

Into the Deep



8th Annual Meeting

Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

Acadia University, Wolfville, NS
May 28 - 31, 2026

Record of Proceedings - Volume 2

BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL Annual Meeting 2025

Regional Council Executive

President.....	Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor
President-Elect	Mr. Donald Morrison
Past President	Rev. Donna Tourneur
Executive Minister.....	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Division of Finance and Administration	Rev. April Hart
Division of Regional Services and Support.....	Mr. Donald Morrison
Division of Ministry Resources.....	Ms. Janet Sollows
Nominations	Rev. Angela MacLean
Staff Committee Liaison.....	Rev. Derek Elsworth
Member at Large.....	Rev. Carol Smith
Member at Large.....	vacant
Member at Large.....	vacant
United Church Women Representative.....	Ms. Ann Piper

SESSIONS OF BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

<u>YEAR/PLACE</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</u>
2019 – Sackville, NB	Rev. Catherine MacDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Re-Call Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2021 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Janet Sollows	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2022 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Jane McDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2023 – Halifax, NS	Dr. Sandra Tomsons	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2024 – Truro, NS	Ms. Shauna MacDonald	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2025 – Virtual Meeting and Sackville, NB	Rev. Donna Tournour	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2026 – Wolfville, NS	Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

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Minutes- Regional Council Executive RC1-RC91

(Pages RC1-RC67 distributed throughout the year, and can be found on the Regional website)

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL

Ministry Personnel

Anderson, Kathleen	Ordained Minister	Active
Anderson, Kathryn	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Anderson, Krista	Ordained Minister	Active
Anthony, J. Peter	Ordained Minister	Active
Antle-Brison, Florence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Aven, Katherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Baker teBogt, Deborah	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Bartlett, I. Ross	Ordained Minister	Active
Benjamin-Cameron, Bethe	Ordained Minister	Active
Biggar, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Blois, Janet	Ordained Minister	Retired
Brewer, Darlene	Ordained Minister	Full Communion DofC
Bristo, Richard	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Brown, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Brown-Hewitt, Robyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie	Ordained Minister	Active
Budgey, Andrea	Ordained Minister	non-UCC
Burke-Cole, Kymberly	Ordained Minister	Active
Burns, Helene	Ordained Minister	Retired
Burrill, Gary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Burse, Jeffro	Ordained Minister	Retired
Caesar, Cal	Candidate	Active
Caines-Corkum, Grace	Ordained Minister	Retired
Caldwell, Blake	Ordained Minister	Retired
Canning, John	Candidate	Active
Campbell, David	Ordained Minister	Active
Carruthers, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chambers, Steven	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chant, Jeffrey	Ordained Minister	Active
Chapman, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chin, Miranda	Ordained Minister	Active
Chisholm, James	Ordained Minister	Active
Chisholm, M. Dale	Ordained Minister	Retired
Chisholm, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
Chon, Jun-Hyok	Ordained Minister	Active
Churchill, Gloria	Ordained Minister	Retired
Clark-Ettinger, W. Martin	Ordained Minister	Active
Clifton, Lydia	Candidate	Active
Cole, Tony	Ordained Minister	Active
Constable, Alex	Ordained Minister	Retired
Corbett, J. Raymond	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cornelius, Marjory	Ordained Minister	Retired
Corrigan, Nancy	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Cox, Alicia	Ordained Minister	Active
Cox, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Active
Cox, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Crabtree, Jessica	Ordained Minister	Active
Crawford, M. Dale	Ordained Minister	Retired
Crocker, E. Lorraine	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Cronhelm, Heather	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Crooks, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Crooks, Howard	Ordained Minister	Active
Crump, Judith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cumming, G. Paul	Ordained Minister	Retired
Curllett, Kimberlea	Ordained Minister	Active
Darby, Betty	Ordained Minister	Retired
Darby, H. Allen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davis, Christina	Ordained Minister	Active
Davis, S. Allison	Ordained Minister	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel - continued

Dean, M. Kathleen	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Demmons, A. George	Ordained Minister	Retired
Den Draak, Hubert	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Den Hollander, John	Ordained Minister	non-UCC
Doucette, Shane	Candidate	Active
Drysdale, William	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Duggan, Emily	Ordained Minister	Active
Duncan, Mary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Edgar, Suzanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Edsall, Holly	Ordained Minister	Retired
Eisener, Jenny	Ordained Minister	Active
Elsworth, Derek	Ordained Minister	Active
Feltmate, Dana	Ordained Minister	Retired
Fennell, Robert	Ordained Minister	Active
Ferrier, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Fillier, Matthew	Ordained Minister	Active
Fillmore, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
Firth, Sheila	Ordained Minister	Active
Fram, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Active
Fraser, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Fraser, Ian	Ordained Minister	Admission
Fraser, Meredith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Fryday, Shaun	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gamble, K. Ruth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gamblin, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
Gibson, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gillis, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Godin, Rosemary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Graham, Samuel	Candidate	Active
Gregan, J. Ivan	Ordained Minister	Retired
Griffin, Joan	Ordained Minister	Active
Griffin, Michael	Candidate	Active
Gunn, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gunn, Richard	Ordained Minister	Active
Handcock, Sean	Ordained Minister	Active
Hankinson, J. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hann, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Harrison, Andrea	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, Ian	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, Mary Jo	Ordained Minister	Active
Harrison, W. Lawrence	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hart, April	Ordained Minister	Active
Hart, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Harty, Rosemarie	Ordained Minister	Active
Hayward, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Active
Hemming, Heather	Ordained Minister	Retired
Henderson, Michael	Ordained Minister	Active
Hennigar-Shuh, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hewitt, David	Diaconal Minister	Active
Hill, Dianne	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Hogan, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hoganson, Anne	Ordained Minister	Active
Ihasz, Louis	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ihasz, Vincent	Ordained Minister	Retired
Irving, Sandra	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Jarvis, W. Wayne	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Jenkins, Foster	Ordained Minister	Retired
Johnston, Beth	Ordained Minister	Active
Joudry, Philip	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kean, Wendy	Ordained Minister	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel - continued

Kelly, Donna Marie	Candidate	Active
Kempton, Dianne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kennedy, Phillip	Ordained Minister	Active
Kennedy, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kerr, Gerald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kierstead, Emily	Diaconal Minister	Retired
King Hare, Margaret (Meggin)	Ordained Minister	Retired
King-Darby, Susan	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Lawrence, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Le Roux, Pieter	Ordained Minister	Active
LeBlanc, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Little, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Active
Llewellyn, Hallett	Ordained Minister	Retired
Llewellyn, Karen	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
Lloy, Marion	Ordained Minister	Retired
Logan, Katherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Lohnes, Sharon	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lovelace, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Lutes, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynch, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynk, L. Allan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAlpine-Gillis, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active
MacAskill, Lorraine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacCuish, Laurie	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacCulloch, Lynda	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Iain	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDonald, R. Marilyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDougall, Gary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mack, A. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacKenzie, Bruce	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLachlan, David	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Angela	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Glenn	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Janice	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Shannon	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLeod, Victor	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacNaughton, Barbara Blois	Ordained Minister	Active
MacNaughton, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacNeill, Karen	Ordained Minister	Active
MacPherson, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacQueen, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacVicar, R. Diane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manchester, R. Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manuel, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
March-MacCuish, Faith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marcotte, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Marmura, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Marple, Meredith	Ordained Minister	Active
Marple, Norman	Ordained Minister	Retired
Martin, Martha	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Martin, Maxwell	Ordained Minister	Active
Matheson, R. Christen	Ordained Minister	Active
McBride, Jennifer	Candidate	Active
McCarthy, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCurdy, Brenda	Ordained Minister	Active
McDonald, Curtis	Ordained Minister	Retired
McEwen, Neil	Ordained Minister	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel – continued

McFadden, L. Joanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
McIntosh, J. Allan	Ordained Minister	Retired
McKay, Brenda	Ordained Minister	Retired
McLellan, Jamie	Candidate	Active
McNamara, Constance	Ordained Minister	Active
Mills, Norma	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mills, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moore, L. Vivian	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moriarty, Mary-Beth	Ordained Minister	Active
Morrison, Sandra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Murray, Donald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Murray, Gordon	Ordained Minister	Retired
Murray, Roland	Ordained Minister	Active
Muvunzi, Lawrence	Ordained Minister	Active
Myles, S. Marlyne	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Nelson, Penny	Ordained Minister	Active
Nesbitt, John	Ordained Minister	Active
Nicholson, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Norton, Ivan	Ordained Minister	Retired
O'Neill, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Active
Orton, Debra	Ordained Minister	Retired
Palmer, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Parsons, A. John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Peddie Peters, Mavis	Ordained Minister	Active
Pelley, Wilfred	Ordained Minister	Retired
Perry, Judith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Phillips, P. Nicholas	Ordained Minister	Active
Pick, Shelley	Ordained Minister	Active
Pilsworth, Douglas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ralph, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reaburn, Sarah	Ordained Minister	Retired
Redden-Smith, Sheila	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reid, Martin	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ritchie, Nancy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ritchie, Patricia	Ordained Minister	Retired
Robson, Tamsin	Candidate	Active
Ross, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rushton, Carolyn	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rutherford, Alice	Ordained Minister	Retired
Sagar, Margaret	Ordained Minister	Retired
Sangster, Annika	Diaconal Minister	Active
Sanson, Margaret	Ordained Minister	Active
Schofield, Rhonda	Ordained Minister	Active
Schurman, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Active
Sellsted, Donald	Ordained Minister	Active
Shatford, Carol	Ordained Minister	Retired
Shaw, Ronald	Candidate	Active
Shaw, Sally	Ordained Minister	Retired
Simms-Mills, H. Jean	Ordained Minister	Retired
Simpson, Lee	Ordained Minister	Retired
Skinner, Dale	Ordained Minister	Active
Skinner, Maryann	Ordained Minister	Active
Smith, Carol	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Glennis	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Peter	Ordained Minister	Active
Smith, Wayne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Snow, Ebbie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stright, Jeanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Tanner-Ihm, Kendall Augustine	Ordained Minister	non-UCC
Tapscott, John	Ordained Minister	Retired

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel – continued

Taylor, Mary	Ordained Minister	Active
Taylor, Valerie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Thompson, Beverly Anne	Candidate	Active
Thompson, Edward	Ordained Minister	Retired
Thomson, Kelly	Ordained Minister	Active
Tingley, Diane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Tourneur, Donna	Ordained Minister	Active
Van Nie, Johannes	Ordained Minister	Retired
Vhembo, Tambudzai	Ordained Minister	Admission
Vhembo, Webster	Ordained Minister	Admission
Vincent, M. J. Boyd	Ordained Minister	Retired
Waddell, Harvey	Ordained Minister	Retired
Webber-Cook, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Webber-Cook, Mary	Ordained Minister	Active
Wentzell, Brian	Ordained Minister	Active
Whyte, Mary Lynne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wilson Wynne, Carolyn	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Winn, Krista	Ordained Minister	Active
Winton, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wiseman, Keith	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Woods, Thomas	Ordained Minister	Active
Woodworth, Alfred	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wray, John	Ordained Minister	Active
Wright, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
Wynne, Joseph	Ordained Minister	Retired
Yates, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued**Elected Lay Members**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>
Austin, Ferne	Whycocomagh/East Lake Ainslie	Austin, Valerie	Pictou
Bergfeldt, Wendy	Sydney: United Heritage	Betts, Patricia	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Boothroyd, Lynn	Halifax: Bethany	Boulger, Sean	Middleton
Brennan, Pat	Halifax: St. John's	Burch, Lorraine	Mahone Bay
Burke, Cheryl	North Sydney	Burton, Thea	Orchard Valley
Cameron, Ross	Trenton	Campbell, Becky	Halifax: Hope
Canning, Pamela	Westville	Carrigan, Pat	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk
Chaisson, Corey	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's	Chivers, Wally	Dartmouth: Port Wallis
Cleave, Pat	Dartmouth: Grace	Cochrane, Norma	Springhill
Collins, Joan	William Black Memorial	Connely, John	Crossroads
Cook, Carolyn	First South	Cruickshank, Jocelyn	Green Hill-Alma/Merigomish
Curtis, Kathy	Three Harbours	Custance, Joyce	Rawdon
Dauphinee, Beverley	Halifax: Hope	Davis, Allan	New Glasgow
Davis, Margaret	Cobequid	Doyle, Judy	Waterview
Doyle, Nancy	Westville	Evans, Larry	Halifax: St. Andrew's
Fraser, Joan	Pictou	Goueffic, Michelle	Bedford
Gould, Alice	Walton	Guitton, Katie Felicia	Halifax: St. John's
Gunn, Sharon	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk	Haliburton, Charles	Rivers of Grace
Hayes, Judy	Sackville: Knox	Henderson, Ken	Truro: St. Andrew's
Hennigar, Sandra	Crossroads	Isenor, Margaret	Sydney River
Jamieson, Gina	Three Harbours	Joudrey, Susan	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's
Kaiser, Glenda	Baddeck: Greenwood	Knapp, Glendon	Halifax: Bethany
Langille, Lynn	Salt Sprgs-Scotsburn-Lyon's Bk	Langley, Anna Marie	Port Hawkesbury
Layton, Bert	Berwick – Trinity	Leonard, Beverley	West Bay
Logan, Jack	Bridgewater	MacArthur, Ann	Windsor
MacAskill, Alice	West Bay	MacDonald, Cheryl	Orchard Valley
MacDonell, Claire	Antigonish	Machin, Whitney	St. Peter's United Church
MacInnis, Janice	Sydney River	MacKay, Donald	Sydney: United Heritage
MacKenzie, May	Antigonish	MacLean, Ben	New Glasgow
MacLean, Dianna	Windsor	MacLeod, Malcolm	Dartmouth: Port Wallis
MacLeod-MacRae, Doreen	Waterview	MacRury, Lorna	West Bay
Martin, Sharon	Eastern Guysborough	Matheson, Audrey	Halifax: Hillside
McDonald, Jane	Orchard Valley	Mills, Stephen	North Sydney
Morrison, Donald	Sydney River	Morse, Ewart	Bridgewater
Munro, Brenda	Halifax: Hillside	Nauss, Joan	Riverport
O'Connell, Trudi	Brookfield	Parsons, Wanalda	Truro: First
Patterson, Helen	Walton	Penney, Cindy	Dartmouth: Grace
Phillips, Roberta	Margaree	Piper, Ann	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's
Pugh, Ken	Hopewell/Eureka/East River	Redden, Corinne	Upper Stewiacke-Springside
Reid, Susan	Bedford	Reid, Ian	St. Luke's
Robertson, Susan	Dartmouth: Port Wallis	Robichaud, Martha	Beacon United Church
Roszel, Anne	Lockeport	Sappington, Christina	Orchard Valley
Scherzinger, Linda	Halifax: St. Andrew's	Skelhorn, Elizabeth	Windsor
Skinner, Tom	Aylesford	Smith, Arthur	Northumberland
Smith, Fay	Truro: Community	Smith, Vera Faye	Brookfield
Sollows, Janet	Yarmouth: Beacon	Steadman, Anna	St. Paul's Mount Uniacke
Stephenson, Patti	Baddeck: Greenwood	Stewart, James	Onslow-Belmont
Taylor, Emma	Westville	Thompson, Keith	Amherst: Trinity: St. Stephen's
Thompson, Shirley	Aylesford	Thompson, Michael	Dartmouth: Port Wallis
Thomson, Mary	Truro: Community	Unruh, Diane	Annapolis/Granville
van Jaarsveldt, Burgert	Bermuda: Hamilton Wesley	van Schaick, Sheila	Boularderie
Watts, Betty Ann	Pugwash	Watts, Jennifer	Margaree
Wellwood, Dan	Musquodoboit Harbour	White, Linda	Caledonia
Williams, Jennifer	Sackville: Knox	Yates, Carl	Waverley

- Retired Designated Lay Ministers (DLM) not in an appointment are counted on the lay membership roll.

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued**Appointed Members**

Cameron, Anne	Executive Member
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Corresponding Members

Ballantyne, Cliff	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Benalcazar, Angelica	General Council Representative
Bigsby, Kathy	Visitor
Charters, Sarah	General Council Staff
Dunfield, Gary	Visitor
Graham, Kathy	Visitor
Hiltz, Valerie	Visitor
Keddy, Sarah	Visitor
Laundry, Leona	Staff
MacCulloch, Ernest	Visitor
MacNeil, Helen	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Morrison, Rosalind	Visitor
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Staff
Pentland, John	Theme Presenter
Pryce, Rick	Ecumenical Guest
Scanlan, Eric	Visitor
Skinner, Susan	Visitor
Stuart, Catherine T.	Staff
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Thompson, Sharron	Visitor
Treksler, Nicole	General Council Staff
Watts, Ray	Visitor
Welcher, Sohani	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
May 28-31, 2026
Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Annual Meeting
May 28-31, 2026
Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

Into the Deep

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council registered online for the May 28-31, 2026 annual meeting, being held at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered two webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting. In person registration began at Acadia University at 2:00pm on Thursday evening, May 28, 2026, for members to pick up registration packages and be assigned table groups.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE – Appendix A

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

Regrets

REGRETS – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received from members of the region.

Gathering

GATHERING

Members were gathered together with music led by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane McDonald, Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, offered the announcements of the region.

Equity Support

EQUITY SUPPORT

Katie Logan and Shannon MacLean from the Affirm Committee were welcome to the council to introduce the equity support questions. The questions are offered to help create an inclusive and equitable meeting space.

Welcome

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order

Mary Taylor, President of Bermuda-Regional Council, welcomed members to the eighth annual meeting of the Regional Council, and called the meeting to order.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Constitution of
the Council

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

Holy Manners

HOLY MANNERS

The President reviewed the Holy Manners, developed as a resource for the conduct of a meeting by the Moderator of the 38th General Council in 2003, and adapted for use by all council and church bodies.

Introductions
and Greetings

INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS

Mary Taylor, President, welcomed all to the meeting. She extended warm welcome to the council members, clergy, lay, visitors, and special guests. Special welcome was extended to General Council representatives, Angelica Benalcazar, Executive Minister for the Shared Services Unit; Nicole Treksler, General Council in-house Legal Counsel; and Sarah Charters, President and Executive Officer of Philanthropy; ecumenical guest, Pastor Rick Pryce, Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Rev. Dr. John Pentland, theme speaker; and Sunshine Paul-Martin, Indigenous guest.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**Acknowledging
the Land**

Mary Taylor, President, acknowledged the land on which we gather. We gather in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We gather 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. We give thanks for this land and recognize that we are all Treaty people.

GREETINGS FROM INDIGENOUS GUEST**Indigenous
Guest**

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, introduced Sunshine Paul-Martin and invited her to bring greetings. Sunshine is Mi'kmaq from Millbrook First Nation, where she lives and teaches. She follows traditional ways of life in her most important roles as a sister, mother, grandmother, auntie, godmother, baby sitter, educator and mentor.

Our Indigenous guest welcomed the members gathered to the land of her ancestors. Sunshine shared knowledge learned from her community and her early life; surrounded by ancestral culture and medicines as a young knowledge keeper. Our Indigenous guest also prepared smudges using sacred medicines; sage, cedar, sweetgrass, and tobacco, to connect us to our Creator, as we come together with open hearts and open minds.

PROCEDURAL MOTION**Procedural
Motion****MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Peter Smith)

That the Roll of Bermuda-Nova Scotia 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.

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."

That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be Acadia University, Wolfville, NS.

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; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.

That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.

That the business table for the meeting be Jane McDonald, Heather Manuel and Jennifer Whitemore.

That the Proposals Team be April Hart and Mary-Beth Moriarity.

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

That 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.

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

That the Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.

That the following shall be Tellers for this session of Regional Council: Fay Smith (Head Teller), Gloria Churchill, Kevin Cox, Joyce Custance, Ruth Gamble, Sandi Irving and Gerry Kerr.

That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers for the meetings be Rhonda Schofield and Jun Chon (Thursday); Tee Vhembo and Tom Woods (Friday); and Daniel MacDonald and Beth Hayward (Saturday).

That the Process Flow and Support for the meeting be Mary-Beth Moriarity.

That the Friend in Council for the meeting be Jane McDonald.

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.

CARRIED

Consent
Motion

CONSENT MOTION

MOTION: (Jane McDonald/Jack Logan)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, May 14&15 and May 30-June 1, 2025 (RC70-RC87), as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - President
 - Executive Minister
 - Division of Finance and Administration
 - Financial Accountability & Investments
 - Incorporated Ministries
 - Property
 - Archives, Records & History
 - Division of Regional Services and Support
 - Communications
 - Faith Formation & Leadership Development
 - Children, Youth & Young Adults
 - Stewardship
 - Justice, Mission & Outreach
 - Annual Meeting Planning
 - Affirm
 - Division of Ministry Resources
 - Pastoral Relations
 - Licensing
 - Faith Stories & Community Covenants
 - Future Directions
 - Retiree Support
 - Nominations Committee
 - INCLUDING THE DIRECTORY OF DIVISIONS AND
STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE 2026-2027 REGIONAL
COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
 - Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee

3. Receives for information the following reports:

- Atlantic School of Theology
- Atlantic School of Theology Senate
- Centre for Christian Studies
- Cluster Animator
- Emmanuel College
- Growth Animator
- Hunter Church Building Fund
- United Church Women
- Office of Vocation
- Regional Minister
- St. Andrew's College
- Ukulele Church
- United Church Rural Ministry Network

CARRIED**OPENING WORSHIP**Opening
Worship

Opening worship was led by Worship Team members; President Mary Taylor, Mary Beth Moriarity, Donna Tourneur, Jane McDonald and Philip Kennedy. The President began the opening worship with the lighting of the Christ and Affirm candles. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *Into the Deep*. The Worship Team offered reflection, based on Luke 5:1-11 (offered in French and English) and communion was shared. Music leadership was offered by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman, leading the selections *Sign Me Up*, *For Everyone Born*, *Bread of Life* and *Ameni*.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCEService of
Remembrance

As part of the opening worship, the Past President, Donna Tourneur, led the in-memoriam video presentation. Regional Council members paused to remember those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this United Church of ours. The Past President offered thoughtful reflection and prayer.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRYIntroduction of
Candidates
for Ministry

Rev. Ivan Gregan, Office of Vocation Interim Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Wayne Jarvis, Donna Kelly and Ron Shaw; being Ordained; and to Jenny Eisener and Webster Vhembo, being admitted as ministers in The United Church of Canada, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. The celebrants were welcomed to the Regional Council. Ivan Gregan introduced candidates for ordered ministry; Shane Doucette, Jamie McLellan, Tamsin Robson, Bev Thompson, Jack Canning, Sam Hraham, Martha Robichaud, Kevin Parks, Shiloh Minor and Cal Caesar; and those in training for Chaplaincy; Melanie Gillett, Jenna McBride and Mike Griffin.

Ann Piper, UCW Representative, presented a gift to Mission and Service, in honour of the celebrants, on behalf of the United Church Women.

ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGYAtlantic
School of
Theology

Heather McCance, President, Atlantic School of Theology (AST), was welcome to the council. The President offered a presentation on the degree, diploma and certificate programs available through AST; highlighting the variety of training programs and courses which are offered both on-line and in person. The President also noted the continuing education programs offered and some of the upcoming lectures this summer and fall. The President thanked the region for the opportunity to be present, and welcomes further conversation and questions.

LICENSING COMMITTEELicensing
Committee

Sandi Irving, from the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Licensing Committee, was welcomed to the Regional Council. Sandi highlighted the work of the committee, and emphasised the support and requirements for licensed lay worship leaders in the region.

Justice,
Mission and
Outreach**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Kathryn Anderson, Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, introduced a video presentation entitled *Beyond the Bean*; telling the story of Breaking the Silence coffee, and welcomed Deborah and Geoff Moore, with thanks for their ground-breaking work. Due to some technical issues, the video will be shown during the next session.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

Closing Prayer**CLOSING PRAYER**

The President, Mary Taylor, extinguished the candles and ended the evening in prayer; offering thanks for those gathered.

Friday, May 29, 2026Gathering with
Music**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Members were gathered together with music led by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

Opening
Worship**OPENING WORSHIP**

The President, Mary Taylor welcome Youth @ Region to the council and opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ and Affirm candles. The worship team led the members gathered in opening worship, and offered prayer, scripture and hymns to help animate the theme *Into the Deep*, based on Luke 5:1-11. Members of Youth@Region presented a play to further reflect on the theme. Members were asked to share their story by writing a moment or word on a paper fish in answer the question "How did it all start with you?" Music leadership was offered by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman, leading the selections *Sign Me Up* and *Like a Healing Stream*.

Audited
Financial
Statements**2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

April Hart, chair of the Division of Finance and Administration, presented the 2025 Audited Statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on May 19, 2026. The chair led the Regional Council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor statement that the financial statements *present fairly... the financial position of the region*. The Chair highlighted some areas to note: such as the increase in assets; indicating the stability of the region's investments, the increase in expenses; due to staff salary adjustments as a result of step increases and cost of living. It was also noted that fewer church properties were sold in 2025, resulting in a decrease in revenue from the sales. In addition, the end of year cash shows a considerable change, as the cash has been converted to investments.

MOTION: (April Hart/Sheila Van Schaick)

That the 2025 audited financial statements for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIED2027 Budget**2027 BUDGET**

April Hart, chair, reviewed the 2025 actual expenditures, and presented the budget for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council for 2027. An information webinar for the 2027 budget took place on May 19, 2026. It was noted that budgeted rental income has increased considerably, due to rental space in the Sackville Office by Mount Allison University. Budgeted increases are noted for annual meeting expenses, the support of Youth@Region programming and the budgets for the Children, Youth and Young Adults and Property Committees.

It was noted that there is a lower budgeted amount available in 2027 for Mission and Service grant applications. Overall, the Division is presenting a deficit budget; which will be reduced by the investment income earned. This deficit will be covered by previous surplus resources, in order to continue to support the work of the region.

MOTION: (April Hart/Michael Thompson)

That the budget for Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council for 2027 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

BREAKING THE SILENCE

Breaking the Silence

A video presentation entitled *Beyond the Bean*; telling the story of Breaking the Silence coffee, was shared with the Regional Council.

BREAK

Break

THEME I

Theme I

The President, Mary Taylor, introduced them speaker John Pentland to the Regional Council. Rev. Dr. Pentland is a spiritual seeker and teacher, public speaker and theologian who is lead minister at Hillhurst United Church, Calgary. Rev. Dr. Pentland is the author of *Fishing Tips*, and consults, leads workshops, and writes on topics of spiritual formation and church growth. The theme speaker began with the first session, entitled Going Deeper, by introducing himself and offering context for the presentation. Rev. Dr. Pentland believes that we have an opportunity as church to speak boldly about who we want to be; to laugh and reflect and wonder. He asks that we be open to the ministry and trust that we are all beloved children of God.

The speaker outlined patterns which repeat over time, and summarized the church pre-covid; in-person, focused, strong; during covid with closed buildings, unknown futures and the beginning of on-line; and post-covid with a time of refocusing and feelings of where are we now? This brought about an identity crisis with both positive and negative feelings, new growth and financial stress. We are now entering into the heart of transformation; wondering what's next. The theme speaker invited members to move into table groups and share what has been positive and negative about their covid experience.

The theme speaker continued the presentation with a discussion about loneliness coming from covid, and the feeling of not being able to communicate what matters most to you. Members were invited back into their table groups to share their responses to a quote shared by Carl Jung. The presenter shared that Jesus was calling people to go deeper; to go to a place of discovery. The theme presenter will be asking us to consider the scripture from Luke and trust that the call to go deeper is with the knowledge that God is with us.

EQUITY SUPPORT

Equity Support

Katie Logan and Shannon MacLean from the Affirm Committee were welcomed back to the council to provide an update on the equity support questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

GRACE

Grace

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister offered grace.

LUNCH

Lunch

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

Members were gathered together with music led by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman.

Theme II**THEME II**

The President welcomed Rev. Dr. John Pentland, theme speaker, back to the Regional Council for the next session of Going Deeper. The theme presenter began by asking members to consider what makes them happy and to discuss what things we do to seek meaning; leisure, connection, commitment to social projects and time to reflect; and what areas we should be doing more of. The presenter noted that *soul work* encourages us to show up for ourselves; to push ourselves towards meaning rather than comfort and into relationships with larger mystery. Members were invited into table groups to consider what disconnects us. The theme speaker theorized that the goal of good religion is to help us reconnect to our true self, soul, our very core; reminding us that we are loved and that everything belongs. It reminds us to accept all parts of ourselves. The theme presenter goes on to suggest that the antidote to loneliness and disconnect is awe; a feeling that we are a part of something much larger than ourselves, and that the bible is a book of connection.

The theme presenter took the Regional Council through the eight wonders of awe: transcendence, big ideas, nature, the life cycle, moral beauty, visual design, collective effervescence and music. Members were invited to consider where they experience awe and speak about ways we connect in faith via religion.

Corresponding Members**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Kim Curlett)

That the Youth@Region be corresponding members to the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 28-31, 2026.

CARRIED

Break**BREAK**General Council Representative**GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

The President, Mary Taylor, introduced General Council representative, Angelica Benalcazar, Executive Minister for the Shared Services Unit. The General Council representative thanked the members gathered for the invitation to be present during this annual meeting. The General Council Representative shared information and updates from the General Council; highlighting the work on the strategic plan, Toward 2035 (an internal report regarding growth and congregational wellbeing for the next 10 (ten) years of the United Church), and the structure review evaluation. The General Council representative also highlighted the upcoming retirement of General Secretary, Michael Blair, and the search process that will be implemented to fill this role.

The President, Mary Taylor thanked the General Council representative for her attendance at the meeting, and presented her with a gift from the Regional Council.

Proposals**PROPOSALS**

Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, introduced the Proposals Team, April Hart and Mary-Beth Moriarity, and outlined the process for the proposals that are coming to this session of the Regional Council meeting and how the council of action might respond to the proposals presented. There are three (3) proposals that are being presented and decided upon today.

Proposal 1**Proposal 1** – Appendix CPledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community

April Hart and Mary-Beth Moriarity, of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community*, received from the Just Peace Working Group of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committees of Bermuda-Nova Scotia and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Councils. This proposal was presented at the May 12, 2026 webinar, and calls upon Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to sign the apartheid-free pledge and join the network of apartheid-free communities; with the goal to end the apartheid system in Israel/Palestine. Linda Scherzinger provided background information on the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION TO AMMEND: (Thea Burton/Beth Johnson)

That, in the background of the proposal presented, the word *regime* be changed to *system*.

DEFEATED**MOTION:** (April Hart/Mary-Beth Moriarity)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council receives *Proposal 1: Pledge to Becoming an Apartheid-Free Community*; and responds by taking those actions named in the Proposal.

CARRIED**Proposal 2 – Appendix D**

April Hart and Mary-Beth Moriarity, of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region*, received from Children, Youth and Young Adults Committee. The proposal was presented at the May 12, 2026 webinar, and calls upon Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to name first-third ministry a priority and address this ministry with clear intention in the strategic plan priorities and objectives of the region. The proposal asks that the region actively name and claim first-third ministry as a priority, and update the pillars of the region. In addition, the proposal asks that the Children Youth and Young Adults committee be empowered to review and update the objectives and actions of the committee and seek out people in the first third to serve in all areas of regional ministry. Paige Fraser and Alicia Cox spoke to the background of the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

Proposal 2

First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region

MOTION: (Mary-Beth Moriarity/April Hart)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council receives *Proposal 2- First Third Ministry – A Priority for Our Region*; and with the lens of strengthening our Regional Council Strategic Plan and the vitality of our ongoing and future ministry with children, youth and young adults (also known as 'First Third Ministry'), asks the Children, Youth and Young Adults Committee to review the Objectives and Actions of our 3 strategic pillars, and bring their recommendations to the Executive for consideration.

DEFEATED**MOTION:** (Alicia Cox/Kim Curlett)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council accepts the original *Proposal 2- First Third Ministry–A Priority for Our Region*, and responds by taking the actions named in the proposal.

CARRIED**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

Announcements**GRACE**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered grace.

Grace**SUPPER****Supper****GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Members were gathered together with music led by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman.

Gathering with Music**TABLE GROUP CHECK-IN****Check-In**

Members of the Regional Council were invited into table group time. Members were asked to spend time getting to know each other by sharing answers to the questions; who are you, where do you live, and to share one item from the meetings that has been impactful or meaningful.

Proposal 3Proposal 3 – Appendix EResurrecting
Campus Ministry
in Bermuda-
Nova Scotia
(BNS) Region

April Hart and Mary-Beth Moriarity, Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Bermuda-Nova Scotia (BNS) Region*, received from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The proposal was presented at the May 12, 2026 webinar, and calls upon the region to consider where does campus chaplaincy ministry most naturally belong so that it can thrive. The proposal recommends that, in Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, the responsibility of campus ministry be moved to Children, Youth and Young Adults. Kathy Bigsby offered background information on the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION: (April Hart/Mary-Beth Moriarity)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council receives *Proposal 3-Resurrecting Campus Ministry in BNS Region*; and responds by moving the responsibility for “Campus Chaplaincy” from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee to the Children, Youth and Young Adults Committee.

CARRIEDCluster
AnimatorCLUSTER ANIMATOR

Robyn Brown-Hewitt, Cluster Animator, was welcomed to the council. A report of the work from the past year is included on page 85 in the reports to the region. Robyn thanked the members for their support and participation in cluster gatherings, and outlined the three-step plan for cluster development: Meet Together, Eat Together, Feet Together.

Eco-Justice
Working GroupECO-JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

The President welcomed Sheila Van Schaick to the council. The Eco-Justice Working Group is a working group within the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, and have joined the meeting today to speak to the 1992 United Church Climate policy document outlining our shared responsibility to the whole earth, as approved by the General Council. The presentation highlighted the 12 (twelve) principles agreed to, and asked the members gathered what we can do to make the climate emergency a priority.

Justice, Mission
and OutreachJUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

The President welcomed Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach to the council. The presentation highlighted the work of the committee, and offered that justice is at the heart of the church; its calling, and outlined the various working groups operating within the committee. The presentation concluded with an invitation to members to attend a grass roots engagement network that works towards a welcoming, vibrant, intercultural and diverse church, and to make an important shift in our thinking, from tradition to mission; decline to growth; charity to justice.

Children, Youth
and Young
AdultsCHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Catherine Stuart, Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, was welcomed to the Regional Council. Catherine provided an overview of her work over the past year, and highlighted some of the growth in programs and youth ministries in the three eastern regions. Highlights from 2025 included Camp Stuff, Youth@Region events, 100th anniversary events, Regenerate, camp accreditations, Ukulele Church and youth clusters. The Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults welcomes invitations to visit churches and events and thanked the members gathered for their ongoing support for these ministries.

Welcome and
Best WishesWELCOME AND BEST WISHES

Sean Boulger, Pastoral Relations chair, was welcomed to the council. Best wishes were extended to the Linton Worrell, who has moved to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. Welcome was extended to new ministers to the region; Andrea Budgley, Heather Cronhelm, Beth Johnston and Tee Vhembo, with thanks for their new ministry to the region.

EQUITY SUPPORT**Equity
Support**

Shannon MacLean from the Affirm Committee was welcomed back to the council to provide an update on the equity support questions. Some examples were offered on ways to be more welcoming and inclusive in the gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Announcements**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

CLOSING PRAYER**Closing Prayer**

Sean Boulger, Pastoral Relations chair, offered prayer to conclude the day of meetings.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**President's
Reception**

Mary Taylor, Regional Council President, hosted a reception where a cake was cut and shared with members gathered, as a thank you from the region for this past year of her presidency.

Saturday, May 30, 2026**GATHERING WITH MUSIC****Gathering with
Music**

Members were gathered together with music led by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Announcements**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

OPENING WORSHIP**Opening
Worship**

The Worship Team led the members gathered in opening worship. Worship began with the lighting of the Christ and Affirm candles. Psalm, scripture and poetry were shared to help animate the theme. Scripture from Luke 15:1-11, the *Creed*, and a poem *Missing the Boat* were shared, and members were encouraged to listen deeply; to feel and pause and ponder. Music leadership was offered by Alex Lank and Leah Hagerman, leading the selections *God of Still Waiting*, *Jesus Saw Them Fishing*, and *Sign Me Up*.

PRESIDENT**President**

(Donna Tourneur assumed the chair)

The President, Mary Tourneur, presented her report, included on pages 3-4 in the Reports to the Region. The President offered thanks to the members for the support and encouragement she received throughout the year, and expressed her gratitude for being invited to be a part of the joys and sorrows of the church. The President shared a photo journey from her year as President.

(Mary Taylor reassumed the chair)

EXECUTIVE MINISTER**Executive
Minister**

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented her report, included on pages 15-19 of the Reports to the Region. The Executive Minister expressed thanks and gratitude for the staff, ministry personnel, elected members to the Region, and to the committee members who serve the region. The Executive Minister highlighted some of the work of the Executive, and the recent work on the governance structure review. The Executive Minister noted that we are now in the "messy middle"; a courageous space of possibilities, where faith deepens and becomes more real. The Executive Minister concluded her remarks with a poem entitled *Because* by Rosemary Trommer.

Theme III**THEME III**

John Pentland, Theme Presenter, was welcomed back to the council. The Theme Presenter began with prayer and a recap of the previous sessions, reminding members that the church should be a space that creates connection; reiterated by the theme scripture from Luke to go deeper. The presenter highlighted the nine tips from his book *Fishing Tips*, which include letting leaders lead, expand your circles, discern your values, pay it forward, connect with culture and worship matters, and offered highlights from the story of his home church; inviting each congregational representative to dream about what their church can be.

Looking forward, the theme presenter confirms that:

1. Leadership matters - A video was shared from *Conscious Leadership*, a transformative management approach centered on deep self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and a commitment to the greater good, which illustrated how leaders "above the line" are open, curious and committed to learning, whereas leaders operating "below the line" are committed to being right, defensive and closed.
2. Values still matter - Members were invited into table groups to discuss what values in their community matter most.
3. Worship matters – Prayers matter and they build connection. The Theme Presenter invited the members gathered to join in prayer and, together, made space for silence and named those to be remembered in prayer, and asked members to name what part of worship matters most to them; music, prayer, scripture, silent spaces, etc.
4. Online matters – broader audience and creates connection
5. Public Theology matters – making connections to what is going on in the world
6. Contemplation matters – connects to the soul through men's club, United Church Women, yoga, bible study, etc
7. Play matters – connect to others; playing with scripture, music, people, etc.
8. Money matters – connect to mission; testimony, share the story. Consider whether your congregation is focused on abundance or scarcity
9. Spirituality matters – connects to the soul. Members were asked to consider what program or activity nurtures their soul.

The Theme Presenter invited the members to go deeper and to answer the call for connection, and concluded his presentation with the song *How Well Did You Live?*

The President, Mary Taylor thanked the Theme Presenter for his attendance at the meeting, and for his connection, insights and fishing tips. The Theme Presenter was presented with a gift from the Regional Council.

Break**BREAK**President-Elect**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Donna Tourneur, Nominations chair, introduced the matter of the election of President-Elect. The chair introduced Rev. Alicia Cox as the President-Elect nominee. The nominee for President-Elect was welcomed by the members gathered.

MOTION: (Donna Tourneur/Gloria Churchill)

That Alicia Cox be acclaimed as President-Elect of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

CARRIED

Alicia Cox, newly named President-Elect, was welcomed to the council and invited to speak to the members gathered.

Condolences**CONDOLENCES**

Rev. Jun-Hyok Chon shared with the region that, after a serious fall, the Rev. Jim Shaffner passed away last night. Rev. Jun was with the family, and was able to offer prayer and condolences from the region.

(Donna Tourneur assumed the chair)

REGIONAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE EVALUATION**Regional
Council
Structure
Evaluation**

The President, Mary Taylor, offered a progress report on the work of the Executive on the Regional Council Structure Evaluation. The President highlighted the results coming from the evaluation report, as prepared Jenny Stephens, highlighting that there are currently inconsistencies in accountability and clarity, and that it is difficult to navigate and understand the committee and division structure. In addition, it was felt that resources are stretched and that there is a strong desire for connection. The evaluation also indicated that there are some things that are working well; the region is fulfilling its mandate and our leaders are strong and adaptable. In summary, the evaluation suggests that the structure needs to be simplified, connections need to be strengthened, we need to be supportive of leadership and name priorities.

The Executive has worked with a consultant to help navigate the recommendations and suggest a way forward. The President highlighted the options of Layered, Consolidated and Flattened structures. What became clear to the Executive is that further discernment is needed to consider connection, capacity and strengths. The Executive feels that the Layered structure continues to offer the best options for the work of the region, but that this structure needs to be strengthened; clarifying the roles of the Executive and committees, aligning work, placing accountability and strengthening connections which truly support the life and ministry of this region.

The President offered that the Executive will continue the work on this call, and bring a proposal to the next annual meeting. Members were invited into table groups to share their feelings about the structure and where we are called to go next. These notes will be shared with the Executive as they continue this work.

(Mary Taylor reassumed the chair)

ECUMENICAL GUEST**Ecumenical
Guest**

Donna Tourneur, Past President, introduced our ecumenical guest, Pastor Rick Pryce, who brought greetings on behalf of the bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Our ecumenical guest expressed gratitude to the Regional Council for being so welcoming. Pastor Pryce offered appreciation for the willingness of the region to make amends for mistakes of the past and embrace the difficult conversations. He expressed gratitude for sharing our stories and welcoming him to the meetings.

The President thanked Pastor Pryce for his attendance at these meetings and for his remarks.

EQUITY SUPPORT**Equity
Support**

Katie Logan and Shannon MacLean from the Affirm Committee were welcomed back to the council to provide feedback to the region on the work to learn and intentionally practice equity in our gatherings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Announcements**

Jane McDonald, Annual Meeting Planning Chair, offered the announcements of the region.

GRACE AND LUNCH**Grace and
Lunch****WORKSHOPS**

Workshops were offered to members in two sessions on Saturday afternoon; at 1:30pm and at 3:30pm. The workshops offered were: Toward 2035, led by David Hewitt, Regional Minister, and Going Deeper with Theme, led by John Pentland, Theme Presenter.

BREAK**Break****CELEBRATING MILESTONES****Celebrating
Milestones**

A banquet celebrating the retirees and jubilarians, hosted by Donna Tourneur, Past President, was held at 5:30pm on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

The Past President welcomed our special guests, and offered grace. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events.

Retirees

Retirees

The Reverend Dr. I. Ross Bartlett
The Reverend Alex Constable
The Reverend Phillip Kennedy
The Reverend Heather D. Wright
The Reverend Mary Lynne Whyte

Jubilarians

Jubilarians

The Reverend Jeffro Bursey	50 years
The Reverend Donald MacPherson	50 years
The Reverend R. Diane MacVicar	60 years
The Reverend Dr. Norman Marple	60 years
The Reverend Neil F. MacDonald	65 years
The Reverend Donald F. Murray	70 years
The Reverend Edward P. Thompson	75 years

Staff Anniversaries

Staff Anniversaries

There was special acknowledgement of staff celebrating significant anniversaries with The United Church of Canada. This year, Sarah Wallace, Archivist, celebrates 15 years. Regional Minister, David Hewitt was also acknowledged on the occasion of his 15 years with the regional office staff and his 40th Anniversary of commissioning.

Youth Worship

YOUTH WORSHIP

The Youth led the Regional Council members in worship, offering music and prayer to help animate the theme *Church 101*; learning about church and faith in the 101st year of the United Church. The youth offered prayer, reflection, and an enactment of the gameshow Family Feud; leaving members with the message to create space for learning and a willingness to grow. Music ministry was offered by the youth at region band, including the hymns *Jesus Saw Them Fishing*, *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*, *Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary*, and *My Lighthouse*. The service closed with prayer and a benediction.

Closing Motion

CLOSING MOTION

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Jane McDonald)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council designates to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2026; and that the eighth annual meeting close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 31, 2026; and that the ninth annual meeting be held on May 27-30, 2027, at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.

CARRIED

Courtesies

COURTESIES

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, Jane McDonald, offered thanks to all who participated, attended, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to our Indigenous guest, Acadia University, our ecumenical guest, visitors, invited guests, the worship team, music leaders, proposals team, the tech support team, Regional Council staff, pastoral care providers, business table, tellers, child care providers and members who attended. A special thanks was offered to the theme presenter, General Council Representative, and to the President for chairing the meeting and for her year of presidency.

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Celebration of Ministries

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Acadia University, on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 10:00am.

The service was also live streamed so that all members who were unable to attend in person were able to witness this important milestone event. Rev. Mary Taylor, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council President led the service and was the preacher for the theme Into the Deep.

Donna Kelly, Ron Shaw and Wayne Jarvis were ordained as ministers in The United Church of Canada, and Rev. Jenny Eisener and Rev. Webster Vhembo were admitted as ordained ministers to The United Church of Canada. Donald Morrison was installed as the President of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

Mary Taylor
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A**ATTENDANCE**

Anderson, Kathryn J.	Anderson, Krista
Austin, Ferne	Austin, Valerie
Aven, Katherine	Bachem-Jennings, Elisabeth
Bartlett, I. Ross	Blois MacNaughton, Barbara
Boothroyd, Lynn	Boulger, Sean
Brennan-Alpert, Patricia	Brewer, Darlene
Brown, Wendall	Brown-Hewitt, Robyn L.
Buchanan-Rutherford, Natalie F.	Budgey, Andrea
Burch, H. Lorraine	Burke, Cheryl
Burrows, Lorne	Burton, Thea
Cameron, K. Anne	Campbell, Becky
Canning, Pamela	Canning, Jack
Carrigan, Pat	Chisholm, Susan
Chivers, Walter (Wally)	Chon, Jun-Hyok
Churchill, Gloria E.	Clark-Ettinger, William Martin
Clifton, Angela	Cochrane, Norma
Collins, Joan	Cook, Carolyn
Cox, Alicia	Cox, Kevin
Crabtree, Jessie	Cronhelm, Heather
Crooks, Catherine J.	Curllett, Kim
Curtis, Kathy	Custance, Joyce
Dauphinee, Beverley	Davis, Margaret
Doucette, Shane	Doyle, Judy
Doyle, Nancy	Duggan, Emily M.
Eisener, Jenny	Elsworth, Derek G.
Evans, Larry	Ferrier, Heather
Fram, Stephen D.	Fraser, Heather G.
Fraser, Joan	Gamble, K. Ruth
Gamblin, Susan	Gould, Alice
Graham, Samuel	Gregan, J. Ivan
Guitton, Katie-Felicia	Gunn, Sharon
Harrison, Mary Jolynn	Hart, April
Hartmann, Nic	Hayes, Judy
Hayward, Beth	Henderson, Ken
Hewitt, David W.	Hogan, Elizabeth A.
Hoganson, Anne	Irving, Sandra 'Sandi'
Isenor, Margaret	Jarvis, W. Wayne
Johnston, Beth W.	Joudrey, Susan
Kaiser, Glenda	Kelly, Donna
Kennedy, Phillip	Kerr, Gerald
King Hare, Margaret (Meggin) C.	Langille, Lynn
Langley, Anna	Layton, Albert
Logan, Jack	Logan, Katie
Lynch, Karen A.	MacArthur, Ann
MacCulloch, Lynda	MacDonald, Cheryl
MacDonald, Daniel	Machin, Whitney
MacInnis, Janice	MacKenzie, May
MacLean, Angela	MacLean, Ben
MacLean, Diana	MacLean, Shannon L.
MacLeod, Malcolm (Mac)	MacNaughton, Jim
MacNeill, Karen L.	Manuel, Heather D.
March-MacCuish, Faith	McCurdy, Brenda
McDonald, Jane	McEwen, Neil A.
McLellan, Jamie	McNamara, Constance A.
Moriarity, Mary-Beth	Morrison, Donald
Morse, Ewart	Mugford, Michael
Nauss, Joan	Nolet, Joanne
O'Connell, Trudi	Parsons, A. John
Parsons, Wanalda	Penney, Cindy
Piper, Ann	Pugh, Ken

Appendix A – continued**ATTENDANCE** - continued

Reid, Sue	Robertson, Susan
Robichaud, Martha	Sagar, Margaret E.
Sangster, Annika	Sappington, Christina
Scherzinger, Linda	Schofield, Rhonda
Sellsted, Donald	Shaw, Ron
Skelhorn, Elizabeth	Skinner, Tom
Slivocka, Marie	Smith, Carol Anne
Smith, Fay	Smith, Peter A.
Smith, Vera Faye	Sollows, Janet
Stephenson, Patricia	Stewart, James
Tanner-Ihm, Kendall Augustine	Taylor, Mary E.
Taylor, Valerie	Thompson, Bev
Thompson, Keith	Thompson, Michael
Thompson, Shirley	Tourneur, Donna E.
Unruh, Diane	van Jaarsveldt, Burgert
Van Schaick, Sheila	Vhembo, Tambudzai (Tee)
Vhembo, Webster	Watts, Betty Ann
Watts, Jennifer	Wellwood, Dan
White, Linda	Wiseman, Keith
Woods, Thomas R.	

Other

Ballantyne, Cliff	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Benalcazar, Angelica	General Council Representative
Bigsby, Kathy	Visitor
Charters, Sarah	General Council Staff
Dunfield, Gary	Visitor
Graham, Kathy	Visitor
Hiltz, Valerie	Visitor
Keddy, Sarah	Visitor
Laundry, Leona	Staff
MacCulloch, Ernest	Visitor
MacNeil, Helen	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Morrison, Rosalind	Visitor
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Staff
Pentland, John	Theme Presenter
Pryce, Rick	Ecumenical Guest
Scanlan, Eric	Visitor
Skinner, Susan	Visitor
Stuart, Catherine T.	Staff
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Thompson, Sharron	Visitor
Treksler, Nicole	General Council Staff
Watts, Ray	Visitor
Welcher, Sohani	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff

Appendix B

REGRETS

Anderson, Kathleen
Bergfeldt, Wendy
Crocker, Lori
Davis, Allan
Fennell, Rob
Firth, Sheila
Griffin, Joan
Handcock, Sean
Hann, David
Henderson, Michael
Lloy, Marion
MacAlpine-Gillis, Susan
MacDonald, Catherine
MacDonell, Claire
MacRury, Lorna
Martin, Martha
Mills, Norma
Mills, Stephen
Moores, L. Vivian
Phillips, Nick
Ross, Karen
Roszel, Anne
Rutherford, Alice
Shatford, Carol Joy
Shaw, Sally
Simpson, Lee
Skidmore, Terry
Skinner, Dale
Smith, Arthur
Steadman, Anna
Webber-Cook, Jim
Whyte, Mary Lynne
Yates, Linda

Appendix C

PROPOSAL 1 – Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community

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

Appendix C

PROPOSAL 1 – continued

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?

Appendix C

PROPOSAL 1 – continued

The Region might:

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, after engaging in further learning about Israel's apartheid system towards the Palestinian people, 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;
4. **sign** the Apartheid-Free Pledge as a Region, after further learning about Israel's apartheid system towards the Palestinian people, to join other faith-based communities in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism and military occupation; and
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? Linda Scherzinger

Appendix D

PROPOSAL 2 – First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region

PROPOSAL 2

Proposal: First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region

Origin: Children, Youth and Young Adults 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 Bermuda-Nova Scotia has consistently offered in the past; most notably a full-time staff person devoted to a shared youth ministry with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters 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 strategic pillars: 1. Bold Discipleship 2. Clear Mission and 3. Daring Leadership, 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 Bermuda-Nova Scotia with its purpose of Bold Discipleship, Clear Mission, and Daring Leadership.

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

Appendix D

PROPOSAL 2 – continued

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 pillars so that actions specific to First Third Ministry appear in each pillar - a promise of mutuality in making this vision a reality.

2). Empower the Children, Youth and Young Adult committee to review and update the Objectives and Actions, following the pattern named in the pillars—and bring them to the executive for full consideration and implementation.

3). The Nominations Committee, with help from CYAYA 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?

Paige Fraser CYaYa Chair

Alicia Cox, CYaYa member

James O'Connell, CYAYA member

Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister to Children, Youth & Young Adults

Appendix E

PROPOSAL 3 – Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Bermuda-Nova Scotia (BNS) Region

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 "Towards 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

Appendix E

PROPOSAL 3 – continued

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)

