

GENERAL MEETING**March 20th 2021***Roll the Stone Away*
Sewanienhia'karateniat Eh'ren Sewanenhniienha;wit
À nous de rouler la pierre

The *Conseil régional* Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its General Meeting (Zoom online virtual meeting room) on March 20th 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The theme for this meeting was “Roll the Stone Away”, “Sewanienhia'karateniat Eh'ren Sewanenhniienha;wit”, “À nous de rouler la pierre”.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry (47)**

Mead Baldwin, Wayne Beamer, Janet Bisset, Arlen Bonnar, Barbara Bryce, Linda Buchanan, Florence Bukam, Kent Chown, James Christie, David Clinker, Rosa Cruz, Gonzalo Cruz, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Ryan Fea, David Fines, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Cathy Hamilton, Mark Hammond, Helen Hliaras, Lee Ann Hogle, Ellie Hummel, Alyson Huntly, Bill Jay, Reg Jennings, Elisabeth Jones, Mher Katchikian, Paula Kline, Andrew Lairenge, Dave Lambie, Darryl Macdonald, Marie-Claude Manga, John Matheson, Alice McAlpine, Jennifer Mountain, Birgit Neuschild, Scott Patton, Angelika Piché, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Read Sherman, Ohannes Siwajian, Darla Sloan, Ian Smith, Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Douglas Throop and Neil Whitehouse.

Lay Delegates (46)

Denis Ashby, Lionel Azocar, Judy Bachelder, Deborah Beattie, Guy-Lin Beaudouin, Diane Best, Peter Bisset, Cameron Black, Fred Braman, Martha Bromby, Melvyn Bryant, Diane Campbell, Beverly Clark, Elva Crawford, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Undeg Edwards, Valerie Epps-Nickson, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, William Greaney, Marc Grenon, Richard Guay, Norm Haslam, Marion Hodge, Thomas Kent, Janice Knowles, Rachel Lambie, Jan Langelier, Patricia Lisson, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Andrea Nugent, Helga Ovando, Robert Patton, Elsa Peters, Natacha Sanson, Ivylin Scott, Dorothy Shaw, Frederick Sheffer, Paul Stanfield, Shirley Stark, Gary Tompkins, Jim Vanstone, Fiona Wardrop and Vera Young.

Corresponding Members - Candidates (3)

Lisa Byer-de Wever, Aaron Miechkota and Virginia Wallace.

Regional Council Staff (7)

Shanna Bernier, Judy Coffin, David-Roger Gagnon, Rev. Rosemary Lambie (voting member) Joel Miller, Brian Ruse and Karen Valley.

Guests of the Regional Council (7)

Hugh Ballem, Erika Qian Liang, Alicia Loria, Rev. Maylanne Maybee, Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom), Kristi Roht and Jesse Zink.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Coffee Time & Signing in (8:30)

Attendees were invited to sign in 30 minutes ahead of the start of the meeting, to ensure connectivity and for a time of fellowship before the meeting.

Special Instructions (9:00)

Rev. Kent Chown provided instructions for how to use Zoom functions during the meeting. Instructions included: how to mute and unmute; how to open the ‘participants’ tab in order to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and ‘go slower’ in order

to indicate abstention; how to open up the 'chat' box and type in comments or questions; how to share chat with 'everyone' or 'privately'; and what the telephone commands were for those only participating using the telephone (*6 to mute and unmute, *9 to raise hand). These instructions also include how to use the interpretation feature within Zoom to have access to simultaneous translation, renaming to include linguistic preferences.

Opening Worship

Acknowledgement and Welcome to the Land

President Rev. Linda Buchanan led the court through the land acknowledgement, and gave thanks for the stewardship of Indigenous lands by First Nations Peoples for centuries, and invited all to share in the chat where they were connecting from.

Thanksgiving Address

Linda then invited Loonwahaweeda Robert Patton, leader within the community of faith in Kahnawake, to begin this time of worship by leading the court in the long house thanksgiving address:

Ohenton Kariwatekwen

Good morning, I'd like to share with you the Thanksgiving Address that has been passed down from generation to generation. This opening is used before all important events. It means the words before all words. In our Language it is called Ohenton Kariwatekwen. Loving Creator, in our language we say Takwaiehtison, we come to you with thankful and hope filled hearts. As we gather each day it is our responsibility that we give greetings, love, and thanks to each other as peoples, that we gather each and every day and show respect for all your creation. For this wonderful day, we give thanks for being able to walk on this place we call Mother Earth, that we have a relationship with her. That she takes care of us as a mother. We have a responsibility to give her that same love and respect that we give our mothers in all our Nations. And we realize that everything we need to have a good life, to have peace in our minds, to have strong and healthy body is all in front of us and it comes from our Mother Earth. It then is our responsibility to give back and not to take too much and to take care of her. As we meet each other each day this is a ceremony and as we greet each other we give great thanks or as we say Niawen Kowa. We give thanks for the waters and the fish life that keep our waters clean and give us food. We give thanks for all the medicines. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They were and always wanting and ready to heal us. We are happy that there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these gifts you have given. So with one mind we send our greeting and thanks. We give thanks for all the tree life and all the birdlife that bring us beautiful music. Each day they remind us to enjoy life. We give thanks for the four winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. We give thanks for the Thunderer or as we say Ratiweras. We give thanks for our Eldest Brother, the Sun, and for Grandmother Moon. We give thanks for the stars that shine and guide us. We give thanks for all the Elders and enlightened teachers that lead us in good paths.

You have blessed us through all our relations, and we give you our thanks. Now, we are at the place where we end our words of Thanksgiving, of being thankful for all that we have named. It is not our intention to leave anything out. If anything was forgotten, we leave it to each person to send such greetings and thanks in their own way in the Sanctity of silence. And now our minds are one.

Scripture: The Raising of Lazarus: John 11:1-45

Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom) read John 11:1-4 in Mohawk, and English and French were projected:

Title: ne-ne sahrenheie ne lasar

Thahononwakten lasar tsitkanathaien ne bethany tahtinakere ne rontenosenha onwari tanon martha. Onwari tsinenkaie sonkwaweniio wensarakon ronwenienarhon tanon akonkwis iakotston ronwashitokewaton. Ne iahtenosenha ne lasar wahononwakton. Iakiateriwaniethe ahotokense ne iesos. "seweniio rononwaktani ne tsenoronkwa". Nonen iesos sahotokense wahrenron "iah teiakoriotha tsi niot". Nektsi ienwawe enhoiathanerakwathake ne raweniio tanontonentewene roienha senha enhaiathanoronne tsironwakens.

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain followed the scripture reading with the lyrics in Mohawk projected:

MHK – (Ehren Sewahawit ne onenia Tatsiaken. Tatsiaken. Ehren Sewahawit ne Onenia Tatsiaken.)

David-Roger Gagnon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the Bible), and the French version was projected:

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus very much. Yet, after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he stayed on where he was for two days more. Finally he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "Rabbi, with the Jewish authorities only recently trying to stone you, you are going back up there again?" Jesus answered:

"Are there not twelve hours of daylight? If a man goes walking by day and he does not stumble, because he sees the world bathed in light. But if he goes walking at night he will stumble, since there is no light in him."

Uttering these words, he added, "Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him." At this the disciples objected, Lord, if he is asleep, then his life will be saved." Jesus had been speaking about his death, but they thought he meant sleep in the sense of slumber.

Finally, Jesus said plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sakes I am glad I was not there, that you may come to believe. In any event, let us go to him." Then Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us go along, to die with him."

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain in English followed the scripture reading with the lyrics in French projected:
FR – (Enlevez la pierre. Sortez! Sortez! Enlevez la pierre. Sortez!)

David-Roger Gagnon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the Bible), and the English version was projected:

Jésus, étant arrivé à Béthanie, trouva que Lazare était déjà depuis quatre jours dans le sépulcre. Et, comme Béthanie était près de Jérusalem, à quinze stades environ, beaucoup de gens de la communauté juive étaient venus vers Marthe et Marie, pour les consoler de la mort de leur frère. Lorsque Marthe apprit que Jésus arrivait, elle alla au-devant de lui, tandis que Marie se tenait assise à la maison.

Marthe dit à Jésus: « Seigneur, si tu eusses été ici, mon frère ne serait pas mort. Mais, maintenant même, je sais que tout ce que tu demanderas à Dieu, Dieu te l'accordera. »

Jésus lui dit: « Ton frère ressuscitera. »

« Je sais », lui répondit Marthe, « qu'il ressuscitera à la résurrection, au dernier jour. »

Jésus lui dit: « Je suis la résurrection et la vie. Celui qui croit en moi vivra, quand même il serait mort; et quiconque vit et croit en moi ne mourra jamais. Crois-tu cela? »

Elle lui dit: « Oui, Seigneur, je crois que tu es le Christ, le Fils de Dieu, qui devait venir dans le monde. »

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain in French followed the scripture reading with the lyrics in French projected:
EN – (Take the stone away. Come Out! Come Out! Take the stone away. Come out!)

David-Roger Gagnon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the Bible), and the French version was projected:

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here, asking for you." As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and started out in his direction. (Actually, Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still at the spot where Martha had met him.) The people who were in the house with Mary, consoling her, saw her get up quickly and go out, so they followed her, thinking she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to the place where Jesus was, seeing him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died."

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain in English followed the scripture reading with the lyrics in French projected:
FR – (Enlevez la pierre. Sortez! Sortez! Enlevez la pierre. Sortez!)

Marc Grenon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the Bible), and the English version was projected:

Jésus, la voyant pleurer, elle et les gens de la communauté Juive qui étaient venus avec elle, frémit en son

esprit, et fut tout ému.

Et il dit: « Où l'avez-vous mis? » « Seigneur », lui répondirent-ils, « viens et vois. »

Jésus pleura.

Sur quoi les Juifs dirent: « Voyez comme il l'aimait. »

Et quelques-uns d'entre eux dirent: « Lui qui a ouvert les yeux de l'aveugle, ne pouvait-il pas faire aussi que cet homme ne mourût point? »

Jésus frémissant de nouveau en lui-même, se rendit au sépulcre. C'était une grotte, et une pierre était placée devant.

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain in French followed the scripture reading with the lyrics projected in English:

EN – (Take the stone away. Come Out! Come Out! Take the stone away. Come out!)

David-Roger Gagnon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the bible), and the French version was projected:

Martha... said to him; "Lord, it has been four days now; surely there will be a stench!" "Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God displayed?" The they took away the stone and Jesus looked upward and said: "Creator, I thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they may believe that you sent me."

Having said this, he called out loudly, "**Lazarus, come out!**"

Musical Version of Refrain –

A musical refrain in English followed the scripture reading with the lyrics in French being projected:

FR – (Enlevez la pierre. Sortez! Sortez! Enlevez la pierre. Sortez!)

Marc Grenon read the following passage (continuation of The Raising of Lazarus story in the bible), and the English version was projected:

Et le mort sortit, les pieds et les mains liés de bandes, et le visage enveloppé d'un linge. Jésus leur dit: « Déliez-le, et laissez-le aller. »

Plusieurs des gens de la communauté Juive qui étaient venus vers Marie, et qui virent ce que fit Jésus, crurent en lui.

Parole du Seigneur.

Read Sherman offered closing prayer for worship

One: Let us pray:

O God of Love,
you who in Christ once took away the stone of death,
raising Lazarus to new life,
we ask you to come to us now
to take away our stones of death,
to raise us to new life.

Two: For like Mary and Martha, O God, we too have
wondered long at the time it has taken to hear
our prayers answered.

Three: Prayers for a release from this time of pandemic,
from the suffering of those who have been infected,
from the pain in our communities of families
and friends of those who have died.
Release from the fear and anxiety the virus and its
emerging variants are causing among us,
especially the hospital and long-term care residents and workers,
teachers and families with kids in school,

- store clerks – all those whose roles put them on the front lines of risk.
- One: Release from the disruption of sacred routines of in-person ministry – worship, pastoral care, sharing of cup and bread, teaching and benevolence and advocacy that brings us together in body as well as in spirit.
Release from the isolation of so many of us, needing to give and receive hugs, to joke and banter over a coffee in the hall, to take hold of a frail hand at a bedside.
- Two: Take away these stones of death, O God.
- Three: Come in the compassion of Christ and weep with us.
- One: Come in the strength of Christ to encourage us.
- Two: Come home to us, meeting us along the roads of our journey, offering to reveal yourself anew as the Life that undergirds all of this death, as the One who helps us see far, beyond the tombs and shrouded bodies and closed doors to the resilience and courage that already signals your arrival:
- Three: Christ, in a nurse, gowned head to toe in PPE, administering a vaccine.
- One: Christ, in the PAB who bathes and dresses a senior, ready to hold the tablet so her loved ones can visit by video.
- Two: Christ, in the way our church seniors call each other every day to check in, to be family, to be friend.
- Three: Christ, in you, each one at this meeting, in the lay, DLM, commissioned or ordained ministry to which you are called, serving your people, taking time for self-care, doing the best job you can.
- One: All this we ask as we move through Lent to Good Friday, knowing the hard road you have walked in Christ, knowing the hard roads you call us to walk.
- Two: Yet we know, we know, that Easter is coming!
- Three: We know that resurrection time is almost here, the stone will be taken away once more, enlivening us again, daring us to hope again, rekindling our spark of energy and creativity to yet lead as we are called to lead, to love as you once and for always love us.
- One: And so, we say thanks, O God!
Thanks for ever arriving to call us out of the tomb and into new and vibrant, faith-filled living.
- Two: This pandemic will come to an end!
Our communities of faith will gather in-person and online, your new, re-created people.
- Three: To you we give praise, glory and honour this day, giving thanks for the fresh clean air we breathe, the linen wrappings of death fallen away,

ready to walk into new life now in this moment
and always.

ALL: Amen.

Welcome

Linda Buchanan, President, welcomed all participants to the meeting. Linda also provided some details for the purpose of the outline of the day.

Call to Order

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the Inaugural Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, I hereby declare this general meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it.

Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par l'Assemblée Inaugurale du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council de l'Église unie du Canada, je déclare que cette réunion général est dûment constituée et qu'elle siègera pour le déroulement de toute affaire dont elle sera adéquatement saisie.

Duty of Care – Shanna Bernier read the following (partly in English and in French):

In 1959, Carol Rose Ikeler wrote the the words to the hymn, “The Church is Wherever God's People are”.

Her words remind us that whether the people of God are meeting face-to-face, over the internet or by other means we are called to be the Body of Christ and as the body of Christ we have a mission of caring, healing, and sharing in this ministry.

The Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council takes seriously the mandate from Jesus Christ to live out care for all living things, to speak out when injustice is seen and heard, and to be a community that is loving, open, inclusive, and respectful.

This meeting and the people are asked to respect in our words and actions all creeds, ethnicities, languages, colours, genders, sexual orientations, and faith journeys.

If anyone should hear or see anything in our meeting time which goes against our community norms, please speak up in our meeting and let us know. If you do not feel comfortable speaking out, please reach out to the Equity team (Shanna Bernier & Tami Spires) by phone or private chat during the meeting.

En 1959 (mille neuf cent cinquante neuf), Carol Rose Ikeler a écrit les paroles de l'hymne «L'Église est où que les gens de Dieu soient».

Ses paroles nous rappellent que si le peuple de Dieu se rencontre face à face, sur Internet ou par d'autres moyens, nous sommes appelés à être le Corps du Christ et en tant que corps du Christ, nous avons une mission de bienveillance, de justice et de partager ce ministère.

Le Conseil régional Nakonha: ka Regional Council prend sérieusement le mandat de Jésus-Christ de vivre les soins de tous creation, de s'exprimer lorsque l'injustice est vue et entendue, d'être une communauté qui est aimante, ouverte, inclusive et respectueuse.

Cette réunion et les gens sont priés de respecter dans nos paroles et nos actions toutes les croyances, les ethnies, les langues, les couleurs, les genres, l'orientation sexuelle et les voyages de foi.

Si quelqu'un entendre ou voir quoi que ce soit durant notre réunion qui va à l'encontre de nos normes

communautaires, veuillez prendre la parole lors de notre réunion et nous le faire savoir. Si vous ne vous sentez pas à l'aise de parler, veuillez contacter un de notre équipe d'équité (Tami Spires ou moi, Shanna Bernier) par téléphone ou par chat privé pendant la réunion.

Role of Equity Team – Shanna Bernier and Rev. Tami Spires provided brief description for the role of the Equity Team and the process by which attendees could make use of the Equity Team.

The Equity team's role is to advise and suggest solutions to ensure our content, meetings, workshops, or events follow established protocols for equity, accessibility and communication related issues. We will be watching and listening to the community to make sure that access barriers are removed as much as possible, and that this is the safest and most accessible space possible. If someone occurs to you after the meeting is over, our commitment to Equity does not end at noon. We can be contacted my phone or email afterwards as well.

Our chaplains, who are mentioned above, Rev. Birgit, Rev. Samuel, and Rev. Read are also available to discuss with you anything of concern which may arise from the meeting content or other issues today. They are here for Pastoral support and care, but may contact or refer to the Equity team if relevant.

The Equity team reports to RC president, Rev. Linda Buchanan, for action to be taken, and our chaplains' role is to provide spiritual care in all matters which arise today.

Agenda

2021-03-20_025 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) that the agenda as circulated be adopted. **Carried**

Ordre de jour

2021-03-20_025MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) que l'ordre du jour soit adopté tel que diffusé. **Adoptée**

Discussion: Time was made on the agenda to reiterate the support of same-sex marriage and the church's blessing upon the same, in response to the Vatican saying that the Catholic Church cannot bless same-sex marriages.

Scrutineers

2021-03-20_026 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) that the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown, Lisa Byer DeWever and Denis Ashby. **Carried**

Scrutateurs

2021-03-20 MOTION_026 (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) que les personnes suivantes agissent à titre de scrutateur et de scrutatrice : Pasteur Kent Chown, Lisa Byer-DeWever et Denis Ashby. **Adoptée**

Parliamentarians

2021-03-20_027 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) that Fred Braman serve as Parliamentarian. **Carried**

Asseseurs-conseil

2021-03-20_027 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) que Fred Braman agisse à titre d'assesseurs-conseil. **Adoptée**

Chaplain

2021-03-20_028 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) that the following person serve as Chaplains: Rev. Birgit Neuschild, Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho, Rev. Read Sherman. **Carried**

Aumônière

2021-03-20_028 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) que la personne suivante agisse à titre d'aumônières: Rev. Birgit Neuschild, Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho et Rev. Read Sherman. **Adoptée**

Equity Team

2021-03-20_029 MOTION (K. Chown/V. Epps-Nickson) that Shanna Bernier and Tami Spires serve as the

Equity Team. **Carried**

Équipe d'équité

2021-03-20_029 MOTION (K. Chown /V. Epps-Nickson) que Shanna Bernier agisse à titre de d'Équipe d'équité.
Adoptée

Resolution To Nakonha:Ka Regional Council

The President gave thanks for the work and service of the Living into Right Relations Network, as they shared a prepared statement to be sent to members of our Quebec government urging them to prioritize all indigenous people in the Covid19 vaccine roll out. Linda highlighted that this was part of the Church's journey towards reconciliation.

Background

Since many civil and government bodies in Quebec and across Canada have raised concerns about the fragility of Indigenous people in regard to COVID-19, the Living into Right Relations committee of Regional Council asks that the Council, at its March 20, 2021 meeting, adopt the following proposed motion, and present it for approval and action by the Government of Quebec.

Proposed motion

2021-03-20_030 MOTION (A. György/R. Sherman) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada strongly requests that the Government of Quebec and the Prime Minister of Canada add "Indigenous people in all parts of Quebec" to its current priority for Covid-19 vaccinations. **Carried**

Draft letter to the Premier:

Dear Premier Legault / Health Minister Christian Dubé / Dr. Horacio Arruda, Quebec Director of Public Health, and Justine Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Since many civil and government bodies in Quebec and across Canada have raised concerns about the fragility of Indigenous people in regard to COVID-19, the Nakonha:ka (Quebec) Regional Council of the United Church of Canada strongly requests that the Government of Quebec add "Indigenous people in all parts of Quebec" to its priority list for Covid-19 vaccinations.

Yours sincerely,

Résolution Pour Le Conseil Régional Nakonha:Ka**Contexte**

Étant donné les inquiétudes soulevées par maints organismes civiques et gouvernementaux québécois au sujet de la fragilité des populations autochtones face à la COVID-19, le Réseau Vivre en relations justes du Conseil régional demande que le Conseil adopte la motion proposée ci-bas, lors de son assemblée du 20 mars 2021, et la présente pour approbation et action du Gouvernement du Québec.

Motion proposée

2021-03-20_030 MOTION (A. György/R. Sherman) *Que le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka de l'Église unie du Canada demande fortement au Gouvernement du Québec et au Première Ministre du Canada d'ajouter les « populations autochtones de toutes les régions du Québec » à ses priorités de vaccination contre la COVID-19.*
Adoptée

Ébauche de lettre au premier ministre :

Chers Premier ministre Legault, Ministre de la santé Christian Dubé, Dr. Horacio Arruda, Directeur de la Santé Publique du Québec et Justine Trudeau, Première Ministre du Canada

Étant donné les inquiétudes soulevées par plusieurs organismes civiques et gouvernementaux québécois au sujet de la fragilité des populations autochtones face à la COVID-19, le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka (Québec) de l'Église unie du Canada demande fortement au Gouvernement du Québec d'ajouter les « populations autochtones de toutes les régions du Québec » à sa liste de priorité pour la vaccination contre la COVID-19.

