

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
April 30, 2026 at 12:00pm via video conference

RC65

ATTENDANCE

Attendance

Anne Cameron, Derek Elsworth, April Hart, Faith March-MacCuish, Donald Morrison, Ann Piper, Carol Smith, Janet Sollows, Mary Taylor, Donna Tourneur.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Welcome

Mary Taylor, President, welcomed Executive members to this special meeting. It was noted that Derek Ellsworth has recused himself from the Review discussion, and will join the meeting for the governance presentation.

Opening Prayer

The President shared a scripture reading from James 1:19 and opened the meeting with prayer.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Quorum

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

Constitution of the Council

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging the Land

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

AGENDA

Agenda

The President noted that the purpose of this meeting is to focus on the Bridgewater United Pastoral Charge review report, and the recommendations presented. The Executive will also discuss the presentation on the governance structure review for the annual meeting.

MOTION: (Anne Cameron/Donna Tourneur)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH REVIEW – File #2025-1204-01

Bridgewater UC Review

All members present from Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive were provided with the Review report, as prepared by Rev. Carol Hancock, Reviewer. Representatives of the Bridgewater United Church governing body will join the meeting today at 12:30pm.

File #2025-1204-01

The President invited the Executive Minister to discuss the process for this meeting. Those joining the meeting are invited to speak to the report's recommendations. It is the role of the Executive to hear their feedback and answer any questions for clarification before reconvening to make decisions. After decision making, a letter presenting any decisions made will be sent to all parties. The Executive Minister noted that the Executive may agree with some, none or all of the recommendations, as well as add to, or change, any recommendations that are presented.

In addition, the Executive Minister reviewed the Manual sections regarding Community of Faith Review as background information for the meeting today. It was noted that the responsibility today is to focus on the governing body's response to the findings and recommendations, to support them in this journey, and to hear the feedback from the representatives before making decisions.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Corresponding Members

The President named those who will be joining the meeting today to speak to the recommendations.

MOTION: (Carol Smith/Janet Sollows)

That Jim Rudderham (Chair), David Walker (Vice-Chair), Edna Matheson (Secretary), and Rev. Kim Curlett (Minister), from Bridgewater United Church governing body; and Carol Hancock, Reviewer, be made corresponding members of the April 30, 2026 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIEDWelcome**WELCOME**

The President welcomed the invited representatives from Bridgewater United Church. Jim Rudderham (Chair), David Walker (Vice-Chair), Edna Matheson (Secretary), and Rev. Kim Curlett (Minister), as representatives of the governing body, joined the meeting to speak to the review recommendations. The members gathered took time to introduce themselves to each other.

Opening Prayer**OPENING PRAYER**

The President offered prayer for the Executive members and to the representatives joining this meeting.

Bridgewater UC
Review**BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH REVIEW – File #2025-1204-01**File #2025-
1204-01

The Bridgewater United Church governing body representatives spoke to the Executive regarding the report, and acknowledged that they agree with the recommendations presented. The governing body are in favour of all the recommended actions to assist the congregation in returning to a healthy, vital state. The governing body understands that the decisions will come from the Regional Council Executive, but offered their feedback and comments.

The representatives stated that many of the recommendations are the kind of support that the congregation needs. The board representatives offered thanks to the Executive for the opportunity to speak to the report and the recommendations, and for the opportunity to discuss ways to move forward. It was noted that it is concerning for all involved to hear that the community of faith is not in a satisfactory state.

After the discussion, the Executive Minister outlined the process for the review. The President, Mary Taylor, thanked the members of the governing body for their attendance, and for sharing their comments.

The Executive Minister offered prayer for those gathered.

(Jim Rudderham, David Walker, Edna Matheson and Rev. Kim Curlett left the meeting)

Break**BREAK**Bridgewater UC
Review**BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH REVIEW – File #2025-1204-01**File #2025-
1204-01

The Executive welcomed Carol Hancock, Reviewer, to the meeting. The Reviewer has offered to be available to answer questions for clarification on the review report, if necessary. The Executive members took time to introduce themselves, and took the opportunity to further discuss the report and findings.

On behalf of the Executive, the President thanked Carol Hancock for her work with the Bridgewater United Church review and for her attendance at this meeting.

(Carol Hancock left the meeting)

The Executive paused for prayer and silent reflection to consider the report and the information presented during this meeting.

Bridgewater UC
Review**BRIDGEWATER UNITED CHURCH REVIEW – File #2025-1204-01**

The President facilitated a discussion about the recommendations from the review.

The Executive expressed concern for the fact that the community of faith is noted to be in an unsatisfactory state.

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Anne Cameron)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council accepts the Review Report of Bridgewater United Church, dated April 7, 2026, as prepared by Carol Hancock.

CARRIED

Having received the recommendations of the review report dated April 7, 2026, as completed by Carol Hancock, and having heard from the representatives of the governing body and discerned the information contained in the report, the Regional Council Executive made decisions, contained in file 2025-1204-01. These decisions will be communicated to those named in the review by the Executive Minister.

BREAK

Break

(April Hart left the meeting)
(Derek Ellsworth joined the meeting)

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE REVIEW

Governance
Structure
Review

The President shared the draft presentation that has been prepared for the annual meeting. The purpose of the presentation is to offer a progress report to update the regional council members on the work undertaken by the Executive with respect to the governance structure review.

Executive members offered feedback on the presentation. The President offered to continue working with the presentation to incorporate the suggestions received. The goal is to have a meaningful presentation that will resonate with the regional council members at the annual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Having no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

BENEDICTION

Benediction

The President closed the meeting with thanks and prayer for the members gathered.

Mary Taylor
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister