

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

March 26, 2026 at 9:30am, via zoom video conference

Attendance

**ATTENDANCE**

Julielynne Anderson, Kathy Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Richard Bowley, Elaine Burrows, Pix Butt, Rachel Campbell, Kevin Dingwell, Heather Donnelly, Tracy Friars, Sheila Gallant, Kate Jones, Sue LeMaistre, Faith March-MacCuish, Micah Spencer, Elizabeth Stevenson.

Regrets

**REGRETS**

Adekunle Adeniyi, Hugh Ellis, Jean Herman.

Welcome

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

Opening Prayer

In the absence of the President, the Past President, Sue LeMaistre, chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. The Past President lit the Christ and Affirm candles and opened the meeting with a Lenten prayer.

Quorum

**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL**

Constitution of the Council

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

Equity Support

**EQUITY SUPPORT**

The Affirm Chair, Pix Butt, introduced the revised Equity Self-Monitoring questions. Executive members were asked to focus on question #8 (eight) for the duration of this meeting, and offer their feedback at the end of the meeting.

Acknowledgement of the Land

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND**

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

Agenda

**AGENDA**

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

**MOTION:** (Richard Bowley/Heather Donnelly)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

Minutes

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** (Tracy Friars/Kathy Bigsby)

That the minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

**CARRIED**

Business Arising Priority Setting Updates

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**Priority Setting Updates**

The Executive Minister provided an update on this work, which is the result of the discussions from the February 23, 2026 meeting. The discussions have been captured in a working document for continued feedback. A revised version will be added to the regional website.

UC Policy Webinars

**United Church Policy Webinars**

The Executive Minister has received some training materials and is currently working on revisions. A date will be considered as soon as the presentation is ready.

**Cemetery Policy**

The Executive Minister noted that the Property Committee is continuing to work on this policy. The policy document is expected to come to the fall meeting.

Cemetery  
Policy

**Communications Group**

The Past President, Executive Minister and President-Elect have just recently hosted a cluster gathering in Saint John, NB. The group have now visited all 5 (five) regions that were scheduled for cluster gatherings. The group reported very positive, supportive gatherings with open communications.

Communications  
Group

**Toward 2035**

The Executive Minister noted that the Toward 2035 initiative has been a topic in each of the cluster gatherings. In addition, the regional ministers have hosted six (6) sessions for ministry personnel and lay leaders. The feedback has been positive, and conversations with respect to the future of the church have begun. The Executive Minister is excited by the work that has started on this initiative in the region. The Executive members provided feedback on the work to date and discussed the next steps for facilitating these conversations.

Toward 2035

(Elizabeth Stevenson joined the meeting)

**New Communities of Faith Growth Group**

Elizabeth Stevenson provided an update on the work of the growth group. The group is currently collecting information regarding church planting, in the hopes of providing a workshop. Elizabeth also updated the members gathered on the French ministries initiative and future learnings that can be gained from the collaborative ministry that has now ended in the Moncton area. The New Communities of Faith Growth Group are considering a map to highlight the new ministry initiatives that are happening throughout the region.

New  
Communities of  
Faith Growth  
Group

(Elizabeth Stevenson left the meeting)

**Behavioural Covenant**

The Executive members met in February to discuss a behavioural covenant for the Executive. The Executive Minister prepared a revised version for circulation, resulting from the discussions. All Executive members are asked to provide feedback and suggestions. This document will be distributed separately for consideration.

Behavioural  
Covenant

**Regional Council Evaluation**

The Executive Minister highlighted the recommendations coming from the Regional Council evaluation. A presentation is being prepared for the Annual Meeting, including the topics: what we have learned in the evaluation; what the key findings are; and what work the Executive has begun on these recommendations.

Regional  
Council  
Evaluation

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Just Peace Working Group - email to request time on the agenda to introduce the Executive to the Apartheid Free Communities program. This presentation will take place under reports.

Correspondence

Just Peace  
Working Group

**REPORTS**

Reports

**PRESIDENT**

President

In the absence of the President, no report was available.

**FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES** – Appendix A

Kevin Dingwell, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

Financial and  
Mission  
Services

Audited  
Financial  
Statements

**Audited Financial Statements**

The chair presented the audited financial statements for 2025. It was noted that the auditor's opinion states that the statements "present fairly the financial position of the regional council". The chair offered that this is the most important statement in relation to audited statements.

The chair highlighted several areas, most notably that net assets at year-end have increased; a positive sign for the region even though some of the funding has decreased.

**MOTION:** (Kevin Dingwell/Jim Blanchard)

That the 2025 Audited Financial Statements be accepted as presented and brought to the Regional Council Annual Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Budget 2027

**Budget 2027**

The Financial and Mission Services chair reviewed the 2025 actual expenditures, and presented the budget for 2027. The chair noted that the budget presented is a deficit budget, however, at the recommendation of the auditors, a conservative estimate is included for investment income, resulting in an overall surplus to the region.

**MOTION:** (Kevin Dingwell/Jim Blanchard)

That the 2027 Budget be accepted as presented and brought to the Regional Council Annual Meeting.

**CARRIED**

United Church  
Women

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN** – Appendix B

Elaine Burrows, representative, presented the report of the United Church Women (UCW), included in the appendix. It was noted that the next UCW meeting will take place in April.

Regional  
Council  
Planning

**REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING** – Appendix C

Richard Bowley, chair, presented the report, included in the appendix. The chair also noted that the speakers have now been confirmed for the 2027 in person meeting.

Tri-Regional  
Staff Support

**TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

Jim Blanchard, representative to the committee, reported on the work of the committee. The committee has not met recently, but the representative noted the recent retirement of Roger Janes. A revised position description has been posted.

Executive  
Minister

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

The Executive Minister offered her report. The Executive Minister highlighted several pieces of work, noting that it has been a particularly busy time with work on reviews in multiple regions, governance reviews, job postings and interviews, Executive meetings, and continued work on the Toward 2035 initiative.

Moncton Area  
Hospital  
Chaplaincy

The Executive Minister updated the members on the vacancy in the Moncton Area Hospital Chaplaincy. This chaplaincy is partially funded through a bequest to the United Church and supplemented by Mission and Service Funding. In the new structure, a policy was developed around regionally recognized and accountable ministries, including the Moncton Area Chaplaincy. The Executive discussed how best to continue this ministry.

**MOTION:** (Jim Blanchard/Kevin Dingwell)

That Regional Council Executive request that the Executive Minister reach out to congregations in the Moncton area for interest in continuing this ministry, under the current terms.

**CARRIED**

(Elaine Burrows left the meeting)  
(Richard Bowley left the meeting)

**BREAK**

Break

**REPORTS** – continued

Reports

**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH** – Appendix D

Justice,  
Mission and  
Outreach

**CORRESPONDING MEMBER**

**MOTION:** (Heather Donnelly/Kevin Dingwell)

Corresponding  
Member

That Audrey Lounder be a corresponding member for the March 26, 2026 meeting of the Executive.

**CARRIED**

**Apartheid Free Pledge**

Apartheid  
Free Pledge

Audrey Lounder was welcomed to the Executive meeting. Audrey is a member of the Just Peace Working Group of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. Audrey shared a PowerPoint presentation, to educate the Executive on the Apartheid-Free Pledge. A definition of what is apartheid and a video on human rights were shared; illustrating how Palestinians are affected by Israel's apartheid.

The presentation concluded with answers to the question, why we would consider taking this pledge; including that this is a faith and moral issue and not a political one. The Just Peace Working Group is asking that the Regional Council sign the pledge and encourage communities of faith in the region to do the same. A webinar for further information is available on April 20 for those interested.

The working group are planning to prepare a proposal for presentation at the annual meeting to request this support.

On behalf of the Executive, the Past President thanked Audrey for her presentation and information.

(Audrey Lounder left the meeting)

The Executive discussed the presentation and the best way forward to bring this information to the members of regional council. It was agreed that the Executive thank the Just Peace Working Group for the presentation, and recommend that it be brought as an education piece to the annual meeting.

**INCORPORATED MINISTRIES** – Appendix E

Incorporated  
Ministries

Sheila Gallant, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

**MOTION:** (Sheila Gallant/Jim Blanchard)

That the by-laws and letters patent for Abbey St. Andrews, Inc. be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**AFFIRM** – Appendix F

Affirm

Pix Butt, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

**FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION** – Appendix G

Faith  
Formation and  
Education

Heather Donnelly, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the Connection youth and young adult event, as well as the upcoming Youth @ Region event, taking place at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, on June 5-7.

Archives and  
Records

**ARCHIVES AND RECORDS**

No report.

Pastoral  
Relations

**PASTORAL RELATIONS** – Appendix H

Kate Jones, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the ongoing work of the committee. Several items were brought forward for consideration by the Executive, including the licensing, reporting and processes for appointing sacraments elders and licensed lay worship leaders. The Executive Minister offered clarification. It was agreed that those names approved by the committee be included in the report from Pastoral Relations.

The committee has also completed work on revisions to the Pastoral Charge Supervision Policy. The Executive discussed the policy changes and asked questions for clarification.

**MOTION:** (Kate Jones/Julielynn Anderson)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive adopt the revised Pastoral Charge Supervision policy and procedures for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and add the revised policy to the regional website.

**CARRIED**

The chair noted that this will be her last meeting of the executive, as she will be stepping down as chair. The Executive thanked Kate Jones for her time and attention to the work of the committee.

Property

**PROPERTY**

The Executive Minister provided an update on the Property Committee, in the absence of a chair. The committee have been functioning well with an acting chair and secretary, but are in need of a chair and membership.

Nominations

**NOMINATIONS** – Appendix I

Tracy Friars, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the need for regular meetings of committees in order to keep members fully engaged.

**MOTION:** (Tracy Friars/Jim Blanchard)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Executive requests that the staff support persons to committees ensure that committees are meeting regularly and report any areas of concern to the Executive Minister.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that many terms will be ending at the rise of the Annual Meeting, including several members currently serving on the Executive. Executive members are encouraged to forward any recommendations for volunteers.

Equity Support

**EQUITY SUPPORT**

Pix Butt, Affirm chair, offered feedback to the Executive around the equity self-monitoring questions, and helped with centering thoughts as members moved through various discussions throughout the meeting.

Next Meeting

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Executive will take place on June 9, 2026 at 9:00am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

Having no further business, the Past President declared that the meeting adjourn.

**BENEDICTION**

Benediction

The Past President, Sue LeMaistre, extinguished the candles, and closed the meeting with prayer. The Past President named those to be remembered in prayer.

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Sue LeMaistre  
Past President

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Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

Appendix A**FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES****Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council  
Financial & Mission Services Committee  
Report to the Executive for 26 March 2026**

The Financial and Mission Services Committee has two business items to bring forward at this meeting:

- a. Consideration of the Audit Report for 2025, and
- b. Consideration of the Budget for 2027.

Since the last report to the Executive in December 2025, in addition to the regular monitoring of the Investment Funds and the quarterly Financial Statements, the Committee was pleased to action the following:

- a. Approved the requests of the Rev. Dr. Shepherd Munikwa (\$1,000) and of the Rev. Limon Daka (\$1,000) for funding from the Ministry Personnel/Lay Continuing Education Fund.
- b. Approved the requests from three (3) individuals for assistance from the Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assistance Fund for the total amount of \$7,000, and a grant \$254 from the Community of Faith Assistance Fund to deal with unexpected financial situations. Due to the sensitive and personal nature of these situations, names are withheld from this report.
- c. Approved the request from Trinity United Church, Summerside for a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Silver Falls Memorial Fund for their community breakfast program for vulnerable and isolated folk.
- d. Approved the requests of Harmony United in support of a Community Wellness Coordinator of \$5,000 from the New Ministries Initiative Fund, and \$10,000 from the Silver Falls Memorial Fund.
- e. Approved the request of Youth at Region (Y@R) for additional funding of \$5,000 for 2026 from the Mission and Service Reserve.
- f. Approved the request of \$500 from the Mission and Service Reserve for the work of the United Church Rural Ministry Network.
- g. Approved the request from our Faith Formation and Education Committee for \$10,000 from the Mission and Service Reserve to help provide transportation to St. Catharines in August for youth and leaders to attend Collective 2026.
- h. Met with representatives from the BNS Financial Accountability and Investment Committee to discuss a request from the Tatamagouche Centre for additional funding to address its 'challenging financial position' as outlined in a letter dated 12 January 2026. The two Regions have asked the Centre for further information and are awaiting a reply.

Especially in anticipation of the consideration at this Executive meeting of the Audit Report and 2027 Budget, the Committee again wishes to express sincere and abundant thanks to Jenn Whittemore and the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish for their enormous support to the Committee and financial concerns of our Region.

Presented on behalf of committee members: the Rev David Allan, Kimberley Douglass, Gordon Furness, Ron Naugler, and Nancy Small (secretary).

*T. Kevin Dingwell  
Chair, Financial and Mission Services  
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters*

**Appendix B**

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

Maritime United Church Women  
March 26, 2026

The Maritime UCW executive met over Zoom on Friday January 23, 2026. The upcoming MUCW annual meeting to be held on April 24-26 at Nashwaaskis United Church, 46 Main Street, Fredericton was discussed. A committee has been meeting since last year planning the event. Guests include Faith March—MacCuish, and the National UCW president Barbara Dejeet. There will be the regular business meeting, worship, workshops, speakers, entertainment and community.

One item brought up at the meeting was how out-of-date the UCW portion of the FSLDW website is. Two months later, nothing has changed – I do not know why, but I intend to find out the reasons for the delay.

I did sit in on a national UCW zoom meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> for UCW members from across the country. Many regional councils do not have a UCW representative on their regional councils, and were wondering about a process for getting included. Since, MUCW already has representation, I did do a write-up on what was expected of me as a MUCW representative on FSLDW regional council - the meetings that needed to be attended - in person or by zoom, and the reports that needed to be written – for both MUCW and FSLDW.

Trinity United Church Women, Summerside, PE have booked October 17 as another PEI UCW gathering event. More details to come.

Elaine Burrows

Appendix C

**REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING**

**Regional Annual Meeting Planning Committee Report**

*March 2026*

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has been meeting regularly as we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting, which will be held online this year from June 5-7, 2026, with the theme being "Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change". Registration for the meeting is not open. Our work has focused on shaping a gathering that is both engaging and meaningful in a virtual format, including intentional opportunities for worship as well as small group engagement. These virtual small group spaces will be used to encourage both reflection on the meeting's theme and opportunities for community building among participants.

In addition, the committee has been planning a series of webinars to take place in advance of the meeting. These sessions will focus on reviewing reports, as well as the budget for this year and financial statements from the previous year. These webinars are meant to equip participants with the information they need to engage more fully in the work of the meeting.

We have also been coordinating with Youth@Region, who will be gathering in person in Sackville, to help integrate their participation into the wider meeting where possible. Particular attention has been given to planning the Sunday morning worship (June 7, in Sackville), which will include youth leadership and participation, as well as the celebration of those entering ministry, and the installation of the new Regional Council President.

The committee has also begun some preliminary work in looking ahead to the 2027 Annual Meeting. Though a theme has not yet been defined, our guest speakers will be Rob Fennell and Russ Daye. More focus will be given to this in the lead up to September and beyond.

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

## Appendix D

### JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

#### **Justice Mission and Outreach Committee Report March 26, 2026**

JMOC met via Zoom on February 24, 2026 with guests Anne Cameron, Chair of Division of Regional Services and Support for BNS and Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults.

At the Fall Gathering a decision was made to invite Catherine Stuart to this meeting to help us understand how we could support the social justice activities of youth in our regions. We also wished to discuss the assignment to JMOC of the concerns raised by the loss of the Dalhousie University chaplaincy and share the work done by JMOC on this issue. Going forward, when Catherine becomes aware of youth social justice initiatives she will ask if groups are interested in collaborating with JMOC and let them know that we have some ability to support and amplify the work they are doing. Shepherd Munikwa will continue to connect with youth initiatives through Catherine.

There was strong endorsement from JMOC for the wider church embracing Youth and Young Adult Ministry as a priority and JMOC supports framing the need to address the lack of campus ministry in the context of "Towards 2035." There was agreement that campus ministry should be returned to Youth and Young Adult ministry, with thanks to JMOC members Natasha Pearen and Jen Broomhead for all their work on this. Going forward, JMOC will develop a proposal to the executives of 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.

JMOC has committed to oversight of Working Groups. Working groups will share their membership lists prior to the annual meetings. If they have terms of reference, they will also submit these.

#### **Working Group updates**

##### Global Justice

Jubilee 2025 is winding up with further efforts to press the federal government on debt forgiveness for developing countries. Kairos Halifax is leading this locally and will be in Ottawa in late April to meet with members of parliament.

Breaking the Silence/Just Us Coffee: JMOC will request time at the regional meetings to share information this project.

##### Indigenous Rights and Relations

JMOC members Natasha Pearson and Mary Kennedy-Fulton are working on a webinar on Land Acknowledgements at the request of BNS.

##### Just Peace in Palestine and Israel

The Just Peace group requested and was granted 15 minutes at each of the upcoming regional executive meetings to present the case for signing the Apartheid-Free Pledge. Just Peace continues work with the Boycott, Divest and Sanction advocacy. Ecumenical accompaniers from the UCC stopped traveling to Palestine due to problems obtaining insurance, but this program will begin again soon.

##### Mental Health Working Group

JMOC is supporting a re-set for this working group and will be inviting interest from around the two regions to assist with redeveloping the working group.

##### Guaranteed Liveable Income

This working group has joined with Basic Income Nova Scotia to support a conference to be held at the Halifax Library on April 17th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Bigsby

Appendix E

**INCORPORATED MINISTRIES**

**Incorporated Ministries Committee**

The Committee has been meeting monthly since the fall of 2025. We are still seeking someone in the St. John, New Brunswick, area to join the Committee. Liaisons have been assigned to specific incorporated ministries and are in touch with the incorporated ministries joining the annual meetings either in person or by zoom depending on the meeting. The Regional Office has received minutes regularly from some but not all, and we are working through the liaison to ensure this is done. Bylaws and Letters Patent for some are still pending.

From our last meeting by motion duly made, seconded and carried, to accept the Abbey St. Andrew Inc. General By-Laws and Letters Patent which are both attached to my report. The Blue notes at the top of the first page of the By-Laws are the corrections that Beverly Oag has made. We also reviewed another revised by-law but the Committee will consider that one at its April meeting.

With the Abbey St. Andrew Inc. General By-Laws and Letters Patent attached, **I would move they be accepted by the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.**

Sheila Gallant  
Chair  
Incorporated Ministries

**Attachments: Abbey St. Andrew Inc. General By-Laws and Letters Patent**

**Appendix F**

**AFFIRM**

Affirm Committee Report for March 26, 2026

Committee Members: Sarah Clermont (PE), Gneid Lackey (NB), Don Scott (PE), Ross Sherwood (NB)

Most of our work in this new year has centered around gathering contact information to communicate with congregations. A letter was sent out on January 30<sup>th</sup> to Ministry Personnel, Board / Council Chairs and Administrators. Our hope was to have our letter come before congregations at their annual meetings.

We have heard back from 4 congregations/ charges who are asking for further contact/ information from us, or who are/or have taken the topic to their Annual Meeting. Pix has been in touch and we will follow up with any help we can offer.

As an Executive member, if you have not heard of our letter to your congregation, maybe ask the Chair if it has come to your governing body.

Without a consultant from Affirm United in our Region, our committee hosted our own "Getting Started" workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We had 15 registrations with several groups logging on from one location. It was a free-flowing conversation about Affirming ministry, some of the hurdles, and some of the dreams.

Our planed gathering for reps from already Affirming groups did not happen in January. We hope to do that in April, as it was much appreciated last year.

This is exciting work to see people take the time to understand the difference between "welcoming" and more deeply affirming people who are in our communities of faith. As Executive members of an Affirming Region, I encourage you all to speak to those in leadership in your communities of faith. What ways are you widening the circles of those who come through your doors?

Again, this year, we hope to have committee members join us for our on-line Regional Meeting to offer Equity Support as we have in the past.

Submitted on behalf of the committee,

Pix Butt

Appendix G**FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION****FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee**

Report to Regional Executive, March 2026

The Faith Formation and Education Committee has resumed holding meetings.

Here are some projects that are currently in the works:

The Connection youth and young adult event is happening again this summer in partnership with the Presbyterians. This happening at Brock University and we are working with BNS Region to provide bus transportation and a chaplain again. We are expecting greater participation this year because it is being held in August and will not conflict so much with camping schedules. As we see everywhere, prices have gone up. The bus is more expensive than last year and registration for the event is \$450. Catherine Stuart is still looking for small group leaders to accompany our attendees.

Youth @ Region will be taking place June 5-7 at Mt. Alison University in Sackville. Kyle Grant and Alicia Walls are the lead organizers and they are looking for facilitators.

The Committee has a workshop shop style presentation about the structure of our Regional Council and how to use the website. The plan is to present it at Cluster Meetings (or any other appropriate gatherings) throughout the Region. Keep us in mind when making your plans.

The Video Project has been revived! With some funding behind it. So, staff and committee chairs, be advised that you may be contacted and asked to introduce yourselves and describe your functions in the Region on camera.

Planning is underway for another LLWL Annual Gathering to take place at the Office in Sackville in the Fall. The last event in November at Tatamagouche went very well and there is great enthusiasm to continue.

I have completed two terms on the Faith Formation and Education Committee, one term as chair. I have recommended that remaining members chose a new chair from among them and that we should all do what we can to assist the Nominating committee in finding new people to fill our vacancies.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Donnelly, Chair  
FSLDW Faith Formation and Education Committee

Appendix H**PASTORAL RELATIONS****FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee  
Report to the Executive – March 24, 2026**

Since our last meeting of the full executive, the Pastoral Relations Committee has held 4 regular meetings: December 9, January 13, February 10, and March 10. In addition, we held three single-agenda-item meetings on February 17, 20, and 24 to address pressing Pastoral Relations concerns that couldn't be adequately addressed by email nor wait for the next regular meeting.

Some of the work we have done in the past four months includes:

- We welcomed Sonja Wright to our committee in February. She is a representative to the Region from Faith Memorial United Church (Florenceville-Bristol), and brings wisdom, church experience, and knowledge of the church landscape in north-western New Brunswick. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for filling this vacancy.
- Approved the following profiles: Faith Memorial United Church (Florenceville-Bristol, NB) to incorporate changes including their recent approval to be a learning site; York-Covehead Pastoral Charge (PEI); Memorial United Church (PEI)
- Approved the following position descriptions: New Banden Pastoral Charge (short-term position); Woodstock Pastoral Charge (Transitional Minister); Keswick Ridge (short-term position)
- Approved the following calls and appointments: Brian Botten (Candidate) to Millstream Pastoral Charge (March 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2027); Rev. Cornelius Petrus (Pierre) Momberg to Portland United Church (effective April 15, 2026, pending approval of work permit); Rev. Russell Daye to Wilmot United Church (Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2027); Rev. Deborah Ambridge-Fisher to Sheffield Pastoral Charge (Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026); Rev. Alice Finnamore to Keswick Ridge Pastoral Charge (March 15, 2026 – June 30, 2026); Rev. John Moses to Trinity Pastoral Charge, PEI (June 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028)
- Approved Sacramental Privileges for: Nathan Zwicker (Candidate for Ministry); Wally Ellis (Retired DLM)
- Oversaw two covenanting services: Rev. Linton Worrall and Quispamsis United Church (January 18, 2026) and Rev. Timothy Wisnicki and Montague Pastoral Charge (February 15, 2026)
- Made the following retroactive disbanding motions: Trinity United Church (Minto) effective April 17, 2024; Derby United Church (Millerton Pastoral Charge) effective February 27, 2020.
- Supporting the following churches as they move through the disbanding process: Visions United Church (Moncton); St. Paul's United Church (McAdam Pastoral Charge); Wesley United Church (Welsford Pastoral Charge)
- Supported two Communities of Faith through challenges in their pastoral relationship

In addition, we have done some work on longer-term projects:

- Working on procedures to approve and support Lay-Led Communities of Faith in our Region. The most recent piece of work included a consultation with interested people on March 23, seeking feedback on the current document.
- Planning a Sacraments Elders training session, scheduled for March 28. (As of our meeting on March 10, no registrations had been received.)
- Reworking the document, "Best Practices: Ending a Pastoral Relationship" – the revised document is now available on the Region's website.
- Hosting a gathering of ministry personnel and LLWLs on March 19 titled "Ministry in Such a Time As This" – conversations were facilitated by retired bishop Karen Oliveto around the nature of church and ministry in a world experiencing significant disruption
- Re-working licensing procedures for LLWLs, including increased clarity on pulpit supply expectations and limitations
- Working on a revised Pastoral Charge Supervision policy – see below.

Some statistics as of March 24, 2026:

- 108 Pastoral Charges in the Region; 153 Preaching Points in the Region
- 72 Pastoral Charges filled by Call or appointment (67%); 36 Pastoral Charges without call or appointment (33%)

**Appendix H** - continued**PASTORAL RELATIONS** - continued

- 18 Pastoral Charges Actively Searching; 20 Pastoral Charges are effectively Lay-Led
- 45 Pastoral Charges have a Pastoral Charge Supervisor (42%); 24 Pastoral Charges are working with a Pastoral Relations Liaison (22%)

From the executive, we would appreciate the following conversation/clarification:

- Sacraments Elders licencing process – Sacraments Elders are not new in the United Church of Canada, but they are new to our Region (and to Maritime Conference that preceded us). Do we, as Pastoral Relations, have the authority to develop processes to implement the national policy, or do these processes need to be approved by the Regional Executive?
- A related question: from The Manual 2026 I.2.4.1(c3) “The Regional Council may grant a license to administer the sacraments to... members of communities of faith without a called or appointed member of the order of ministry or designated lay minister. A member holding a license to administer the sacraments is called a “sacraments elder.” Does Pastoral Relations have the authority to grant these licenses, or does sacraments elder licensing need to be approved by the Executive?
- Pastoral Charge Supervisors – Lloyd worked with our committee to revise the Pastoral Charge Supervision policy (see appendix 1). The two substantive changes are 1) adding a formal annual reporting mechanism, and 2) including an option for Pastoral Charge Supervisors to be remunerated if they are serving for a prolonged period of time (more than 3 months). As this is a policy, and not just procedures, it needs to be approved by the executive.

Thank you to our current committee members: Nancy Nicol (secretary), Neal Palmer, Aaron Billard, Ian Manson, Franklyn James, Greg Davis, and Sonja Wright; and thank you to Lloyd Bruce, our Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations and Community of Faith Support for the support and guidance that he offers us. I have notified the Nominations Committee of the Region as well as the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee that, while I still have one more year left in my second term on this committee, I will need to step down as chair at the time of this year’s annual meeting. I will stay on the committee to support the new chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Jones (Chair, FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee)

Appendix I

**NOMINATIONS**

**Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Executive Meeting  
March 2026  
Nominations Committee Report**

Nominations Committee has met 3 times since January. We are focused on current vacancies as well as preparing for vacancies that will arise with the AGM. We have focused our energies in the following areas of late:

**Pastoral Relations – Replacement for the Chair**

Our current chair will step back in May. We have approached 1 person that has declined and have another in our sites and praying that this will have a positive outcome.

**Faith Formation & Education** – Realizing the chair will step back in May and knowing the committee needs a bit of revamp, we've been looking at a couple of possibilities with one recently agreeing to join this committee and another giving consideration.

**President Elect** – We have reached out to a few folks to gather their interest in this position. We are excited that 1 person has agreed to let their name stand and is in the process of completing the necessary paperwork.

We continue to work on the current vacancies that we have and prioritize them as situations unfold. They are:

**Current Vacancies as of March /26: (10)**

Faith Formation & Education – 1

Incorporated Ministries - 1

Maritime Conf Financial Services Board - 4

Nominations Committee - 1

Property Committee - 1

Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee (2 x 3 Regions) – 1

Wegesegum Camp Board – 1

One issue we bring to your attention is the need for those that are Chairing committees to call regular meetings and keep members fully engaged. To that end, we will be making a motion that the Region Support person ensure that this is happening and address areas of concern.

We continue to prepare for the upcoming AGM and changes in the committees and will be actively reaching out to those finishing 1st and 2nd terms to determine their plans going forward. It is our hope that as Cluster groups continue to gather, people from our committee will be there to encourage those gathered including Regional Reps, to look into their congregations for possible candidates to serve.

I remain thankful to the members of this committee and their effort and energy to do this work.

Respectfully,  
Tracy Friars Chair