in Sackville NB on May 30, 1976, I began paid accountable ministry in the Plaster Rock/Grand Falls Pastoral Charge. Donna and I were warmly welcomed into the communities of Plaster Rock, Grand Falls, Riley Brook and Grand River. It was here that the faithful folk of the congregations taught me what it meant to be a minister. They were generous; they were kind; they were patient; they were encouraging; and they were understanding. While there, Donna gave birth to our two precious boys. These faithful folk showed me the meaning of Grace, Dedication, Compassion, and Commitment. After five years, we said goodbye to these friends and accepted a call to the Bridgedale Pastoral Charge in Riverview, NB.

Bridgedale Pastoral Charge included the Trinity United congregation in Riverview and the Lower Coverdale United Church in Lower Coverdale. It was a mix of senior members and young families. I have fond memories of children's stories and choir cantatas; memories of potlucks and family weekends at Camp Ta-Wa-Si; memories of Group studies that challenged our discipleship; memories of inspired leadership and dedication to living faithful lives.

While in ministry in Riverview I also became more involved in the work of the larger church (at Presbytery and Conference). After serving in ministry for five years with the people of Bridgedale, PC I accepted a call to serve as Personnel Minister of Maritime Conference.

As we moved to Sackville NB, I began a ministry that would span some 15 years. These were some of my best years in ministry. While the work could be challenging at times, nearly always I was working with others. Often, I was a resource to leaders in Presbytery, assisting with educational programs in support of ministry personnel. resourcing groups like Pastoral Relations committees, the Internship Committee, and the Sexual Abuse committee. This work and some very courageous people required me to stretch and grow and to become committed to an inclusive church, where all are welcome; to grow in my resolve to work for justice, and to embody love as the disciple's imperative.

After 15 years in this ministry, I was called to Saskatchewan Conference as Executive Secretary. I understood this to be an appointment for three or four years to assist the conference in dealing with some areas of conflict. Donna and I took this as this as an opportunity for a midlife adventure. As it turned out, Donna and I were seven years in Saskatchewan. During these years I came to experience the rich diversity of the United Church of Canada. While there, I was able to: assist the conference in planning and prioritizing the work of the conference; to coordinate the staff of six program and support staff; to assist the General Council to engage congregations and the membership in the many facets of the Ministry of United Churches Canada. I was so privileged to get to know and learn-from and work-with some of the most dedicated, inspirational, and humble

leaders in the church. But the time came when it was important for Donna and I to return to our roots in the Maritimes.

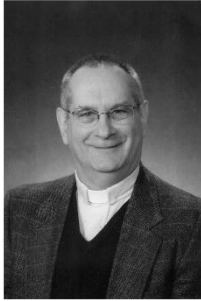
In 2008, I was contacted by the Petitcodiac Pastoral Charge and invited to accept a call to that congregation. This was truly a call to come “home”. As a young boy, from the ages of 8 to 16, I spent the summers in Petitcodiac. As I was growing up, this was my second Church home. My maternal grandmother lived in Petitcodiac and as she grew more elderly my aunt Mary and uncle Don moved in with her to help care for her. Uncle Don was a schoolteacher. One of his loves was gardening. Another of his loves was fly fishing. So we struck a deal: “if I helped him in garden for a couple of days, he would take me fishing for a day.” I couldn't pass it up. Aunt Mary and Uncle Don were very active in the United Church. He was envelope steward, chair of trustees, etc. As a result, I knew many of the people in the congregation from my teenage years. I regard it as an enormous privilege to be able to share ministry with those folk and in some small way give back some of the care they showered on me as a boy.

While it wasn't part of the plan, after only three years I took early retirement due to significant developments in my Parkinson's disease. It was with huge regret that we said goodbye to the good folk in Petitcodiac and retired in Riverview NB.

This is a privilege to look back on 50 years since ordination. I believe I may have overstepped my bounds and rambled on. The guidelines given the Jubilarians were to write a brief biography of 2 to 4 paragraphs. My apologies for exceeding those limits.

However, now living in Sackville NB, I need to share the other half of the story. You see, it all started here in Sackville. While attending Mount Allison I met a beautiful young teacher who was sharing an apartment with three other new teachers living in Sackville while teaching in Port Elgin. Her name is Donna and she has been the love of my life. We were married in the Mt A chapel as we left for AST. We were together as I was settled to Plaster Rock, in the middle of the woods, in the middle of the province. Donna gave birth to our two boys, Adam and Ian. From Plaster Rock, to Riverview, to Sackville, Donna has been my constant companion, my inspiration and my love. With our boys involved in masters level education, we left Sackville for Regina. For Donna, it meant leaving behind family and friends and her teaching. It was a whole new chapter in our life and she was amazing. In the 50 years since ordination Donna has been my best gift in ministry. It's been a wonderful journey. And we have been filled with Grace, getting to know the wonderful partners who have shared the road.

The Reverend Robert Johnson, B.A., M.Div.

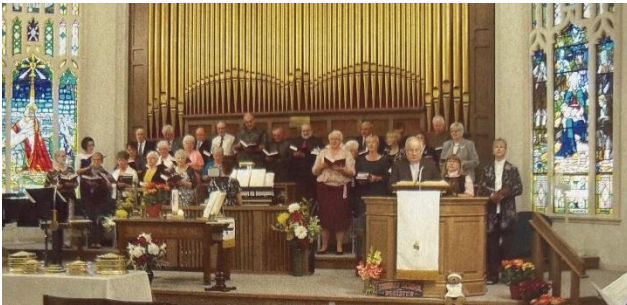


Forty-one years of active ministry saw me serve eight congregations in Nova Scotia and four in New Brunswick, first with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and then with The United Church of Canada. Journeying with people through the ups and downs of life was both the tremendous privilege of my life and the exhausting burden that led, in part, to my decision to retire in 2010.

It was an honour to serve a term as President of Maritime Conference and to do so as an openly-gay, settled minister. A truly enjoyable aspect of my later ministry involved the supervision of ministry students. It was both one of the most rewarding and most challenging aspects of being in ministry. I am tremendously indebted to the men and women with whom I shared the journey of ministry preparation.

Travelling, health and aging issues, gardening, and being able to choose when I want to be more active as an ordered minister have been aspects of my retirement years. The decision to remain inactive with the regional church has been a blessing. It is a joy, and a concern, to watch others doing that work and making those decisions.

The Reverend Blair E.H. Lewis, B.A., M.Div.



Following my graduation and ordination, I was accepted into the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in the practice of ministry program. After that year of study, I was settled by the Maritime Conference Settlement Committee on the Cavendish Breadalbane Pastoral Charge. I then accepted a call to the Maritime Conference chaplaincy ministry in the Halifax hospitals where I served as a hospital chaplain for the

United Church for 11 years.

I went on to do studies at the Interfaith Healthcare Ministries in Providence, Rhode Island as part of my one year of study requirements for Specialist Certification with the Canadian Association for Pastoral, Practice and Education. In 1990 I became Coordinator of Pastoral Care at the Camp Hill Medical Center, which was followed by my transition to becoming a Staff chaplain at Capital Health in Halifax. I served in the provincial chaplaincy ministry for 19 years. At this point in my ministry, I accepted a call to the Bathurst Pastoral Charge where I served in the ministry position for nine years.

During my years of ministry, I have volunteered as co-chair Pastoral Relations for Halifax Presbytery, Chair of Pastoral Relations for Miramichi Presbytery, member of the Nominating Committee for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and as an educational and a pastoral charge supervisor. I have served as a volunteer leader with Scouts Canada, and as a Therapy Dog handler with St. John Ambulance Therapy dog program. Following my retirement, I served as a member of

the Credentialing Committee for the General Council of the United Church for six years. I am presently serving as a Royal Canadian Legion Chaplain.

Ruth and I have four adult children and one grandson. Ruth has provided me with ongoing valuable support for my ministry, and we are currently living in Bathurst.

The Reverend Keith Lyons

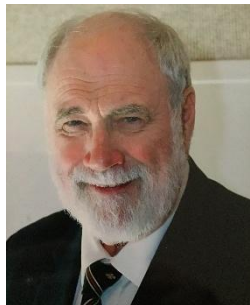
Thank you for your Ministry!

The Reverend Murray McFarlane

Thank you for your Ministry!

55 Years in Ministry

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Lockhart, B.A., B.D., M.A., M.Th.



Recognized as a candidate for ministry from West Devon United Church, O'Leary Pastoral Charge by PEI Presbytery in Sept. 1964.

Ordained to further study by Maritime Conference in 1971 with a B.A. from Mount Allison and a B.D. from McGill/United Theological College.

