
Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Meeting of the Executive
Friday, February 14, 2020 – 9 a.m.

Vision of the Commission by which we evaluate progress based on:

- Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place
- Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
- Building Communications

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev. Linda Buchanan	Chair, President
Rev. David Lambie	Member, Past-President
Fred Braman	Member, Property and Finance
Rev. Samuel Dansokho	Member at large
Patricia Lisson, D.M.	Member, Justice and Community Ministries
Rick Sheffer	Member at large
Marc Grenon	Member at large
Judy Coffin	Corresponding Member, Administration and Communication
Rev. Darryl Macdonald	Member, Pastoral Relations
David-Roger Gagnon	Corresponding Member,
Shanna Bernier	Corresponding Member, Youth, Young Adult and Families Ministries
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Member, Executive Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary

REGRETS/ABSENT

M ^c Sabrina Di Stefano	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Rev. Marie-Claude Manga	Member, Representative of La Table
Rev. Barbara Bryce	Member, Granting and Enabling Leadership Team
Paul Stanfield	Member, Treasurer
Rev. Pierre Goldberger	Member at large
Robert Patton	Member, Right Relations
Peter Bisset	Corresponding Member, Finance and Extension Board
Rev. Tami Spires	Corresponding Member, AGM Coordinator
Rev. Joëlle Leduc	Member at large

Opening Devotions – Dave Lambie led opening worship, beginning by reading John 15:10-12, 17 “If you keep my commandments...” Reflected on black history month and racism, in particular how the Coronavirus has been attributed to a certain group of people; or Wet'suwet'en, pipeline protests, and blockades of the rail lines. Dave closed this time of devotion reading the prayer prepared by Alydia Smith called “Recommitting to Justice, Equity and Peace”.

Circle Time of Sharing: All wished Rick Sheffer a Happy Birthday. All were invited to share

Minutes of January 17, 2019

2020-02-17_011 MOTION (M. Grenon/D. Macdonald) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of January 17, 2020 as received. **Carried**

Agenda

2020-02-17_012 MOTION (D. Lambie/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as circulated. **Carried**

Correspondence

- a) February 1, 2030 Charlotte Griffith re LLWL recommendations (*for action 1a*)
- b) February 5, 2020 Florence Skene Tracy, Chair, Ecumenical Support Committee re financial support for the McGill Chaplaincy (*for action - refer to GELT 4a*)
- c) February 6, 2020 Shanna Bernier, YAYA Ministry re application for funding from Trois Rivières Fund for Rendezvous (*for action - refer to GELT 4b*)

Business arising:

Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place

1. Governance:a) **Leadership Team Mandates**

2020-02-17_013 MOTION (D. Lambie /P. Lisson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receives the Leadership Team Mandates for the Governance Handbook (with names removed) from Community and Justice leadership Team, Youth and Family Ministries Leadership Team and Planning Regional Council Gatherings Leadership Team. **Carried**

- Community and Justice leadership Team (see **appendix A**)
- Youth and Family Ministries Leadership Team (see **appendix B**)
- Planning Regional Council Gatherings Leadership Team (see **appendix C**)

Discussion: Final drafts need to be placed in the proper format; translated presented to Regional Council.

b) **Licensed Lay worship Leaders:**

2020-02-17_014 MOTION (D. Lambie/M. Grenon) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive agrees with the recommendation of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to be recognized as a Leadership Team that is required to report to the Executive on a regular basis. Furthermore, that the LLWL be given time at Regional Council Meetings to report on the status of Lay Worship Leaders. **Carried**

2020-02-17_015 MOTION (D. Lambie/D. Macdonald) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive agrees with the recommendations of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to edits in the Governance Handbook, namely:

The names of the approved LLWLs are to be forwarded to Regional Council EM Support annually by ~~December 15~~. **October 1st**.

Accountability

The LLWL Leadership Team is accountable to the Regional Council Executive.

Authority

The Leadership Team does not have decision-making authority to licence LLWLs. The Manual I 1.11.5 The Leadership Team will make recommendations to the Regional Council Executive with respect to candidates for licensing as an LLWL.