Salutations distinguées,

Presentation of Regional Council Mission & Spiritual Development

1. Saint Columba House Presentation

Lisa Byer de Wever presented a PowerPoint presentation on the work and mission of Saint Columba House.

Prayer after Saint Columba House Presentation

Mead Baldwin provided a prayer following the presentation.

Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name! (*MV 161*) Tu sais... je t'ai appelé(e) par ton nom (*NVU 189*) – vs 1 sung in English.

2. Montreal City Mission Presentation

Paula Kline presented a PowerPoint presentation on the work and mission of Montreal City Mission.

Prayer after Montreal City Mission Presentation

Natacha Samson provided a prayer following the presentation.

Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name! (*MV 161*) Tu sais... je t'ai appelé(e) par ton nom (*NVU 189*) – vs 2 sung in French.

Break (5 mins)

All were invited to take a refreshment break.

Mission & Spiritual Development

3. Campus Ministry Presentation

Ellie Hummel provided an oral presentation of the work and mission of the Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre at Concordia University. A copy of her presentation is herebelow:

Did you know: There are three University Chaplains that are supported by our Regional Council:

Rev. Jesse Dymond, Bishops University, Lennoxville, Quebec (Anglican)

Rev. Jean-Daniel Williams, McGill University, Montreal, QC

Rev. Ellie Hummel, Concordia University, Montreal, QC

I would like to tell you about my ministry at the Concordia Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre, (Centre spirituel et interreligieux) and I brought a special guest:

The Conversation Wheel:

It has 14 categories with topics, such as food, holy days, gratitude, diversity, community,...

(Spin Wheel, give people a chance to put answers in chat).

Methodology at the MFSC: Questions and Curiosity

- 1) Questions to think about big picture of life: We offer programs such as Conversation Café, Thoughtful Thursdays.
- 2) We engage students on learning about faiths and spiritual paths: IG Live on various religious holy days (Ash Wednesday, Purim, Nawruz, Passover, Easter, Ramadan) and offer celebrations (Spring Celebrations coming up)
- 3) Students come with questions about life: Lots of pastoral conversations: being a witness to their life, and

walking the journey with them, no matter what religion or if any religion, spiritual path
Sometimes, questions are about career choices, coming out, religious search, family dynamics, death of a loved one, reproductive rights,....

We are more than a young adult ministry on campus:

- 1) We are part of the university's crisis response:
 - I am part of the response team when a Concordian dies (student, faculty, staff, alumni/ae)
 - Student and Emergency Food Fund: we disburse gift cards to students in financial crisis. Funds are raised through donations, and on the last 6 weeks, we have received over 900 applications and distributed over \$60,000, all raised through donations.
- 2) We are a resource to the university in questions of religions literacy and accommodation: HR, exams office, profs contact us to validate questions regarding religious holidays, dietary rules, etc.)
- 3) I facilitate a network of faith leaders (all volunteers) who offer spiritual care to their students and teach all students about their faith.
- 4) I am working with various committees / student groups on questions of equity: How to create a community where all are valued and accepted, without islamophobia, antisemitism, etc. while having civil discourse. It means being part of a mental health and support network.

At times, it means supporting a particular part of the student body during a crisis, such as the Iranian plane crash a year ago, where I worked with students / colleagues to host a memorial service, vigil, offer placed for listening and support, and also point students in the right direction for academic support.

It means being a spiritual presence to a secular institution and working with colleagues, students, and the larger community to bring that voice of spirituality.

Concordia is like a medium-sized city, with 50,000 students and something like 7,000 staff and over 200,000 alumae/i, many of whom are very connected. The Multi-faith and Spirituality Centre is an integral part of that community.

Why do I love this job: Because I learn so much about the world around me and myself, and I get to deepen my faith, as I learn about that of others.”

Prayer after Campus Ministry Presentation

Darla Sloan provided a prayer following the presentation (a copy was submitted and is provided here below:

« Dieu de compassion et de service,

Dans la prière, nous te présentons le travail important de Ellie Hummel et

et de l'ensemble du réseau des ministères en milieu universitaire au sein du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka de ton Église.

Nous prions pour tous ceux et celles qui y œuvrent, en offrant des programmes et des services dans ce ministère en milieu universitaire sur les campus de l'Université Concordia et ...

Nous prions pour toutes les personnes qui bénéficient des services de ces ministères.

