



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Fred Braman

Nominated by: Peter J. Bisset

Seconded by: Peter Mundie

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner? What gifts do you bring?

Fred currently serves a Chair of Trustees at Montreal West UC. He is also currently the Chair of the Property and Finance Leadership Team of the Regional Council (and accordingly a member of its Executive) and a member of the Finance and Extension Board and the Erskine and American-Mountainside Trust and Kelley Trust and was Montreal Presbytery Secretary 2001-8. He has also served as Commissioner to 5 General Councils. For seven years (2006-2013), he served at the national level of the United Church as board member of the United Church of Canada Foundation, including four years as Chair. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Manual Committee.

Fred's professional career over 35 years was as a lawyer involved in corporate and commercial law, particularly in complex national and international business transactions and agreements and he is highly fluent in both French and English. He retired at the end of 2012. He is also involved in the community on the Board of a major rehabilitation centre for hearing or visual impairment (MAB-Mackay in Montreal) and as President and director of a small but prominent contemporary dance company (Compagnie Flak/ José Navas).

Fred believes passionately in deepening United Church ministry by working more closely together both on new ways of being church in our communities more effectively. As such, he works within the new structure to find ways of making our Church more effective and in relationship with its members and the broader community.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

L.E. Moir

Nominated by: Fred Braman

Seconded by: Arlen Bonnar

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner?

Since the beginning of the Comprehensive Review, through changes, remits, proposals, adoption and implementation of wide-sweeping adjustments of our United Church, I have held an interest in helping our new format come to fruition. My desire as an elected Commissioner is to be able to explain and interpret policy for those who have questions, and to be an active participant in developing and implementing these policies. Continuing to develop and refine the changes and approaches within our United Church, and being able to bring this information to others who desire to know more as we explore this future, is an important part of being a Commissioner.

What gifts do you bring?

With a background in both research and teaching, as well as a life-long history of volunteerism in community and individual services, I bring gifts of communication, organisational skill and detail management to share. Extensive national and international travel, including 10 provinces of Canada, has informed and shaped my views, and provided a deep appreciate of diversity and culture in Canada and around the world. Born, raised and still living in Montreal, I am English speaking, and also able to communicate in French and German. My background includes parents who were lay preachers and Sunday school teachers in the United Church. Their teachings informed a solid and long lasting understanding of the importance of faith and community.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Marc Grenon

Nominated by: Rick Sheffer

Seconded by: Fred Braman

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner?

Marc's involvement in the United Church of Canada began some 20 years ago when he joined the congregation of Mystic UC, one of the points of the three-point Bedford Pastoral Charge, where he served first, and still is, Regional Council representative, and Chair of the Official Board. For several years, Marc served on the Montréal Presbytery Vision & Transformation Committee, which he then chaired until he was elected as Chair of Québec Presbytery - Consistoire du Québec, a position he held for four years. Marc now sits on the Executive of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council and on the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team. As such, Marc is also involved in the development of French ministry within the bounds of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

Marc further serves as a member of the Québec & East Ontario Candidacy Board.

Marc is also a member of the Program Team for more than 10 years for the Designated Lay Ministry program out of St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon.

Marc retired 12 years ago after a 30-year career as a translator, reviser, and later manager of a large translation unit in Montreal of the Translation Bureau of the Government of Canada.

It would be an honour and a privilege to continue to serve the wider Church as a commissioner to GC44.

What gifts do you bring?

I strive to be faithful, a listener, innovative, I love the United Church, I am an educator, I lean on my faith to think outside the box - in ways that are practical, logical and financially sound. I am, so some say, a "quiet sage" who brings out the best in others. What might we look like with this love: More trusting of God's power, more collegial, provide safety to speak and opportunities to break out of the box.



Ministry Personnel Nominee to General Council 44

Rev Tami Spires

Nominated by: Samuel V. Dansokho

Seconded by: Valerie Nickson-Epps

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner?

From a young age, I have been involved in the various levels of church governance at the local and regional levels when we had presbyteries and conferences. I am eager to learn more about serving at the national level. I am eager to work with my all my Regional Council Colleagues across our denomination to shape the next three years of the United Church at the local, regional, national, and global levels. I have a deep love of ecumenism. I enjoy working with, and learning from other faith partners. Our Church has offered so much to me, I am ready to give back to it.

What gifts do you bring?

Some of the gifts I believe I have that will of use to the General Council are youthfulness, an outgoing personality, ability to make people feel at ease, willingness to try anything once, and a love of children and family ministry. I speak, read and write French & English, and have a deep understanding of ministry for rural communities of faith. I am current the chair of our Regional Council Meeting Planning Team, am a Pastoral Liaison for our Regional Council, currently a Pastoral Charge Supervisor, involved locally with the Sawyerville United Church UCW, Messy Church Ministry leader at local Anglican Church, volunteer reading to children at local elementary schools, and help prepare food for local Meals On Wheels in Waterville.



Ministry Personnel Nominee to General Council 44

Rev Cathy Hamilton

Nominated by: Vera Young

Seconded by: Joëlle Leduc

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner? What gifts do you bring?

As a returning commissioner, I bring a history of the story of change in the last decade of our church. As chair of the Comprehensive Review Task Group, I was privileged to learn about the diverse needs and perspectives of the church across the country and to try to bring consensus to a structure that might meet those needs. In my role as a secretary to La Table, I am able to bridge the realities of the Francophone church and the dominant English-language church.

Je parle anglais et français couramment et je suis conscient des multiples cultures qui sont présentes dans notre église.

Although I have little direct involvement, a growing edge for me is right relations with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.



Under 30 Nominee to General Council 44

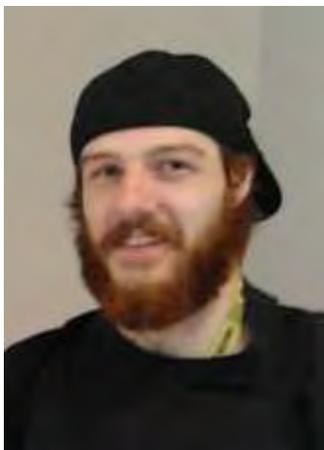
Ben Ryan

Nominated by: Shanna Bernier

Seconded by: Rachel Lambie

Why do you want to serve as General Council Commissioner? What gifts to do you bring?

As a young person within the church I feel we tend to be under-represented in important conversations. I participate in a lot of YAYA activities and United Spirit Camp giving me a bit more perspective and knowledge of the experience of young people in the church.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Denis Ashby

Nominated by: Shanna Bernier

Seconded by: Joëlle Leduc

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner? What gifts do you bring?

I bring an eagerness to learn, a passion for the church, and most importantly a big heart.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Valerie Nickson-Epps

Nominated by: Shirley Stark

Seconded by: David Lefneski

Why do you want to serve as General Council Commissioner?

I have been involved with the United Church of Canada most of my life, from being a Sunday School student to being a part of the board at my local church. I have been a Licensed Lay Worship Leader in the Montreal Area since 2004, leading worship at Centenary United Church and also one of the core leaders at my home church. In 2019, I was elected as President of the Nakonha:ka Regional UCW. I am retired now from my full-time job and feel that now I have ample time to give back to the United Church that has given to me for so many years. I consider myself to be a life-long learner, following both required courses for my leadership as well as optional ones.

What gifts do you bring?

One of the gifts I bring is my ability to quietly listen to people and consider what is being said. Although not overly outgoing, I do participate in many areas such as bible study and enjoy accountability in learning circles. In my own quiet way, I am willing to step outside of my comfort zone when needed.

I am caring and devoted to any task at hand. Although English by birth, I am able to understand and read French and can get by speaking the language. Although all the above are true gifts, I feel, and it has been said by others, that my greatest gift is my gift of organization. I believe that being organized is the key to being efficient and to accomplishing many tasks.



Ministry Personnel Nominee to General Council 44

Marie Claude Manga, Pasteure

Nominated by: Linda Buchanan

Seconded by: Angelika Piché

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner? What gifts do you bring?

As a Francophone woman and ordained minister originally from Africa, I feel that it is important to continue to represent my particular minority and to celebrate diversity within The United Church of Canada. Our young people can learn much when they see themselves in such gatherings. My gifts: singing, dancing, listening and praying for others.



Ministry Personnel Nominee to General Council 44

Rev. Heather McClure

Nominated by: Johanna Morrow

Seconded by: Deborah Angelus

Why do you want to serve as a General Council Commissioner? What gifts do you bring?

After my first experience of General Council in 2018, just as I learned how it works, it was over. Thus, I would like to serve one more time. In addition, the congregation I serve in Montreal has had a major change with an influx of Iranian refugees. These folks are seeking to convert to Christianity from Islam and are now an active part of the congregation. This shift has involved a growing awareness of inter-cultural ministry and I would bring both this experience and curiosity to General Council this time around.

As a minister since 1992, I have served pastoral charges in Saskatchewan and Quebec and currently serve the people of Wesley United Church in Montreal (13 years). I bring the gifts of creativity, compassion, joy, listening and relationship building.

As Co-Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee of Quebec Presbytery/Consistoire du Quebec until December 2018, I possess an eye for detail, an ability to interpret church polity compassionately and I understand the importance of the Spirit's presence in all of our work.

In addition, I am a current trustee of the Erskine-American and Mountainside Trust for Conseil Régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council and sit on the Granting and Enabling committee. I have recently joined the Candidacy Board of Quebec and Eastern Ontario (which includes membership on the National Candidacy Board).

It would be a humbling privilege and honour to serve the church in this capacity, once more.