Appointment

A Leadership Team of ~~six (6)~~ **at least 7 (seven)** individuals with geographic balance, including two LLWLs

Terms of Office

The term will be for three years with a renewal for ~~one term~~ **two terms**.

Carried

2020-02-17_016 MOTION (M. Grenon/P. Lisson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive agrees with the recommendations of the Licenced Lay Worship Leaders to lived practice, including a bi-annual interview and relicensing process; the administrative task of verifying that Police Records Checks and mandatory training courses are up to date be taken over at the Regional Council level; elimination of the maximum number of services within a single Community of Faith, with the proviso that this situation be flagged at the bi-annual interview; and that permission be granted to conduct Funerals when the deceased has no particular affiliation with a Community of Faith or when the ministry personnel is confirmed as unavailable.

Rational of information for edits to the LLWL Handbook:

- a. There is ample time to meet LLWL'S and flag any possible problems during the twice-a-year Enrichment Days and because the interview process is time consuming, we recommend a bi-annual interview and relicensing process.
The interviews can be organized by the Leadership Team but carried out by retired LLWL'S or Ministers who are not part of the Leadership Team, in order to provide an unbiased assessment.
- b. The administrative task of verifying that Police Records Checks and mandatory training courses are up to date be taken over at the Regional or National level. As the guidelines state that LLWL's are expected to meet the same ethical standards as Ministry Personnel, our team suggests that this administrative function be handled in the same way via Church Hub. Alternatively, on a bi-annual basis only our interview team could record and provide the Regional Council with the dates each LLWL has received their required training / police checks.
- c. The nature of rural ministry as well as the declining financial resources of some urban churches at times requires more frequent requests for any one LLWL than that stipulated in the current Handbook e.g. Both Harrington Harbour and Metis Beach have only one Lay Worship Leader each. Both sites are without permanent Ministry Personnel. From time to time this same situation occurs in other areas of our Region where there are no other LLWL'S or available ministers within easy travel distance. We therefore recommend elimination of the maximum number of services within a single Community of Faith, with the proviso that this situation be flagged at the bi-annual interview
- d. Funerals: Part of the ongoing training offered to LLWL's in the Eastern Townships has been on how to conduct a funeral. Many ministry personnel consider the willingness of LLWL'S to perform funerals an aid to their own ministry, particularly when the deceased has no particular affiliation with a Community of Faith or when the ministry personnel is unavailable. Although more extended pastoral care is certainly a welcome feature of funeral preparation, nevertheless our experience has found that our LLWL's can offer a sympathetic and pastoral presence in the preparation and leadership of funerals.

2020-02-17_017 MOTION (S. Dansokho/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive postpone the motion above, namely: *2020-02-17_016 MOTION*, until the next Executive meeting. **Carried**

Discussion: Members were given more time to reflect and bring changes to the next Executive meeting. LLWL list is being created and will be posted on website.

- c) **Care for Retirees:** in progress

2. Pastoral Relations

- a) **2020-02-14_017 MOTION** (D. Macdonald/D. Lambie) That the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accepts the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team for the relicensing of Licenced Lay Worship Leaders to be conducted as part of the worship at the fall meeting of the Regional Council. **Carried**

Discussion: Reminder that: All churches and ministry personnel must be on Church Hub in order for any kind of change of pastoral relations. Hopefully, and eventually, the LLWL will also be included on Church Hub.

3. Property and Finance

- a) **2020-02-14_018 MOTION** (F. Braman/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the *Waiver of Reversion Rights in respect of the Bury United Church property*:

Whereas the land and building of Bury United Church was sold by its successor St. Andrew's United Church in Scotstown ("Scotstown UC") in 1998 to Bury United Cultural Centre ("Bury NFP") with a clause in the deed permitting Scotstown UC to retake the property in the event that the Bury NFP ceases to exist or defaults in its promises (the BURY REVERSION RIGHT); and

Whereas Scotstown UC disbanded in 2012 and Québec-Sherbrooke Presbytery concurred in its request for the distribution of its monetary assets by its resolution of May 2, 2012, but did not deal with the BURY REVERSION RIGHT; and

Whereas the United Church Manual 2019 Section C.2.6 (b) now expressly authorizes Regional Councils to make "decisions on the property of communities of faith remaining after the communities of faith cease to exist".

Whereas the congregation of Birchton-Bulwer-Cookshire-Island Brook (BBCI) (which is itself part of United Eaton Valley Pastoral Charge) which includes the former members and area of the Bury United Church has requested the Conseil Régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council to waive the BURY REVERSION RIGHT as it believes that the Bury NFP has fulfilled its promises and the waiver is in the interest of the Church and the local community to fully utilize the former Bury United Church property.:

RESOLVED that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, on the recommendation of its Property and Finance Leadership Team, formally waives the BURY REVERSION RIGHT, and agrees to sign any and all documents necessary or useful to confirm this waiver.

Carried

4. Granting and Enabling Leadership Team:

- a) **2020-02-14_019 MOTION** (F. Braman/D. Macdonald) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive refers the request of the Ecumenical Support Committee for financial

support for the McGill Chaplaincy to the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for consideration and decision. **Carried**

- b) **2020-02-14_020 MOTION** (F. Braman/R. Sheffer) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive refers the application of YAYA Ministry requesting funding from Trois Rivières Fund for Rendezvous to the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for consideration and decision. **Carried**

Discussion: St-Francis Cluster is supporting YAYA for this trip; therefore the original Trois Rivières Fund application will be amended to request less money.

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs

5. **Community of Faith** – West Island Churches meeting with Bob Richards of EDGE; is funding available for more meeting? It was suggested that Roxboro submit a funding proposal on behalf of West Island Churches to the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team.
6. **Youth and Young Adults, and Family Ministries** – Worshiplude was very successful; there were about 40 participants from Nakonha:ka. The theme was “to bring your light” and it was very inspiring. There was a meeting of Youth Leaders and the focus is GC 44. Four (4) youth (between 15-18) will have to be selected from the Regional Council, whereby one will be elected Commissioner. This person will also be the Youth Pilgrim, to travel across the country with other youth leading up to the General Council Meeting. It was suggested to refer nominating process to the Youth and Family Ministries Leadership Team, and report back to the Executive for approval. In the past it was Kevin Parnell and Sam Chambre. It was suggested to be in contact with these past Youth Pilgrims so they can present to potential other Pilgrims of their experiences.
7. **La Table** – February 29th, general meeting of la Table. Palestine visit is still looking for applicants to go Palestine.
8. **Community and Justice Leadership Team** – Bill 40 (abolishing school boards) has been passed.
Conference by interfaith group held in Montreal, the contact should have been the Community and Justice Leadership Team of the Regional Council. Going forward, this group needs to be connected with the Regional Council, and not just an individual within the regional Council.

Building Communications

9. **Communications** Judy Coffin walked through the website.
10. **Nominations:** How to build diversity into 10 positions for GC 43 commissioners? (Document attached with criteria see **appendix D**)

Notes

- GC 44 in Calgary (July 21-25, 2021)
- Expression of interest forms to be circulated
- Ex officio positions: Leading Elder (President), and Pilgrim (youth).
- the Indigenous community and La Table need to be elected through RC

11. **Regional Council Meetings:**

- a) Spring meeting: Saturday, May 30, 2020 in Lennoxville, QC
Discussion: it was suggested to arrange for bus and or carpooling

Agenda: Suggested to give time to explain General Council

General Council Reps to AGM (who will be rep?)

b) Fall meeting: November worship will focus on LLWL recognition

New Business

- 2020-21 budget
- Pastoral Relations Minister is on LTD (review in June 2020)

Opening worship for next meeting – Darryl Macdonald

Motion to adjourn

2020-02-14_021 MOTION (D. Macdonald/D. Lambie) that the meeting be adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Closing Prayer – Linda Buchanan

Next meeting dates

- Friday, March 13, 2020 9:00 – 12:00 ZOOM
- Friday, April 17, 2020 10:00 – 2:00
- Friday, May 8, 2020 9:00 – 12:00 ZOOM

Rev. Linda Buchanan
Chair, President

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

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Appendix A**Community and Justice Leadership Team**
Terms of Reference
Nov. 12, 2019**Mission**

God is calling us to expand our faith and theological understanding of a world-community where human dignity is defended, creation is mended and gifts are shared for the good of all. This keystone of God's vision of justice, compassion and actions leads us deeper into this world and requires us to be present in our communities.

Mandate (suggested)

- Finding ways of planting ourselves firmly in our neighbourhoods and communities;
- Listening to the people there and engaging in constructive, open dialogue (inter-cultural, inter-generational, inter-faith)
- Offering encouragement and hope.

Needs moving forward

1. Recruiting people interested in addressing social justice issues in our region;
2. Creating a cluster or clusters that will move faith to action;
3. Strengthening individual and community relationships;
4. Having fun!

Actions to date

- A small group of former JGER members met to begin the discussions;
- In this interim period, we responded to Bill 21 last spring with a statement and participated in news conferences;
- Beaconsfield Initiative continues to be involved in human rights issues in the Philippines here in Canada and in the Philippines;
- Right Relation committee continues to meet;
- Haiti school project remains under our care;
- Interfaith work of MCM is ongoing;
- Community ministry of Saint Columba House.

(This is not a complete list, I am sure that there are many more actions to add to the list.)

Moving forward we will propose the **Community and Justice Leadership Team** continue to focus on our traditional support-accountability role with our UCC community ministries, our community networks, the environment and the Literacy Centre in Haiti. Additional themes can include the 'Soul of Community' gatherings with possible venue in 2020 on the West Island and Eastern Townships and the hearings on systemic racism to be held by the city. Remaining open to new direction and interests of new members is essential.

We will be functioning with occasional meetings, zoom and via networks already established, i.e. the UCC climate - green church network, BUC initiative and links.

Appendix B



LEADERSHIP TEAM PROFILE

2019

NAME OF LEADERSHIP TEAM	YAYA	
CONTACT PERSON	Joelle Leduc	
What is the primary focus of your team (what issues do you tackle)?		
Our leadership team is responsible for vision and steering the Youth, Young adult and family ministries of the Nakonha:Ka regional council.		
Who are the primary users/beneficiaries of from your team's offerings?		
People in the first third of their lives, and the people who lead them.		
Share a good news story made possible by your team:		
Because of the full time staff person in YAYA ministry, there is more time and resources available to devote to developing programming. One new program in 2019 was the Young Adult retreat, a bilingual and (loosely) ecumenical event. We are hoping to repeat this annually, or bi-annually with help from our colleagues in the Anglican and Presbyterian churches.		
Who is currently a member of your team?		
	NAME	EMAIL
	PHONE	
	Shanna Bernier	
	Jillian Lalonde	
	Georgia Barratt-Lamey	
	Joelle Leduc	
	Jean-Daniel Williams	
	Jennifer Carroll	
	Denis Ashby	
	Gary Tompkins	
	Hannah Bailey	
	Rachel Lambie	
What kind of additional skills/gifts might new members bring to your team?		
It would be wonderful to have folks join the team who care about this ministry but are not already deeply involved, it is always valuable to have an outside perspective.		
How do you currently share information/news/challenges/successes?		
	PLATFORM	DETAILS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Web site	www.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook page	www.facebook.com/
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook group	www.facebook.com/group/
<input type="checkbox"/>	Twitter	@
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Instagram	@yaya_nakonha_ka
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter (print)	Weekly/monthly/quarterly/annual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter (online)	(which platform eg. Mailchimp, Constant Contact, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone	n/a
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	n/a
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Please specify

Appendix C

NAME OF LEADERSHIP TEAM	Regional Meeting Planning Team/ Équipe de planification de la réunion régionale	
CONTACT PERSON	Rev Tami Spires	
<p>What is the primary focus of your team (what issues do you tackle)?</p> <p>Our tasks throughout the year are to plan out the two regional meetings held in the fall and spring, coordinate a meeting space, create a theme for the meeting, build the worship around the theme, and lead worship throughout the meeting. Our team in collaboration with the sitting President of the region create the agenda for the meeting, work with the meeting space on-site team to provide them support as they plan to host the meeting, to work with spaces where remote communication and meeting sites are needed, work with our Regional Council technology team, and be on-site the day/night before the meeting to set up the physical meeting space.</p> <p>Our mission is to ensure that we are living out our call to be the church through worship and work. We seek to create meaningful, spirit-filling, safe spaces at least twice a year for the work of our for whole region to gather together in community face-to-face and virtually.</p> <p>Have an idea for a theme for our Regional Meeting? Want to host the Regional Meeting? Have idea's for songs and readings that can inspire our time together? Come and speak to us!</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Nos taches, tout au long de l'année, consistent à planifier les deux réunions régionales tenues à l'automne et au printemps, à coordonner un espace de réunion, à créer un thème pour la réunion, à construire le culte autour du thème et à animer le culte tout au long de la réunion. Notre équipe, en collaboration avec le président de la région en fonction, crée l'ordre du jour de la réunion, collabore avec l'équipe locale au lieu physique de la réunion pour la soutenir dans l'organisation de l'espace et des rafraichissements, travaille avec les sites secondaires et les individus qui participent aux réunions à distance si nécessaire, collabore avec l'équipe technique du Conseil régional et prépare l'espace la veille et le jour de la réunion. Notre mission est de nous assurer que nous vivons notre appel à être l'église à travers le culte et le travail. Nous cherchons à créer, au moins deux fois par an, des espaces significatifs, remplis d'esprit et sûrs pour que le travail de notre région entière se réunisse dans une communauté face à face et virtuellement.</p> <p>Vous avez une idée de thème pour notre réunion régionale? Vous voulez accueillir la réunion régionale à votre église? Vous avez des idées de chansons et de lectures qui peuvent inspirer notre temps ensemble? Venez nous parler!</p>		
<p>Who are the primary users/beneficiaries of from your team's offerings?</p> <p>The people and communities of faith in our Region.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Qui sont les principaux utilisateurs / bénéficiaires des offres de votre équipe?</p> <p>Les personnes et les communautés de foi de notre région.</p>		
<p>Who is currently a member of your team?</p>		
NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Rlambie@united-church.ca	
Rev. Linda Buchanan	revlindabuchanan@gmail.com	
David MacCormack	davemack67@hotmail.com	(819) 821-4959
Rev Kent Chown	minister@wyman-hudson.ca	(514) 817-0132
Valerie Epps-Nickson	vepps_nickson@hotmail.com	(514) 268-0228
Rev. Joëlle Leduc	joelleleduc@gmail.com	(514) 432-9368
Shirley Stark	sistark@sympatico.ca	

Judy Coffin	JCoffin@united-church.ca	
Shanna Bernier	Sbernier@united-church.ca	
Joel Miller	JMiller@united-church.ca	
Rev. Tami Spires	spiresta@hotmail.com	819-452-3685

What kind of additional skills/gifts might new members bring to your team?

- We are looking for creative people!
- People who enjoy planning large scale events!
- People who are able to do physical tasks (moving furniture, setting up and taking down the space, carrying boxes)!
- People who can speak, write, and read in a variety of languages!
- People who can help us promote our meetings, get people excited to register, energize our people to come to the regional meetings!

Quels types de compétences / dons supplémentaires les nouveaux membres pourraient-ils apporter à votre équipe?

- Nous recherchons des personnes créatives!
- Des personnes qui aiment planifier des événements à grande échelle!
- Des personnes capables d'effectuer des tâches physiques (déplacer des meubles, aménager et démonter des espaces, transporter des boîtes)!
- Des gens qui peuvent parler, écrire et lire dans une variété de langues!
- Des personnes qui peuvent nous aider à faire connaître nos réunions, inciter les gens à s'inscrire, inciter nos employés à assister aux réunions régionales!

How do you currently share information/news/challenges/successes?

Our team meets once a month online for approximately 2 hours using the Zoom meeting platform. We also use email to communicate with each other outside of scheduled meetings.

Comment partagez-vous actuellement l'informations / les nouvelles / les défis / les réussites?

Notre équipe se réunit une fois par mois en ligne pendant environ 2 heures en utilisant la plate-forme de réunion Zoom. Nous utilisons également le courrier électronique pour communiquer les uns avec les autres en dehors des réunions planifiées.

PLATFORM	DETAILS
Web site	http://nakonhakaucc.ca/
Facebook page	Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Facebook group	
Twitter	
Instagram	
Newsletter (print)	
Newsletter (online)	Nouvelles Nakonha:ka News
Telephone	819-452-3685
Email	spiresta@hotmail.com
Other	<i>Please specify</i>

Appendix D

Number of Regional Council-elected Commissioners – GC44

Of the total 260 Commissioners, 204 are to be elected by the regional councils. This number is determined as 5 plus an additional number based on the proportion of the number of communities of faith within that regional council to the total number of communities of faith (Manual 2019 D.1.1.e)

Basis for Calculating the number of Communities of Faith

- 1) For this General Council, the calculation of the number of communities of faith includes any of the following which existed as of January 1, 2018:
 - Congregations
 - Community ministries
 - Camps
- 2) The calculation of the number of communities of faith does *not* include:
 - Educational institutions (theological schools and some campus ministry groups)
 - Housing corporations
- 3) Indigenous communities of faith have been counted as a part of the regional council within whose geographic bounds they are located

Calculation of Commissioners to be elected by Regional Councils under section (e)

Regional Councils	TOTAL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH	% of total communities of faith	Proportional number of Commissioners	Plus 5	TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS
Antler River Watershed	178	6%	8	5	13
Canadian Shield	96	3%	4	5	9
Chinook Winds	121	4%	5	5	10
Conseil Regional Nakonha:ka	108	4%	5	5	10
East Central Ontario	200	7%	9	5	14
Eastern Ontario Outaouais	189	7%	8	5	13
First Dawn Eastern Edge	193	7%	8	5	13
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters	191	7%	8	5	13
Horseshoe Falls	168	6%	7	5	12
Living Skies	246	9%	11	5	16
Northern Spirit	143	5%	6	5	11
Pacific Mountain	206	7%	9	5	14
Prairie to Pine	209	7%	9	5	14
Regional Council 15	236	8%	10	5	15
Shining Waters	194	7%	8	5	13
Western Ontario Waterways	175	6%	8	5	13
Total	2853	100%	123	80	203*

*As a result of rounding the number of Commissioners within each Regional Council, the total number of Commissioners on this occasion becomes 203 instead of 204.

Guidelines on Calculations from The Manual**Manual 2019****D.1.1 Members of the General Council**

- e) 204 members elected by the regional councils on the following basis:
 - i) **Number:** each regional council elects five members *plus* an additional number allocated to it based on the proportion of communities of faith within the bounds of that regional council to the total number of communities of faith in the United Church;
 - ii) **Lay/ministry personnel balance:** a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be ministry personnel on the roll of the regional council, and a minimum of 1/3 of the members elected must be lay members of communities of faith within the bounds of the regional council other than ministry personnel;
 - iii) **Diversity:** attention is given to diversity of gender and age, racial and cultural identities, and sexual expressions, as provided in policies set by the General Council; and
 - iv) **Timing:** the election takes place, where possible, at least one year before the next regular in-person meeting of the General Council;

B.1.2 Transition: Congregations, Pastoral Charges, and Other Local Ministry Units Existing before January 1, 2019

All congregations, pastoral charges, and other local ministry units that existed prior to January 1, 2019, automatically continue as recognized communities of faith as of that date.

“Local ministry unit” is a term used prior to January 1, 2019, to describe the various forms of distinctive local ministry initiatives in the United Church including congregations, pastoral charges, missions, and outreach ministries.

A congregation is a group of people that meets for public worship, and that has been formed as a congregation of the United Church. A pastoral charge is a unit of organization that consists of one or more congregations.