In 1972 received an M.A. in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond Va. and a M.Th. from the Atlantic School of Theology in 1992.

Served as a student chaplain with the Royal Canadian Air Force 1966-68; and student minister at Windsor- Vaughan, N.S. (1969) and St Columba House, Montreal (1970).

Served as ordained minister with at Glebe St James, Ottawa 1974-77; Executive Director of Iona College and Chaplain to the University of Windsor 1977-82, Conference Officer with Montreal and Ottawa Conference 1984-92, Rideau Park United Church 1992-99, Trinity United Church, Charlottetown 1999-2006.

Since retiring in 2006, I have served as a consultant and transitional minister to a number of Pastoral Charges across the country.

My enduring passions in ministry has been Christian Education (Biblical Studies and Ethics), Pastoral Care, Congregational Development, and the development of candidates for ministry.

The Reverend Jack Spencer, B.A., M.Div.



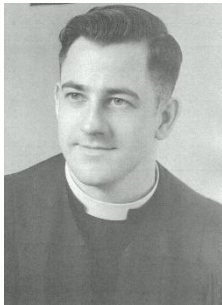
I was ordained by Maritime Conference in 1971 and settled on the Souris -Bay Fortune Pastoral Charge in PEI Presbytery. Our two sons Jeff & Stephen were born during our time there. In 1979 I accepted a call to the Kensington Pastoral Charge and remained there until my retirement in 2012. My wife Donna and I continue to live in Kensington and participate in the life of the Kensington Congregation where I serve as Minister Emeritus.

Beyond the pastoral charge I have served as Chairperson of PEI Presbytery and President of Maritime Conference. I have served two terms on the General Council Executive, two Terms on the General Council MEPS Permanent Committee and one term on the United Church Pension Board.

I served a total of 12 years as Secretary and have chaired many Presbytery & Conference Committees.

65 Years in Ministry

The Reverend David Hamilton, B.A., M.Div.



David Hamilton grew up in Campbellton, N.B. His formal education took place at Campbellton High School, Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Through the years he completed three units of Clinical Pastoral Education which has been most beneficial in self-understanding and in development as a Pastor. He fondly looks back on his experiences in three summer mission fields in Saskatchewan; Neidpath-Burnham (east Swift Current) Foote Copeland (in the Dafoe Wynward area) and Kingsland Rowena (near Rosetown).

During his Pine Hill days he served as the last of the boys' Work Secretaries of the Maritime Religious Education Council doing youth leadership in the Maritime conference and within the Atlantic Baptist Convention. Summers were busy staffing and directing boys' camps and through the school year, weekends were taken up with Boys' Conferences and Model Parliaments.

Following ordination, 38 years were devoted to five pastoral charges: O'Leary, Bloomfield, the Brae and West Devon, PEI; First United, Trenton NS; Spring Park, Charlottetown, PEI; Portland United, Saint John NB; and twelve years at Trinity United, Summerside PEI.

In retirement, a year was enjoyed as Minister of visitation for Trinity United, Charlottetown, followed by three years on the Cavendish-Breadalbane PC as well as six years chairing the Board for Camp Abegweit.

I look back with a chuckle to my first day in my first Pastoral Church. It was a very hot day, so I decked out in a clerical collar vest and suit coat, but no shirt. Wanting to make a good impression, I headed to the Hospital to make some visits. All went well until I reached the last room. There my

vest came loose and hit my knees. There I stood clerical collar and bare chest. Thereafter whenever I met Flossie Hunter, she would chuckle and I would blush. The first of many chuckles along the way of Ministry.

David was married to the late Diane Hiscott, Trenton NS. They have two children, Lori, married to the late Mike McKendry of Ottawa, and Scott, working in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The Hamiltons have two grown grandchildren, Coady and Tyker McKendry, of whom they are very proud.

The Highlight in my Ministry was finding my wife, who through the years has been my helpmate and best friend.

While serving in my second pastorate in Trenton, I happened to look up during the Pastoral Prayer (used to be called, The Long Prayer) and near the back sat this lovely young lady in a fur coat. While my lips continued to say "Our Father, which art in heaven", my mind was thinking "Ooh lala". That week we had our first date to a Christmas Eve candlelight service and eight months later we were married and the years blessed with a beautiful daughter and loving son.

My big regret is that through the years of ministry, they have too often taken second place to the calls and demands of congregations. If I were to live my years over, I would hope that there would be more balance and their needs considered more.

Regretfully for her last five years, Diane had Alzheimer's disease, she died on March 7, 2025 leaving us with sadness, but also with so many happy memories.

Diane, Lori and Scott have been such a blessing over the years, where would I be without them.

The Reverend Ian MacLean

Thank you for your Ministry!

70 Years in Ministry

The Reverend Doctor Douglas Irving MacEachern, B.A., M.Div., LL.D.



Doug MacEachern, known to many of his day, and since, as "Stretch", grew up in Trenton, NS, graduated from High School there, Mount Allison University, and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Having served on student fields in Saskatchewan and NS, he was ordained in June 1956.

70 years in ministry took him to Pastorates in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. -- Rawdon, Hants Co., Hopewell, Pictou Co. and Brunswick Street in Truro, St. John's United in Moncton, from where he retired in 1995, and now serves as Minister Emeritus. In addition to these

ministries, he served as Chaplain, Dean of Students, and Associate Professor of Sociology at the (then) Nova Scotia Agricultural College. now Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University.

Ministry for Doug has been both fulfilling and rewarding. Among many activities he was honoured to serve as President of Maritime Conference 1984-85 and humbled to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws from Mount Allison in 1994, "for service to Church, Community, and University/College". He was also recognized as the first person to receive a Distinction Service award from the Atlantic Association of College and University Student Services.

Looking back on 70 years, Doug would say that "life has been good!" Many people from different paths of life have made it worthwhile, and despite many changes we still sing "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

In September of 2021, Doug and June moved to Royal Court in Riverview, independent living, a Shannex facility. After hospitalization in 2025 Doug moved into Monarch Hall, long term care on the same campus.

Doug and June are the parents of three and grandparents of five. Recently two great grandsons have been added to the family.

RETIREES

The Reverend David Atwood, M.Div.



I entered ministry in The United Church of Canada as a second career, a calling I had felt persistently for many years. In 2016, Margaret and I moved to Canada so I could complete my Master of Divinity, trusting that this long-held sense of vocation was leading somewhere new.

In 2018, I found myself on a committee exploring what might charitably be called an ambitious idea, holding the Annual Maritime Conference on a cruise ship en route to Bermuda. It may have seemed improbable, but the best things often begin that way. Through that committee I met Sheila Gallant, and what emerged from that connection was an invitation to apply for a call to York-Covehead Pastoral Charge in Prince Edward Island. I accepted it with gratitude. Coming from our island home in Bermuda, Margaret and I quickly felt that PEI was a good fit. The rhythm of island life, the closeness of community, and the deep care people show for one another felt both familiar and like coming home.

One of our dearest friends, the late Rev. Bob Mills, often spoke about what a privilege it is to serve in ministry. I have thought of his words many times over these eight years, because they have proven true in ways I could not have anticipated. I have valued this four-point pastoral charge for both its unity and its diversity, and above all for the sacred trust of walking with people through the best and the hardest moments of their lives. Ministry has been, at times, the most difficult work I have ever loved, and I mean that as the highest praise I know how to give it.

I am so grateful to the people of York, Stanhope, St. James, and Central United for walking this journey together. And I am profoundly grateful to Margaret, whose support, insight, and presence made this ministry possible in ways that can't be easily counted. Those shared moments of joy, grief, hope, and faith, with the people of our faith community are something I will always carry with me.

As we relocate to the UK, we do so with full hearts, deep gratitude, and many fond memories that will remain an important and cherished part of our story.

The Reverend Greg Davis. C.D., B.A., M.Ed., M.Div.



Greg completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology. He was ordained in 1993 by the Newfoundland Conference. Over the course of his ministry, he has served the Green Harbour Pastoral Charge in Newfoundland; Saint Andrew's Pastoral Charge in Vernon River, Prince Edward Island; Spring Park United Church and Trinity -Clifton Pastoral Charge in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and the Hunter River Pastoral Charge in Hunter River, Prince Edward Island. Throughout his career, Greg has also contributed to the wider church through service on a variety of regional and presbytery committees.

In 1994, Greg joined the Naval Reserve (Chaplaincy), where he served in several administrative roles and as Chaplain to HMCS QUEEN CHARLOTTE. In addition to his military chaplaincy, he also served as a chaplain at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, providing spiritual care within the broader community. Greg looks forward to retiring—"to something ..."- on April 30, 2026.

