

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
May 31, 2026 at 12:30pm, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

RC1

ATTENDANCE

Attendance

Anne Cameron, Alicia Cox, April Hart, Faith March-MacCuish, Jane McDonald, Donald Morrison, Ann Piper, Carol Smith, Janet Sollows, Mary Taylor, Donna Tournear.

REGRETS

None

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Welcome

Donnie Morrison, the newly installed President, welcomed the Executive to the meeting. Welcome was extended to new and returning members, with special welcome extended to Alicia Cox, the new President-Elect for the region. The President opened the meeting with prayer.

Opening Prayer

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Quorum

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

Constitution of
the Council

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging
the Land

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

AGENDA

Agenda

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

MOTION: (Carol Smith/Anne Cameron)

That the agenda be adopted, with the addition of Cluster Animator under New Business.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Minutes

MOTION: (Anne Cameron/Donna Tournear)

That the minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Ann Piper/Mary Taylor)

That the minutes of the April 30, 2026 meeting of the Executive be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

It was noted for the minutes that the following motion was approved by an email vote, which was declared on April 18, 2026:

MOTION: (April Hart/Carol Smith)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approves the March 2026 resolution of the Church Extension Board; approving amendments to the by-laws, as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising

BUSINESS ARISING

Tatamagouche
Centre

Tatamagouche Centre

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, reported that meetings with the Tatamagouche board and Women of First Light are continuing. The group are currently evaluating the buildings on the property to help in determining the best way forward. The group are currently working on timelines for decisions for next steps.

Behavioural
Covenant

Behavioural Covenant

The Executive Minister shared a sample covenant with the Executive members gathered, for their consideration. The Executive plan to have this covenant at the forefront of all future meetings.

MOTION: (Donna Tourneur/Mary Taylor)

That the Behavioural Covenant be adopted for use at meetings of the Executive of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council.

CARRIED

Apartheid Free
Pledge

Apartheid Free Pledge

This item was brought to the Annual meeting as a proposal, and will now be taking the actions named in the proposal.

Regional
Council
Structure
Evaluation

Regional Council Structure Evaluation

The Executive noted that this will be a major piece of work for the fall. Carol Smith and Anne Cameron offered to help plan the fall meetings, with time for continuation of this work. Feedback from the Annual Meeting will be compiled for use in this discussion.

Bridgewater UC
Review
File#2025-1204-
01

Bridgewater United Church Review - File#2025-1204-01

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the work resulting from this investigation. The Executive Minister reported that the Regional Minister is working with the congregation on the motions pertaining to pastoral relations, and other pieces are in the process of being implemented.

Annual Meeting
Proposals

Annual Meeting Proposals

Follow up will be required on the proposals accepted at the Annual Meeting. Some actions will be with the committees and divisions and brought back to the Executive once they are ready for further action.

Reports

REPORTS

President

PRESIDENT

Donnie Morrison, President, thanked the Executive for their support and for their attendance at this meeting, at the end of a busy weekend of meetings. The President highlighted the reports received and noted that this meeting is for action items only.

Ministry
Resources

MINISTRY RESOURCES – Appendix A

Janet Sollows, chair, presented the report of the Division. The chair noted that there are several items to be brought to the Executive for consideration. It was noted that several committees are requesting that designates attending meetings on behalf of the chair be made voting members. It was agreed that this matter will be dealt with at the fall meeting, in concert with the governance structure review.

United Fresh
Start

United Fresh Start

It was recommended that United Fresh Start be included as a separate line item in the budget, to differentiate it from the Division budget. It was agreed that this will be revised for the 2028 budget presentation. It was also noted that there has not been a very large demand for this resource. The Executive discussed ways to help better promote this program.

MOTION: (Janet Sollows/Anne Cameron)William Black
UC

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approves the disbanding of William Black United Church, Bridgetown, effective May 31, 2026

CARRIED**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Ann Piper)Milford-Lantz-
Gays River

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approved the dissolution of Milford-Lantz-Gays River effective July 1, 2026.

CARRIED**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Carol Smith)Milford-Lantz
and
Shubenacadie
UC

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive approves the amalgamation of Milford-Lantz and Shubenacadie United Churches effective July 1, 2026, and expresses appreciation and thanks for the work of the amalgamation team for the plan preparation.

CARRIED

It was noted that the region continues to work with Gays River to determine a way forward for this point of the disbanded pastoral charge.

MOTION: (Mary Taylor/Jane McDonald)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED**NEW BUSINESS**New Business**EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES**Executive
Meeting Dates

The Executive discussed meeting dates for the 2026-27 year. The following Executive meeting dates were agreed upon:

September 17-18, 2026 – in person at Trinity United Church, New Glasgow, NS

December 1, 2026 at 9:30am – via Zoom

February 23, 2027 at 9:30am – via Zoom

April 13, 2027 at 9:30am – via Zoom

June 8, 2027 at 9:30am – via Zoom

CLUSTER ANIMATORCluster
Animator

Carol Smith noted that the Cluster Animator position has now ended, but that this work is still in its very early stages. The Executive agreed that this discussion would be added to the fall agenda of the Executive for a more fulsome discussion. The Executive Minister noted the Regional Minister and Executive Minister will be having discussion over the summer, as some of this work falls under the position description of the Regional Minister.

ADJOURNMENTAdjournment

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

BENEDICTIONBenediction

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

Donnie Morrison
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

MINISTRY RESOURCES

Divisional Report to Regional Council Executive

May 31, 2026

Division Name: Ministry Resources

Committee Names within the Division

Future Directions

Retiree Support

Pastoral Relations

Faith Story & Community Covenant

Licensing

Date of Divisional Meetings: May 7, 2026

Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:

We reviewed the latest financial report for our Division. We also looked at the proposed budget for 2027 for the Division. There was a discussion about the addition of funds to our "Division" budget that were intended to cover the expenses of the United Fresh Start program. There was an update on the Governance Structure Review and Toward 2025. We were also updated on decisions made at the last Executive meeting that pertained to the work of our Division. The Regional Minister reported that a number of pastoral charges are having discussions about future possibilities. We heard about several collaborations that are taking place or forming in various parts of the province including a multi-staffed collaboration in LaHave-New Dublin and Petite Riviere.

Dates of Committee Meetings: (since last Executive meeting)

Future Directions – This work is being done by the Division.

Retiree Support – None

Pastoral Relations – March 27, May 1

Faith Story & Community Covenant – This work is being done by the Division.

Licensing – April 30

Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:

Future Directions:

There are two members on this committee that receive information and are asked for feedback. The decisions are made by the Division. At the last Division meeting, the following items were discussed with recommendations listed below:

- The amalgamation of Milford-Lantz and Shubenacadie United Churches
- The disbanding of William Black United Church (Bridgetown)

Retiree Support:

Another announcement will be placed in the weekly announcements in late May or early June to catch those retiring at this annual meeting. General emails are sent to everyone prior to Christmas and throughout the year. People are sending announcements regarding deaths in the Region to the chair of the Retiree Support Committee. She has been responding; however, she is wondering if this is within the scope of this committee or is it being done by someone else. This committee is asking if there is a chaplain for ministry personnel (active and retired) within our region. The committee is hoping for some cluster gathering of retirees in the Spring/Fall times of the year.

Pastoral Relations:

One member of this committee has taken a leave of absence due to the death of her spouse. Our prayers are with her. The Regional Minister has been advising congregations in new calls or appointments that one of the core modules of the United Fresh Start Program is to be completed. We are hoping that congregations will complete this task within a year of the new call or appointment. Pastoral Relations is paying the costs associated. We have two applicants seeking funding associated with the Intentional Interim Ministry program. Pastoral Relations is funding some of the costs associated with the IIM program for qualifying Ministry Personnel. Of particular concern for all, is the number of ministry personnel who are taking extended medical leave. There have been at least 5 since January. Pastoral Relations, through the Regional Minister, is trying to ensure that all appropriate assistance is provided. The need to care for our ministry personnel and ourselves is essential to our well-being.

Appendix A - continued**MINISTRY RESOURCES** - continued**Faith Story & Community Covenant:**

No report.

Licensing:

Discussions have included seeking to sort out the relationship between our Region and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region in relation to the responsibility for and input into the shared Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Annual Gathering. They have also been discerning a symbol which L.L.W.L.'s might wear as a sign of their ministry with hopes of implementing this in 2027. They have interviewed and licensed one student in a ministry appointment to preside for Sacraments and interviewed and licensed one candidate for Licensed Lay Worship Leader. Another application from a person seeking to be licensed as a L.L.W.L. has been received and plans for an interview to take place are being made. There are currently 14 Licensed Lay Worship Leaders in our Region. The Licensing Committee continues to provide information and guidance to persons seeking to become Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and the committee follows through with encouragement those who are in the process of study for this ministry.

The Committee has established a "Policy and Procedures" page which keeps track of various aspects of how they carry out their mandate and the understandings and principles which support this work. One such matter is affirming the understanding that the pastoral charge constitutes the "home community of faith" for Licensed Lay Worship Leaders so that their leadership in any and all congregations of their pastoral charge is considered part of their discipleship and service to their church. Their ministry as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders is applicable to congregations beyond their pastoral charge.

The Committee requested time on the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council this year and has been granted 5 minutes on the Thursday evening. The focus of this presentation will be highlighting the ministry of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and introducing those folk who are present.

Joan Griffin will conclude her term as chairperson of the Committee at the rise of the Annual Regional Meeting and Sandi Irving has agreed to serve as the new chairperson. The committee expressed gratitude to Joan for her devoted and wise leadership in the role of chairperson for the past three years and for her plan to continue to serve as a member of the committee. Jim Webber-Cook has agreed to continue serving as Secretary.

Concerns of the Division and the Committees:

Retiree Support: Who is responsible for sending condolences on behalf of the Region to the families of ministry personnel who have passed away?

Licensing: If the chair is unable to attend the Division meeting, and a designated individual is appointed to take the chair's place, corresponding privileges are given but the designate is not able to vote. This means that the committee does not have a say in decisions.

Division: Is it possible to have a separate line in the budget for "United Fresh Start"? What is the process for getting this done?

Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive:

Motion: That the Executive make a change to the Governance Handbook for the Division of Ministry Resources so that voting members of the Division would be named as "Committee Chairpersons or their designated representative". (Maybe extend to all Divisions)

Motion: That the Executive dissolve the Milford-Lantz-Gays River Pastoral Charge, effective July 1st, 2026.

Motion: That the Executive approve the amalgamation of Milford-Lantz and Shubenacadie United Churches effective July 1st, 2026, and express appreciation and thanks for the work of the amalgamation team for the plan preparation.

Motion: That the executive approve the disbanding of William Black United Church, Bridgetown, effective May 31st, 2026.

Janet Sollows, Chair
Division of Ministry Resources

Appendix B

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Maritime UCW report to BNS regional Council – May 2026

The annual meeting of MUCW took place on April 24th to 26th 2026 at Nashwaaksis United Church in Fredericton NB.

80 women from across the Maritime provinces gathered to conduct the business of MUCW, worship, sing, laugh, pray, learn, and share tables of food. The theme of this year's gathering was Creator, Creation and I. We heard a wonderful presentation from Alice Finnamore on the topic of creation and nature and how to engage with nature in our prayers. Nick Hawkins, a nature videographer, presented his work on the life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon. This was fascinating and his videos were amazing.

We had four creative workshops to choose from. Lynda-Jean Coffin gave us an introduction to the new hymnbook Then Let Us Sing, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all who attended. Betty Ann Watts led a workshop that included breaking pottery and putting it back together in a way that decorates and improves on the original piece. Elaine Burrows led a workshop on creating quilt blocks for our Banner for the 65th Anniversary of UCW that will take place in Ottawa in July 2027. Anna Peters led a workshop on creating beautiful bookmarks. Our Saturday evening was entertainment provided by the Golden Club Singers. The weekend ended with Sunday morning worship at our host church where we were welcomed and processed in and filled 4 or 5 pews of the sanctuary. It was a joyous service with music provided by Lynda Jean Coffin, Sue McBeath and Ann Piper.

Our new executive was installed by our guest, Barbara Dejeet, National UCW president. Barb also presented us with her thoughts on Creation. Although our nominations committee has worked very hard over the past year to find people to fill executive positions we still have a few vacancies to fill. We are looking for a president-elect, Treasurer or Recording Secretary. (the current recording secretary is willing to be treasurer if we can find a new secretary). We also need a newsletter editor although, the president and past president will continue to produce the newsletter in the meantime.

Our Table officers currently are:

President:	Ann Piper	apiperrpn@outlook.com
President-elect:	VACANT	
Past President:	Betty Ann Watts	bettyannwatts6@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Myra Thiemann	mlthiemann@mail.com
Treasurer:	VACANT	
FSLDW reg. rep:	Elaine Burrows	elaineb@pei.sympatico.ca
BNS reg. rep:	Ann Piper	apiperrpn@outlook.com
Chignecto District	Lois Budd	loisethelbudd@gmail.com
Halifax District	Joann Chapman	joann.chapman7@gmail.com

A new contact list for our full executive will be posted on the UCCeast website.
Our next executive meeting will be on June 15th at the Church Office in Sackville NB.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Piper
President MUCW