THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
September 15-16, 2026 at Regional Council Office, Sackville, NB

DRAFT

Attendance

ATTENDANCE

Kathryn Bigsby, Jim Blanchard, Richard Bowley, Elaine Burrows, Rachel Campbell, Catherine Ann Dickson, Kevin Dingwell, Tracy Friars, Sue LeMaistre, Faith March-MacCuish, Micah Spencer.

Regrets

REGRETS

Sheila Gallant, Jean Herman, Linton Worrall.

Gathering and Welcome

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Rachel Campbell, President, welcomed members 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.

Equity Support

EQUITY SUPPORT TEAM

The Equity Self-Monitoring questions were reviewed. Members gathered were reminded to use the questions as focus points throughout the meetings.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Constitution of the Council

The 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.

Acknowledgement 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.

Governance

GOVERNANCE

Jim Blanchard, Tracy Friars and Faith March-MacCuish led the members through the Governance Handbook; defining committees and working groups. A presentation offered an overview of the Regional Council Structure Evaluation. The overall response from the Evaluation was that the Structure was working well for the Regional Council and would need some strengthening. Members gathered took time to consider the evaluation recommendations and discuss next steps.

Grace and Lunch

GRACE AND LUNCH

Governance

GOVERNANCE - continued

Jim Blanchard, Tracy Friars and Faith March-MacCuish continued leadership of the discussion on governance. The Executive spent some time looking at the definitions of a committee versus a working group; discussing the lifespan, authority, role, structure, and membership of each. It was agreed that our committees can create a working group for a particular piece of work; within the parameters above. The Executive will do some further work with sharing this with the committees, so they are aware of the possibilities. This work will continue in the next session.

Break

BREAK

GOVERNANCE - continued — Governance

Executive members worked in 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.

BREAK — Break

GOVERNANCE – continued — Governance

Executive members remained in their small groups and reported back to the whole on the discussions from their group work. The Executive has made some recommended changes for the Governance handbook, which will be a work in progress through to the December meeting.

GRACE AND SUPPER — Grace and Supper

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

Jim Blanchard and Faith March-MacCuish led the Executive through the Regional Council priorities and objectives, assigning actions and measurables. The Executive reassessed the Vision, Mission and Core Values of the Regional Council and made some editorial changes. The Executive began to take some time with the Strategic plan and the five (5) priorities named by the Region. The Executive members were broken into teams and will each be asked to bring back some thoughts on the priorities; looking at them from the perspective of clear objectives and key results (measurables).

EVENING PRAYER — Evening Prayer

The President, Rachel Campbell, led the Executive members in prayer to close out the day of meetings.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

OPENING WORSHIP — Opening Worship

The President, Rachel Campbell, welcomed the Executive back to the meeting. The President lit the Christ and Affirm candles and led the Executive members in opening devotions.

DEBRIEFING AND NEXT STEPS — Debriefing and Next Steps

The Executive continued their discussions on the governance review and recapped the sessions from the September 15 meeting. The Executive confirmed the next steps in the process to ensure continuation of the priorities and agreed upon actions and measurables. The Executive received the answers to the questions posed to the Clusters and to the members gathered at the spring meeting. This will be material for the December meeting.

BREAK — Break

MINUTES — Minutes

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Richard Bowley)

> That the minutes of the June 9, 2026 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.
>
> **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE — Correspondence

1. Muslim Association of Moncton – Letter of thanks received, offering appreciation for the letter of support and solidarity from the region. — Muslim Assoc. of Moncton

BUSINESS ARISING — Business Arising

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UC Policy Webinars

United Church Policy Webinars
The Executive Minster reported that the roll-out for training on this new policy is expected and planning is underway.

Communications Group

Communications Group
Sue LeMaistre provided an update on the work of the communications group. It was noted that seeds have now been planted to grow the connections among the region, members, communities of faith and staff; as was the priority for the formation of this working group. 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. Sue LeMaistre agreed to prepare an outline of this work; to be added to the agenda of the December meeting.

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. A report from this group will be available for the December meeting.

Behavioural Covenant

Behavioural Covenant
The President 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.

MOTION: (Jim Blancard/Sue LeMaistre)

That the be Behavioural Covenant be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

It was noted that this covenant will be added to the regional website.

Moncton Area Chaplaincy

Moncton Area Chaplaincy
The Executive Minister noted that a letter is being prepared to request proposals from local area churches who may be willing to augment this piece to their ministry. This letter has not yet been sent.

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. It was noted that in Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, it was felt more education was required before signing.

Reports

REPORTS

President

PRESIDENT

The President, Rachel Campbell, presented her report. The President has made communications a priority and, to that end, the President is committed to sending a monthly letter to members of the region to foster connections. As well, the President has established "President's Pop-Up", where a photo and location is shared, with the tag *Where will the President pop-up next?* The President shared some of the services and occasions that she has had the privilege of attending.

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, in-person Executive meetings, moderator visits and anniversary celebrations. The Executive Minister thanked the Executive members for their spirit, and for this experience of being together. The Executive Minister believes that this healthy relationship will help foster healthy congregations and communities. The Executive Minister noted that in 2031, the 48th General Council is anticipated to come to the east. If there is interest in the region, a proposal would need to be prepared.

AFFIRM Affirm

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

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION – Appendix B Faith Formation and Education

Catherine Ann Dickson, chair, reported that the committee is meeting regularly, and that the work of the committee is ongoing. The report of the committee is included in the appendix.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – Appendix C United Church Women

Elaine Burrows, UCW representative, presented the report, included in the appendix. The representative noted the upcoming national meeting in Ottawa in July, 2027, in celebration of the 65th anniversary of the UCW.

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES – Appendix D Incorporated Ministries

The report of the committee is included in the appendix. In the absence of the chair, the Executive Minister reported that there has been a recent issue at one of the camps, which the Executive Minister has responded to. In addition, the committee is working on by-laws revisions and a compliance issue with one of the camps where the United Church is in partnership with the Baptist Church.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH – Appendix E Justice, Mission and Outreach

Kathy Bigsby, Chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair highlighted that there will be an in-person fall gathering at the end of October.

TRI-REGIONAL STAFF SUPPORT Tri-Regional Staff Support

Jim Blanchard presented the report of the committee. The committee are pleased to report that, as follow up from an ergonomic review, some new furniture and accommodations have been purchased for the Sackville Office. In addition, the committee will be working with the Executive Minister to fill the position of Executive Assistant, due to the retirement of Jennifer Taylor.

PROPERTY Property

The Executive Minister reported that this committee is still operating without a chair. In the meantime, several large pieces have required work this summer, including a legal issue in the St. Stephen area, due to an oil spill. The property has been sold but has apparently not been registered to the new owners. Work on this matter is ongoing. In addition, the Executive Minister highlighted some revisions that may be needed to the property handbook for clarification.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PLANNING Regional Council Planning

Richard Bowley presented the report of the committee. The committee will be meeting within the next month to continue work for planning the next annual meeting.

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES – Appendix F Financial and Mission Services

Kevin Dingwell, chair, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix.

NOMINATIONS – Appendix G Nominations

The chair of the committee, Tracy Friars, presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair thanked the Executive for their discussions yesterday, which led to some clarifications and suggestions for new members. The chair noted that some work needs to take place on succession planning, so that chairs can come from within committees as people learn the roles and workings of the committees.

NEW BUSINESS New Business

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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. The remit requires a vote by regional councils. This remit will require some educational work in advance of the annual meeting, when the vote will take place.

Grace and Lunch

GRACE AND LUNCH

(Richard Bowley left the meeting)

Reports

REPORTS – continued

Pastoral Relations

PASTORAL RELATIONS – Appendix H

MOTION: (Kevin Dingwell/Jim Blanchard)

That Lloyd Bruce, Regional Minister, be a corresponding member to the September 16, 2026 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

The Regional Minister, Lloyd Bruce, presented the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee, in the absence of a chair for this committee. The Regional Minister reported that there are currently 16 (sixteen) pastoral charges involved in collaborative ministries, and that 37 (thirty-seven) pastoral charges are currently without call or appointment. In addition, there are 45 (forty-five) pastoral charges in the region who have a pastoral charge supervisor assigned and 22 (twenty-two) pastoral charges with a liaison assigned. These factors place a large strain on human resources. The Regional Minister provided this information as background for the number of lay-led congregations, and the value and importance of supporting these congregations. The Pastoral Relations Committee has created information for the structure of a lay-led congregation and the responsibilities and engagement of these congregations in the community for the consideration of the Executive. The Executive discussed the proposed policy, including the implications for the congregation and pastoral charge supervisors, and applauded the committee for the care and support shown through the development of this plan.

MOTION: (Jim Blanchard/Tracy Friars)

That the policy for Lay Led Congregations be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

The Regional Minister updated the Executive that the Ending Well policy has been sent to the Property Committee for their review and input, before coming to the Executive at a later date for consideration.

Open Discussion

OPEN DISCUSSION

Micah Spencer led the Executive in a discussion of some new initiatives that were 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 any allow any matters that may need to come before the Executive to be raised. It was agreed that this should process continue.

Micah Spencer offered that one such question came forward for consideration at this meeting regarding the annual meeting. The Executive discussed feedback from the most recent annual meeting, and clarified that, as per the motion made at the 5th (fifth) Annual Meeting on May 26-28, 2023; the Region will meet two years in person and one year online. The next two annual meetings are planned to be in-person; at Sackville, NB in 2027 and in Prince Edward Island in 2028. The Executive also discussed the proposal process. The President has agreed to deliver a response to the individuals who raised the question regarding this information and the planning process.

Closing Prayer

CLOSING PRAYER

Catherine Ann Dickson offered a closing prayer to conclude the day's meeting.

DRAFT

NEXT MEETING Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive take place on December 3, 2026 at 9:00am, via Zoom video conferencing.

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 a benediction.

Rachel Campbell
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

DRAFT

Appendix A

ANNUAL MEETING FEEDBACK SUMMARY: NUMBERS TELL A STORY

Broadening the Definition of "Vitality"

- **Beyond the Ledger:** Congregations argue that true vitality is found in deep compassion and spiritual hospitality. They reject traditional metrics that focus solely on "money and bums in pews."
- **Unmeasured Outreach:** Highly impactful initiatives—like local food boxes and sharing shelves—often bypass the church's central bank accounts. There is a strong desire to find new ways to capture and value these community volunteer hours.

The Power of Lay Leadership and Mutual Care

- **Stretching Comfort Zones:** In the absence of formal clergy, laypeople are stepping up to lead worship, adopt new governance models, and manage uncertainty.
- **Reimagining Ministry:** This structural challenge has pushed congregants to try new things. It has successfully transitioned communities away from top-down dependency into an active, shared ministry where everyone pitches in.

Radical Hospitality and Community Presence

- **Buildings as Ministry Assets:** Participants emphasized that church buildings should be viewed as active arms of outreach rather than just revenue-generating real estate. Examples include hosting community gardens, providing personal care for unhoused populations, and partnering ecumenically for free weekly breakfasts.
- **Belonging Precedes Belief:** Moving church activities outside—such as hosting weekly post-service potlucks or placing picnic tables on the lawn—fosters a sense of radical belonging first. Flying the Pride flag as an Affirming ministry was also highlighted as a powerful catalyst for welcoming new people.

Diversity, Theology, and Systemic Realities

- **The Diversity Gap:** Many communities note that while they feel highly resilient, they remain ethnically homogeneous. While some are experimenting with global music, genuine cultural diversity is currently happening more naturally through secular portals like community gardens.
- **Progressive Identity:** There is a recognized need to better project the United Church's inclusive, progressive theology into public media to reach young families who may otherwise hold rigid, traditional views of church.
- **Burnout and Aging Demographics:** Smaller, rural congregations face severe volunteer fatigue, with tiny groups of "senior and junior seniors" carrying the entire workload. Many operate with zero financial reserves, creating deep anxiety over how to pay for ministry personnel as broader charitable giving declines.

Engaging with Regional Data and the "2035" Vision

- **The Danger of Despondency:** Raw, downward-trending statistics often leave congregations feeling despondent or panicked about "just working to get into the green column." Leaders caution that data must be delivered carefully in bite-sized pieces.
- **Delayed Implementation:** While some councils have used the data to highlight local opportunities, many communities have delayed these discussions due to competing local priorities, a lack of clarity surrounding the "2035" vision, or a need for more localized context.

Appendix B

FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Faith Formation and Education
Report for September 15 & 16, 2026

FF&E have met twice (via Zoom) since our last meeting held on June 9, 20026. The first meeting held on July 21, 2026. The primary purpose was a proposal for sponsorship of two youth for Collective, to choose a recurring meeting time for future meetings, and to discuss thoughts/ideas for proceeding with campus ministries and the Regional prioritizing of First Third Ministries new to our mandate.

The primary purpose of our second meeting held September 14, 2026, was to hear from our invited guest, Rev. Ellie Hummel, multi-faith chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator. Ellie offered an insightful presentation on her work at Mount Alison University and provided some suggestions on how FF&E might offer effective support the campus ministry.

Updates:

Collective – 21 youth were sent to collective. FF&E provided half of the funding to send Mary Taylor in the role of chaplain.

Upcoming Workshops - Catherine Stuart has reached out 5 youth/young adults regarding offering workshops (online or in-person) on the work they have done or are doing within the UCC.

Regional Staff Videos – Catherine Stuart and Eric Gingles are working on these and will be in touch with staff to set up times.

Survey – Catherine Stuart is working on a survey that will be sent out to faith communities to distribute to families and Sunday School leaders in regards to the faith and spiritual needs of Children, Youth & Young Adults. This will be distributed in October.

Collecting Resources – Pierre Momberg and Lisa Folkins are currently in the process of collating the resources that have been sent to FF&E to have them ready to share in the new year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Ann Dickson
FF&E Chair

DRAFT

Appendix C

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Maritime United Church Women Report
April to August 2026

Maritime United Church Women held their annual meeting on April 24, 25, and 26, 2026 at Nashwaaksis United Church on Main Street, Fredericton, NB. The theme was Creation, Creator, and I based on Job 12:NIV, and the hymn: This is God's Wonderours World. The theme speaker was Alice Finnamore.

Registration began at 2:30 with the meeting beginning at 4 pm and as much business as could be conducted before supper at 6 pm was done. Greetings from Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor (B-NS) was read, and Rev. Rachel Campbell brought greetings from FSLDW (in-coming president) because Hugh Ellis, president was unable to attend. A memorial service led by Mary Louise Mills and Isobel Flemmings from Halifax district. Names of UCW members who died in 2025 were named.

Saturday morning worship was led by Nashwasksis UCW. The keynote speaker was Rev. Alice Finnamore. Following her presentation, more business followed. After lunch, and a talk by Barbara DeJeet, appreciation was presented to Betty Ann Watts, the outgoing MUCW president. The national UCW president installed the new president, Ann Piper as president as well as other executive members. .
Nick Hawkins, a Wildlife Cinematographer had a very interesting presentation on salmon taking us underwater to see their habitat and how they survive. Following the Nick's presentation, there were four workshops. The guest speaker at the banquet was Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, executive minister for the three eastern regions who always gives us ideas to think about. At 7:30, the Golden Club Singers entertained us for an hour. A number of UCW members were able to attend the Sunday morning worship service.

Next April 24, 2027, there will be a one day MUCW gathering at Winsloe United Church on PEI.

The MUCW executive met on June 15th in Sackville, NB. We will be meeting on Monday October 19th in Moncton. Over the winter, the meetings are held over Zoom.

Berwick Camp UCW day was held on Wednesday July 29th. The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Bev Brazier who spoke on Convenant which the theme for Berwick Camp this year. The late Anne Lake, a long time MUCW representative for Berwick camp had her name added to Memorial Plaque at the Cookie Cottage at Berwick Camp.

Next year, the UCW will be celebrating their 65th anniversary in Ottawa at the Hilton Garden Inn – Ottawa airport from July 19 to 23, 2027. The theme is Hear Our Voice The Scripture is Proverbs 8:1, and the hymn is Draw the Circle Wide. ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca

Trinty UCW, Summerside is hosting a PEI UCW gathering on Saturday October 17 from 9 till 2.

So, the work continues. When you read through the accounts of UCW groups, many of whom are very small, a lot is accomplished within those groups with their outreach, pastoral care, and sometimes financial gifts to others.

Elaine Burrows
MUCW representative to FSLDW
September 4, 2026

DRAFT

Appendix D

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

Incorporated Ministries Committee Report
to the Executive of FLDRC September 2006

The Incorporated Ministries Committee is planning to meet on September 24, 2026, to plan our fall work. As of today, we are still seeking a couple of new members and Nominations is working hard to fill these positions as well as many on other committees.
Rev. Catherine Stuart and I had planned to attend a New Brunswick Camp this summer, but a request for time to complete some work was received and agreed too. Work has been ongoing and hopefully next spring we can arrange our visit.
Last fall each member was assigned a couple of Camps/Boards to be the contact person. Each has been faithful in following up with their “assigned” tasks for which we are thankful. With the retirement of our secretary last spring, we will need to look at the assignments again as she completes her work with those camps.

Sheila Gallant
Chair, Incorporated Ministries Committee

DRAFT

Appendix E

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

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.

Updates from Working Groups:

Just Peace
This working group continues to keep our communities of faith aware of the situation in Palestine. The proposal regarding signing the Anti-apartheid pledge was passed by the regional council at the annual meeting and our name has been added to the signatories. The working group will continue to provide educational for our communities of faith. A working group member has been advised that the UCC has resumed its program for accompaniers and they expect to be sent to Israel later this year or early next year. The situation for Palestinians in Israel has worsened and along with that the scrutiny of visitors to Israel who might have pro-Palestinian views has intensified. This includes investigation of on-line presence for visitors. As a result, we have temporarily removed documents with this person's name from our website and going forward reports from the working group will not include names of individuals who may be traveling to Israel.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bigsby
JMOC co-chair

Appendix F

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Financial & Mission Services Committee
Report to the Executive for 16 September 2026

The Financial and Mission Services Committee has no action items to bring forward at this meting.

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

a. Expressed thanks to the Rev. David Allan whose final term on the Committee ended at the rise of the Regional Annual Meeting. His exemplary dedication and wisdom will be greatly missed. The Committee eagerly awaits word of a new member willing to join this work.
b. Approved the request from an individual for assistance from the Active/Retired Ministry Personnel Assistance Fund for the total amount of $1,250. Due to the sensitive and personal nature of these situations, names are withheld from this report
c. Received word from the Fredericton Council for Christian Ministry on Campus that since UNB was developing its own response to providing spiritual care, the Council would be returning the unused portion of the 2026 Mission and Service grants they received.
d. Approved the request from Harmony United, Saint John, for a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the Silver Falls Memorial Fund to support their work with the Ecumenical Saturday Supper Ministry of East Saint John.
e. Approved the requests from the Rev. Natasha Pearen ($750), the Rev. Kate Jones ($1,000), David Mark Wheaton ($350), and Christopher Lane ($550) for funding from the Ministry Personnel/Lay Continuing Education Fund.
f. Approved the request from Lochlain Cameron ($212.50) for funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund.
g. Approved the request from the Executive Minister that up to $300 be made available to each of the three (3) clusters who will be hosting luncheons for the visit of our Moderator.
h. Received word that $889.95 was forwarded to M&S from the offering at the Celebration of Ministries Regional Council service on June 7, 2026.
i. Received word that a donation of $253 from ‘Funeral Home Donations’ was forwarded to the Region through Canada Donates and transferred those monies to the Community of Faith Assistance Fund.
j. Approved the request from Trinity United, Charlottetown, for a grant in the amount of $3,500 from the New Ministries Initiative Fund to build upon work being done with a regional First Third Ministry cluster.

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

T. Kevin Dingwell
Chair, Financial and Mission Services
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters

DRAFT

Appendix G

NOMINATIONS

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

Nominations Committee isn't scheduled to meet until September and so not much news since June. We do have a brief update and confirmation on our focus in terms of filling the chair vacancies on Pastoral Relations and Property.

Chair Positions:
Pastoral Relations – After several contacts, this position remains vacant. It is imperative that we fill this ASAP and any suggestions our executive could provide would be most welcome.
Property Committee – Again, this chair position remains vacant for almost a year although we are grateful to Betty Ashley for her interim support from September 2025 – June 2026. It is also imperative that we fill this position ASAP.
Actions: **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Thoughts:
I believe we need to look at our model of filling chair and secretary positions going forward so that we aren't vulnerable when a person's term ends. Any thoughts would be welcome, and this will be on the agenda for Nominations this month for discussion and a recommended approach.

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

Current Vacancies as of September/2026:
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 - 2
Property Committee - 2
Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee (2 x 3 Regions) – 1
Wegesegum Camp Board – 1

Respectfully,

Tracy Friars
Chair

Appendix H

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Lay-Led Community of Faith
Draft

Background

The Basis of Union makes clear, "The policy of the Church shall be that, as far as reasonably possible, every Pastoral Charge shall have a pastorate without interruption, and that, as far as reasonably possible, every effective member of the Order of Ministry shall have a Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith." (Basis of Union 10.2) (2019)

The Manual indicates that a "pastoral charge or other community of faith that has completed and filed a profile may issue a call or appointment." (The Manual I.1.2.1)

The 44th General Council, in 2022, in response to Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of the Church in the 2020s, affirmed "the importance and value of "lay-led congregations" (a descriptive term, not a formal "class", loosely describing a congregation without called or appointed ministry personnel for more than a year) continuing to be linked to the denomination and supported in governance by a regional council appointed pastoral charge supervisor;"

The handbook, Guidelines for a Community of Faith Profile, notes that a "living faith story and the other elements of a community of faith profile may point to any number of outcomes, such as a lay-led congregation, amalgamation or disbanding of the pastoral charge, or some new innovative ministry..." (Pastoral Relations: Guidelines for a Community of Faith Profile).

Procedures

1. The Community of Faith will complete a community of faith profile which confirms its exploration of "amalgamation or disbanding" and articulates its continuing conviction of ministry to and with the larger community.
2. The Community of Faith will identify and confirm its inability, because of limited resources, to appoint or extend a call to a ministry personnel.
3. The Community of Faith, with the support of a Pastoral Relations Liaison or Pastoral Charge Supervisor and Regional Minister, will faithfully explore and exhaust the possibilities for collaborative ministry (sharing a ministry personnel) with a neighbouring community of faith.
4. Having completed 1 through 3 above, the Community of Faith may, with the support of a Pastoral Relations Liaison or Pastoral Charge Supervisor, develop a Lay-Led Community of Faith Plan and submit the plan, together with the application form, to the Pastoral Relations Committee to be recognized as a Lay-Led Community of Faith.

Lay-Led Community of Faith Plan

A Lay-Led Community of Faith Plan will contain as a minimum, an articulation of the ministry the community of faith, and the following:

Administration & Stewardship	▪ Identification of a volunteer Secretary & Church Hub administrator ▪ An analysis and projection of financial viability

Appendix H - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

Christian Education	▪ Identification of a volunteer study group leader and/or church school leader(s) ▪ A plan for the provision of learning opportunities
Outreach & Social Justice	▪ Identification of an Outreach and Social Justice contact person ▪ A list of activities to support this work in the coming year
Pastoral Care & Support	▪ Identification of a volunteer pastoral care coordinator ▪ A plan for the provision of pastoral care and support*
Worship Leadership	▪ Identification of one or more trained Sacraments Elder. ▪ Identification of lay persons, licensed lay worship leaders and/or ministry personnel prepared to offer Pulpit/Sunday Supply as part of a yearly schedule† **OR** ▪ Identification of a Congregational Designated Minister for Worship, in a position approved by the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Region.‡

Recognition by the Pastoral Relations Committee

Recognition as a Lay-Led Community of Faith will be valid for two years and must be renewed every two years thereafter.

Applications for recognition as a Lay-Led Community of Faith will normally be made by March 31st of each year and be valid for the Pastoral Year, July 1 to June 30 of each year.

In support of Lay Led Communities of Faith, the Regional Council through the Pastoral Relations Committee will appoint a Pastoral Charge Supervisor, support the gathering of clusters of pastoral charges for support and encouragement, provide training opportunities and resources.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements of a Community of Faith as outlined in Sections B.1 and B.2 of the United Church Manual and the policies above as related to Lay-Led Communities of Faith, may result in the revocation of the designation as a Lay-Led Community of Faith by the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Regional Council.

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* If the provision of Pastoral Care & Support relies on the ministry personnel of a neighboring pastoral charge, a retired ministry personnel, or a Pastoral Charge Supervisor who is a ministry personnel, a letter of agreement (including duties and any compensation) must be attached to the plan.

† If the provision of Worship Leadership will rely on regular leadership of Licensed Lay Worship Leaders indicate the name(s) of the LLWL and a proposed schedule of leadership and compensation.

‡ Only a Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) or those in the process of seeking licencing as a LLWL within Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, may be considered for a position as a Congregational Designated Minister for Worship by a Lay-Led Community of Faith or Pastoral Charge.

Appendix H - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

Application for Recognition as Lay-Led Community of Faith

Community of Faith		Congregations
Name of Pastoral Charge:		
Address:		
Phone:		
Email:		
Pastoral Charge Supervisor		

Governing Body	Name	Email	Phone
From your Lay-Led Community of Faith Plan identify below the key lay leaders. It is strongly encouraged that an individual not hold more than two roles.			
Chairperson			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Regional Representative			
Administration			
Christian Education			
Outreach & Social Justice			
Pastoral Care & Support			
Worship Leadership			
Sacraments Elder			

- ☐ Attach minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body requesting recognition as a Lay-Led Community of Faith.
- ☐ Attach a recent Community of Faith Profile.
- ☐ Attach a Lay-Led Community of Faith Plan including a list of the five areas of ministry indicating how each will be provided for.
  - If the provision of Pastoral Care & Support relies on the ministry personnel of a neighboring pastoral charge, a retired ministry personnel, or a Pastoral Charge Supervisor who is a ministry personnel, a letter of agreement (including duties and any compensation) must be attached to the plan.
  - If the provision of Worship Leadership will rely on regular leadership of a Licensed Lay Worship Leaders indicate the name(s) of the LLWL and a proposed schedule of leadership and compensation.
  - If the provision of Worship Leadership will rely on a Congregational Designated Minister for Worship attached the position description as approved by the Pastoral Relations Committee and the name of the Congregational Designated Minister.
- ☐ Attach the license of the Sacraments Elder(s)

In making this application the Pastoral Charge confirms:

- ☐ they will adhere to the Policy and Procedures on Pastoral Charge Supervision as set out by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, and
- ☐ they will adhere to the Policy and Procedures on Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Lay-Led Communities of Faith as set out by Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

_____ Date_____ _____ Date_____

Chair of Governing Body Secretary of Governing Body