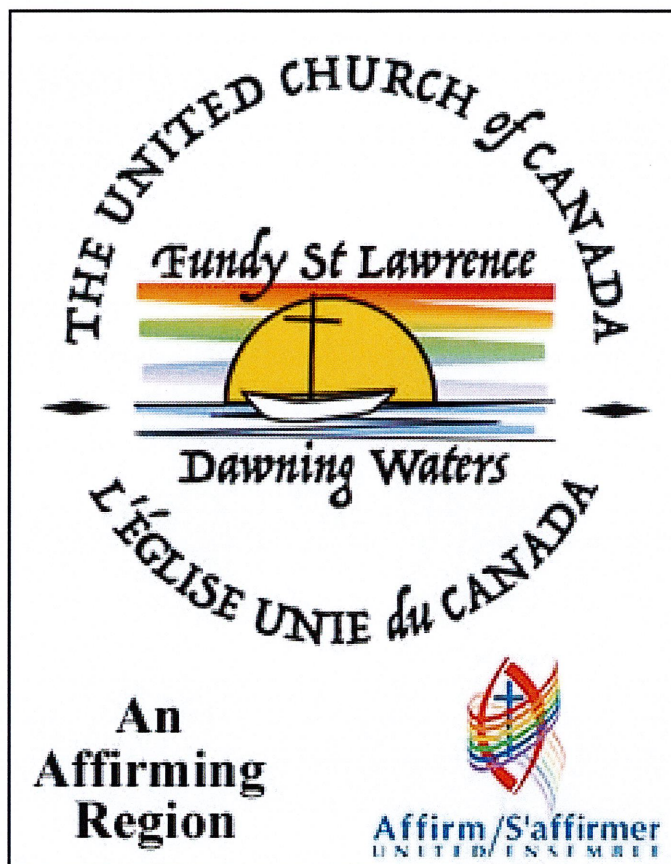


Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change



8th Annual Meeting

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

June 5-7, 2026

Record of Proceedings - Volume 2

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL Annual Meeting 2026

Regional Council Executive

President.....	Mr. Hugh G. Ellis
Past President	Ms. Susan A. LeMaistre
President Elect.....	Rev. Rachel Campbell
Executive Minister.....	Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Financial and Mission Services.....	Rev. T. Kevin Dingwell
Nominations.....	Ms. Tracy Friars
Regional Planning Committee	Rev. Richard Bowley
Property	vacant
Pastoral Relations.....	Rev. Kate Jones
Faith Formation and Education.....	Ms. Heather Donnelly
Justice, Mission and Outreach.....	Dr. Kathryn Bigsby
Archives and Records.....	Ms. Julielynn Anderson
Incorporated Ministries.....	Ms. Sheila Gallant
Affirm Committee	Rev. Pix Butt
Staff Committee Liaison.....	Mr. Jim Blanchard
United Church Women Representative.....	Ms. Elaine Burrows
Member at Large.....	Rev. Adekunle Adeniyi
Member at Large.....	Rev. Jean Herman
Member at Large.....	Micah Spencer

SESSIONS OF FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

<u>YEAR/PLACE</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE MINISTER</u>
2019 – Sackville, NB	Ms. Heather Donnelly (Chair)	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2020 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Audrey Lounder	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2021 – Virtual Meeting	Rev. Audrey Lounder	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2022 – Virtual Meeting	Ms. Sheila Gallant	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2023 – Charlottetown, PE	Rev. James D. Kennedy	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2024 – Charlottetown, PE	Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Stevenson	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2025 – Virtual Meeting and Sackville, NB	Ms. Susan A. LeMaistre	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish
2026 – Virtual Meeting and Sackville, NB	Mr. Hugh G. Ellis	Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish

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REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL

Ministry Personnel

Adams, Keith	Ordained Minister	Retired
Adeniyi, Amos	Ordained Minister	Retired
Afolabi, Samuel	Ordained Minister	Admission
Aikman, Jane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Aitken, Debbie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Allan, David	Ordained Minister	Active
Ambridge Fisher, Deborah	Ordained Minister	Active
Anningson, Alison	Ordained Minister	Active
Armstrong, Michelle	Ordained Minister	Active
Atwood, David	Ordained Minister	Active
Baker, Debra	Ordained Minister	Active
Barr, Joanne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Beairsto, Ellen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Berube, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Billard, Aaron	Ordained Minister	Active
Bird-Daley, Doreen	Ordained Minister	Retired
Blaquiere, Gerald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Botten, Brian	Candidate	Active
Boutilier, Chesley	Ordained Minister	Retired
Bowley, Richard	Ordained Minister	Active
Brehaut, Beth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Brewer, J. David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Broomhead, Jen	Ordained Minister	Active
Brown, Audrey	Ordained Minister	Active
Brown, Jennifer	Ordained Minister	Active
Brown, Stephen	Ordained Minister	Active
Bruce, Lloyd	Ordained Minister	Active
Budge, Sarah (Sally)	Ordained Minister	Retired
Burke, Kelly	Ordained Minister	Active
Butler-Jones, Susan	Ordained Minister	Retired
Butt, Pix	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cairns, Barbara	Ordained Minister	Active
Campbell, G. Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Campbell, Malcolm	Ordained Minister	Retired
Campbell, Rachel	Ordained Minister	Active
Clark, Gary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cleveland, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cleveland-Thompson, Trent	Ordained Minister	Retired
Clowater, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Retired
Compton, Daniel	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cory, Angela	Ordained Minister	Retired
Cosman, Douglas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Curtis, Brian	Ordained Minister	Active
Curtis, Franklin	Ordained Minister	Retired
Daka, Limon	Ordained Minister	Active
Daley, Beverly	Ordained Minister	Retired
Dalziel Singer, Anne	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davies, Arthur	Ordained Minister	Retired
Davis, Gregory	Ordained Minister	Retired
Dawson, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
DeLong, Brian	Ordained Minister	Retired
Dickson, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Dingwell, T. Kevin	Ordained Minister	Retired
Doull, Jane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Drake, Boyd	Ordained Minister	Retired
Earle-Marshall, Sharon	Ordained Minister	Active
Estabrooks, Susan	Ordained Minister	Retired
Farquhar, Hugh	Ordained Minister	Retired
Finnamore, Alice	Ordained Minister	Retired
Fisher, Eugene	Ordained Minister	Retired
Flemming, Ellen	Diaconal Minister	Retired

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel - continued

Fuller, Linda	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gagnon, David	Candidate	Active
Galbraith, Vincent	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Gaskin, Rose-Hannah	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gaw, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gilbert-Morwood, E. Ann	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gonese, Wilson	Ordained Minister	Active
Goodfellow, Michael	Ordained Minister	Active
Gough, William	Ordained Minister	Retired
Gourson, Tara Ann	Ordained Minister	Active
Gow, Lynda	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Greenwood, Lisa	Ordained Minister	Active
Hague, Christina	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hamilton, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hamilton Dowell, Pamela	Ordained Minister	Active
Hatfield, Mark	Ordained Minister	Retired
Herman, Jean	Ordained Minister	Active
Higgins, Kelly	Ordained Minister	Active
Hopkirk, V. Gail	Ordained Minister	Retired
Howatt, Carol	Ordained Minister	Retired
Hudson-Lewis, Kelly	Ordained Minister	Active
Hummel, H. Elisabeth	Ordained Minister	Active
Hunter, Laura	Diaconal Minister	Active
Hutchinson, Roland	Ordained Minister	Retired
Inglis, Kim	Candidate	Active
James, Franklyn	Ordained Minister	Active
Jay, Leslie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Jensen, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Retired
Ji, Eunkyū	Ordained Minister	Active
Johnson, Christine	Ordained Minister	Active
Johnson, Jane	Ordained Minister	Retired
Johnson, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Johnston, Leslie	Ordained Minister	Retired
Jones, Kate	Ordained Minister	Active
Jones, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Keller, Claudia	Ordained Minister	Retired
Kennedy, James	Ordained Minister	Active
King, Harold	Ordained Minister	Active
Kraglund, Raymond	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lackey, Gneid	Ordained Minister	Active
Lazaro, Isagani	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lewis, Blair	Ordained Minister	Retired
Locke, Ellen	Candidate	Active
Lockhart, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Louder, Audrey	Ordained Minister	Retired
Luker, A. David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lynk, Eric	Ordained Minister	Retired
Lyons, Keith	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacConnell, Allan	Designated Lay Minister	Retired
MacDonald, Brian	Ordained Minister	Active
MacDonald, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacDougall, Heather	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacEachern, Douglas	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacKenzie, Kevin	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacKinnon, Darin	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLean, Hugh	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLean, Ian	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacLeod, Christine	Ordained Minister	Active
MacLeod, William	Ordained Minister	Retired

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel - continued

MacLeod-Wilkie, Karen	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacPherson, Keith	Ordained Minister	Retired
MacPherson, Mary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Madimbu, Erasmus	Ordained Minister	Active
Maguire MacKnight, Charlene	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mallory, Sheila	Ordained Minister	Retired
Manson, Ian	Ordained Minister	Retired
March-MacCuish, Faith	Ordained Minister	Active
Matheson, Melaney	Ordained Minister	Active
McAllister, Susan	Ordained Minister	Retired
McCarthy, Robert	Ordained Minister	Active
McClure, Heather	Ordained Minister	Active
McDowell, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
McFarlane, Murray	Ordained Minister	Retired
Momberg, Cornelius Petrus	Ordained Minister	Active
Morris, Hazel	Ordained Minister	Retired
Moses, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Mullin, Carol	Ordained Minister	Retired
Millin, Tori	Ordained Minister	Active
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Ordained Minister	Active
Noble, Joy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Palmer, D. Neal	Ordained Minister	Retired
Palmer-Harding, Elaine	Ordained Minister	Retired
Patrick, Louise	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Pearen, Natasha	Ordained Minister	Active
Postlethwaite, James	Ordained Minister	Retired
Price, Nancy	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reid, Margaret	Ordained Minister	Retired
Reidpath, Pamela	Ordained Minister	Retired
Richardson, Andrew	Ordained Minister	Active
Robinson, Thomas	Ordained Minister	Retired
Rogers MacEwen, G. Sandrabelle	Ordained Minister	Retired
Roy, John	Ordained Minister	Retired
Schooley, S. Alan	Ordained Minister	Retired
Schulze, Christine	Ordained Minister	Active
Sharpe, Beverley	Designated Lay Minister	Active
Shaw, Jacob	Ordained Minister	Active
Sheffield-Bowles, Lori	Ordained Minister	Active
Short, Peter	Ordained Minister	Retired
Slipp, Merrill	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Retired
Smith, Michele	Ordained Minister	Active
Spencer, Jack	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stevens, Robert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stevenson, Elizabeth	Ordained Minister	Retired
Stevenson-Seller, Carol	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Stuart, Catherine	Ordained Minister	Active
Stuart, Scott	Ordained Minister	Active
Szemok, Alice	Ordained Minister	Active
Szemok, Geza	Ordained Minister	Active
Tingley, Mary	Ordained Minister	Retired
Todd, Gilbert	Ordained Minister	Retired
Travers, Janet	Ordained Minister	Active
Tusz-King, Eric	Diaconal Minister	Retired
Vardy, Myles	Ordained Minister	Active
Vincent, Ronald	Ordained Minister	Retired
Walker, Christopher	Ordained Minister	Active
Walls, Alicia	Diaconal Minister	Active
Wanamaker, Mary	Ordained Minister	Retired
White, Susan	Ordained Minister	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Ministry Personnel – continued

Wiseman, Ross	Ordained Minister	Retired
Wisnicki, Timothy	Ordained Minister	Active
Worrell, Linton	Ordained Minister	Active
Wright, David	Ordained Minister	Retired
Youland, L. Charlotte	Ordained Minister	Retired
Zwicker, Nathan	Candidate	Active

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Elected Lay Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pastoral Charge</u>
Affleck, Shirley	Mt. Stewart-Morell-St. Peter's Bay	Allen Burns, Velvet	Baie Verte/Pt Elgin/Tidnish Br
Ashley, Bette	Two Rivers	Ball, Nelson	Sussex: St. Paul's
Barlow, Marie	Bideford	Biggsby, Kathy	Charlottetown: Spring Park
Blanchard, Jim	Kensington	Bolo, Corina	Alberton-Elmsdale
Boulter, Richard	South Shore	Brown, Darla	Bedeque North
Buck de Jesus, Kimberley	Moncton: St. John's	Burleigh, Paul	Bideford
Burnett, Tony	Fredericton: Wilmot	Burrows, Elaine	Summerside
Cameron, Heather	Charlottetown: Trinity	Campbell, Bev	Margate
Campbell, Deborah	Hampton	Carter-Jay, Gail	Winsloe
Chauvin, Donna	McKee's Mills-Rexton	Christie, Robert	Fredericton: Forest Hill
Cleave, Shirley	Fredericton: Wilmot	Clermont, Sarah	O'Leary-West Cape
Coull, Dwight	New Richmond	Crossman, Brion	Quispamsis
Crowley, Robert	Quispamsis	Daye, Jamie	Campbellton
Del Motte, Jennie	Sackville	DeLong, Deborah	Kingsley-Birdton
Dempsey, Karen	St. James	Dickieson, Wayne	Cavendish-Breadalbane
Dixon, Darlene	Jolicure	Donnelly, Heather	Harvey Station
Douglass, Kimberley	Stanley	Doyle, Jamie	Rothsay
Easter, Cindy	Central Queens	Easter, Roland	Central Queens
Ellis, Diane	New Bandon	Ellis, Hugh	New Bandon
Ellsworth, Corinne	Montague	Folkins, Lisa	Sussex: St. Paul's
Forgrave, Otty	Andrew Donald	Friars, Tracy	Saint John: Harmony
Gallant, Angelina	O'Leary-West Cape	Gallant, Joseph	Hillsborough
Gallant, Sheila	York-Covehead	Gosbee, Becky	Memorial
Gow, Lynda	Saint John: Carleton Kirk	Green, Marion	Miramichi: Tabusintac
Hale, Larry	West River	Hancox, Sandi	Oromocto
Hannan, Sharon	St. James	Harding, Steve	Newtown-Waterford
Hennessy, Gail	Moncton: Mount Royal	Henry, Debra	New Bandon
Henry, Katherine	Harvey Station	Hoyt, Janice	Sussex: St. Paul's
Hunter, Terre	Saint John: St. Andrew & St. David	Johnson, Jane	Fredericton: New Maryland
Johnston, Shirley	Montague	Kennedy-Fulton, Mary	Two Rivers
Lavers, Deborah	Montague	Lavery, Norman	Fredericton: Wilmot
LeMaistre, Sue	Winsloe	Leslie, Eileen	Dalhousie-New Mills
Levesque, Gail	Dalhousie-New Mills	Livingstone, Dennis	Sackville: Central United
MacEwen, Don	Mt. Stewart-Morell-St. Peter's Bay	MacFarlane, Joy	Vernon Bridge
MacIntosh, Ann	St. Andrews	MacKay, Alexander (Sandy)	Cavendish-Breadalbane
MacLaren, Nona	Mt. Stewart-Morell-St. Peter's Bay	MacLeod, Marlene	Moncton: Mount Royal
MacNeill, Sheridyth	Charlottetown: Park Royal	Matheson, Ila	Kings United
Matthews, Terry	Red Bank	McIntyre, Sarah	Rothsay
McKee, Tara	Moncton: Mountain View	Mitton-Spence, Deborah	Bedeque
Mullin, Wayne	Chatham	Nicol, Nancy	Restigouche
Northrup, Wanda	Sussex: St. Paul's	Palmer, Jini	Bathurst
Phillips, Carl	Bideford	Proude, Virginia	Winsloe
Quigley, Gwen	Two Rivers	Reynolds, Tracey	Andrew Donald
Ross, Katherine	Fredericton: Nashwaaksis	Sharp, Heather	Woodstock
Small, Nancy	Summerside	Spires, Wayne	St. Stephen: Kirk McColl
Spires, Wayne	Rolling Dam	Stavert, Ernie	West River
Stewart, Calvin	Red Bank	Stinson, Rowena	Charlottetown: Park Royal
Sumner, Kerry	Keswick Ridge	Trail, Eddie	Alberton-Elmsdale
Vickers, Martha	Bathurst	Walker, Jennifer	Chatham
Wallbank, Tony	Kings United	Walsh, Deborah	South Shore
Watson, Linda	Apohaqui/Norton/King Kirk	Wright, Sonja	Faith Memorial

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

REGIONAL COUNCIL ROLL - continued

Appointed Members

Anderson, Julielynn	Archives and Records Chair
Spencer, Micah	Executive Member at Large

Corresponding Members

Anderson, Kathryn J.	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Gegan, J. Ivan	Staff
Janzen-Ball, Jennifer	General Council Representative
Lewis, David	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Shearer, Rob	Staff
Szemok, Daniel	Visitor
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Ward, Mary	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
June 5-7, 2026

via video conference and at Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

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

Annual Meeting

June 5-7, 2026

via video conference and at Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change

Friday, June 5, 2026

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council registered online for the June 5-7, 2026 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held online via Zoom video conferencing. 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.

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

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 5:00pm on June 5, 2026, for members to gather and to test connections.

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Hugh Ellis, welcomed everyone to the eighth annual meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and called the meeting to order. The President welcomed everyone to this virtual space.

**Acknowledging
the Land**

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

The 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.

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.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richard Bowley, Regional Meeting Planning Committee chair, offered the announcements of the region.

**Opening
Worship**

OPENING WORSHIP

Members of the worship team led the members gathered in opening worship. The worship began with the lighting of the Christ candle. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to reflect on the theme "*Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change*". A scripture reading was shared from Mark 4:26-32. The Worship Team offered the reflection *and* shared what the theme words mean to each of them, how expressions of seeds of hope can grow, and how deeper roots can help us trust in times when we struggle and as the church goes through change. Ministry of music was offered with selections *There is Room for All*, *Soil of God You and I*, and *Spirit God Be Our Breath*.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM

As part of the opening worship, the Worship Team presented the in-memoriams.

A video presentation was shared and members of the Regional Council paused to remember and offer prayer for those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this United Church of ours.

EQUITY SUPPORT

Equity Support

Equity Support Team members, Pix Butt and Linton Worrall, were welcomed to the Regional Council. The members of the equity support team reviewed the equity self-monitoring questions with the members gathered.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

**Procedural
Motion**

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Wilson Gonese)

That the Roll of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council be (Manual 2026 C1.1 and C.1.2):

- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the Regional Council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the Regional Council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their Community of Faith.

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 the virtual meeting room, and the telephone connections to that meeting space, and Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; the active and retired Lay Overseas Personnel; ecumenical guests and observers; the President of the Atlantic School of Theology (or their designate); the Incorporated Ministries representatives; Youth@Region; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.

That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council.

That the business table for the on-line meeting be Richard Bowley, Melanie Matheson and Jennifer Whittemore.

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

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 Proposals Team be Jack Spencer and Jim Blanchard.

That the virtual 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: Melaney Matheson (Head Teller), Roland Easter and Sheila Gallant.

That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers be Blair Lewis and Wilson Gonese (June 5) and Wilson Gonese and Natasha Pearen (June 6).

That the Process Flow and Support for the on-line meeting be Jack Spencer.

...cont'd

**Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 5-7, 2026
via video conference and at Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB**

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: (Richard Bowley/Rachel Campbell)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Meeting, May 24 and May 30-June 1, 2025 (RC77-RC95) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Minister
 - c. Affirm Committee
 - d. Archives and Records Committee
 - e. Faith Formation and Education Committee
 - f. Financial and Mission Services Committee
 - g. Incorporated Ministries Committee
 - h. Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee
 - i. Nominations Committee

**INCLUDING THE LISTING OF NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES
AND THE 2026-2027 REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

 - j. Pastoral Relations Committee
 - k. Property Committee
 - l. Regional Council Planning Committee
 - m. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
 - a. Atlantic School of Theology
 - b. Atlantic School of Theology Senate
 - c. Centre for Christian Studies
 - d. Emmanuel College
 - e. Growth Animator
 - f. Office of Vocation
 - g. Maritime United Church Women
 - h. St. Andrew's College
 - i. Ukulele Church
 - j. United Church Rural Ministry Network

CARRIED

Introductions
and Greetings

INTRODUCTIONS AND GREETINGS

The President extended warm welcome to the council members, clergy, lay, visitors, and guests. Special welcome was extended to General Council Representative, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister, Theology and Ministry Leadership, Ecumenical guest, Marisa Laviola, Conference Minister of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. Rob Shearer, incoming Growth and Stewardship Animator for the region.

CHECK-IN

Check-In

The President invited members into breakout rooms to take time to check-in with each other. Members moved into smaller groups to check-in and consider a time when they planted something that was successful.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTRY CANDIDATES

Introduction of Ministry Candidates

Rev. Ivan Gregan, Office of Vocation Interim Minister, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Brian Botten; being ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada at the Celebration of Ministries service on June 7, 2026. The celebrant was welcomed to the Regional Council and invited to introduce himself to the council members. Rev. Gregan also introduced candidates from the region; David-Roger Gagnon, Ellen Locke, Nathan Zwicker and Corina Anderson. It was also noted that Wayne Jarvis was ordained by Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council on May 31, 2026, and is now serving a cross-border appointment, which includes a congregation in New Brunswick.

GROWTH AND STEWARDSHIP

Growth and Stewardship

Rev. Rob Shearer was introduced to the region and took a few minutes to introduce himself to the members gathered. Rev. Shearer began his new appointment last week, as the Growth and Stewardship Animator for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils.

BREAK

Break

TOWARD 2035 – Part 1

Toward 2035

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, offered a more in-depth presentation on the Toward 2035 initiative of the United Church. The Executive Minister is excited by the work that has started on this initiative in the region. The presentation noted that this initiative is data driven. Data collected highlights indicators that form the Toward 2035 dashboard framework and help to show what circumstances point towards pastoral charges that are thriving and what congregations may be vulnerable. Data is weighted to include current vitality, future possibility, denominational connection, outward connection, ministry personnel leadership and financial health.

Data, gleaned from congregational reporting, including Mission and Service givings, baptisms, funerals, affirming status and outward givings helps to illustrate a picture of vital congregations. With respect to ministry leadership, the data includes whether pastoral charges have ministry personnel in an appointment or call, or the presence of a full-time minister. Financial health of congregations takes into consideration identifiable givers; reserves or deficits; and the relationship with stewardship. Participation data looks at indicators including net growth, Sunday school, worship attendance and membership. With respect to future possibilities, the data was weighted for population trends and community behavioural markers, creating "fertile soil".

Members were asked to spend time in break-out room table groups to consider their own congregations and what other markers, beyond the data, create resilient communities; where do you see your community of faith through the lens of resilient, inspired and diverse; and how has it been going with introducing this conversation in your congregation. Members were asked to send their responses to the Regional Council office for further data.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice, Mission and Outreach

MOTION: (Steve Berube/Audrey Lounder)

That the Executive Minister of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region write to the members of the Moncton Masjid to offer our support, solidarity and welcome to the members of the Moncton Masjid and to all Muslims in the region following the desecration of the Moncton Masjid.

CARRIED

Equity Support**EQUITY SUPPORT**

Equity Support Team member, Sarah Clermont, was welcomed to the Regional Council. The equity support team provided feedback on the equity questions.

Closing Prayer**CLOSING PRAYER**

The President, Hugh Ellis, closed the evening session of the meeting in prayer.

Saturday, June 6, 2026Equity Support**EQUITY SUPPORT**

Equity Support Team member, Pix Butt, was welcomed back to the Regional Council. The equity support team provided some feedback and a reminder of the equity self-monitoring questions.

Opening
Worship**OPENING WORSHIP**

Members of the worship team led the members gathered in opening worship. Worship began with the lighting of the Christ candle. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to reflect on the theme "*Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change*". Scripture readings were shared from Mark 4:26-29. Alicia Walls, Worship Team member, offered the reflection, and asked members to consider the theme and take the time this morning to open our hearts and pause to reflect on the small beginnings and growing hope which is planted within each of us. Music leadership was offered with selections including *Bless Your God O My Soul*, and *Soil of God You and I*.

President-Elect**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Tracy Friars, Nominations chair, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The chair introduced Dr. Kathy Bigsby as the President-Elect nominee. The nominee for President-Elect was welcomed by the members gathered.

MOTION: (Tracy Friars/James Blanchard)

That Kathy Bigsby be acclaimed as President-Elect of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

CARRIED

The President-Elect was offered a few minutes to address the members gathered. The President offered congratulations to the President-Elect, and blessings for her new call to serve the church in this way.

President**PRESIDENT**

(Sue LeMaistre assumed the chair)

The President, Hugh Ellis, thanked the members of the region for their support and for allowing him to serve the region in this way over the past year. The President offered special thanks to the Executive members and staff for their help through his health journey. The President is looking forward to continuing his work as Past President and especially for the work on the Communications Group.

(Hugh Ellis reassumed the chair)

Atlantic School
of Theology**ATLANTIC SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (AST)**

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 planned for this summer and fall. The President thanked the region for the opportunity to be present, and welcomes further conversation and questions.

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, and to the committee members who serve the region. The Executive Minister highlighted some of the work of the Executive, Toward 2035, and the recent work on the governance structure review and revision of the Regional Council priorities. The Executive Minister shared scripture from Isaiah 43:19 as inspiration for the work of the region; noting that we are now in the “messy middle”; a place where capacity is restrained and uncertainty exists, but also 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; as inspiration for learning to lead in the messy middle.

BREAK

Break

TOWARD 2035 – Part 2

Toward 2035

The Regional Minister, Lloyd Bruce, continued the Toward 2035 presentation. The Regional Minister restated that the United Church is at a true watershed moment; a fork in the road. The Regional Minister presented some data specific to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council. From 1992 to 2023, the region experienced a loss of 22 pastoral charges and 55 preaching points; resulting in a loss of 50% of our membership. Throughout this time, weekly attendance has dropped by 35%. Over the same period of time, the replacement value of the land that we hold in the region and investments held have almost doubled. The Regional Minister also presented the projected numbers for 2026. On a more positive note, the United Church has also presented data that shows some pastoral charges that are increasing numbers in membership and attending worship. Data available to the church shows specific neighbourhood profiles; an indication of the tools available to get an understanding of who our neighbours are, and how the United Churches might engage with this community. The presentation continued with the description of the Discipleship Flower. The petals of the flower give evidence and invitation to the full life of discipleship. The presentation concluded with the vision for 2035; realizing that resources are sometimes scarce, and that we need to use them as efficiently and effectively as possible to build our congregations towards resilient, diverse, contextual communities of disciples and the shared common good.

Members were asked to spend time in break-out room table groups to consider *what regional data most concerns you; what gives you hope; and what suggestions do you have for the Regional Council*. Members were asked to send their responses to the Regional Council office for further data.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

General Council Representative

The President, Hugh Ellis, introduced General Council representative, Jennifer Janzen-Ball, Executive Minister for Theology and Ministry Leadership. 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 Toward 2035 initiative, ongoing work towards forging right relations; and the development of leadership skills and the Ministry Leadership Working Group. The General Council representative also highlighted the Strategic Plan and Centennial Legacy Campaign; demonstrating the commitments being made for the future of the church. We are continuing to engage in what God calls us to be. The President thanked the General Council representative for her attendance at the meeting.

EQUITY SUPPORT

Equity Support

Equity Support Team member, Linton Worrall, was welcomed back to the Regional Council. The equity support team provided some feedback on the equity self-monitoring questions.

GRACE AND LUNCH

Grace and Lunch

Richard Bowley offered announcements and grace.

Audited
Financial
Statements**2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Kevin Dingwell, chair of the Financial and Mission Services Committee, presented the 2025 audited financial statements. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on June 3, 2026. The chair led the Regional Council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor's declaration that the statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council. The chair highlighted, of particular note, the net assets; which show consistency and stability in the region's finances year over year. The chair thanked the committee for their valuable work on the review of the statements.

MOTION: (Kevin Dingwell/David Allan)

That the 2025 audited financial statements for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIEDBudget 2027**BUDGET 2027**

Kevin Dingwell, chair of Financial and Mission Services, presented the budget for 2027. A detailed report on the budget was presented at the June 3, 2027, webinar. The chair noted that there are not expected to be any changes in the Administration grant from General Council or the Mission and Service grant for 2027. The chair highlighted several increases in revenues, including rental income at the Sackville Office. With respect to expenditures, it was noted that there is a significant cost to hosting in-person meetings, and this is reflected in the 2027 budget. The chair reported that the budgeted amounts for committees proposed for 2027 are relatively stable and thanked the committees for being good stewards of the resources available. The chair offered that while a deficit budget is presented, a surplus of \$23,404 (twenty-three thousand four hundred and four dollars) is projected for 2027, based on revenue from investments and property sales; indicating a strong financial position for the region. The chair also took the opportunity to highlight the regional funds.

MOTION: (Kevin Dingwell/David Allan)

That the budget for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council for 2027 be approved as presented.

CARRIEDEco-Justice
Working Group**ECO-JUSTICE WORKING GROUP**

The President welcomed David Lewis 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 *One Earth Community* policy document outlining our shared responsibility to the whole earth, as approved by the General Council. The presentation highlighted the 12 principles agreed to, and asked the members gathered to do what we can to make the climate emergency a priority. Members were moved into break-out rooms to continue this important conversation.

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

Kathryn Anderson was welcomed to the Regional Council. Kathryn introduced a video presentation entitled *Beyond the Bean*; telling the story of Breaking the Silence coffee, which was shared with the members gathered.

Affirm**AFFIRM**

Pix Butt, Affirm Committee chair, was welcomed to the council. The chair offered an update to raise awareness for the General Council Living the Apology project; announced at the last General Council.

Break**BREAK**

PROPOSAL 1 – Appendix C

Proposal 1

Jack Spencer and Jim Blanchard, 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 Committee of Bermuda-Nova Scotia and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Councils.

Pledging to
Become an
Apartheid-
Free
Community

This proposal was presented at the June 1, 2026 webinar, and calls upon Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters 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. Audrey Lounder provided background information on the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Jim Blanchard)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council receives Proposal 1: *Pledging to Becoming an Apartheid-Free Community*; and responds by taking those actions named in the Proposal.

CARRIED

PROPOSAL 2 – Appendix D

Proposal 2

Jack Spencer and Jim Blanchard of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region*, received from the Faith Formation and Education Committee. The proposal was presented at the June 1, 2026 webinar, and calls upon Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council to name first-third ministry a priority and address this ministry with clear intention in the priorities and objectives of the region.

First Third
Ministry - A
Priority for Our
Region

The proposal asks that the region update the priorities of the region; naming first-third ministry as a priority. In addition, the proposal asks that the Faith Formation and Education 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. Heather Donnelly spoke to the background of the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Jim Blanchard)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council receives Proposal 2: *First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region*; and responds by taking those actions named in the Proposal.

CARRIED

PROPOSAL 3 – Appendix E

Proposal 3

Jack Spencer and Jim Blanchard of the Proposals Team, introduced the proposal *Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regions* received from the Justice, Outreach and Mission Committee. The proposal was presented at the June 1, 2026 webinar, and calls upon the region to consider where campus chaplaincy ministry most naturally belongs in the regional structure, so that it can thrive.

Resurrecting
Campus
Ministry

The proposal recommends that, in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, the responsibility of campus ministry be moved to the Faith Formation and Education Committee. Kathy Bigsby offered background information on the proposal and answered questions for clarification.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Jim Blanchard)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council receives *Proposal 3-Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region*; and responds by moving the responsibility for "Campus Chaplaincy" from the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee to the Faith Formation and Education Committee.

CARRIED

Celebrating
Milestones**CELEBRATING MILESTONES**

Sue LeMaistre, Past President, hosted the Milestones in Ministry event, celebrating significant milestones in the lives of some of our ministry personnel. A slideshow presentation 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 Rev. David Atwood
The Rev. Greg Davis
The Rev. Claudia K. Keller
The Rev. Mary Tingley

Jubilarians**Jubilarians**

The Rev. G. Robert Campbell	50 years
The Rev. Robert Johnson	50 years
The Rev. Blair E.H. Lewis	50 years
The Rev. Keith Lyons	50 years
The Rev. Murray McFarlane	50 years
The Rev. Robert Lockhart	55 years
The Rev. Jack Spencer	55 years
The Rev. David Hamilton	65 years
The Rev. Ian McLean	65 years
The Rev. Dr. Douglas Irving MacEachern	70 years

Staff
Anniversaries**Staff Anniversaries**

There was special acknowledgement of staff celebrating significant anniversaries with The United Church of Canada. This year, Sarah Wallace celebrates 15 years with the regional office staff.

Welcome**WELCOME AND BEST WISHES**Best Wishes

Kate Jones, Pastoral Relations chair, was welcomed to the council. Welcome was extended to new ministers to the region; Limon Daka, Rob Shearer and Linton Worrall, with thanks for their new ministry to the region.

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

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, offered a progress report on the work of the Executive on the Regional Council Structure Evaluation. The Executive Minister highlighted the results coming from the evaluation report, as prepared Jenny Stephens, highlighting responses from committees, executive, ministry personnel and communities of faith. Some of the key findings align well with the priorities of the region; including identifying new communities of faith, enhanced communications, support for ministry personnel and providing resources to communities of faith. In summary, we have heard that our governance and communities of faith are working well; our regional members are acting as strong connectors to the region; and those involved in committees find them to be well and effectively run, but we can be more strategic and purposeful, increase member engagement, establish networks and identify clusters. Members spent time in breakout rooms to further discuss what has been presented and answer the questions: are we currently addressing the recommendations, and if not, what are some possibilities to implement.

Children, Youth
and Young
Adults**CHILDREN, 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 communities of faith, Sunday services and events, and thanked the members gathered for their ongoing support for these ministries.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice,
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 being a welcoming, vibrant, intercultural and diverse church, and to make an important shift in our thinking; from tradition to mission, decline to growth, and charity to justice.

ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Ecumenical
Guests

Greetings were shared from Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Conference Minister, Maine Conference of The United Church of Christ; Rev. Torrey Griffiths, Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces and the Most Rev. David Edwards, Bishop of Fredericton, Anglican Diocese of Fredericton.

EQUITY SUPPORT

Equity
Support

Equity Support Team members, Pix Butt and Sarah Clermont, were welcomed back to the Regional Council. The equity support team provided some feedback on the equity self-monitoring questions.

CLOSING MOTION

Closing
Motion

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Richard Bowley)

That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council designate 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 of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, June 7, 2026; and
that the ninth annual meeting be held on May 14-16, 2027, at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

CARRIED

COURTESIES

Courtesies

The Regional Meeting Planning Committee chair, Richard Bowley, offered thanks to all who participated, attended, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to the worship team, the tech support, staff, chaplains, tellers and members who attended. A special thanks was offered to the General Council Representative, and to the President for chairing this meeting.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Closing
Worship

Members of the worship team led the members gathered in closing worship. The worship began with thanks for the time to gather and work together in the spirit of the church; carrying seeds of hope with us as we go. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to further reflect on the theme "Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change" and offer thanks for the time shared together and connections that remind us that we are not alone.

Scripture readings were shared from Isaiah 43:18-19. Alicia Walls, Worship Team member, offered the reflection, pondering endings, and the question *what now?* That sits with us now that seeds have been planted and hope has begun to grow; letting us know that God is not finished and walks with us in whatever comes next. Music leadership was offered with selections *Seek Ye First*, *Soil of God You and I*, and *Like a Healing Stream*.

Sunday, June 7, 2026

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Celebration of
Ministries

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, on Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 10:00am.

**Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Annual Meeting, June 5-7, 2026
via video conference and at Convocation Hall, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB**

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. Hugh Ellis, President of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, led the service and was the preacher for the theme *Seeds of Hope, Roots of Change*. Brian Botten was ordained as a minister in The United Church of Canada, and Rev. Rachel Campbell was installed as the President of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

Hugh Ellis
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

ATTENDANCE

Allan, David	Anderson, Julielynn
Ashley, Bette	Berube, Steve
Bigsby, Kathy	Blanchard, James
Bolo, Corina	Botten, Brian
Brown, Darla	Bruce, Lloyd
Burke, Kelly A.	Burleigh, Paul
Burnett, Tony	Burns, Velvet
Burrows, Elaine	Butler-Jones, Susan
Butt, Pix	Cairns, Barbara J.
Cameron, Heather	Campbell, Deb
Campbell, G. Robert	Campbell, Rachel A.
Carter-Jay, Gail	Cleave, Shirley
Clermont, Sarah	Coull, Dwight
Crowley, Robert (Bob)	Daka, Limon
Del Motte, Jennie	Dempsey, Karen
Dickieson, Wayne	Dickson, Catherine Ann
Dingwell, T. Kevin	Donnelly, Heather
Douglass, Kimberley	Easter, Cindy
Easter, Roland	Ellis, Diane
Ellis, Hugh	Finnamore, Alice
Folkins, Lisa	Friars, Tracy
Gagnon, David -Roger	Gallant, Angelina
Gallant, Joseph	Gallant, Sheila
Gaskin, Rose-Hannah	Gaw, Catherine H.
Gonese, Wilson	Gosbee, Becky (Rebecca)
Gourson, Tara Ann B.W.	Gow, Lynda
Green, Marion	Hannan, Sharon
Hennessy, Gail	Henry, Debra
Herman, Jean	Hickox Stinson, Rowena
Hoyt, Janice	Inglis, Kim
Jay, Leslie A.	Johnson, Christine
Johnson, Jane	Johnston, Shirley
Jones, Kate	Kennedy, James
Kennedy-Fulton, Mary	Lackey, Gneid
Lavery, Norman	LeMaistre, Susan (Sue)
Levesque, Gail	Livingstone, Dennis
Louder, Audrey G.	MacDougall, Heather
MacEwen, Don	MacLeod, Marlene
MacLeod (Osowski), Christine	MacNeill, Sheridyth
Madimbu, Erasmus	Maguire-MacKnight, Charlene M.
March-MacCuish, Faith	Matheson, Ila M.
Matheson, Melaney L.	Matthews, Terry
McIntyre, Sarah	McKee, Tara
Mitton Spence, Deborah	Momberg, Pierre
Munikwa, Sherpherd	Nicol Lavoie, Nancy
Palmer, Jini	Patterson, William
Pearen, Natasha	Proude, Virginia
Quigley, Gwen	Ross, Katherine
Roy, John	Schulze, Christine
Sharpe, Bev	Small, Nancy
Spencer, Jack	Stavert, Ernie
Stevenson, Elizabeth	Stewart, Calvin
Stuart, Catherine T.	Sumner, Kerry
Szemok, Alice	Szemok, Geza
Vickers, Martha	Walker, Jennifer
Walls, Alicia	Watson, Linda
Wisnicki, Timothy	Worrell, Linton
Wright, Sonja	Zwicker, Nathan

Appendix A - continued

ATTENDANCE - continued

Other

Anderson, Kathryn J.	Visitor
Ballantyne, Sharon	Staff
Gegan, J. Ivan	Staff
Janzen-Ball, Jennifer	General Council Representative
Lewis, David	Visitor
McCance, Heather	Visitor
Shearer, Rob	Staff
Szemok, Daniel	Visitor
Taylor, Jennifer	Staff
Ward, Mary	Visitor
Whittemore, Jennifer	Staff

Appendix B

REGRETS

Bird-Daley, Doreen
Boulter, Richard
Brown, Stephen
Doyle, Jamie
Goodfellow, Michael
Hummel, Ellie
Hunter, Laura
Irvine, Lois
Johnson, Robert
Leslie, Eileen
Lewis, Blair
MacLeod-Wilkie, Karen
McClure, Heather
McIntosh, Ann
Noble, Joy
Reid, Margaret Peggy
Reidpath, Pamela
Smith, Catherine
Stadelmayer, Arlene
Wallbank, Tony

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 - continued

PROPOSAL 1 - Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community - 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?"

Appendix C - continued

PROPOSAL 1 - Pledging to Become an Apartheid-Free Community - continued

How might the Region respond to the issue?

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix D

PROPOSAL 2 – First Third Ministry – A Priority for our Region

PROPOSAL 2

Proposal: First Third Ministry - A Priority for Our Region

Origin: Faith Formation and Education Committee

1. What is the issue?

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

2. Why is this issue important?

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

Appendix D - continued

PROPOSAL 2 – First Third Ministry – A Priority for our Region - continued

3. How might the Region respond to the issue?

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

This proposal recommends:

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

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

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

4. What will be the impact?

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

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

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

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

Heather Donnelly, Chair of Faith Formation and Education

Catherine Stuart Regional Minister to Children, Youth & Young Adults

Appendix E

PROPOSAL 3 – Resurrecting Campus Ministry

PROPOSAL 3

Proposal: Resurrecting Campus Ministry in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning 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 - continued**PROPOSAL 3 – Resurrecting Campus Ministry - 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)