Guidés par ton Esprit; aide tous les gens impliqués dans ce ministère à rejoindre les personnes qui ont besoin de leur soutien et de leurs soins et de leur accompagnement.

Animés par ta compassion, accorde-leur vision et discernement afin que ton œuvre s'accomplisse dans leurs efforts à regrouper toutes les personnes qui en ont besoin.

Enracinés dans ta justice, accorde au personnel ministériel et laïque de conduire l'Église à répondre avec zèle à la grandeur de ton appel .

Nous prions au nom de Dieu qui nous crée, du Christ qui nous appelle, et de l'Esprit qui nous fortifie dans nos efforts pour faire Église. »

Amen !

Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name! (*MV 161*) Tu sais... je t'ai appelé(e) par ton nom (*NVU 189*) – vs 3 sung in French.

4. United Theological College Presentation

Maylanne Maybee presented a PowerPoint presentation on the work and mission of the United Theological College.

Prayer after United Theological Presentation

Valerie Epps-Nickson provided the following prayer:

“God of Compassion and Service,

We lift up in prayer the important work of Maylanne Maybee

And the ministry of United Theological College, serving your Church in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

We pray for all those who take part in and minister through this educational ministry.

We pray for all those who benefit from the learning and preparation of this ministry.

And we ask that you bless the work and the reach of this gathering of people through the grace of the programmes and learning opportunities that they offer.

Led by your spirit, help those who minister through this work to reach those who come to United Theological College to deepen their understanding.

Guided by your compassion, give those in this ministry the sight and the vision to allow your work to be done through their efforts in drawing people together around the learning, teaching and professional development they offer.

Rooted in your justice, empower the ministers of this educational ministry to challenge us to live more fully into your Call to be The Church.

We pray this in the name of the God who creates us, The Christ who calls us, and the Spirit who strengthens us in response to your Call to be the Church.

Amen ! “

Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name! (*MV 161*) Tu sais... je t'ai appelé(e) par ton nom (*NVU 189*) – vs 4 sung in English.

Following all of the presentation, the President announced that it was time to have small group discussions and asked each group to select a time monitor, to make sure everyone was given the opportunity to share, and to also select a recording secretary to record highlights from the discussion. It was asked that these discussion notes be emailed to Judy Coffin, for a spotlight series on Ministry in Mission taking place within the Regional Council.

Small Group Conversations

Question:

1. Share some of the ways your Community of Faith engages in mission and spiritual development?

Transitional Worship

A transitional worship time followed the small group discussions and focused on writings from Rev. Dr. Stan McKay's “the Colonizing Mandate”. Afterwards, the President provided more context for why this particular reading was chosen:

I believe in the work and dream within the comprehensive review. I was still a candidate when this started, and I was in awe of how brave I thought the United Church was, to trust in the process of death and resurrection, even for the very structures of our church.

And I still believe that this is an opportunity to move more deeply into a conciliar model, removing the remnants of hierarchy. This is also an opportunity to de-colonialize this United Church as a whole... which is quite ambitious, but the Gospel is pretty ambitious.

Here we are at the beginning of the comprehensive review project, breathing life into ideas on paper. And we are the ones to put in the foundation. May we make room and take time so that all will have the

opportunity to participate in this co-creation project right from the beginning. As we build may we have the hope of the Rev Dr Stan McKay on our minds and in our hearts. May we discern each building block through the lens of unconditional and uncontrolling love. Holy Spirit empower our efforts.

Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill (VU 619) *Dieu de notre guérison* (NVU 259); Vs 1,2 & Refrains in English / Vs 3,4 & Refrains in French

Update from the COVID Task Group

Peter Bisset presented a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the Covid19 Task Group providing recent updates on regulations set by the Provincial Government, and provided detailed instructions for what these regulations meant for Communities of Faith in different zones (red, orange, yellow).

Nominations Update

Dave Lambie highlighted that the work of the Nomination Leadership Team continues, with emphasis filling vacancies on the Executive (in particular search for a President-Elect), and looking for more General Council 44 Commissioners and alternates. It was also highlighted that this Leadership Team currently has two members and two staff support members, and this limits the ability to fully meet the task of filling vacancies.

2021-03-20_031 MOTION (L. Byer de Wever/K. Chown) That the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council extend this general meeting by 15 mins. **Carried**

2021-03-20 MOTION_031 (L. Byer de Wever/K. Chown) Que le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka proroge cette assemblée générale de 15 min. Adoptée

Reiterate the support of same-sex marriage

Time was made on the agenda to reiterate the support of same-sex marriage and the church's blessing upon the same, in response to the Vatican saying that the Catholic Church cannot bless same-sex marriages. After discussions, the following motion ensued:

2021-03-20_032 MOTION (A. Bonnar/ P. Kline) That the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council work in partnership with the General Council of The United Church of Canada to reaffirm that the love of God is for all LGBTQ2SIA+ people, to reiterate the support of same-sex marriage and the church's blessing upon the same, and that both the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council and the General Council produce written public statements and publicise - to this effect that as we affirm the theology in our New Creed and Song of Faith, and live out in the actions of our Christian witness, we are called to "Build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live, and where the love of Christ ends divisions. A place where all are welcome!" (Words in quotation marks by Marty Haugen). **Carried**

Réaffirmer et soutenir le mariage de personnes de mêmes sexes

2021-03-20_032 MOTION (A. Bonnar/P. Kline) – Que le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council travaille en partenariat avec le Conseil général de l'Église Unie du Canada pour réaffirmer que l'amour de Dieu est pour toutes les personnes LGBTQA+, et que l'Église soutient et bénit le mariage de personnes de mêmes sexes; que le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council et le Conseil général rédigent et publient des déclarations publiques affirmant qu'alors que nous professons une théologie selon notre Confession de foi et Notre foi chante et que nous exprimons par nos actes tel un témoignage chrétien, nous sommes ainsi appelés à « édifier une maison où l'amour règne, où toutes et tous peuvent vivre en sécurité, là où l'amour du Christ met fin aux divisions. Un lieu où toutes et tous sont les bienvenus! » (Paroles de Marty Haugen). Adoptée

Closing Prayer (with reminders and enabling motions)

Before the meeting was adjourned the President made the following reminders:

1. Bursary applications are open, and being accepted until June 4th;

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2. Send annual reports to Judy Coffin;
 3. Send notes from small group discussions to Judy Coffin for spotlight series on Ministry and Mission;
 4. That the Regional Council will meet again on June 12th; meeting will include our celebration of ministries, (including recognizing candidates and applicants, retirees and memorials), include a moment of lament for church buildings that have been sold over the past couple of years, as well as a celebration for Communities of Faith who have evolved in their Ministry despite selling their buildings.

Lastly, the President thanked the Planning team, Regional Council staff, and everyone on Leadership Teams, sub-teams, Networks and Clusters, for their work, and preparations toward this meeting. It was prayed that the Holy Spirit would continue to empower all in the work and service carried out within the Regional Council and The United Church of Canada.

Closing Motions

2021-03-20_033 MOTION (S. Stark/V. Epps-Nickson) that following the rise of this General Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, all powers of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council be granted to the Executive until the next general meeting. **Carried**

2021-03-20_033 MOTION (S. Stark/V. Epps-Nickson) that the meeting be adjourned at 12:28 and that the President declares this General Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council duly concluded. **Carried**

Motions de clôture

2021-03-20_034 MOTION (V. Epps-Nickson/S. Stark) *qu'à la levée de la séance de l'assemblée générale du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, tous les pouvoirs du Conseil régional soient accordés à l'exécutif jusqu'à l'ouverture de la prochaine assemblée générale. **Adopté***

2021-03-20_034 MOTION (V. Epps-Nickson/S. Stark) *que l'assemblée soit ajournée au 12 :28, et que la présidente déclare cette assemblée générale du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council conclue. **Adoptée***

Benediction

Merci pour votre présence, votre patience, vos idées, vos histoires.

Merci pour votre temp.

Que Dieu reçois notre travail de ce matin, et l'amplifie pour l'église entière.

On continue à travailler ensemble pour le royaume de Dieu.

Go out from this virtual space, sure of your place in the good heart of God.

Go out from this virtual space, knowing that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you.

Go out from virtual space, to live your life as fully as you can,

that you might bring blessing to others and give thanks to God.

May our Awesome Creator remind us all of our responsibility to be co-creators in this world.

Que Jésus, celui que nous appelons le Christ, nous apporte la force de joindre la justice à la compassion.

And may the Holy Spirit comfort us in her arms and give us the courage to act in wisdom.

Allons, avec espoir, vivre dans le monde de Dieu.

All right Denis, it's time for you to say the blessing for our virtual luncheon.

Online Luncheon

Attendees invited to stay online and visit with friends over lunch hour.

Rev. Linda Buchanan
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary