THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
June 9, 2026 at 9:00am via video conference

ATTENDANCE — Attendance

Kathy Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Richard Bowley, Elaine Burrows, Rachel Campbell, Catherine Ann Dickson, Kevin Dingwell, Hugh Ellis, Tracy Friars, Sheila Gallant, Faith March-MacCuish, Micah Spencer, Linton Worrell.

REGRETS — Regrets

Jean Herman.

CHECK-IN — Check-In

Members of the Executive took time to introduce themselves to each other and name the role that they serve on the Executive. The President thanked all members for answering the call to serve.

EQUITY SUPPORT TEAM — Equity Support Team

Linton Worrall, Affirm Committee chair, introduced the Equity Self-Monitoring questions. For today's meeting, the Executive members gathered were asked to continue to reflect on the questions as the meeting progresses.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL — Quorum

Constitution of the Council

The newly installed president, Rachel Campbell, noted that a quorum was present and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for the business that shall properly come before it.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER — Welcome

Opening Prayer

The President, Rachel Campbell, chaired the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked the members for their attendance. The President offered special welcome to new members of the Executive, and shared a scripture reading from Hebrews 6:19. The President lit the Christ and the Affirm candles, and opened the meeting with prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND — Acknowledgment of 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.

AGENDA — Agenda

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

MOTION: (Richard Bowley/Jim Blanchard)

> That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTES — Minutes

MOTION: (Hugh Ellis/Tracy Friars)

> That the minutes of the March 26, 2026 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

Business Arising	**BUSINESS ARISING**
UC Policy Webinars	**United Church Policy Webinars** The Executive Minster reported that the roll-out for training on this new policy is expected to take place in November.
Cemetery Guidelines	**Cemetery Guidelines** The Executive Minister noted that this work is in progress. Some background work is being compiled regarding CRA regulations. This item will come to Executive for approval when it is prepared.
Communications Group	**Communications Group** Hugh Ellis provided an update on the work of the communications group. It was noted that ongoing events are planned, and that the seeds have been planted to grow the connections among the region, members, communities of faith and staff.
Communities of Faith Growth Group	**Communities of Faith Growth Group** The Executive Minister noted that Rob Shearer is the new Growth and Stewardship Animator for the region. Rob has a particular skill and gift in supporting new communities of faith, and his arrival and support for the group is greatly anticipated.
Toward 2035	**Toward 2035** The Executive Minister discussed next steps for the roll out of this initiative. More communication will be coming from the Regional Ministers in the fall, as we work to support and encourage communities of faith to have their initial conversations before December, 2026, as the next phase of the initiative begins in January, 2027. It was noted that staff are available to work with congregations on statistics for their specific community of faith and open further conversation.
Behavioural Covenant	**Behavioural Covenant** The Executive Minister presented the revised draft of the Behavioural Covenant, which the Executive members have been working on to be a framework and offer guiding principles for the meetings of the Executive. Kathy Bigsby offered to review the covenant for final proofing before presentation at the fall meeting.
Regional Council Structure Evaluation	**Regional Council Structure Evaluation** The Executive Minister noted that the key findings and recommendations were presented at the annual meeting. The members spent time in table groups to offer feedback, and the Executive will spend time working on the next steps during the fall meeting. Jim Blanchard, Micah Spencer and Tracy Friars have offered to support the Executive Minister in preparation for this discussion.
Moncton Area Chaplaincy	**Moncton Area Chaplaincy** The Executive Minister noted that funding is available to support this ministry, and a letter is being prepared to reach out to local area churches to request proposals form those who may be willing to augment this piece to their ministry. The Executive members expressed their concerns regarding chaplaincy, and the recent proposal regarding campus chaplaincy.
Apartheid Free Pledge	**Apartheid Free Pledge** In light of the recent proposal received at the annual meeting, the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee will update the Executive Minister regarding next steps.
Reports	**REPORTS**
President	**PRESIDENT** Rachel Campbell offered thanks and appreciation for the support she has received. The President updated the Executive on her attendance at a celebration of life service on behalf of the region, and noted that she is looking forward to this new role
Executive Minister	**EXECUTIVE MINISTER** The Executive Minister noted that one more annual meeting in UCC East will take place this week, and announced that the Moderator will be coming to the region in September. The Executive discussed tentative plans for cluster gatherings.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Regional Council Planning

Richard Bowley, chair, provided an update on some feedback received from the recent annual meeting. The committee will continue to meet and debrief from the meeting. It was noted that the 2027 meeting will take place in Sackville, NB. Theme speakers have been arranged, and planning is well under way.

AFFIRM

Affirm

Linton Worrall was welcomed as new chair for the committee. He is looking forward to continuing this work in the fall. The Executive extended thanks and appreciation for previous chair, Pix Butt.

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Faith Formation and Education

Catherine Ann Dickson was welcomed to the Executive as new chair for this committee. The committee met in early May and are working towards completing a video project to help introduce staff to the region. It was also noted that an LLWL workshop is planned for the fall. The chair thanked Heather Donnelly, past chair, for her work and support.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

United Church Women

Elaine Burrows, UCW Representative noted that a detailed report will be available for the next meeting of the Executive. The annual meeting was held in April, and an in person gathering is being planned for Sackville in the fall.

(Richard Bowley left the meeting)

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

Incorporated Ministries

Sheila Gallant reported that the work of the committee is continuing. The committee meets on a monthly basis.

JUSTICE MISSION AND OUTREACH - Appendix A

Justice, Mission and Outreach

Kathy Bigsby, chair, presented the work of the committee, included in the appendix, and highlighted the work of the Indigenous Relations Working Group. A webinar is planned for June 17. All are welcome to attend.

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

Tri-Regional Staff Support

Jim Blanchard, reporting member, noted that there is one vacancy on this committee from this region.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Pastoral Relations

In the absence of a chair, there was no report available.

PROPERTY

Property

It was noted that there is no chair for this committee, but in order to further the work and decisions for pastoral charges, the acting chair will call a committee meeting later this month.

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES – Appendix B

Financial and Mission Services

Kevin Dingwell, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted the New Ministry Initiatives Fund, and recommends that the maximum grant available be raised.

MOTION: (Kevin Dingwell/Jim Blanchard)

> That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council modify the policy guidelines for New Ministry Initiatives to allow maximum grants of $7500 (seven thousand five hundred) annually, for three years.

CARRIED

Nominations

NOMINATIONS – Appendix C

Tracy Friars, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

MOTION: (Tracy Friars/Linton Worrall)

> That Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council disband the Archives and Records Committee, and that the duties of this committee be moved to the responsibilities of the Archives staff.

CARRIED

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Dates

MEETING DATES 2026-27

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

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Kevin Dingwell)

> That the following Executive meeting dates be scheduled for 2026-27:
> September 15-16, 2026 – in person at Regional Council Office
> December 3, 2026 at 9:00am – via Zoom
> February 25, 2027 at 9:00am via Zoom
> April 8, 2027 at 9:00am via Zoom
> June 3, 2027 at 9:00am via Zoom

CARRIED

Equity Support

EQUITY SUPPORT

Executive members reflected on the equity self-monitoring questions and offered feedback to note.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive will be in person at the Sackville Regional Council Office on September 15-16, 2027.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

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

Benediction

BENEDICTION

The President extinguished the Christ and Affirm candles and closed the meeting with prayer.

Rachel Campbell
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice Mission and Outreach Committee Report
June, 2026

JMOC has met once since the last report, via Zoom. The primary purpose of the meeting was to plan for the annual meetings of our two regions. Two proposals, "Signing the Anti-apartheid pledge" and "Resurrecting Campus Ministries," and two educational presentations were developed.

JMOC was able to add a new member after Jen Broomhead transferred to FFE. With the recruitment of another member to fill one of the vacancies from BNS region, JMOC now has two "younger" members. Thanks to Jen and to retiring members Barbara Cairns and Keith MacPherson.

JMOC is optimistic that the proposal regarding Campus ministries will pass, and responsibilities for this work will transfer to the FEE committee.

JMOC is close to re-establishing the Indigenous Rights and Relations working group. We had a request from Bermuda-Nova Scotia for a webinar on Land Acknowledgements. A webinar is now scheduled for June 17 at 7 p.m., timed to mark National Indigenous Day on June 21st.