The Reverend Claudia K. Keller, M.Div., M.Th.

Thank you for your ministry!

The Reverend Mary Tingley, B.A., M.Div.



For myself, Ministry has always represented diversity in people, place and context. There have been many good fits among a couple of not-so-good ones but I have cherished being along side creative open communities be it through time with youth or through pastoral care with our elders. Following the Spirit has taken me through many charges and my heart celebrates each unique people and place.

Encouraging folks to follow their faith passion and trust what the Divine is encouraging them to move through, or grow within, is a common theme in my faith work experience. I have loved sharing Spiritual practices within a passion for faith learning and preaching. Sharing our stories within our central faith stories has been a nurturing marker.

What I have shared in ministry holds little resemblance to the deep privilege I have had in the lives of many good folks. I am grateful and in hope, I will continue to be a hopeful learner of Divine love.

STAFF ANNIVERSARY**15 Years****Sarah Wallace**

Archivist

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council

WELCOME**To Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council**

- The Reverend Limon Daka, Campbellton Pastoral Charge
- The Reverend Rob Shearer, Stewardship & Growth Animator Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
- The Reverend Linton Worrell, Quispamsis Pastoral Charge

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT
NOMINATION BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET

NAME OF NOMINEE: Kathy Bigsby

FOR OFFICE OF: President

ADDRESS: Charlottetown, PE

PRONOUNS: She/Her

COMMUNITY OF FAITH: SPRING PARK UNITED



CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION:

Grew up in Explorers/CGIT and became a CGIT leader and Sunday School teacher before having children and when children were young. Now a long-time choir member. Served on Session and as church board secretary. Involved with Social Justice and Affirm teams.

LEADERSHIP ROLES IN COMMUNITY OF FAITH / REGION / ELSEWHERE:

Current Chair of Session and Chair of Official Board at Spring Park.

Current chair of JMOC.

Current Regional Council representative for Spring Park.

Medical Society of Prince Edward Island; President (don't recall which years!) and for many years was a member of or chaired their advocacy committee.

Canadian Medical Association past Board member and past member of CMA Health advocacy committee and CMA Committee on Ethics.

PEI Research Ethics Board Chair off and on for about 30 years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE / VOLUNTEERING:

Current Board Member CHANCES Family Resource Centre (services for high-risk children and families)

Past board member Family Violence Prevention Inc. (women's shelter and outreach programs)

Canada Winter Games volunteer 2023

OTHER INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL IS RELEVANT TO THE REGION:

I am retired, but still working part-time as Chair of the PEI Research Ethics Board and Chair of Ad Hoc complaints investigation committees and hearing committees for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of PEI.

I have a hereditary hearing loss which affects speech frequency and which sometimes makes it challenging to understand what others are saying!

MOVER / SECONDER: Mary Cowper-Smith / Darin MacKinnon

DATE: March 23, 2026

MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

The Reverend John William Fraser



Fraser, The Reverend John William, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on October 28th, 2025. He has received the crown of righteousness and has finished the race. God called his name, and welcomed him to rest with the saints. John is missed by his wife Barbara, daughters Tanya (Jamie), Christina (Jeff) and son Marc (Sonja); as well as his mother Grace, brothers Lorne and Carl (Linda), and sister Barbara. John was a beloved grandfather to Samuel, Serene, Sophie and Piper as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members. He was predeceased by his father Russell, sister-in-law Lona, brother-in-law Andrew and other family held deep in hearts and memory. John was a storyteller, who loved to fish, and was a passionate Habs fan but his greatest passion was serving the Lord. Fearlessly living out his faith, John left Strescon to begin his call into ministry. Serving in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick John served many congregations, and lived the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The funeral was held at St Mark's United Church, West Saint John, NB, October 31, 2025.

The Reverend Cora Krommenhoek



It is with sadness we announce the passing of Reverend Cora Krommenhoek at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Health Centre in Fredericton on March 9, 2026. Born Cornelia Maria Krommenhoek in Gorinchem (Gorkum), The Netherlands to Dirk and Ida Maria (Weergang) Krommenhoek on December 26, 1956, Cora came to Canada as a small child. As the daughter of Salvation Army Officers, she lived in many places as a young person including different locations in Ontario and Quebec and Charlottetown, PEI. Ministry ran in the family and Cora became a Salvation Army Officer herself. Later, she studied at Emmanuel College in Toronto and was ordained a United Church minister. Cora served as minister at several churches in Ontario and New Brunswick. She also completed a second graduate degree from Emmanuel College with an emphasis on church history. She was a United Church minister for more than 25 years. Cora enjoyed music, crocheting, gardening and reading. She was interested in spirituality, contemplative practices and enjoyed leading bible studies.

Predeceased by her parents, Cora will be missed by her daughter, Julielynn Anderson, her brother, Joe Krommenhoek, her sister, Julie Krommenhoek (Greg Holmes) and her many friends in several provinces.

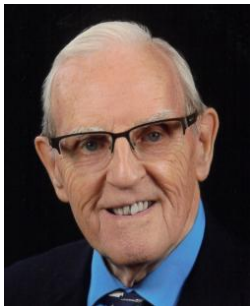
The Reverend Ian K. MacDonald



The Reverend Ian Kendon MacDonald, 90, of Summerside, Prince Edward Island passed away on Dec 8, 2025. Born in Sydney, NS, Ian was the son of John D and Effie (MacLean) MacDonald . He was ordained by the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada. In 40 years of service, he ministered to the Pastoral Charges in St. Ann's, NS, Lorneville-South Bay, NB, St. Lambert, PQ, Arnprior, ON, Kentville, NS, Vernon Bridge, PEI and Gibson Memorial, Fredericton, NB. Remembered with love by his daughters Marilyn MacDonald (Kevin Stewart), Summerside, PEI; Gail Marchand (Doug) Halifax, NS; son Michael MacDonald (Mazie), Markham ON; grandchildren Lauryn and Reid Marchand and Briana MacDonald; and sister Sheila MacDonald, Sydney NS. Also remembered by his nieces and nephews, friends and new family at Andrews of Summerside. The family would like to thank the staff at Andrews of Summerside and Prince County Hospital for all their care and kindness.

A memorial service was held at Trinity United Church, Summerside, PE, on December 13, 2025.

The Reverend Alexander F. "Sandy" MacLean



Reverend Alexander F. "Sandy" MacLean - 87, Truro, passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, surrounded by loving family, at Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Born in Fredericton, Sandy was the son of the late Reverend Frank and Margaret (Fraser) MacLean. He grew up in Fredericton, Sydney and Charlottetown. Sandy graduated from Dalhousie University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. He was ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in the United Church of Canada in 1963. In 1962, Sandy married Lila Allen of Wolfville, and they were privileged to serve in six pastoral charges: Red Bank, New Brunswick; Nashwaaksis, New Brunswick; Woodlawn United, Dartmouth; Gower Street United, St. John's, Newfoundland; Bridgewater United, Bridgewater; Central United, Moncton, New Brunswick. After his retirement, Sandy served in Trenton and South Hamilton, Bermuda. In 2003, First United Church, Truro, became their church home. Sandy is survived by his wife, Lila; son, Greg (Lynne); granddaughter, Justine; brothers, Ian, Hugh (Norma), Alan (Alison); sister-in-law, Patricia (Peter) Longino; many loving nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his beloved son, Stephen; sister, Margery Crooks (Reverend Bob); sister-in-law, Wilma MacLean.

A Celebration of Life Service was on February 9, 2026, at First United Church, Truro, NS.

The Reverend Leslie Robinson



The Reverend Leslie Robinson passed away December 2025. He was born on May 13, 1948. He came from Mirfield, Yorkshire, England. Ordained into the Christian ministry in 1970, Leslie served the Moravian Church in London, England, and Labrador. It was in Makkovik, Labrador that he met his spouse Margrit, from Basel, Switzerland, who served with the Grenfell Medical Mission as a nurse. They had two children, Andrew and Fiona. Rev. Robinson was admitted to The United Church of Canada in 1995 and served in Chipman, New Brunswick and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

The Reverend Doctor J. Henry Tye



John Henry Tye, 95, of Charlottetown, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at Andrews Park West after a life of community service. Born in New Glasgow, NS on June 13, 1930, he was the son of the late Orval and Evelyn (Nichols) Tye. The first person in his family to attend university, Henry earned a BA from Mount Allison University in 1952 and a Bachelor of Divinity (now a Master of Divinity) from Pine Hill Divinity Hall (now the Atlantic School of Theology) in 1954. He later pursued postgraduate studies at the Boston School of Theology.

After ordination as a United Church minister in 1954, Henry served congregations in Cape North, NS and Parrsboro, NS before coming to Park Royal United Church, Parkdale in 1961. At Park Royal he oversaw the expansion of the congregation as well as financing and construction of the church's extension. In the community he tirelessly promoted ecumenicalism in a variety of forms, including sitting on the committee that led to the formation of UPEI. He left Charlottetown in 1967 to assume administrative positions in the United Church's Maritime conference office in Sackville, NB, first as Director of Christian Education and then as Executive Secretary for the Maritime Conference. Later, he also served a term as President of the Maritime conference. In 1989 he returned to Park Royal where he ministered until he retired in 1991. For many years the word "retirement" didn't hold much meaning for Henry, whose work ethic was unmatched. He continued to supply preach for congregations in the Charlottetown area in need of a minister. At the same time, he helped to launch the PEI chapter of Habitat for Humanity and held leadership roles in a wide range of organizations including the Canadian Bible Society, the Upper Room Ministry, and the Charlottetown Christian Council. He was particularly proud of the Tye Foundation, a charitable foundation that he established in memory of his wife Laurene to financially support the work of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and other community organizations. Over the years his contributions were recognized by many awards including an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by the Atlantic School of Theology in 1991. Henry was named Charlottetown's Citizen of the Year in 2003, and his leadership was acknowledged by the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism in 2009. He had tireless energy and wide-ranging interests that included innumerable woodworking and building projects, beekeeping, photography, and family history. He enjoyed time spent at the family cottage that he built in Little Harbour, NS and in later years filled many pleasurable hours reminiscing about his days growing up on MacDonald Street in New Glasgow and the important influence of his grandfather who lived next door. He was a lifelong gardener, collector, and book lover. A great storyteller, Henry loved

to laugh and make others laugh; his good humour will be missed by everyone who knew him. He was a cherished husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his children, Diane (Peter), St. John's, NL; Cathy (Tony), ON; and Mark (Veronica), Mount Uniacke, NS; grandchildren Laurene Davis (Mike), Melissa Thompson (Colin), Miranda Landry, Kayla Tye Flemming (Tyler), Callum Latta, and Emma Tye; great-grandchildren Aria Persaud, Amaya Gordon-Landry, Naomi Davis, and Bentley Thompson; and nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Henry was predeceased by his wife, Laurene (Falconer) in 1989, his brother Alison in 2009, and his sister Margaret (Peg) in 2020.

The funeral was held at Park Royal United Church, Charlottetown, PE, January 24, 2026.

The Reverend Gregory Bruce Williams



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Reverend Gregory Bruce Williams, son of Charles and Milvena Williams (Wheatley). Greg passed away on May 6th, 2026, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Born October 12th, 1966, in Montreal, QC, Greg is predeceased by his brother Stephen Williams, brothers-in-law Ken Verner and Jim Magee, and sisters-in-law Wendy Williams and Karen Williams. Greg graduated in 1985 from Kennebeckasis Valley High School and went on to study at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, but quickly learned that his path in life lay elsewhere and decided to travel the seas on a ship as a crewmate. Upon returning from his life aboard, Greg decided to pursue his passion for electronics by enrolling at NBCC, where he graduated top of his class. In 1994, while working at Cox Radio and TV, Greg met his loving soulmate, Barb, and together they created a loving family. Soon after, in 1997, Greg took a position at the Juniper Lumber IT department working under Burton Shaw. As a result of his new position, Greg decided to relocate his family to Argyle, New Brunswick, where he and Barb welcomed their final addition to their family. After a few years, Juniper Lumber closed, and this helped to push Greg into starting his own computer consulting business based on his love and knowledge of electronics. All the while, Greg became increasingly involved with his local church, Lakeview United Church in Argyle. This is where Greg discovered his calling for ministry. In 2009, at the age of 42, this father and grandfather made the decision to return to university and pursue his Arts degree and then his master's degree in divinity (M. Div) at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he met three life-long friends who were also fellow students. For the next five years, while working as a full-time student minister at the Canterbury Richmond Pastoral Charge, Greg received his master's degree at the age of 47 and relocated his family once again to Canterbury, New Brunswick. Here, he took up the role of chaplain for the Canterbury Fire Department. Continuing his passion for learning, Greg chose to pursue another degree in 2022. This time for a Master's in Arts and Theology (M.A.Th) at the age of 56. Always quick-witted with a seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of life in general, Greg truly was a jack-of-all-trades. Out of all of these, Greg's deepest passion was for his love of trains and model railroading, something bestowed on him by his father, Charles. As an avid and respected member of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) and the Saint John Society of Model Railroaders, Greg ended up serving time as President of the Eastern Canada Division of the NMRA, where he made countless life-long friends who shared his passion and inspired many members with his dedication and

attention to detail. None of this, however, ever overshadowed his deep love of his family, church family, and community. Barb and Greg would be celebrating their 32nd year together as husband and wife this coming July 16th. Greg is survived by his sons, Jeffery Byers (Krystal), Jonathan Williams (Brianna), daughters Alicia Williams Singh (Avneet), Anna Gourley (Devin), grandchildren Benjamin Byers and Alexia Byers, brother Brian Williams, brothers-in-law Albert Verner (Betty), Michael Verner (Marilyn), and Gerry Verner (Anne), sisters-in-law Anne Marie Maloney (Ron), Linda Magee, and Jennifer Duplessis (Darren Crowell). A special thank you to the doctors and palliative care team at the URVH, the Extra Mural nurses - especially Shelley, as well as all the staff of URVH 2 East who took great care of Greg during his time there.

A funeral service was held at the Carleton Funeral Home Chapel, Jacksonville, NB, May 12, 2026.

“Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change”

Draft Agenda

**Annual Meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
The United Church of Canada**

**Via Video Conference
June 5 & 6, 2026**

**Mount Allison University, Convocation Hall
Service of Celebration
June 7, 2026**

Equity Self-Monitoring Questions

1. Am I prepared for this meeting?
2. Am I responding with my bias(es)?
3. Just because we’ve always done it this way, should we continue?
4. Who is missing around our table in this discussion? (Do we need to consult wider?)
5. Am I speaking too much?
6. Whose voices haven’t been heard?
7. Am I using correct pronouns for those I’m referring to?
8. Am I making assumptions based on race, sexual orientation, gender, to name a few?

Friday, June 5, 5:00pm-9:00pm

- | | |
|------|--|
| 5:00 | Arrival to Zoom |
| 5:30 | Call to Order
Acknowledgement of Place
Welcome
Constitution of the Regional Council |
| 5:50 | Opening Worship
Service of Remembrance |
| 6:30 | Equity Support Team |
| 6:35 | Procedural Motions
Consent Motions
Introduction and Greetings
Greetings from our Indigenous Guest |
| 7:10 | Check-In (Virtual Table Groups) |
| 7:30 | Break |
| 7:45 | Introduction of Candidates for Ministry |
| 7:55 | Toward 2035, Part 1 |
| 8:55 | Equity Support Team |
| 9:00 | Closing Prayer |

Saturday, June 6, 8:30am-12:00pm

- 8:30 Arrival to Zoom
- 8:50 Equity Support Team
- 9:00 Opening Worship
- 9:30 Nomination, Election of President-Elect
Introduction of President-Elect
- 9:40 Atlantic School of Theology
- 9:50 President's Remarks
- 10:00 Executive Minister's Remarks
- 10:10 Break
- 10:25 Toward 2035, Part 2
- 11:25 General Council Representative
- 11:55 Equity Support Team
- 12:00 Announcements and Grace
Lunch Break

Saturday, June 6, 12:45pm-4:00pm

- 12:45 Arrival to Zoom
- 1:00 Welcome Back
- 1:10 Equity Support Team
- 1:15 Finance Motions
2025 Audited Statements
2027 Budget
- 1:30 Eco-Justice, Care for Creation
- 1:45 Justice, Mission and Outreach – Beyond the Bean
- 2:00 Affirm Committee
- 2:10 Break
- 2:30 Proposals
- 3:00 Celebrating Milestones
Welcome and Best Wishes
- 3:45 Regional Council Evaluation and Governance
- 4:15 Children, Youth and Young Adult
- 4:25 Justice, Mission and Outreach, Invitation Video
- 4:35 Ecumenical Guest Messages
- 4:45 Equity Support Team
- 4:50 Closing Motions
- 4:55 Courtesies
- 5:00 Closing Worship
- 5:40 Adjournment

Sunday, June 7**Morning**

- 8:00 Celebration of Ministry Rehearsal
- 9:15 Choir Call Time
- 10:00 Celebration of Ministry Service
- 12:00 Closing of Regional Council