

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Meeting of the Executive
Thursday, April 15, 2021 – 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
Peter Bisset	Member, Finance and Extension Board
Fred Braman	Member, Property and Finance
Rev. Barbara Bryce	Member, Granting and Enabling Leadership Team
Rev. Samuel Dansokho	Member at large
Vivienne Galanis	Member at large
Rev. Pierre Goldberger	Member at large
Marc Grenon	Member at large
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Member, Executive Minister
Rev. Darryl Macdonald	Member, Pastoral Relations (joined at 9:30 a.m.)
Rev. Marie-Claude Manga	Member, Representative to La Table (departed at 10 a.m.)
Rick Sheffer	Member at large, Ministries in Development
Rev. Tami Spires	Member, General Meeting Coordinator
Paul Stanfield	Member, Treasurer
Shanna Bernier	Corresponding Member, Youth, Young Adult and Families Ministries
Judy Coffin	Corresponding Member, Administration and Communication
David-Roger Gagnon	Corresponding Member, Minister Supporting Networks & Clusters
Rev. David Lambie	Corresponding Member, Past-President, Nominations
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary
Brian Ruse	Corresponding Member, Finance and Office Administrator

REGRETS/ABSENT

Robert Patton	Member, Right Relations
Denis Ashby	Member at large, Rep. Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Shaun Fryday	Member, Justice and Community Ministries
M ^e Sabrina Di Stefano	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister

Opening Devotions – Shanna Bernier led opening devotions, and read the scripture story of Jesus’s resurrection, and His appearing to his disciples from the Family Story Bible, by Ralph Milton. Shanna quoted a phrase that has come up in youth ministry over these recent times: “It’s a weird time in being Jesus’ Friend”.

Circle Time of Sharing – All were invited to share.

Acknowledgement of the Land – Linda Buchanan acknowledged the lands of our Indigenous brothers and sisters

Minutes of February 18, 2021

2021-04-15_035 MOTION (S. Dansokho/D. Macdonald) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of February 18, 2021 as received with minor corrections. **Carried**

Minutes of Email Polls**a) Minutes of Email Voting ending March 22, 2021**

2021-04-15_036 MOTION (F. Braman/V. Galanis) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approved the Minutes of Email Voting ending March 22, 2021

2021-03-22_001 MOTION: (F. Braman/V. Galanis) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs in the request of the Trustees of Centenary United Church (Pointe Saint-Charles) for the first instance permission to market their church property located at 585 Fortune in Pointe Saint-Charles, City of Montreal Cadastral #1381419, within the range of the three assessments submitted to the Property & Finance Leadership Team on the understanding that the final sale shall require advance approval from the Regional Council and that the net proceeds shall not be disbursed until the Distribution Plan has been approved by the Regional Council. **CARRIED**

Carried

b) Minutes of Email Voting ending April 9, 2021

2021-04-15_037 MOTION (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approved the Minutes of Email Voting ending April 9, 2021

2021-04-09_001 MOTION: (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur in the request of the Trustees of Centenary United Church (Pointe Saint-Charles, Montréal) for the sale of its church property at 585 rue Fortune, Montréal, QC H3K 2R7, Cadastral description 1,381,419, to Émilie Richer and Yann Lamontagne for a price of \$1,080,000 without any legal warranty of quality at Buyer's own risk and otherwise on the terms of Offer number PP63710 of April 5, 2021, amended by Enhancement EA37873 also dated April 5, 2021, and such Trustees are authorized to proceed with the said sale.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Centenary United Church Trustees are directed to hold the net proceeds of the foregoing sale in Trust and not to disburse any part thereof until the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council has approved their Plan of Distribution of the Net Proceeds and their Ministry Plan.

Carried

Agenda

2021-04-15_038 MOTION (B. Bryce/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended; item 7 under section "Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs" will be dealt with immediately after 'correspondence'. **Carried**

Correspondence

- a) February 27, 2021 William Pearce, Metis Beach Pastoral Charge re request that Carolle Anne Dubé have her Sacramental License renewed (*refer to PR*).
- b) March 16, 2021 Rev. Paula Kline Directrice / Director Mission communautaire de Montréal / Montreal City Mission re copied on letter to Moderator and General Secretary (*subject matter addressed at March 20 gathering*)
- c) March 31, 2021 Carol Reddick, Chair of Union United Church re copied on letter to Peter Bisset regarding a meeting with the Finance and Extension Board regarding the loan (*for action by F&E*)
- d) April 8, 2021 Christophe Navel, Conseiller politique, Cabinet du ministre responsable des Relations autochtones on response to letter sent as result of discussion at March 20 gathering: « les communautés autochtones isolées sont situées au quatrième rang 4 dans l'ordre de priorité de vaccination ». (*for information*)

- e) April 13, 2021 Rev. Maylanne Maybee, Directrice par intérim | Interim Principal, Le Séminaire Uni | The United Theological College re request for letter of support for funding from the United Church Foundation (*action taken, letter written*)
- f) April 14, 2021 Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary re copied on response to letter sent as result of discussion at March 20 gathering (*for information*)

Business arising

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

1. Pastoral Relations Leadership Team

a) Calls /appointments/ changes

i. Summerlea United Church

2021-04-15_039 MOTION (D. Macdonald /M. Grenon) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Team to post a vacancy on Church Hub for a full time ministry personnel to the Summerlea United Church, Lachine effective July 1, 2021. **Carried**

ii. Pastoral Relations Minister

2021-04-15_040 MOTION (D. Macdonald/M. Grenon) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs in the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team in an appointment to Rev. Daniel Hayward full time as Pastoral Relations Minister effective immediately (or as soon as available, requesting a leave of absence from his current pastoral ministry) to cover the Long Term Disability of M^e Sabrina De Stefano until January 31, 2022 or until her return, should it be sooner. **Carried** (*Tami Spires abstains*)

Discussion: Rosemary Lambie provided some background information on Rev. Dan Hayward.

- b) **Licensed Lay worship Leaders** – meeting on April 24
- c) **Care for Retirees** – David-Roger Gagnon, Minister Supporting Networks & Clusters (see **appendix A**) – There is a hope that a team of retirees will help prepare periodic packages to our retirees.

2. Property and Finance

- a) The Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Property and Finance Leadership Team on Tuesday passed a motion recommending to the Regional Council Executive approval of the financial statements with the change of the retroactive addition of a contingency reserve fund. The auditor, Helen Holowka was unavailable to make the requested change prior to this meeting. The revised financial statements will be presented for approval at the Property and Finance Leadership Team meeting on May 11th, then at the Executive meeting on May 20th and finally at the Regional Council meeting on June 12th.
- b) To come: a report from Property and Finance Leadership Team, highlighting a joint venture between St-James United Church and United Property Resource Corporation.

3. Granting and Enabling Leadership Team

- a) **2021-04-15_41 MOTION** (B. Bryce/F. Braman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendations of the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for the following **Erskine and American-Mountainside** grants:

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	

Carried

- b) **2021-04-15_042 MOTION** (B. Bryce/F. Braman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendations of the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for the following **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

Carried

Discussion: The Good Samaritan fund has reached 7.5 million dollars

- c) **021-04-15_043 MOTION** (B. Bryce/F. Braman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendations of the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for the following **Bhal Yun Fund** grants:

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

Carried

Mount Royal United Church French Intercultural Worship no grant given, already received \$15,000 from Erskine and American-Mountainside, encouraged to look for sustainable, longer term funding, also if there is a short-fall, they can apply again in May or September

- d) **2021-04-15_044 MOTION** (B. Bryce/F. Braman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the recommendations of the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team for the following **Trois Rivières French Ministry Fund** grant, and further decides that the maximum of **Trois Rivières French Ministry Fund** grant be increased to \$7000 in the future:

Eglise Unie Drummondville/Mauricie	\$7,000
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Carried

- e) **Kelley Trust Fund** grant (received for information):

Montreal City Mission Ancient Texts-Contemporary Conversations	\$3,500
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Other requests from Ste Genevieve and St Lambert were fully funded by Erskine and American-Mountainside

Discussion: Decisions taken by Granting and Enabling Fund will be brought to Regional Council meetings in the future as time permits

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs

- 4. Indigenous Ministry** – Robert Patton sends regrets for this meeting.

5. Community of Faith/ Clusters/Networks

- a) **Opening of Churches** – Peter Bisset; task group responds to about five inquiries per month from various Communities of Faith searching for help with interpreting changing decisions taken by Provincial Government.

b) **Clusters/Networks** – David-Roger Gagnon highlighted items in his report (see **appendix A**). Additional discussions were had regarding availability of space in Montreal United Churches to house a Jewish religious community.

6. **Youth and Young Adults, and Family Ministries:** Shanna Bernier highlighted the following:

- Care packages for youth and young adults
- Children's Church at Home
- Collaborative support group for YAYA with Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
- Grant application for United Spirit Camp
- Blog for Children's Ministry resources: <https://jesusglueandglitter.wordpress.com/>

7. **La Table** – Marie-Claude Manga highlighted items in her report (see **appendix B**); the response letter was not well received (12) and a request is made for collaboration between La Table and the Regional Council regarding licensing of the LLWL. It was noted that there are two Pastoral Relations Teams and that Marc Grenon sits on both teams. It was also suggested that Lee Ann Hogle, who is a member of the LLWL leadership team, be included in this conversation.

2021-04-15_045 MOTION (F. Braman/M. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council refer the matter raised by La Table regarding licensing Licensed Lay Worship Leaders to members of the Regional Council's Pastoral Relations Leadership Team and the LLWL Leadership team. **Carried**

8. **Community and Justice Leadership Team** –It was reported that Shaun Fryday has stepped down as Chair of this Team. It was noted that a new representative need to be named to the Executive by this Team as soon as possible.

Building Communications

9. **Communications** – Judy Coffin (see Communications Report as **appendix C¹**; see general meeting table group discussion notes regarding Mission, Outreach, and Spiritual Development as **appendix C²**). It was highlighted that many congregations will be interested in continuing online worship after gathering in person can continue. The Covid19 Task group is looking at the various needs of Communities of Faith to continue streaming. A proposal for training tools (webinars) and financing is in the works.

10. **Nominations** – Dave Lambie provided updates for when the election of General Council Commissioners (during June 12th AGM), members of Executive and Leadership Team representatives to the Executive. Discussion ensued regarding rules surrounding membership on the Executive, designation of youth and young adult (under 30 or 35?) and whether someone who is not an official Lay delegate of a community of faith can be representative of a Leadership Team on the Executive.

Discussion: Numbers for nominations of General Council Commissioners are very low across the country.

11. **Regional Council Meetings** – Tami Spires provided an update on the planning team progress as it prepares for its meeting in June. The worship Team is meeting next week to begin planning worship during the AGM. Linda Buchanan spoke to the policy in the Governance Handbook (revisions to annual meeting policy, see **appendix D**). Further revisions will be considered and brought back to this meeting based on feedback (i.e., financial statements are not ready for reporting in March, the report book is designed as an annual report to the General Council).

12. Finance and Extension Board – Peter Bisset informed that a report will be submitted in-time for the annual general meeting in June. Bursary applications are being received.

Opening worship for next meeting – Vivienne Galanis

Motion to adjourn

2021-04-15_046 MOTION (D. Macdonald/T. Spires) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive adjourn this meeting at 12:06 p.m. **Carried**

Closing Prayer –

Next meeting dates

- Thursday, May 20 9:00 – 12:00 ZOOM
- Regional Council gathering Saturday, June 12 9:00 – 4:00 ? ZOOM

Rev. Linda Buchanan
Chair, President

Rev. Rosemary Lambie,
Executive Minister

Appendices

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Appendix A**Supporting Networks and Clusters & Pastoral Relations - Support to Pastors****David-Roger Gagnon, Minister****15 April, 2021****Executive of le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council****Cluster Development Work**

- For the West-Island Cluster, the collaboration continues for sharing on-line worship on the 5th Sundays, the next one being on 30 May. The celebration will conclude with small group discussions around the question “Who Are We Called To Be?”.
I continue to develop my role as facilitator of the process for this cluster.
- For the St. Francis Cluster group, the group will start next week to use the new book “Thriving Churches” as a tool for reflection in order to weave together common projects between communities of faith.
The Communities of Faith celebrated an on-line shared worship for Palm Sunday, which had a very good participation.
I continue to develop my role as facilitator of the process for this cluster.
- I continue to contact potential participants in an eventual Châteauguay-Richelieu Cluster.

Network Development Work

The Right Relations Network is currently visioning a new way of organizing as a result of a lack of time for several in leadership. For the moment, the work seems to be gravitating towards a project-oriented organization. The next meeting of the “Pride & Friends” Network will be 19 May at 19h00 on Zoom.
I continue to support Judy Coffin in the development of an Environment Network, and I remain in contact with the Justice and Communities Network.

Support to Ministers

The monthly on-line support group for pastors continues to develop with a very faithful participation. We celebrated our 1st anniversary of the monthly group this week, and people expressed a willingness to continue. It should be noted that the time demands in the portfolio of Pastoral Relations, in the form of individual support, has decreased significantly these past months. I also continue my efforts in recruitment.

Support to Retired Ministers

I continue my contacts with retired ministers by phone. The booklet of prayers and meditations for the seasons of Lent-Easter and Pentecost has been sent out, with some feedback being received.
I would like to thank my colleagues for their assistance in its completion, especially Judy Coffin, Brian Ruse, Denis Fortin, Lou Lamontagne, Rosemary Lambie, Shanna Bernier and Joel Miller and all those who contributed ideas and suggestions for this edition.
I have begun to assemble a team of retired pastors to articulate a long-term strategy in order to respond to the needs of retired ministers.

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montréal

After 14 months of discussion, bridge rebuilding, and many “behind the scenes” conversations, Montréal-West United Church was the hosting congregation for the Christian Commemoration of the Shoah on April 11th. I would like to recognize the great collaboration of the colleagues that are part of the Dialogue, and especially Rabba Sherril Gilbert, for her great contribution in these developments. Thanks to Rosemary Lambie who, as Executive Minister, accepted the role of Presider for the service. We also benefited from the collaboration of our colleagues at the General Council level, working in concert with Judy Coffin, in the promotion of the event, as well as the presence of Moderator Richard Bott. I would also like to thank Mark Hammond for taking over and assuring a United Church presence at this table, and having accepted this year’s ceremony with open arms. We

are still searching for a possibility of cohabitation with one of the down town United Churches and the Renewal Synagogue Community for which Rabba Sherril Gilbert offers a ministry.

David-Roger Gagnon, M.A.S.P.

Minister Supporting Networks and Clusters & Support to Ministers

**translated report herebelow

Soutien aux réseaux et aux regroupements & Relations pastorales - Soutien aux pasteurs et aux pasteurs

David-Roger Gagnon, responsable

15 avril 2021

Exécutif du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council

Travail – développement des Regroupements

- Pour le regroupement de l'Ouest de l'île, la collaboration continue pour le partage des cultes en ligne les 5^e dimanche, le prochain aura lieu le 30 mai. La célébration terminera avec des discussions en petits groupes au tour de la question « Que sommes-nous appelées à être en tant qu'église? ». Je continue à développer mon rôle comme facilitateur du processus avec ce regroupement.
- Pour le regroupement Saint-François, le groupe commence la semaine prochaine dans l'utilisation du nouveau livre « Thriving Churches » comme outil de réflexion afin de pouvoir tisser des projets communs entre paroisses.
Les paroisses ont célébré le culte en ligne, toute ensemble, pour le dimanche des Rameaux, qui a eu une très bonne assistance.
Je continue à développer mon rôle comme facilitateur du processus avec ce regroupement.
- Je continue de prendre contact avec les participants potentiels dans l'éventuel Réseau Châteauguay-Richelieu.

Travail – le développement des Réseaux

Le réseau « Relations justes » est en train de visionner une nouvelle façon de s'organiser en raison de manque de temps de plusieurs dans le leadership. Pour le moment, le travail semble graviter vers une organisation autour des projets.

La prochaine réunion du réseau « Fierté et amies et amis » aura lieu le 19 mai à 19h sur Zoom.

Je continue de soutenir Judy Coffin dans le développement du réseau Environnement, et je reste en contact avec le réseau Justice et communautés.

Soutien aux pasteurs et aux pasteurs

Le groupe mensuel de soutien aux pasteurs et aux pasteurs continue de développer avec une assistance très fidèle. Nous avons fêté notre 1^{er} anniversaire de regroupement mensuel cette semaine, et les gens ont exprimé une volonté de continuer. Il faut noter que les autres demandes de temps dans le portfolio de Relations pastorales, en forme de soutien individuel, ont diminué de façon importante ces derniers mois. Je continue aussi mes efforts de recrutement.

Regroupement des pasteurs et des pasteurs à la retraite

Je continue mes contacts avec le personnel ministériel à la retraite par téléphone. Le petit livret de prières et de méditations pour les saisons de Carême-Pâques et la Pentecôte a été envoyé, avec quelques échos reçus à son sujet.

J'aimerais remercier mes collègues de leur aide afin de compléter ce projet, et surtout; Judy Coffin, Brian Ruse, Denis Fortin, Lou Lamontagne, Rosemary Lambie, Shanna Bernier et Joel Miller et toutes celles et tous ceux qui ont contribué des idées et des suggestions pour cette édition.

Je commence à rassembler une équipe de pasteurs et pasteurs à la retraite pour articuler une stratégie à long terme afin de répondre aux besoins des ministres à la retraite.

Dialogue Judéo-Chrétien de grand Montréal

Après 14 mois de discussion, de reconstruction des ponts, et beaucoup de conversation « arrière-plan », L'église unie Montréal-Ouest a été la paroisse hôte de la cérémonie chrétienne de Commémoration de la Shoah le 11 avril. J'aimerais reconnaître la grande collaboration des collègues qui font partie du Dialogue, et surtout Rabba Sherril Gilbert, de sa grande contribution dans ses développements. Merci à Rosemary Lambie qui, en tant que Ministre exécutive, a accepté le rôle de présidente pour le culte. Nous avons aussi bénéficié de la collaboration de nos collègues au Conseil général, travaillant de concert avec Judy Coffin, pour la promotion de l'événement, ainsi que de la présence du Modérateur Richard Bott. J'aimerais aussi remercier Mark Hammond de vouloir prendre la relève pour assurer la présence de l'Église Unie à cette table, et d'avoir accepté, à bras ouvert, la cérémonie de cette année. Nous cherchons toujours une possibilité de cohabitation avec une des églises unies du centre-ville et la Synagogue « Renouveau » pour laquelle Rabba Sherril Gilbert offre un ministère.

David-Roger Gagnon, M.A.S.P.

Responsable du soutien des réseaux et des regroupements & Soutien aux pasteures et aux pasteurs

Appendix B**Les nouvelles de La table**

1. Le bureau du Conseil général vient d'annoncer que les Ministères en français seront, à partir du 1^{er} mai, localisés dans le bureau du modérateur et du secrétaire général et feront rapport direct au secrétaire général au lieu d'être dans le département « Communities in Mission – CiM »
2. Nous prévoyons faire une série d'ateliers pendant le mois national des peuples autochtones (juin), un peu à la lumière de notre mois des personnes d'ascendance africaine au mois de février. (en discussion avec Lisa Byer-de Wever).
3. Après avoir conclu une entente avec *l'Office de catéchèse du Québec* pour l'utilisation des ressources pour les enfants qui sont maintenant sur le site *egliseunie.ca*, nous sommes en discussion avec *Woodlake Books* pour faire une traduction du livre « Family Story Bible » pour rendre cela disponible en français.
4. Nous sommes en relation avec l'Église Protestante Unie de France au sujet de partage sur nos liturgies. Ils s'intéressent beaucoup au contenu liturgique de l'Église Unie du Canada et aiment beaucoup ce que nous offrons à cet égard.
5. Nos « cultes prêts à livrer » sont maintenant disponibles sur le site web à tous les mois.
6. Nous préparons une session de discussion sur la viabilité des paroisses et des communautés de foi, pour faire suite à une demande lors de notre Assemblée générale annuelle. Cette session est prévue pour le 8 mai à 13h30, après la réunion du Conseil d'administration de la Table qui aura lieu en matinée.
7. La table ronde avec le modérateur sur la planification stratégique de l'Église Unie se tiendra en français le 6 mai à 13h30. Nous nous encourageons les gens d'y participer.
8. Avec le départ de Suzanne Grenier, Aujourd'hui Credo est en période de réflexion sur son avenir. Le comité des communications de la Table est en train de préparer un nouveau plan de match.
9. **TRADUCTION**: Les guides pour les relations pastorales seront disponibles en français bientôt sur le site web. Les amendements au Manuel de la fin 2020 seront apportés à la version française d'ici la fin avril.
10. Les cultes et messages du modérateur sont disponibles en français pour Vendredi saint et Pâques. Le culte d'excuses auprès des pratiques d'adoption de l'Église Unie se fera dans les deux langues au début mai.
11. Les négociations avec le collège anglican Dio pour assurer la présence de la formation en français se poursuivent. Le tout se fait en parallèle avec les négociations entre Dio et le Séminaire Uni.
12. Réaction de l'exécutif de la Table concernant la question sur la reconnaissance de la table comme commission pour la reconnaissance des célébrants laïques.

Appendix C¹

Communications report for Executive meeting – April 15, 2021

Supporting leadership teams and networks

Ongoing priorities include supporting the **COVID response team** in sharing updates as provincial guidelines and interfaith protocols have been changing frequently over the past weeks. Plans are underway to develop some sort of flow chart or other method to help guide queries from communities of faith to relevant resources and guidelines more effectively.

I continue to support the **Regional Council meeting planning team** with a) actions ensuing from motions approved at the March 20th meeting (letters to government officials were sent out regarding the prioritization of COVID vaccination for indigenous people across Quebec as proposed by the **Living Into Right Relations team** and we are working in conjunction with General Council to develop public-facing communications reiterating the United Church of Canada support for same-sex unions); and b) by providing follow-up information to the planning team (including survey results and a compilation of table group notes).

The fledgling **Environment Network** is also starting to gain cohesion with some support from staff in scheduling meetings, creating space for defining mission and connecting with national resources such as For the Love of Creation, the Green Churches network and ROJEP (through our representative Richard Guay).

A **reminder** is now being sent out regularly to representatives of leadership teams before each newsletter to remind them of the submission deadline (Friday prior to newsletter) for any stories or information they may wish to share.

Newsletter

The **bilingual newsletter** is sent out every two weeks and currently remains the primary method of sharing information with our members. The average open rate is 56.0% (the industry average rate is only 49.9%). The plan is to continue to direct readers to the web site where possible and to avoid sending a lot of separate messages in addition to the newsletter, unless they are urgent.

Web site

New pages are being developed as resources for networks and leadership teams on demand with a dedicated space for tagged blog posts that will automatically show up on relevant pages (i.e. posts tagged with COVID and YAYA would show up on both of those pages, in addition to the home page and the news page.) There is some work to be done regarding **analytics and plug-ins**, hopefully with some support from GC team. The goal is still to encourage RC members to make more use of the web site.

Social media

Hootsuite, a platform I had started using for managing multiple social media streams, recently underwent some significant changes limiting the range of services available through their free plan so pre-scheduled social media posts, such as the series based on the UCC New Creed, now take a bit more time and planning to execute on a regular basis. Our **public Facebook page and private group** remain the primary channels used on social media for RC communications; **Twitter and Instagram** are used less frequently. In the last 28 days, post reach on Facebook page is up 25% and engagement is up 15%. On the private Facebook group, 60-day post engagement is up 128% over the previous 60-day period.

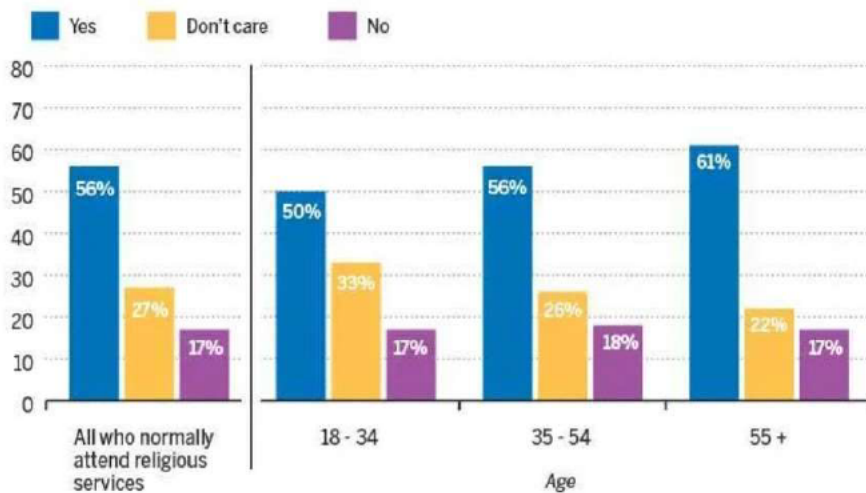
Facebook and Twitter are also channels where recent national social justice campaigns such as #GuaranteedLivableIncome have gained traction and had positive outcomes through grassroots support.

Common hashtags for posts regarding RC information include **#Nakonhaka**, **#UCCan** and **#egliseunie**. When possible, relevant communities of faith, pastoral charges or leadership teams are also highlighted with hashtags (eg. #MountRoyalUC, #TrinityAnjouPC, #LIRR).

Special projects

The National Post recently published a poll of religious Canadians suggesting that 56% (or 61% for the 55+ crowd) would like to continue having access to online services after the pandemic. We are currently gathering some people with experience and expertise to offer a **webinar on online worship**, including some of the technological recommendations and potential costs.

Would you hope your place of worship, or ones like it, will continue to offer online religious worship even after COVID-19?



SOURCE: ANGUS REID

BRICE HALL / NATIONAL POST

A **digital communications/social media webinar** is still in development and awaiting some feedback and input from General Council communications team.

I also continue to serve on an **EDGE Network Advisory team** looking at future directions for the church, and supporting ongoing transition and transformation.

Special thanks

The ongoing bilingual nature of our communications would not be possible without the professional and vigilant support of **Denis Fortin** and **Lou Lamontagne** for translation and proofreading, often in a very condensed timeline. C'est vraiment apprécié!

Judy Coffin

Communication et soutien administratif / Communications and Administrative Assistant

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Appendix C²**Table Group Discussions Re Mission, Outreach, Spiritual Development****Ste. Genevieve**

ORA Loss and Living Program – providing space for conversations about grief, loss and hope

St. James

MCM

Interfaith Council – library

Summerlea

Wider community

Syrian refugee a few years ago with other groups – Mosque shooting – strong alliance with local mosque

Food distribution in community

Local community needs as they arise

Cedar Park

Economically resilient area of city

Hidden food insecurity amongst seniors – especially last 6 months

TQSOI community organization – also housing insecurity

Spiritual development - first within and then beyond

How we position ourselves as unapologetically affirming communities of faith

Biblical resources for education

Relook at own identity and ability to offer resources

So you want to talk about race book group

Mountainside

Sold building wondering how much longer to continue there or where next

Online meditation

Geographical boundaries less important these days

In my group were Mead Baldwin, Rachel Lambie, Attilia, Read Sherman, Ian Smith, Jim Vanstone, Shirley, and myself

Mead said that before COVID they did a Friday night free supper for students and meals on wheels - great way to reach out and meet the needs of the local community in a practical way.

Rachel said that in the Lachute area they do work with the Rehab Center that is for people released from prison as well as Christmas Baskets and Care for the community

Shirley said that SouthWest work with Manna food bank for their food drives

Ian spoke about the ORA Loss and Living Program and Spiritual Care Giving with VON

Read spoke about food in places of need as well as Spiritual development on line and work with Transgender Christians and the Bible.

Attila spoke about the translation of the Bible into Mohawk and the great importance of this piece of work.

In the group: Lee Ann Hogle; Richard Guay; Douglas Throop; Reg Jennings; Helen Hliaras

Lee Ann spoke of:

- A phone tree to provide individual support for members and those loosely connected with the community and friends of the church community.
- An outdoor foodbank on the steps of the church in the early stages of Covid-19 to help people bridge through the initial weeks
- Paniers de Noël are now also done for Pâques as well ... this year, coupons were offered to avoid direct contact and allow people more choice, and also as a way to better understand the needs of families by what was purchased. The amounts were forwarded to the grocery store in advance, and then the store offered an itemization of purchases to help better clarify the needs.

Richard spoke of:

- Much outreach is done on Zoom.
- “La Parole sur la poutre” on Friday is very popular, drawing people from all over, including from Europe
- Gérald Doré offered workshops on Zoom prior to Covid-19
- Denis Fortin does a lot with the ACA (Association Chrétienne pour l’abolition de la torture) on line
- The Church continues its involvement in ROJEP with a focus on non-violent action
- Paniers de Noël done in partnership with Chalmers-Wesley UC

Douglas Throop spoke of:

- Mountainside continues its on-line courses on Tuesday mornings; most recently one on “the History of the Church” offered by Timothy Johnson; Next course will be on the Gospel of Mark.
- There is also a group of meditation on Tuesday afternoons.

Reg Jennings spoke of:

- Sending letters to members as “les lettres d’espoir” to encourage people during the pandemic

Helen Hliaras spoke of:

- Continued groups on Zoom
- Confirmation preparation with 3 adolescents participating

Just another thought about outreach and mission during the last year

1. Beulah United rang its church bells at noon every day for several months (I think until the fall)
2. Both Beulah United and St Pauls rang their bells as asked by the provincial government during the Mar 11 commemoration service in Quebec city.
3. Beulah and St Pauls also decorated their front doors with signs of hope and encouragement for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Linda, Jesse, Johanna, Dorothy, Jan, Lisa

Working on welcoming new influx of refugees- armenian

Trying to keep our community together, moving to online is a huge shift. Those who have not technology , we make calls to read the bulletin and chat

Similar, working to remain in contact with our congregation. Better participation in online forums than we had in person for Sunday worship. Lesson learned to create this new way to connect with those who can't be with us physically. Challenge is fundraisers. Busier now than in person. Kept us vital as a community that we can contribute in a meaningful way to our community.

Pandemic crisis has made us realize how insular we have become - advent we put a 6 foot tall xmas tree but community was decorating as well. Fun to do this in community

the question we need to ask ourselves is What is the thing you have started doing during the pandemic that you don't want to stop doing?

52 mother tongues spoken, looking for multilingual volunteers and volunteers for food programs that have quadrupled due to the pandemic

Patricia Lisson: St. James United Church

- Reimagining their ministry in conjunction with Montreal City Mission
- Tiny urban forest for the community
- Regular support for the community, e.g. helping the homeless

Darryl Macdonald: Roxboro United Church

- Weekly Celtic meditation: prayer, reading and reflection, Buddhist singing bowl
- Worship resources online
- Financial support for Saint Columba House
- Plan to start social justice action in the community

Brian Ruse: St Columba by-the-Lake Presbyterian Church

- Accepts full suggested donation to Presbyterians Sharing
- Donations to a half dozen local organizations included in the annual budget
- Food ministry: monthly community suppers, food bowl event, new tenant Corbeille de pain/Bread Basket

Barbara Bryce

- They have struggled with this, something they need to work on
- However they do provide some support to the local community

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

Notes

- making use of technology and retired ministers, which has allowed for this community to stay together and worship.
- Using a Lenten calendar, everyday question to answer, and if you can answer positively to the questions, you would add a financial donation. This is a way for expanding reflection during lent.
- Staying connected with other communities; even in the happenstance of not being able to connect with ones own usual community.
- White gifts – financial donations offered instead of physical gifts – to a woman's shelter.
- Continuing to give financial gifts to various organizations (especially during time of pandemic).

Ste-Genny - Active outreach programs online through ORA and challenges faced through the pandemic, looking at getting guest minister, and student ministers to share the space for their learning.

Cedar Park – things continue to go on fully, outreach on online, food ministers, small group and discussion group ministries, took time to renovate sanctuary into community space/labryinth, people missing the inperson stuff, do they keep online ministry when able to be back in person.

Roxboro – began edge process to continue use of building for meetings/get togethers, the size of the building is attractive to the wider community and keeping in touch with community groups

LAM – new minister just began March 1 – have met many nice people through office work, meditation, exercises midweek, fundraising efforts, bible study online, etc. Have found ways to stay in touch by phone/zoom and studies/discussion groups going on.

Many agree not going into building til after vaccines are more plentiful, keeping online services while having in person still

UEV -phone calls to members of congregations, cupcake ministry to wider community and church community, weekly written reflections for the churches that are regular mailed, emailed, and physical copies that can be picked up by people.

Appendix D

Current version in the Governance Handbook

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 revised version to amend the Governance Handbook

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;

Fall meeting, 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)

[Annual Meeting] Winter meeting, 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 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.

Spring meeting, 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, Commissioning, and Admissions.
- b) accepting the work of the Regional Council Nomination Leadership Team (including voting on Commissioners and executive members).
- c) Celebration of Ministry

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

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