**ATTENDANCE** — Attendance

Anne Cameron, Alicia Cox, April Hart (via Zoom), Faith March-MacCuish, Jane McDonald, Donald Morrison, Carol Smith, Janet Sollows, Mary Taylor, Donna Tourneur.

**REGRETS** — Regrets

Ann Piper.

**GATHERING AND WELCOME** — Gathering and Welcome

Donnie Morrison, President, welcomed the Executive to this in person meeting of the Executive. Executive members took time to check-in with each other and reflect on the time and experiences since they last gathered.

**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:** (Mary Taylor/Carol Smith)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**PRIORITIES – OBJECTIVES – ACTIONS – MEASURABLES** – Appendix A — Priorities-Objectives-Actions - Measurables

Anne Cameron, Carol Smith and Faith March-MacCuish led the Executive through the regional council priorities and objectives, assigning actions and measurables. The Executive Minister presented the work for the Executive over the next year, as was presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting. Over the coming year, the Executive, in conversation with committees, staff, ministry personnel, and communities of faith, will be working to clarify where authority sits and how decisions are made. The revised Strategic Plan is included in the appendix.

**BREAK** — Break

**PRIORITIES – OBJECTIVES – ACTIONS – MEASURABLES** - continued — Priorities-Objectives-Actions - Measurables

Anne Cameron, Carol Smith and Faith March-MacCuish continued with the presentation on regional priorities. The Executive discussed assigning actions and measurables to the three pillars; strengthening accountability, with clearer expectations and follow-up. It was agreed that we will look carefully at our committee structure; what is needed, what is not, and how our work aligns with our actual capacity. We will be clarifying the role of the Executive so that it can focus on governance and leadership rather than task-based work, and we will be exploring how to deepen connection across the Region, including the role of clusters and other relational spaces.

**LUNCH** — Lunch

DRAFT

Governance

**GOVERNANCE** – Appendix B

Mary Taylor and Faith March-MacCuish led the members through the Governance Handbook; defining committees and working groups. A presentation offered a summary of feedback gathered at the annual meeting table groups after the overview of the Regional Council Structure Evaluation was presented. Members gathered took time to consider the evaluation recommendations and discuss next steps. The feedback summary is included in the appendix.

Break

**BREAK**

Governance

**GOVERNANCE** - continued

Mary Taylor and Faith March-MacCuish continued the discussion on governance. The Executive moved into small groups to continue the governance discussion. Groups used the information presented to date to assess the regional council structure and details outlined regarding committee terms, scope and accountability.

Grace and Supper

**GRACE AND SUPPER**

Connection and Communication

**CONNECTION AND COMMUNICATION**

Donnie Morrison and Faith March-MacCuish provided an update on the region's work to foster connection and communication in the region through cluster support. The Executive reviewed the report of the Cluster Animator, and the seeds that have been planted to grow the connections among the region, members, communities of faith and staff. The Executive agreed that this work should continue, as communications is a named priority for the region. A possible new focus could include a framework for clusters, and an outline for work to occur in concert with committees.

Evening Prayer

**EVENING PRAYER**

The President closed the evening session with prayer.

**Friday, September 18, 2026**

Opening Worship

**OPENING WORSHIP**

The President, Donnie Morrison, welcomed the Executive back to the meeting. The President led the Executive members in opening devotions.

Debriefing and Next Steps

**DEBRIEFING AND NEXT STEPS**

The Executive continued their discussions on the work to date and recapped the sessions from the September 17 meeting. The Executive confirmed the next steps in the process to ensure continuation of the pillars and agreed upon actions and measurables. From this time together, it was agreed that we will be focusing on our priorities, noting that the Children, Youth and Young Adults Committee are working on the approved proposal from the 2026 Annual Meeting, which will look at the priorities with respect to our Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries and make suggestions back to the Regional Council Executive around updates and inclusion.

The Executive will also be assessing our Committee Structure, and the matters of strengthening accountability, providing clearer expectations. As follow up from this meeting, we will be having a time of consultation with our committees and staff through the Division Chairs for their thoughts on the committee mandates and viability.

Break

**BREAK**

Minutes

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Mary Taylor)

That the minutes of the May 31, 2026 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

**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. On behalf of the region, the President and Executive Minister will be attending a celebration of life and transition at the Centre this weekend.

**Bridgewater United Church Review** - File#2025-1204-01 — Bridgewater UC Review; File #2025-1204-01

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the work resulting from this investigation. The Executive Minister reported that all recommendations are in the process of being implemented, with the assistance of an interim ministry consultant and financial assessment team. It was noted that the minister is currently on leave.

**Annual Meeting Proposals** — Annual Meeting Proposals

The Executive Minister noted that all three proposals are now with the committees and divisions for discernment and will return to Executive for further action, if required. The Executive discussed the proposals process, suggesting that future proposals include cost information to assist in determining financial implications.

**Voting for Designates Attending Meetings** — Voting for Designates Attending Meetings

The Executive discussed possible changes to the governance manual that would allow committees to have a designated member attend meetings in the absence of the chair and have voting privileges.

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Anne Cameron)

That, in the case of an absence of a committee chair (for an extended time, such as illness), a designate from the committee may be appointed as acting chair with voting privileges

**CARRIED**

**Cluster Support** — Cluster Support

The Executive discussed the report of the Cluster Animator, as presented at the Annual Meeting. The report included recommendations for the regional council. After discussion, the following decisions were made.

**MOTION:** (Carol Smith/Alicia Cox)

That the responsibility for promoting, supporting and encouraging clusters, be added to the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Anne Cameron)

That those recommendations, as named #1 (one) and #2 (two) from the report of the Cluster Animator, regarding communication and calendar use, be added to the responsibilities of the Communications Committee and staff.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** Anne Cameron/Jane McDonald)

That recommendation #3 (three) from the report of the Cluster Animator, regarding the creation of a resource toolbox, be added to the responsibilities of the Faith Formation and Leadership Development Committee.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Carol Smith)

That recommendation #4 (four) from the report of the Cluster Animator, regarding the need for Pastoral Care, be sent to the Pastoral Relations Committee for further work and consideration of recommendations for the Executive.

**CARRIED**

DRAFT

The Executive also acknowledged the final recommendation regarding designated staff time. The Executive Minister confirmed that this responsibility will remain with the Regional Minister.

Reports **REPORTS**

President **PRESIDENT**

Donnie Morrison presented the report of the President. The President noted that, on behalf of the region, he has recently attended funerals, deconsecration services and cluster meetings. The President also noted that he will be in attendance at the Tatamagouche Centre celebration this weekend.

Executive Minister **EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented her report. She shared that it has been a busy summer; with planning and preparing for a fall filled with travel, reviews, in-person Executive meetings, moderator visits and anniversary celebrations. The Executive Minister thanked the Executive for this experience of being together.

The Executive Minister brought forward a detailed piece of work that arose in the region over the summer.

Windsor UC **Windsor United Church**

The Executive Minister reported that there has been a complaint received regarding Windsor United Church. One aspect of the complaint is with the Office of Vocation for its consideration and recommendation, but another aspect rests with the region.

In Camera **In Camera**

**MOTION:** (Donna Tourneur/Jane McDonald)

That we move in camera.

**CARRIED**

Out of Camera **Out of Camera**

**MOTION:** (Jane McDonald/Alicia Cox)

That we move out of camera.

**CARRIED**

The Executive Minister will continue to keep the Executive informed on the matter, however no further action is required from the Executive at this time.

Nominations **NOMINATIONS**

Donna Tourneur and Anne Cameron presented the nominations report, which has also been added to the regional website.

Lunch and Grace **LUNCH AND GRACE**

Donnie Morrison offered grace.

(Carol Smith left the meeting)

Reports **REPORTS** - continued

Nominations **NOMINATIONS** – continued

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Donna Tourneur)

That Dan Wellwood and Barbars Blois MacNaughton (Secretary) be named to the Nominations Committee.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Donna Tourneur)

That Gus Tanner-Ihm and Daniel MacDonald be named as Members at Large to Regional Council Executive.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Donna Tourneur)

That the nominations report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee is in need of a co-chair.

**TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT**

Tri-Regional Staff Support

April Hart, representative, reported that she is new to this committee. Faith March-MacCuish updated the Executive that meetings with the administrative staff have taken place. The Sackville Office has received an ergonomic assessment, and new furnishings are now in place. The Executive Minister also noted the retirement of Jennifer Taylor, Executive Assistant, effective December 31, and that Leona Laundry, Bookstore and Archives staff, is currently on medical leave. The committee will meet next week.

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

United Church Women

In the absence of the UCW representative, there was no report.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** – Appendix C

Finance and Administration

Jane McDonald, chair, presented the report of the Division, included in the appendix. There are no motions to come to this meeting of the Executive.

**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** – Appendix D

Regional Services and Support

Anne Cameron, chair, presented the report of the committee.

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Mary Taylor)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council makes Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, the on-going home for annual meetings.

**CARRIED**

**Apartheid Free Pledge**

Apartheid Free Pledge

The chair brought forward a recommendation from the Division, asking that the Apartheid-Free pledge be signed by the region. It was noted that the proposal that came to the annual meeting was for the region to sign, and that this decision rests with the region; ie the committee can decide to sign, but the region is the body to decide if the region signs. The region has requested further discussion and education before signing. This clarification and information will be taken back to the committee in the hopes that the committee can begin some of the discussion and educations pieces for the region.

**MINSTRY RESOURCES** – Appendix E

Ministry Resources

Janet Sollows, chair, presented the report of the Division, included in the appendix.

**Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)**

Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)

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Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL)

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Mary Taylor)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council approves a policy change to permit Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, who reside in border communities in close proximity to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, to be licensed to lead worship in both regions, and further that communication be sent to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Pastoral Relations Committee indicating a desire to reach a Memorandum of Understanding with Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council in this regard which would include the understanding that accountability would reside with the Regional Council in which the Licensed Lay Worship Leader is a member of a Community of Faith.

**CARRIED**

Gay's River

**Gay's River Community of Faith**

**MOTION:** (Janet Sollows/Donna Tourneur)

That Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Executive approves the proposal from Gay's River Community of Faith to become a one-point pastoral charge named Gay's River Pastoral Charge.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** (Anne Cameron/Alicia Cox)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

New Business

**NEW BUSINESS**

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE – COMMITTEE SUSTAINABILITY**

**MOTION:** (Mary Taylor/Jane McDonald)

That the Committee Sustainability Mapping Summary be adopted as a working document and that Division chairs have conversation with their committees and staff, and bring feedback to the December 1, 2026, meeting of the Executive.

**CARRIED**

Remit

**REMIT**

The Executive Minister shared a letter from General Council Office regarding a Category 2 remit to enable changes to the composition of regional councils. The remit requires a vote by regional councils. This remit will require some educational work in advance of the 2027 annual meeting, when the vote will take place.

Open Discussion

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

The President and Executive Minister led the Executive in a discussion of a new initiative that was brought to this meeting of the Executive. The regional members were notified in advance of the Executive meeting, to bring greater awareness to the Executive meeting dates, and to allow any matters that may need to come before the Executive to be raised. It was agreed that this should process continue.

One such item came to this meeting regarding insurance. The President offered to reply to this inquiry.

(Mary Taylor left the meeting)

Next Meeting

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Executive will take place on December 1, 2026 at 9:30am, via Zoom video conferencing.

**ADJOURNMENT** Adjournment

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

**BENEDICTION** Benediction

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

Donnie Morrison
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

DRAFT

**Appendix A**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Bermuda-Nova Scotia**
**Strategic Plan**
**approved by the Regional Council**
(updated by Executive on September 17, 2026)

**Mission Statement**
Inspired by God, we are Christ's people in Bermuda and NS, loving each other, following Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Pillar 1: Bold Discipleship**
Objective:
To nurture God's beloved for the manifestation of God's love in the world.

Actions:
- To support people in exploring their spirituality through opportunities for engagement using a variety of media (e.g. cluster gatherings, social media, Bible study and book clubs)
- To create space for the sharing of faith stories (in communities of faith, clusters, networks, regional meetings).
- Promote a culture of spiritual learning in our communities of faith through gatherings, learning opportunities and sharing spiritual journeys.
- Offer programming that invites members to deepen their connection to God.
- Create a Bible Study for our communities of faith focusing on discipleship that can be shared in a variety of ways.

**Pillar 2: Daring Leadership**
Objective:
To develop curious, faithful, brave and daring leaders.

Actions:
- Create a tangible flowchart that names layers of accountability - who is responsible and who is accountable for tasks.
- Create a resource for faith communities' leadership succession – job descriptions, skills and accountability.
- Create and share resources for lay people to assume some responsibilities in communities of faith.
- Holding people accountable for the roles that they take on.
- Ensure that questions are answered and resources are provided in a timely manner.

**Pillar 3: Clear Mission**
Objective:
To engage communities of faith in defining their part in God's mission.

Actions:
- Assess and resource communities of faith's organizational health based on best practices and help provide the tools. – a resource/ an education piece for cof to understand
- Establish and provide leadership for a hospice (ending well) team and for clergy, equipping them with the skillset to accompany dying/grieving communities of faith through a process of closure.
- Holding webinars or developing resources on timely topics – e.g. MAID

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**Appendix B**

**GOVERNANCE EVALUATION FEEDBACK SUMMARY – ANNUAL MEETING 2026**

**Governance Evaluation**
**Summary of Feedback from 2026 Annual Meeting**

**1. Optimizing Structure & Governance**

- **Refining a Working Model:** There is widespread agreement that the core of the current layout has a solid foundation. The primary focus moving forward is to simply refine and improve it to make it more efficient.
- **Streamlining for Agility:** Contributors see an exciting opportunity to reduce administrative layers—such as connecting committees directly to the Executive or utilizing nimble, task-specific "commissions"—to enable direct, visible, and faster decision-making.

**2. Supporting and Energizing Leaders**

- **Protecting Valuable Leaders:** A strong emphasis is placed on ensuring the well-being of dedicated clergy, executive members, and lay leaders by proactively preventing burnout and balancing workloads.
- **Inspiring New Volunteers:** To make volunteering more inviting, there is an excellent push to create clear, gift-oriented task groups with well-defined role descriptions. Injecting creativity and playfulness into meetings can further entice fresh, diverse voices to join the work.

**3. Enhancing Communication & Digital Tools**

- **Clearer Pathways to Answers:** The community sees a clear path forward by publishing updated organizational charts and defined role boundaries, making it easier than ever for everyone to know exactly "who is where" and who to contact.
- **Upgrading Digital Spaces:** Feedback highlights a desire to invest in a more user-friendly website and optimized tools like ChurchHub, ensuring that local congregations can easily find resources and celebrate wider church news.

**4. Deepening Connections & Community Support**

- **Strengthening Local Ties:** While the old Presbytery connection is missed, there is high optimism surrounding the **Cluster model**. Empowering clusters and investing in roles like the Cluster Animator are viewed as perfect avenues to build strong, localized networks.
- **Collaborative Congregational Care:** Local groups are eager to partner closely with regional leadership, expressing a vibrant willingness to welcome newcomer clergy from diverse cultures when backed by structured, collaborative regional training and resources.

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## Appendix C

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Division of Finance & Administration
For Executive meeting
September 7, 2026

**Division Name:** Finance & Administration
**Committees:** Property Committee
Finance, Accountability & Investment
Archives
Incorporated Ministries
**Date of Division Meeting:** August 31, 2026
**Dates of Committee Meetings:**
**Archives** – no meeting
**Finance, Accountability & Investment** – Monthly
**Property** – Monthly
**Incorporated Ministries** – typically quarterly

**Reports of the decisions and discussions from the Committees:**

**Property:** Our committee have been meeting by zoom this past year and most of our 8 members attend each meeting. Members of the Committee include Wally Chivers (Chair), Fay Smith (Secretary), Bob McArel, Jack Logan, David LeBlanc, Wayne Cochrane, Joyce Custance, and regional support Faith Marsh-MacCuish.

Currently there are open files from 2023(1), 2024(5) and 2025(10). Most of these are files awaiting closing, properties up for sale, transfer of cemeteries or CRA Charitable status progress. To date this year 43 files have been processed. The majority completed. There are a few wait for the return of forms, property sales and transfers.

There was a loan application for General Council. The committee's responsibility is to ensure the viability of the CoF and its ability to repay the loan.

The region now holds three properties in trust. The Former Wentworth UC, Brunswick St. UC and St. Paul's UC. The latter two are finishing the paperwork to be part of a regional trust and will be managed by UPRC/Kindred Works.

The committee does much of their work online through emails to expedite processes for clients. A reminder that renovations over $10,000 or when external funds are being requested to do a project, it must be approved by the Property Committee. IT is also a good reminder that when properties are sold that there are obligations to the Region and the UCC. The property committee will not sign off on any file being closed until all debts are paid and those obligations are met.

The Property Committee is updating the property manual and expect to have a new draft for the Executive meeting in February for approval.

****Archives:** The committee has not met. IT has not been functioning for many years. How do we respond to this. I ask the Executive to discuss how we can meet our obligations to the Archive work in a way that will be viable and sustaining.

**Appendix C** - continued

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** - continued

**Finance, Accountability & Investment Committee (FAIC):** This committee meets monthly to discern business brought to its attention. The members of the committee are Mac MacLeod (Chair), Cindy Penney (Secretary), Allan Davis, Larry Evans, Carl Yates, April Hart, Jane McDonald (ex-Officio) and region support- Faith Marsh-MacCuish.

During the last quarter the FAIC has:

- updated a request to Ukulele Church for funding
- transfers of property and funds for Brunswick St. UC are progressing with members of the FAIC committee appointed as Trustees for the funds. As mentioned in the Property report the building is being transferred to UPRC/Kindred works for management in the Regional Trust.
- Discussions are still ongoing with the Tatamagouche Centre and their transition to the Women of First Light.
- A grants were approved for Pictou UC to initiate a pilot on a Children's Music Ministry project. Hantsport Pastoral Charge (Avondale UC) was granted funds for two projects; The Seasons Art Gallery and Acting Out a Senior's Theatre Troupe. A $550 grant was given to Sylvia Thorne to attend the UCC Office Administrator's Conference.
- Stairs UC requested a grant from the Faith Assistance Fund. Upon the due diligence of the Committee, it was discovered a number of financial arrears of the congregation. Those being M&S funds not transferred to National M&S, Arears in payments of Assessments. This led to further investigation on other churches that are in arrears. The Chair wrote letters to the various CoF indicating their circumstances and asking how they would deal with this.
- Throughout this process it was also discovered that one church had closed and had not paid amounts owing prior to closing. Proper paperwork did not manage to go through the Property and FAIC. The conclusion is that this work has raised concern about how we can ensure that CoF are submitting their M&S funds and paying their Assessments appropriately. There was some suggestions that perhaps a Regional Financial Handbook needs to be prepared outlining some core responsibilities with perhaps some training (mandatory?). Do we need to institute a Triennial review of financial statements?
- The financial review of Bridgewater UC will continue with Larry Evans and Alan Davis taking the lead on this.
- WE graciously received from Community United Church ($148,108) upon their amalgamation and sale of excess property. %0 is to go to the Facility Innovation Fund and 50% to Camping Ministry Fund.
- Two youth were supported to go to Collective 2026. IT was discerned that request in the future will require some changes on the form to indicate financial need. Also, wording indicating that if there has been a group request to fund a project, individuals will not be funded.
- One of our GIC's matures in October ($800,000) it was agreed that $700,000 would be re-invested in a non-redeemable GIC and $100,00 in a redeemable GIC. Division of Regional Resources was given a $300 overspend in their budget to facilitate a group meeting and review of the Division.
- Questions around when a church closes or ceases to exist due to an amalgamation, who should be advised at GCO and who should do the advising. Also, is there a way that we can expeditiously deal with M&S arrears, other thoughts (mentioned handbook or training)?

**Incorporated Ministries:** Membership includes; Krista Anderson (Chair), Kathy McKay, Kevin Little, Dale Skinner (Secretary) and Katie Aven.

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**Appendix C** - continued

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** - continued

Their main focus is reviewing the Incorporated Ministries within the Region. They attempt to meet with every IM at least once a year to review how they can support them in the work they do.

- each connector consults regularly and at least annually with the Chair of the Board of each assigned incorporated ministry
- connector to attend assigned incorporated ministry's annual general meeting. Attendance at any other regular meeting in order to support the incorporated ministry is at the discretion of the connector in consultation with the Chair of the Board of each assigned incorporated ministry
- each connector visits each assigned incorporated ministry at least once per year (in person if possible) and reports this visit date to the region.
- receive a report from each incorporated ministry to the Region annually and reports to the Region on all Incorporated Ministries annually. This report is submitted for inclusion in the Region's annual report
- ensure that all annual forms and reports, required by both government and Church, are current and submitted prior to deadlines. (Constitution/Bylaws, GC Admin Approval, Liability Insurance, Directors Annual Report, Last Financial Report, Corporation Filing, Charitable Filing, List of Directors)
- respond to requests for assistance from the boards of Incorporated Ministries
- respond to new requests for Incorporation from other organizations, outreach projects, etc. of The United Church of Canada within the Region
- investigate any concerns that an Incorporated Ministry may be in non-compliance with a bylaw
- create working groups where needed for the functioning of the Committee/Division
- will participate in the accreditation of camping ministries for the region

Currently, the IM within the region are:

- Camp Kidston
- Sherbrooke Lake Camp
- Pine Hill
- St. Pauls' Family Resource Institute
- Brunswick Street Mission
- North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre
- Extension Board
- Tatamagouche Centre
- Berwick Camp

Letters were sent this fall asking the camps to revisit and provide updates on progress made towards addressing the recommendations made in the most recent accreditation visit. There were various items that needed to be addressed, and the IM Committee will work with the organisations to meet those requirements.

**Business to be transferred to the Region:**

Discussion on what needs to be done about Archive Committee.

**Recommended Motions to the Region:**

There are no Motions at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane McDonald
Chair, Division of Finance & Administration

**Appendix D**

**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT**

**Divisional Reports to Regional Council Executive**
**Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council**

**Division Name:** Regional Services and Support September 17 & 18

**Committee Names within the Division**
Faith Formation and Leadership Development (FFLD)
Communications
Children, Youth and Young Adult (CYaYA)
Stewardship
Justice, Mission & Outreach (JMO)
Annual Meeting Planning (AMPC)
Affirm Ministries

**Date of Divisional Meetings:**

- The Division Committee met for a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on June 11, 2026 by Zoom.

**Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:**

Financial Report - Financial Statement was not available in time for this meeting.
Strategic Plan - The Division will continue to work on the Strategic Plan and it will be on the agenda for the Fall in person meeting of the Division and Committees.

Communications – This Committee will be meeting soon.

**Dates of Committee Meetings:** *(since last Executive meeting)*

- Faith Formation and Leadership Development *(meet monthly)*: May 4th, June 8th, Next meeting September 21
- Communications ø
- Children, Youth and Young Adult: meets monthly – July 21, September 15, Nest meeting, October 13
- Stewardship: ø
- Justice, Mission & Outreach: next meeting Oct. 29-30 in-person.
- Annual Meeting Planning meets monthly from Sept. to June (except for December) – June 24 Next meeting September 22, 2026
- Affirm: meets monthly: May 20th

ø = no meeting dates reported

**Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:**

**Faith Formation and Leadership Development**
No report at this time.

**Communications**
Plans to meet regularly.

**Children, Youth and Young Adult**

**Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Update**
Over the past year, CYaYA has continued to focus on creating opportunities for connection, leadership, and faith development for children, youth, and young adults across the region. A major highlight was the 2026 Collective Bus Pilgrimage, which brought together approximately 30 participants from the Maritime regions along with youth and leaders from other regions. The pilgrimage provided meaningful opportunities for worship, learning, relationship-building, and connection across the wider church.

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**Appendix D** - continued

**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued

CYaYA is also exploring the development of a Youth Advisory Council for high school youth, with conversations underway about structure, partnerships, and resources. Work is continuing to strengthen campus chaplaincy across the region, and CYaYA recently approved a new Campus Chaplaincy Grant to support communities of faith in developing this ministry. The team is also supporting camp ministry and other youth-led initiatives across the region.
CYaYA is continuing to consider how the region can better support ministry with children, youth, and young adults, including through the review of the regional strategic plan. A key area of conversation has been ensuring that young adult and first-third ministry is appropriately reflected in the region's priorities. The team has also developed a survey to hear directly from young people and those involved in their ministries about their connection to faith, experiences of church, what they would like church to look like, and the issues they believe the church should be focusing on. The survey is intended to reach both those who are actively connected to church and those who may have become disconnected. CYaYA is also supporting continued young adult ministry development, including new programming made possible through grant funding, and exploring opportunities for Godly Play training and other forms of ministry development and leadership formation.

**Stewardship**
Informal Report, September 10, 2026

- Looking forward to continuing work with the Growth and Stewardship Animators.
- Prepared to incorporate the revisions of Stewardship as the Executive Council determines.
- New Stewardship program, Money and Personal Financial Stewardship ( On Demand) available. Now assisting the individual person in our communities of faith.
- Continuing to post Stewardship notices on the Region Wednesday Newsletter including current Stewardship programs available.
- At the October 11, 2026 Sunday Service, presenting at St. Paul United Church, Westville a short presentation on Stewardship.
- With Cluster list and approval plan to visit the cluster meeting and discuss stewardship.

**Justice, Mission & Outreach** *(Joint Committee with FSLDW)*

**Justice Mission and Outreach Committee Report**
**September, 2026**

JMOC has not met since the last report. Our next meeting is our annual Fall Gathering, October 29-30, 2026, at the Regional Council Office, Sackville.

The theme for the meeting is from our centenary motto. We'll be considering the question "Faith in Action: How Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice Shape the Work of JMOC–UCC East." Our guests for the meeting will be Rev. Jennifer Henry, executive Minister for Organizational Development and Strategy for the UCC and our ministers for Growth and Stewardship, Rev. Rob Shearer and Rev. Sharon Ballantyne. We will be reflecting on how our faith calls us to engage in justice, mission, and outreach in meaningful and transformative ways. We will also explore international justice issues with another guest, Amy Zavitz, Global Partnership Program Coordinator with the UCC who will join us remotely.

JMOC added another new member, Layton Peck, who joins us as a member at large but with an extensive background in social justice. Congratulations to Rev. Shepherd Munikwa for successfully completing his MA in Peace and Justice.

**Just Peace**
Pledging to Become an Apartheid Free Community

**Appendix D** - continued

**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued

Whereas:

- The BNS Regional Executive heard a ppt presentation at their Spring meeting in March 2026 documenting Israel's apartheid regime over Palestinians and being asked to consider signing the Pledge to become an Apartheid Free Community,
- The BN Regional Executive requested that the Just Peace Working Group bring the issue forward in the form of a Proposal to the May Annual Meeting of the Region,
- The Just Peace Working Group brought the issue and request in the form of a Proposal to the May Annual Meeting with further documentation of Israel's apartheid regime over Palestinians and of the United Church of Canada's support for the Apartheid Free Community movement through another ppt presentation at the online meeting for proposals and with a written and verbal presentation including responding to questions at the Annual Meeting of the BNS region,
- The BNS Annual Meeting was satisfied by learning more and voted almost unanimously for the Proposal,
- The Just Peace Working Group has further documentation for any members of the BNS Regional Executive should they require further learning now as well as continuing to learn more during the coming months along with communities of faith,
- The Apartheid-Free Communities pledge is a commitment to the growing international movement for Palestinian rights and for justice, equality and freedom for all people - a new anti-apartheid campaign following the campaign that freed South Africa.
- Taking the Pledge doesn't mean that we're perfect in our actions – it's what we are aspiring to be and do – and it's connected to our ongoing work toward indigenous rights and reconciliation locally.
- It encourages us to educate ourselves and others about apartheid both internationally and locally, and to ensure our own actions do not contribute to systemic oppression.

**Motion: "**That the BNS Regional Executive sign this Pledge to become an Apartheid Free Community:
"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."

**Indigenous Right Relations**
JMOC continues to work towards re-establishing this working group. There was a display at the BNS annual meeting and a small group formed to present a webinar on Land Acknowledgements on June 17. Unfortunately, due to a technical glitch, the program could not be recorded.

**Mental Health**
This working group is still paused but a new planning group has formed and will meet monthly to establish a focus for the working group prior to inviting more members.

**Ecojustice**
This working group developed a "Care for Creation" presentation for the annual meetings and continues to seek "Green Champions" from communities of Faith.

**Basic Income Guarantee**
No update available.

DRAFT

**Appendix D** - continued

**REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT** - continued

**Annual Meeting Planning**
The Committee met to review the Evaluations of the 2026 Annual Meeting on June 24, 2026.
With the following motion being approved, regarding the yearly location of the Annual Meeting, "that the Executive be asked to approve that the Nova Scotia Bermuda Regional Council make Mount St. Vincent University our on-going home for our Annual Meetings.

**Affirm Ministries**
No report at this time.

**Concerns of the Division and the Committees**

**Recommended Motions from the Division to the Executive**

**Motions:**

-That the Bermuda- Nova Scotia Regional Council make Mount St. Vincent University our on-going home for our Annual Meetings.

-That the BNS Regional Executive sign this Pledge to become an Apartheid Free Community:
"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."

Anne Cameron
Chair
Division of Regional Services and Support

**Appendix E**

**MINISTRY RESOURCES**

**Divisional Report to Regional Council Executive**
**Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council**
**September 17-18, 2026**

**Division Name:** Ministry Resources

**Committee Names within the Division**
Future Directions
Retiree Support
Pastoral Relations
Faith Story & Community Covenant
Licensing

**Date of Divisional Meeting:** September 10, 2026

**Report of the decisions and discussion items before the Division:**

**Dates of Committee Meetings:** (since last Executive meeting)
Future Directions – This work is being done by the Division.
Retiree Support – none
Pastoral Relations – June 5, August 5, September 11
Faith Story & Community Covenant – This work is being done by the Division.
Licensing – June 25

**Reports of the decisions and discussion items from the Committees:**
**Future Directions:** Ross Bartlett has agreed to chair this committee. David Hewitt has been dealing with situations which have emerged and the Division has been making decisions. We received an update on the Halifax amalgamation. They are seeking a name. It has been narrowed down to 4 or 5 choices. A letter was received and circulated from Bethel United Church in Marion Bridge. A letter from Zion Wesley United Church in Gabarus, was also received. Both letters requested to separate from each other as a 2-point pastoral charge, to each become a single point pastoral charge. It was noted that there was not enough information regarding their next steps to envision operating as single point charges. They will be asked to prepare separate profiles outlining their plans for ministry as single point charges.

**Retiree Support:** Ruth Gamble continues to send emails to retirees. She has also been acknowledging deaths in our region by posting a note on funeral home pages. Several new members have been added to this committee. They are hoping to arrange a cluster gathering in the Halifax area soon.

**Pastoral Relations:**
Two ministry personnel have received funding for the Intentional Interim Ministry modules through the BNS PR initiative. No requests from congregations in new calls or appointments have been received for the United Fresh Start Program. A number of ministry personnel continue on medical leave. We have seen a couple of occasions where congregations have pushed back against decisions of the Pastoral Relations Committee. Pastoral Relations does not always concur with proposals or actions of congregations. The committee will often request further action or study by the impacted congregation.

**Faith Story & Community Covenant: No report.**

**Licensing:**
The planning team for the LLWL Annual Gathering has met which includes representatives from both regions. The LLWL Annual Gathering will take place October 23 & 24, 2026 in Sackville, NB.