Updates from Working Groups:

Just Peace
This working group continues to work hard at keeping our communities of faith aware of the situation in Palestine. At the time of writing, the proposal regarding the Anti-apartheid pledge is yet to be considered by the regional council.
Mental Health
This working group is still paused.
Ecojustice
This working group continues to seek "Green Champions" from communities of Faith.
Basic Income Guarantee
This group partnered with Basic Income Nova Scotia on a conference in Halifax on April 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bigsby
JMOC co-chair

Appendix B

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Financial & Mission Services Committee
Report to the Executive for 9 June 2026

The Financial and Mission Services Committee has one item of business to bring forward at this meeting. As recommended by the committee at our last meeting, I will be requesting the Executive to modify the policy and guidelines of the New Ministries Initiatives Fund to increase the maximum amount of a grant from $5,000 to $7,500 per new ministry initiatives annually for up to three (3) years.

Since the last report to the Executive in March 2026, in addition to the regular monitoring of the Investment Funds and the quarterly Financial Statements, the Committee was pleased to action the following:

a. Approved two requests from Camp Ta-Wa-Si from the Camping Ministries Fund in the amounts of $5,264.30 and $11,217.85 for building projects.
b. Set the 2027 committee travel rates at $.35/km with meals set at $15/breakfast, $20/lunch and $30/dinner; and hotel be set at a maximum of $175 plus tax/night, with no variation for single or double occupancy.
c. Set the President's 2027 travel rate at $.60/km, with meals at $20/breakfast, $20/lunch and $35/dinner; and hotel set at a maximum of $220 plus tax/night.
d. Approved the request from the Ukulele Church for a grant of $5,000 from the New Ministries Initiatives Fund, noting this is its third and final grant from that fund.
e. Increased the 2026 travel budget of the Regional Minister by $3,000 for a total budget of $10,000.
f. Welcomed Jonathan Schrader, our Investment Counsellor, to our May meeting for a very informative and detailed review of our investment portfolio. He noted that the total value of those investments has increased approximately 3% over the first quarter of 2026.
g. Approved the requests from an individual for assistance from the Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assistance Fund for the total amount of $1,150, and a grant $10,000 from the Community of Faith Assistance Fund to deal with unexpected financial situations. Due to the sensitive and personal nature of these situations, names are withheld from this report.
h. Approved the requests from the Rev. Faith March-McCuish ($600) and the Rev. Ellie Hummel ($875) for funding from the Ministry Personnel/Lay Continuing Education Fund.
i. Approved a request from Kimberley Inglis for $1,000 from the Ministry Candidates/Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Education Fund.
j. Approved the request from Trinity Clifton Pastoral Charge, Charlottetown for a grant in the amount of $10,000 from the Silver Falls Memorial Fund to support and enhance their program now providing fellowship and monthly free community dinners to postsecondary students at UPEI and Holland College.
k. As well, the Chair attended an informative gathering with the Chair of the Finance and Administration Division of B-NS, the B-NS Property Committee Chair, our Executive Minister and representatives of the Tatamagouche Board and the Women of First Light. Future meetings will continue to discuss living into the Memorandum of Understanding agreed to in June 2025.

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

T. Kevin Dingwell
Chair, Financial and Mission Services

Appendix C

NOMINATIONS

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Executive Meeting June 2026 Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee met on zoom and via email to try and fill as many vacant committee positions as possible along with vacant chair and secretary positions focusing our energies in the following areas:

Chair Positions:
Pastoral Relations - Brian Delong (retired clergy) has agreed to join the committee and will decide regarding taking on the chair role in early fall.
Property Committee – We continue to struggle to find a person to take on the chair of this committee. Along with the chair we are looking to fill 2 vacancies.
Actions: Follow up with Brian in September and continue to search for Property Committee chair.

Secretary Positions:
Both Pastoral Relations and Justice Mission and Outreach need secretary positions filled.
Pastoral Relations - This committee is at capacity in terms of people, and we would recommend asking someone in current group once again to take on this role and perhaps there are 2 people who might consider splitting the work.
Justice Mission and Outreach - The vacancy on this committee will allow us to have the next person brought on as secretary. In the meantime, like PR, are there a couple of people that might share the load?

Recommendations of the Committee:
It is the recommendation of Nominations that the Executive disband the Archives Committee and all work related to Archives be moved to the staff position Archives/Records.

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

Current Vacancies as of June/2026: (14)
Affirm - 1
Faith Formation & Education – 2
Financial and Mission Services - 1
Incorporated Ministries - 1
Justice, Mission and Outreach - 1
Maritime Conf Financial Services Board - 3
Nominations Committee - 1
Property Committee - 2
Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee (2 x 3 Regions) – 1
Wegesegum Camp Board – 1
I remain thankful to the members of this committee and their effort and energy to do this work.

Respectfully,

Tracy Friars, Chair