
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**June 12th 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 Annual General Meeting (Zoom online virtual meeting) on June 12th 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 theme was inspired by the following reflection: As the stone is rolled away from the tomb, beams of sunlight stream inward and a new life—a life beyond death—emerges. As we live through these strange times of struggle and change, can we emerge from the shadows with a fresh understanding about how to live and share that new life as members of the United Church in the wider world.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry (49)**

Mead Baldwin, Beryl Barraclough, Wayne Beamer, Janet Bisset, Barbara Bryce, Linda Buchanan, Florence Bukam, Kent Chown, James Christie, David Clinker, Gonzalo Cruz, Samuel Dansokho, Rosa Elena Donoso, Wendy Evans, Ryan Fea, Shawn Fryday, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Cathy Hamilton, Mark Hammond, Helen Hliaras, Lee Ann Hogle, Ellie Hummel, Reginald Jennings, Elisabeth Jones, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Mher Katchikian, Andrew Lairenge, Dave Lambie, Steve Lawson, David Lefneski, Patricia Lisson, Darryl Macdonald, Marie-Claude Manga, John Matheson, Alice McAlpine, Heather McClure, Jennifer Mountain, Birgit Neuschild, Scott Patton, Angelika Piché, Read Sherman, Darla Sloan, Ian Smith, Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Douglas Throop, Stephane Vermette and Neil Whitehouse.

Lay Delegates (39)

Judy Bachelder, Guy Lin Beaudoin, Diane Best, Carol Bircher, Peter Bisset, Cameron Black, Fred Braman, Martha Bromby, Melvyn Bryant, Diane Campbell, Diane Cantin, Elva Crawford, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Undeg Edwards, Valerie Epps-Nickson, Satewas Gabriel, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, Charlotte Griffith, Richard Guay, Norm Haslam, Marion Hodge, Janice Knowles, Jan Langelier, David McCormack, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Helga Ovando, Robert Patton, Natacha Sanson, Ivylin Scott, Dorothy Shaw, Paul Stanfield, Shirley Stark, Nancy Stewart, Jim Vanstone, Fiona Wardrop and Vera Young

Corresponding Members - Candidates (6)

Lisa Byer-de Wever, Bailey Eastwood, Aaron Miechkota, Raphaël Pérusse, Cynthia Reynolds and Virginia Wallace.

Lay Delegates Under 30 (3)

Denis Ashby, Rachel Lambie and Émilie Wood.

Regional Council Staff (9)

Shanna Bernier, Judy Coffin, David-Roger Gagnon, Adele Halliday, Rev. Daniel Hayward, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Joel Miller, Brian Ruse and Karen Valley.

Guests of the Regional Council (9)

Priscilla Geisterfer, Kirsty Hayward, Rev. Isaac Kamta, Lambert, Kelley Molloy, Victoria Moulton, Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom), Renate Sutherland 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; a time dedicated to conversing with friends.

Special Instructions (8:45)

Rev. Kent Chown presented a PowerPoint presentation providing instructions for how to use Zoom functions during the meeting. Instructions included: how to rename yourself, corresponding to your preferred language for breakout rooms and whether or not you are a voting member, how to mute and unmute; how to open the 'participants'; 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 included how to use the interpretation feature within Zoom to have access to simultaneous translation and how to use the poll function when voting.

Welcome to the Land

Rev. Linda Buchanan, President of the Regional Council and Chair for this meeting welcomed all participants to the meeting and invited Satewas Harvey Gabriel.

Opening Worship

The opening worship was prepared by the worship planning team: Valeri Epps-Nickson (Chair), Joel Miller, Cathy Hamilton, David-Roger Gagnon, Linda Buchanan, Shanna Bernier, Tami Spires, Robert Patton, and Denis Ashby.

Opening worship began with *Ohenton Kariwatekwen* (Thanksgiving Prayer) led by Robert Patton, followed by the Chair providing a reflection on the theme for this year's annual general meeting, and the reading of Scripture passage Mark 4:26-30, read in Mohawk, French and in English.

Immediately following, and as part of the opening worship the Regional Council recognized its candidates; these were presented by Karen Valley, Office of Vocation Minister and Marc Grenon, Candidacy Board member. The following people were recognized: Aaron Miechkota had been affirmed as ready for Supervised Ministry Education, Raphaël Pérusse had been affirmed to continue with his Supervised Ministry Education, Virginia Wallace was interviewed in the Atlantic Regional Council and had been affirmed as Candidate Suppl, Lisa Byerde Wever had been affirmed to continue with her Diaconal Candidacy, Bailey Eastwood had been named a Candidate and affirmed as ready for Supervised Ministry Education and Cynthia Reynolds had been named a Candidate and affirmed as ready for Supervised Ministry Education. Following recognitions, the hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle" was sung (accompanied by Lambert, musician) to celebrate and honor all of the candidates. Following this, Karen and Marc led in prayer (adapted from Pastoral Prayers to Share, Year B, p. 173-4)

The opening worship concluded with the singing of hymn "In the Bulb there is a Flower" (verse 1 in English, verse 2 in French, verse 3 in English) and was led and accompanied by Lambert, musician.

Remembering the 215 children found in unmarked graves in Kamloops, British Columbia, and the tragedy of the Muslim family of 4 murdered in London Ontario

A moment of silence was held in memory of the 215 children found in unmarked graves in Kamloops, British Columbia, and the tragedy of the Muslim family of 4 which was murdered in London, Ontario.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting 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.

Omnibus Motion

2021-06-12_067 MOTION (T. Spires/V. Epps-Nickson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda as circulated be adopted;
2. That the 2021 Report Book be amended to include the memorial of Rev. Mark Rawlings (see **appendix A**);
3. That the minutes of November 21st 2020 General Meeting be accepted as circulated (see **appendix B**);
4. That the minutes of March 20th 2021 General Meeting be accepted as circulated (see **appendix C**);
5. That the following person serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Rev. Ian Smith;
6. That the following person serve as Parliamentarian: Fred Braman;
7. That the following person serve as Chaplain: Raphaël Pérusse, Rev. Neil Whitehouse and Rev. Wendy Evans;
8. That Shanna Bernier and Rev. Tami Spires serve as the Equity Team;
9. That the following grant distributions be received for information:

Erskine and American-Mountainside

Beaconsfield United Church women's collective	\$12,000
Cedar Park United Church Outdoor Community Labyrinth	\$4,000
Montreal City Mission Holistic Reconciliation with Newcomer Families	\$15,000
Mount Royal United Church French intercultural Worship (third year of funding, should be looking for long-term funding source)	\$15,000
Roxboro UC Family Life Centre Zoom Workshops	\$1,000
Saint Columba House Removing Roadblocks-Academic perseverance for youth	\$7,500
St James Multi-faith Library	\$10,000
St Lambert UC Blessing Bag Initiative (extraordinary 4 th year grant)	\$6,000
Ste Genevieve UC ORA Loss and Living for refugees-grieving	\$5,000
Ste Genevieve UC ORA Loss and Living Program	\$3,500
Westmount Park UC request denied Trustees considered it premature at this time.	\$0.00
West Island LGBTQ2+. Youth-based programming	\$25,000
*Granted to date: \$104,000 out of a total available of about \$171,000	

Good Samaritan Fund grants:

Auberge Madeleine Shelter and counsel for Senior Women	\$10,000
Saint Columba House Seniors Care	\$33,000
Beaconsfield UC Seniors for Seniors	\$24,500
St Paul's UC-Magog Healthy Seniors living-exercise Program	\$4,250
Richmond-Melbourne UC Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program	\$25,000
West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre West Island Rainbow Seniors	\$20,000
Montreal City Mission Seasons/saison Phase 3	\$18,134
*The Good Samaritan fund has reached 7.5 million dollars	

Bhal Yun Fund grants:

Westmount Park UC Building Conformity	0.00
St James United Church (Montreal) Investigate Philippines Human Rights (PH)	\$5000

Trois Rivières French Ministry Fund grant,

Eglise Unie Drummondville/Mauricie	\$7,000
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*The maximum of **Trois Rivières French Ministry Fund** grant be increased to \$7000.

Kelley Trust Fund grant (received for information):

Montreal City Mission Ancient Texts-Contemporary Conversations	\$3,500
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Carried**Young Adult Representative**

2021-06-12_068 MOTION (V. Galanis/S. V. Dansokho) That the Conseil régional Nakonhaka Regional Council add Denis Ashby from Plymouth-Trinity United Church to its membership as a young adult representative.

Carried**Purpose of the Outline**

Rev. Linda Buchanan, Chair, highlighted various parts on the day's agenda and explained the planning teams intentions in deciding the business for this meeting. In particular, to offer a time for fellowship using breakout rooms, to participate in an educational piece on Anti-Racism within The United Church of Canada and have small group discussion, to accept the Nominations List (which includes the Executive) and to decide on General Council 44 Commissioners. All of these items mentioned above would include times for worship woven in-between. The Chair also highlighted that time had been allotted on the agenda for 'new business', which came in response to the lack of time that happened during the last General Meeting.

Duty of Care

Rev. Tami Spires shared the following (read in English and French):

In 1959, Carol Rose Ikeler wrote 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 regionale 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 by phone or private chat during the meeting.

Equity Team – Criteria to consider when making a meeting more Equitable

Shanna Bernier, Youth Minister for the Regional Council shared the following criteria:

1. Am I responding with my bias(es)?
2. Just because we've always done it this way, should we continue?
3. Who is missing around our table in this discussion? (Do we need to consult wider?)
4. Whose voices haven't been heard? Have I spoken too much?

Message from the Moderator

A message to Regional Councils from the Right Rev. Richard Bott, Moderated was shared as a video presentation: Here below is the script to that presentation:

"Grace and peace to all of you who, gathering in the Region, in Christ's name!

I'm glad that I have the chance to stop and be with you, even if it's just for a moment. It's been quite a year, hasn't it? The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed us into places and practices that were new to many of us, just a year and a bit ago.

Snail mail. E-mail. Sunday School in a Box. Camp in a Crate! On and on and on, you have found ways to live out the ministry which Christ has given. You have found ways to make God's love tangible. You have found ways to follow the Holy Spirit, even in those times when we've been told we must stay close to home. To make sure that people have what they need. To survive. To live. And, hopefully, to thrive.

So. Thank you. You amazing, wonderful, awesome disciples of Jesus Christ! THANK YOU! You have done so very much. It is impossible for me to express how deeply honoured I am to be part of this United Church of Canada – to be part of you. Thank you!

As we move out of this time, into whatever comes next, I trust not only that God is with us, but that we are with each other.

This coming year will bring a lot. The General Council Executive's Strategic Planning process is well underway, with the view to bring a plan what will help the General Council, the General Secretary and General Council staff, as well as the wider United Church, a direction based on our shared mission, vision, and values. While a great deal of input has been and is being sought, so this plan will be collectively ours, one of the ways that you can help is to hold all of this work in intentional prayer – that our discernment might be clear, compassionate, and guided by God's love.

We're also coming up to General Council 44 – a meeting that is going to be different from any other, if only because we're going to be hosting this gathering in virtual space, there are possibilities and opportunities that we're just beginning to imagine. The meeting will open in February 2022 and close in August 2022 (dates to be announced). Between the opening and the closing, there will be opportunities for General Council commissioners to participate in Learning Sessions, in Discussion Sessions, in informal and formal small group conversations, and in decision-making sessions, including the election of a new Moderator. All of these experiences will be in front of the computer (or phone or tablet) – so it is helpful that many of us have built experience with these tools over the past year.

The GC44 Planning Committee is hoping, too, that meeting this way will allow us ways to bring the entire church – not just the General Council Commissioners – together – in learning, in worship, and in connection. Our theme, “Who do you say I am? / Et vous... qui dites-vous que je suis?/ Măduwech echâmâgî “ is an invitation for us to explore who Jesus Christ is for us – his disciples known as The United Church of Canada, in this part of the 21st century.

I'm hoping that those people who choose to offer their gifts, their talents, and their time, as General Council Commissioners, will dive into the deep waters of this question, invite others in to the conversation, and see where it leads us. It's going to take time and energy and, no matter how hard we work to make all of the technology work together, it's probably going to have some times of frustration.

I know that, along with me and the Planning Committee, the General Council staff is committed to making this the best experience we can.

I hope that your Regional gathering is fruitful, and that you continue to support and celebrate one another in these changing times. Please know that you and your communities of faith are constantly in my prayers, and that I hold you in my love.

Christ's peace is with you!”

Breakout Rooms (introductions)

Rev. Linda Buchanan, President, explained the purpose of the breakout rooms, and that the duration for discussions would be limited to 5 mins.

Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Adele Halliday, Anti-racism and Equity Officer, presented on ‘Becoming Anti-Racist Church’. Adele’s bio is located on page 14 of the English and French Report books (see **appendix A**). The key discussion topics were as follows:

1. Exploring some of the principles for becoming an anti-racist denomination
2. Explore some of the characteristics of White supremacist culture within our churches, and by looking at some of the markers and the antidotes

Breakout Rooms

Questions:

- 1) What initial reflections would you offer about the principles for becoming an anti-racist denomination?
- 2) How might some of these principles—and the work of becoming anti-racist—be lived out in your community of faith?
- 3) How might markers of White supremacist culture be manifested in your community of faith or other areas of church life? How might some of the antidotes become part of community life?
- 4) Are there any additional reflections?

Recording secretaries for each discussion group were asked to take note of the key points from their small group. Eventually they would be shared in the chat or sent to a member of the planning team to be shared with Adele.

Break

Following this time on the agenda a 5-minute break was had by all.

A Time for Worship

A time of worship was had to celebrate the ministries of communities and Ministers, and began with Rev. Cathy Hamilton and Rev. Pierre Goldberger providing a small reflection on the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb. This was followed by Rev. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister, highlighting those members of the order of ministry who had died since the last annual general meeting, in order to remember and give thanks for their ministries: Marian Jean Morwood-Charles, Malcolm Cogswell, Jacques Labadie and Mark Rawlings (each of their bios can be found in the report book, pages 16-19, see **appendix A**). It was also highlighted that Sara Surjadinata and Tom Kurdyla were among those who had died during the past year, and that they were being recognized by the Regional Councils where they had settled. This time of memorial was followed by a time of Prayer (adapted from Celebrate God’s presence 26T009) and the singing of “The Rose” in French by Lambert, musician.

Beatrice Bernier read from Ralph Milton Children’s Bible John 11 1-45 Healing of Lazarus. This was followed by a small reflection provided by Fred Braman, Chair of the Property and Finance Leadership Team, which focused on a time of transition for many churches. Fred highlighted that many had found new ways to “be the church” when their buildings were sealed up, and that some have found that the building itself was no longer necessary for the celebrating of God’s presence. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the various transition of the following Communities of Faith within the Regional Council:

Centenary United Church

(Past)

Is a Methodist Church 1864-1926

Joins United Church 1926-1990

Becomes Centenary United Church 1990-2020

(Present)

Shares space with Maison Saint Columba House

Hatley United Church

(Past)	(Present)
Is a Methodist Church 1839-1925	Amalgamated with Lennoxville United Church
Becomes Hatley United Church 1925-2021	
<i>Wyman Memorial United Church</i>	
(Past)	(Present)
Is a Methodist Church 1872-1925	Moved to the Côte Saint Charles United Church
Becomes Wyman Memorial United Church 1925-2020	location in St. Lazare
<i>Wesley United Church</i>	
(Past)	(Present)
Methodist Church 1871-1925	
Became Wesley United Church 1925-2020	

Following the presentation, Fred Braman led in prayer adapted from Celebrate God's presence 130002, and Valerie Epps-Nickson led in prayer which she prepared. The time of worship was concluded with the singing of The Rose, in English, sung by Lambert, musician.

Covid Task Group Update

Peter Bisset shared updates for various scenarios of government alert levels (red, orange, yellow, green) using a chart which is distributed and updated every week in the Regional Council newsletter. Scenarios in the chart included, wearing masks and distancing, singing, worshiping indoors, worship outdoors, when office administration could resume in buildings, protocols for funerals and weddings, essential activities (CIUSSS sanctioned – foodbanks, community support), social events within public places and rentals.

Nominations

Rev. Dave Lambie, Chair of Nominations presents the following motions, whereby some discussion ensued:

Discussion: It was noted that the Nominations Team has vacancies which makes it difficult to seek out volunteers, and for which the nominations process relies more on people submitting expression of interest forms to fill vacancies. It was highlighted that this process may be a reason for finding less diversity of volunteers to serve (although the criteria for finding diversity is contained within The United Church polity). It was also suggested that the 'terms of office' (i.e., time-limit on serving for the various Leadership Team) be made well known, which may help volunteers have a better sense if they can serve. It was suggested that the Executive look further into making the Chair of Nominations a voting member on the Executive.

President-Elect

2021-06-12_069 MOTION (T. Spires/D. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council nominate Marc Grenon as President-Elect. **Carried**

Executive 2021-22

2021-06-12_070 MOTION (D. Lambie/S. Stark) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council nominate the following people to serve on the Executive:

Full voting Members:

President (2-year maximum)	Rev. Linda Buchanan (1 year)
President Elect (Elected in "off year" for one-year term)	Marc Grenon (1 years)
Past President (one year)	(vacant)
Treasurer	Paul Stanfield (no term)
Executive Minister	Rev. Rosemary Lambie

Representative of the following Leadership Teams:

Property and Finance	Fred Braman
Pastoral Relations	Rev. Darryl MacDonald
New Ministry Development and Support/Visioning	Frederick (Rick) Sheffer
Representative of La Table	Marie-Claude Manga
Youth and Family Ministries	Rev. Joelle Leduc Rev / interim Denis Ashby
Right Relations	Robert Patton
Justice and Community Ministries	(vacant) appointed by Team
Granting and Enabling Leadership Team	Rev. Barbara Bryce
Planning Leadership Team	Rev. Tami Spires
Finance and Extension Board	Peter Bisset
Four (4) Full Voting Members at Large	1. Vivienne Galanis (1 year) 2. Rev. Pierre Goldberger (1 year) 3. Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho (1 year) 4. (vacant)

Corresponding Non-Voting Members

Pastoral Relations Minister	Rev. Dan Hayward
Communications Staff Person	Judy Coffin
Program Assistant to the Executive Minister	Joel Miller
Regional Network Ministers	David-Roger Gagnon
Youth, Young Adult and Families Ministries	Shanna Bernier
Property, Finance and Administration Manager	Brian Ruse
Nominations	Rev. David Lambie

CarriedIntroduction of General Council 44 Commissioners

The Chair of Nominations highlighted that the biographies of each nominee could be found in **appendix D**. A vote by ballot was held for Lay Commissioner. The names of Ministry Personnel Commissioners would stand for lack of nominees in this category (and to provide balance between the total number of Lay and Ministry Personnel Commissioners to represent the Regional Council at General Council 44).

44th General Council Commissioners

2021-06-12_071 MOTION (D. Lambie/G. Beaudoin) that one position be held for the Youth Pilgrim, and that the following people serve as the 44th General Council Commissioners representing Nakonha:ka Regional Council:

Lay

1. Marc Grenon, President-Elect
2. Ben Ryan (under 30)
3. Youth Pilgrim
4. Fred Braman
5. Valerie-Epps Nickson

Ministry Personnel

6. Rev. Linda Buchanan
7. Rev. Heather McClure
8. Rev. Cathy Hamilton
9. Rev. Tami Spires
- 10

Lay Alternates:

1. Morgan Pierre-Pont
2. Denis Ashby
3. Norman Robert Boie
4. L.E. Moir

And further, that the Nominations Team reopen Expressions of Interest to seek to fill a clergy vacancy, to secure clergy alternates and report its recommendations to the Regional Council for approval. **Carried**

Updates to Governance Handbook

The President announced that all updates to the Governance Handbook would be moved to the following General Meeting:

Proposed Amendment to Regional Council Annual and General Meetings (see appendix E)

2021-06-12_XYZ MOTION (/) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council accept the amendment to Regional Council Annual and General Meetings Planning, to update part of the Regional Council Living Mission, in the Governance Handbook.

Amendment to Policy on Leases, Major Renovations and Other Major Assets

2021-06-12_XYZ MOTION (/) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council accept the amendment to the Policy on Leases, Major Renovations and Other Major Assets, and update the Governance Handbook:

2020-10-08_127 MOTION (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the recommendation of the Property & Finance Leadership Group that its Policy on Leases, Major Renovations and Other Major Assets be amended to add the following sentence to Other Major Assets –“ Other Major Assets include only assets of more than \$50,000 in a contemplated transaction, it being the intent that Trustees exercise their fiduciary duties in respect of assets of lesser value and on the understanding that the conflict of interest policies of The United Church of Canada are fully respected. Other major assets include any part of the property on which the church building is located.” Carried

Amendment to the Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property

2021-06-12_XYZ MOTION (/) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council accept the amendment to the Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property, and update the Governance Handbook:

2021-02-18_020 MOTION (F. Braman/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendations of the Property and Finance Leadership Team that the Policy regarding proceeds from the sale of property be amended to recommend that 5%-10% of the net proceeds from the sale be remitted to Mission & Service Fund in the case of a community of faith that is not disbanding. Carried

Amendment to the Policy for Electing General Council Commissioners (see appendix F)

2021-06-12_XYZ MOTION (/) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council accept the amendment to the Policy for Electing General Council Commissioners, and update the Governance Handbook.

2021-02-18_022 MOTION (B. Bryce/D. Macdonald) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves and accepts the amended Policy for Electing General Council Commissioners. Carried

Closing Worship, Covenanting with Commissioners, Executive, and Leadership Teams

Valerie Epps-Nickson introduced this time of worship as a time to celebrate paid accountable ministers who have accepted God's call into retirement, and to covenant with a variety of different Leaders, people who are prepared to serve within the leadership of this Regional Council. This was followed by the singing of Hymn: La Joie a L'aurore / Joy Comes with the Dawn (NVU131, VU166) V1+C. Afterwards, Vivienne Galanis read Scripture passage Mark 16:1-4 in French, which was followed by the Chair, accompanied by Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, leading a call and response adapted to celebrating retirees within the Regional Council. Rev. Dan Hayward announced the retirees: Rev. Barbara Fotheringham, Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Rev. Scott Patton and Rev. Robert Thompson. This time of worship was closed with a prayer of thanksgiving and the singing of hymn: La Joie a L'aurore / Joy Comes with the Dawn (NVU131, VU166) V2+C. Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom) read Scripture passage Mark 16:1-4 in Mohawk, which was followed by the Chair, accompanied by Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, leading in the covenanting with the Executive and the Leadership Teams. This was followed by the singing of hymn: La Joie a L'aurore / Joy Comes with the Dawn (NVU131, VU166) V3+C. David McCormack read Scripture passage Mark 16:1-4 in English, which was followed by the Chair, accompanied by Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, leading in the covenanting with Commissioner to

the 44th General Council. This was followed by a closing prayer led by Rev. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister and an anthem created by communities of faith within the United St Francis Cluster, in the Eastern Townships. This virtual choir anthem was originally prepared for a joint zoom worship service for Pentecost 2020.

Closing Motions

2021-06-12_072 MOTION (R. Lambie/V. Epps-Nickson) that following the rise of this Annual General Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Executive until the next general meeting. **Carried**

2021-06-12_073 MOTION (V. Epps-Nickson/R. Lambie) that the meeting be adjourned at 12:48 PM, and that the President declares session one of the Annual General Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council duly concluded. **Carried**

Closing Remarks

Rev. Linda Buchanan, Chair, thanked all for their attendance as this annual general meeting and provided a closing benediction.

Optional online lunch

All were welcome to join in an online lunch, in which the Zoom meeting room was left open for attendees who wanted to share in fellowship.

Rev. Linda Buchanan
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

Appendix

Appendix A	Report Book 2021
Appendix B	Minutes of November 21 st 2020 General Meeting
Appendix C	Minutes of March 20 th 2021 General Meeting
Appendix D	Bios of GC 44 Commissioner Nominees
Appendix E	Proposed Amendment to Regional Council Annual and General Meetings
Appendix F	Amendment to the Policy for Electing General Council Commissioners

Appendix A

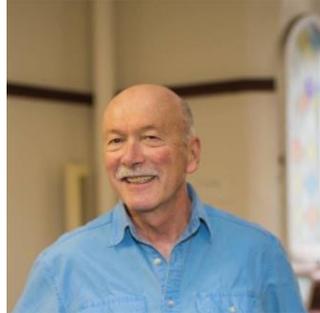
Report Book (2021) available on Regional Council website

Appendix B

Minutes of November 21st 2020 General Meeting available on Regional Council website

Appendix C

Minutes of March 20th 2021 General Meeting available on Regional Council website

Appendix D

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 Nakhona: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 Nakhona: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 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

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 Nakhonha: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.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Norman Robert Boie

Nominated by: Angelika Piché

Seconded by: Cathy Hamilton

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

I am a French-speaking member of the United Church of Canada and am currently studying theology (I will soon be completing an M. Div.) at United Theological College in Montreal. I share my professional experiences as a teacher, singer (opera and musical), TV and communications producer (Astral, Quebecor, Thema France) with various committees of the United Church. For example, I have just completed a 3-year term as co-director of the music ministry for St James United Church (mostly English-speaking environment). I am also a member of the communications committee of La Table des ministères en français, which I can support through my television and communication experiences. I also work on various initiatives (mission-values visioning with La Table des ministères en français, communications ...) and on various innovative projects (video projects and the development of different expressions of ministry ...) within the United Church. So, I am involved in both the French-speaking environment and the English-speaking environment in the Quebec context. I am interested in applying as a delegate to the General Council to understand the breadth of the diversity of ministerial contexts in the United Church, to be able to share and bear witness to my experiences and to nourish my enthusiasm for the future.



Lay Nominee to General Council 44

Morgan-Pierre Point

Nominated by: Angelika Piché

Seconded by: Claire Borel

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

I see some major reasons that make me want to participate:

- 1) The willingness to participate in the journey, discernment and decisions of the United Church of Canada on behalf of the members and ministries of my region.
- 2) The possibility of being able to meet several communities in my region to understand their experiences / reflections / aspirations and bring them to the General Council. Then then be able to testify to the communities about the process and the reflections of the council.
- 3) The personal enrichment it would represent for me. Meet / share / reflect and pray with United Church members from across Canada. It seems like a rare opportunity to me. Also, being an immigrant, a member of the United Church for 3 years and a candidate for lay worship leadership, it will allow me to discover the United Church of Canada in its multiple dimensions / expressions / realities.
- 4) Finally, I believe that, at this decisive moment, the path of young people and those who are looking for paths to the future is essential. Likewise, the voice of francophones.

I am a young person involved at different levels in the United Church: in my community of faith and at La Table des ministères en français, (board of directors and committee for new ministries). I am completing my training as a lay worship leader and have just started studying theology. I would really like to participate in the reflections of the Church at the Canadian level, to enrich myself with these times of meeting / prayer / sharing and to be able to bear witness to the experiences and reflections of our various ministries (La Table des ministères en français, and the Nakonha:ka region).

Appendix E

***Original excerpt from the Governance Handbook (May 30th 2020), p.11**

Annual Meeting

The Regional Council will meet in person for the first year 2019 and the Executive will make a recommendation to the Regional Council regarding future annual meetings.

Annual Meeting Requirement

The Manual C.4.1

The regional council must meet at least annually.

The annual meeting may be a meeting of the entire regional council or the executive of the regional council, as determined by the regional council.

Meetings: General

The Manual C.4.2

The regional council must decide

- a) whether and, if so, how often it will meet regularly between annual meetings as the entire regional council or the executive;
- b) the time and place for the annual and other regular meetings, and the procedure for calling annual and other regular meetings; and
- c) how it will hold special meetings for urgent business between regular meetings.

Minimum numbers of members

Minimum Number of Members at Meetings

The Manual C.4.3

The regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. For meetings of either the regional council or its executive,

- a) if there are fewer than 60 members, at least 1/3 of them must be present;
- b) if there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and
- c) there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present.

Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose.

The Executive may make a recommendation to the Regional Council in 2020 regarding minimum numbers of members.

***Proposed Amendment**

Regional Council Annual General Meetings

In accordance with *The Manual C.4.1 & C.4.2*

The Planning Leadership Team, in collaboration with the President, will hold the authority and responsibility for the date, timing, agenda, location, logistics, worship, and all other details involved in holding a Regional Council General Meeting. The Planning Leadership Team can empower sub-Teams to do specific work.

The Regional Council will hold 3 General Meetings on an Annual basis;

- 1) Between January and April, entirely online, will include but not be limited to:
 - a) accepting reports on the work of the preceding calendar year which will form The Annual Report

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- booklet of the Regional Council. All Leadership Teams will include a written report; other written reports will be encouraged, including reports from Networks, Clusters, Regional Council Staff, and other Partners in Ministry.
- b) making any changes to the Regional Council Governance Handbook.
- 2) Between May and August, in-person with the ability to join online, will include but not be limited to
- a) [accepting] the work ~~and recommendations~~ from the Office of Vocation regarding Ordinations, Commissionings, **Recognitions (DLM's)** and Admissions.
 - b) accepting the work of the Regional Council Nomination Leadership Team (including voting on Commissioners and executive members).
 - c) Celebration of Ministry
- 3) Between September and December, entirely online, will include but not be limited to:
- a) the task of approving the budget for the upcoming year,
 - b) liturgy to covenant with Regional Council Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (every second year)
- 4) Under the Candidacy Pathway process for ministry, the Office of Vocation can present candidates for Ordination, Commissioning and Recognition (DLM's) at any time during the year. In addition, the Admission Board can present candidates for Admission at any time of the year. Therefore additional gatherings for the sole purpose of celebrating and conducting Ordinations, Commissionings, Recognitions (DLM's) and Admissions will be scheduled by the Regional Council as required outside the above noted season schedule.

All General meetings will include worship and relationship building opportunities along with the task within the above seasonal schedule. When possible, a meeting can include guest speakers, workshops, and other suitable activities.

In between General Meetings the Regional Council Executive will be commissioned to make decisions on behalf of the Regional Council, including all urgent business.

Minimum numbers of members

Minimum Number of Members at Meetings

The Manual C.4.3

The regional council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present. For meetings of either the regional council or its executive,

- a) if there are fewer than 60 members, at least 1/3 of them must be present;
- b) if there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and
- c) there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present.
Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose.

Appendix F
Appendice F

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Policy regarding Election of GC Commissioners

POLICY NAME: Regional Council Policy regarding Election of General Council Commissioners	Date Approved: February 18, 2021
	Review date:
Purpose: This policy outlines the parameters for electing General Council Commissioners. The UCC Manual 2019 Bylaws C.2.12	

Preamble

This document outlines the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council's Policy regarding Election of General Council Commissioners and best practices for ensuring equity in leadership.

UCC Manual 2019 Bylaws C.2.12 Participation in Denominational Life

The regional council is responsible for

a) electing members to serve on General Council based on the following:

- i) Number: it 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 who are not 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;*
 - iv) Timing: the election takes place, where possible, at least one year before the next regular in-person meeting of the General Council;*
 - v) Eligibility of ministry personnel: the ministry personnel who are elected must be members of the regional council that elected them both at the time of the election and at the time that the General Council holds its next regular in-person meeting;*
 - vi) Eligibility of lay members: the lay members who are elected must be members of a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council both at the time of the election and at the time that the General Council holds its next regular in-person meeting;*
 - vii) Method of election: the regional council is responsible for deciding how to elect its representatives to the General Council; and*
 - viii) Alternates: it must also elect a number of alternate representatives;*
- The General Council holds an in-person meeting every third year.*

b) naming a leading Elder or presiding officer of the regional council to serve as a member of the General Council; The regional council has the flexibility to determine its own officers, except that there must be a leading Elder or presiding officer to fill this role.

c) receiving, dealing with, and forwarding proposals from members of the community of faith to the General Council; and

d) promoting and fostering direct dialogue between communities of faith and the General Council.

Election of General Council Commissioners Policy

The Policy of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council regarding

1. It is vital that the persons elected by this Regional Council express the ministries of this Regional Council to the General Council and reflect this knowledge in their discernment of the ministries of the whole United Church and also be involved in communicating the outcomes of their General Council to this Regional Council and its communities of faith, including their own.

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2. Accordingly, all nominees for election as Commissioners to General Council must:
 - a) Be an active and engaged confirmed member of a community of faith within the Regional Council
 - b) Be a member of the Regional Council (Ordered Ministry or Lay elected by their community of faith) or be a member of a Leadership Team of the Regional Council
 - c) Covenant to regularly report to the Regional Council and its Executive on the work of the General Council
 - d) Covenant to witness to the work of the General Council in their community of faith and in the community at large.
 3. This policy applies to elections to GC 44 and beyond.
 4. To assure a balance of ordered/lay and diversity within nominees elected to the General Council by the Regional Council, and assuming 10 positions to be filled, the Nominations Leadership Team shall bring to the Regional Council nominations as follows: A slate of names nominated with all documents by the deadline:
 - 5 Ordered
 - 5 LayPriority will be given as
 - 1 place reserved for the current elected President
 - 1 place reserved for the Youth Pilgrim (aged 16-18 at the time of the GC)
 - at least one (1) who identifies as under 30 years of age,
 - at least one (1) who identifies as functionally bilingual (E/F),
 - at least one (1) who identifies as IndigenousAll names shall be on the presented slate, but nominees greater than the allowed 10 will be listed as 'alternate Ordered or Lay' in the case that someone needs to be replaced to participate at the GC meeting.
 5. The delegation so elected shall choose a Leading Elder who shall be responsible for reporting on the work of the General Council to the Regional Council.