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**WINTER GENERAL MEETING****March 11-12, 2022**

***Bold Discipleship,  
Ionkwa nikon ratsani tsi tsi tewa ianen hawi sonkwaiatisson,  
Une vie de disciple dynamique***

The *Conseil régional* Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Winter General Meeting (Zoom online virtual meeting room) on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:45 PM, and Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 AM. The theme for this meeting was “Bold Discipleship, Ionkwa nikon ratsani tsi tsi tewa ianen hawi sonkwaiatisson, Une vie de disciple dynamique.”

**SESSION 1**

March 11, 2022 (6:45 PM – 9 PM)

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (42)**

Mead Baldwin, Beryl Barraclough, Janet Bisset, Dale Breitreutz, Barbara Bryce, Linda Buchanan, Florence Bukam, Kent Chown, James Christie, David Clinker, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Wendy Evans, Ryan Fea, Christine-Marie Gladu, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Cathy Hamilton, Helen Hliaras, Lee Ann Hogle, Alyson Huntly, Bill Jay, Elisabeth Jones, Jan Jorgensen, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Mher Katchikian, Andrew Lairenge, Dave Lambie, Joelle Leduc, Darryl Macdonald, Marie-Claude Manga, John Matheson, Heather McClure, Jennifer Mountain, Birgit Neuschild, Ohannes Siwajian, Darla Sloan, Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Martha Nell Thomson, Douglas Throop, Stephane Vermette and Neil Whitehouse.

**Lay Delegates (32)**

Judy Bachelder, Carol Bircher, Peter Bisset, Fred Braman, Diane Campbell, Alan Coffey, Elva Crawford, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Colin Forde, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, Marc Grenon, Richard Guay, Thomas Kent, Janice Knowles, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Valerie Nickson, Natacha Sanson, Ivylin Scott, Dorothy Shaw, Frederick (Rick) Sheffer, Diane Stevenson-Cantin, Nancy Stewart, Valerie Strong, Gary Tompkins, Vera Young, Harvey (Satewas) Gabriel, Robert (Ronwahaweta) Patton, Charlotte Griffith and Norm Haslam.

**Corresponding Members - Candidates (4)**

Norman Robert Boie, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Cynthia Reynolds and Virginia Wallace.

**Lay Delegates Under 30 (5)**

Denis Ashby, Diane Best, Rachel Lambie, David Simons and Émilie Wood.

**Regional Council Staff (9)**

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

**Guests of the Regional Council (7)**

Rita Beauséjour, Hugh Ballem (simultaneous translator), Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Kirsty Hayward, Alicia Loria (simultaneous translator), Alma (Teiensaketarhon) Ransom and Kelley Molloy

**Regrets (7)**

Beverly Clark, Shirley Stark, James Vanstone, Rev. Arlen Bonnar, Denis Fortin, Rev. Shaun Fryday and Rev. Angelika Piché.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

**Coffee Time & Signing in**

Attendees are invited to sign in 15 minutes ahead of the start of the meeting.

**Special Instructions**

Rev. Kent Chown provides 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.

**Opening Worship**

	Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities, united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.
Harvey Gabriel	Welcome
Linda Buchanan	<p>Settler Acknowledgement</p> <p>I, Linda, take this time to acknowledge that I live on the unceded territory of the Waban-aki confederation and the Abenaki peoples. I am descended from colonizers arriving on boats in the 16th century. I acknowledge the harm and pain caused by the doctrine of discovery, which my ancestors used to steal land without building relations with the earth people already here, and failing to recognize the beauty in their wonder-filled spiritual practices. I condemn the Indian Act as unjust law, and commit myself to the work of reconciliation; reconciliation with the land and reconciliation with the people who have cared for this land for generations. I commit myself so that I may learn to honour the promises my ancestors broke, and recognize that this acknowledgement is only one small step on the journey of reconciliation.</p> <p>Thank you Satewas and Robert, for your willingness to be on this journey with us, even though often this journey is harder on you than it is on us.</p>
Robert Patton	<p>Thanksgiving Prayer</p> <p>The words before all words</p> <p>Thanksgiving Prayer- Ohenton Kariwatekwen. Ronwahaweta Robert Patton shared the following Thanksgiving Prayer:</p> <p>“Loving Creator, in our language we say Takwaiehtison, we come to you with thankful and hope filled hearts. As we gather each day it is our responsibility that we give greetings, love, and thanks to each other as peoples, that we gather each and every day and show respect for all your creation. For this wonderful day, we give thanks for being able to walk on this place we call Mother Earth, that we have a relationship with her. That she takes care of us as a mother. We have a responsibility to give her that same love and respect that we give our mothers in all our Nations. And we realize that everthing we need to have a good life, to have peace in our minds, to have strong and healthy body is all in front of us and it comes from our Mother Earth. It then is our responsibility to give back and not to take too much and to take care of her. As we meet each other each day this is a</p>

	<p>ceremony and as we greet each other we give great thanks or as we say Niawen Kowa. We give thanks for the waters and the fish life that keep our waters clean and give us food. We give thanks for all the medicines. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They were and always wanting and ready to heal us. We are happy that there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these gifts you have given. So, with one mind we send our greeting and thanks. We give thanks for all the tree life and all the birdlife that bring us beautiful music. Each day they remind us to enjoy life. We give thanks for the four winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. We give thanks for the Thunderes or as we say Ratiweras. We give thanks for our Eldest Brother, the Sun, and for Grandmother Moon. We give thanks for the stars that shine and guide us.</p> <p>We give thanks for all the Elders and enlightened teachers that lead us in good paths. You have blessed us through all our relations, and we give you our thanks.</p> <p>Now, we are at the place where we end our words of Thanksgiving, of being thankful for all that we have named. It is not our intention to leave anything out. If anything was forgotten, we leave it to each person to send such greetings and thanks in their own way in the Sanctity of silence. And now our minds are one.”</p>
Cathy Hamilton	<p><b>Introduction of theme-</b>  <a href="https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-our-vision">https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-our-vision</a></p>
Cathy Hamilton	<p><b>Body Prayer</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Stretch your arms high and wide above your head.</i>  <b>“I thank you, Holy One, for the gift of another day of life.”</b></li> <li>2. <i>Hold arms out from your sides, a little below shoulder height. Move (pivot) to the left and to the right with your arms stretching outward toward the cosmos.</i>  <b>“I reach out in compassion to my siblings throughout the universe.”</b></li> <li>3. <i>Stretch your arms out straight in front of you, slightly apart, palms up.</i>  <b>“I give to you all I am and all I have.”</b></li> <li>4. <i>Pull your hands close together and cup them as a container.</i>  <b>“I open my entire being to hold the gift that you have given me this day.”</b></li> <li>5. <i>Bend over, reach down, and touch the floor, or better yet, the ground, if you are outside.</i>  <b>“I touch the Earth with awe, reverence, and gratitude, promising to care well for her.”</b></li> <li>6. <i>Stand up, cross hands over your heart,</i>  <b>“I thank you for being with you throughout this day, feeling your love strengthen me and shine through me.”</b></li> </ol>
	Amen
Recording	Hymn: My love colours outside the lines MV 138.

### Call to Order

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

**President's Words**

Before we get to the Omnibus Motion, which includes the acceptance of the agenda, the minutes from our November meeting, and appointing officers for this meeting, I want to give a little explanation of the agenda. This is the first annual reporting meeting in our new schedule of annual general meetings, and so we decided to give a small amount of time to every Leadership Team, Networks (including the Leadership Circle), and Mission who submitted a report for the Annual Report book. They were asked to focus their presentation on Bold Discipleship, and they were asked to prepare and ensure that their presentation would not be more than 5 minutes, to allow every group the chance to be heard. We also wanted to honour the commitment to include learning within all our gatherings, and I am grateful that Rev. Wendy Evans agreed to lead us in learning and discussion, engaging our faith and the environment, calling us to be bold in the body. The planning Team is looking forward to your feedback on this approach. We can make this a regular pattern for our annual reporting meeting, or we can not ever do it this way again... this is a starting point, and your feedback will help the planning team take the next step. We don't have much time for questions, but we will make time if you have one, but before you ask a question please check the presenter's written report to see if the answer to your question is there. I hope that you will trust us and truly try it this way, knowing that we have been listening and we have been shifting based on the feedback we have received in the past.

**Omnibus Motion**

**2022-03-11-12\_001 MOTION** (C. Hamilton/V. Epps-Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of November 12-13, 2021 Annual General Meeting be accepted as amended: Rev. Stephane Vermette to be moved from category 'guest' to 'ministry personnel' (see **appendix A**);
3. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Brian Ruse;
4. That the following person serve as Parliamentarian: Rev. Darryl Macdonald
5. That the following people serve as Chaplains: Norman Robert Boie, Rev. Mher Khatchikian and Rev. Jennifer Mountain;
6. That Lisa Byer-de Wever, Rev. Marie-Claude Manga, Shanna Bernier and Rev. Tami Spires serve as the Equity Team. **CARRIED**

**Duty of Care**

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 identities, 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 our Equity Team by phone or private chat during the meeting.

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

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?

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**Welcome to new representatives of Community of Faiths**

- Dale Breikreutz, Order of Ministry retired - new to the Regional Council
- Valerie Strong Lay, Union United Church & Beaufort United Church (Merging Waters Pastoral Charge)
- David Simons Lay, Saint James United

**Introduction of new staff member**

- Martha Pedoniquotte, Community Capacity Development Coordinator  
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/about-us/staff/martha-pedoniquotte/>

**Report from President**

Rev. Linda Buchanan

I will start my time by reading part of an email written to the Planning Team from Rev. Ellie Hummel. I will not read it all, but enough for her concerns to be heard.

I think most of you are aware that I will be leaving the Nakhonka Region in early March, as I have taken on a new position as Multi-faith Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator at Mt. Allison University within the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

Nakhonka Region, first presbyteries and then the regional council, have been part of my life for over 22 years. I have many memories of meetings and events, and have learned much about myself and ministry while being among you. For that I am truly grateful.

As I leave, I also would like to offer a reflection: A lot of my work as university chaplain is about relationship building, in particular as it relates to people of different faiths and racial backgrounds, and also in terms of indigenous relations. I am also a member of the United Church's national Anti-Racism Common Table. During the last few meetings of our regional council, I have thought much about how we walk the path to reconciliation with our Kanien'kéha sisters and brothers. The last two meetings, we invited a Kanien'kéha person to open the meeting with a welcome to the land and the Great Thanksgiving. Both times, as I was listening on the zoom screen, there was an unease about it. I wondered if it wasn't up to us as settlers to acknowledge the land we are on. The Great Thanksgiving, while wonderful words, left me feeling that I was part of someone else sacred ritual without really understanding it, neither with my mind nor my heart.

Thank you Ellie

Over my time as president I have learnt more about the call to reconciliation with the first peoples of this land, and I have unlearned some things too. I am grateful for the faithful participation by Robert on both the Planning Team and the Worship Team, which has led to learning and transformation over the past year. A little while ago I asked the Living Into Right Relations Leadership Circle to help us, in particular, with how we acknowledge this call to reconciliation at the start of every regional council meeting. And instead of providing me with a paragraph to read, they gave an whole workshop that can be shared with every community of faith within our Regional Council. This workshop has already transformed our approach, evident in the words before all words today. But it is also clear to me that this journey has just begun.

I have been intentional throughout the past, almost, 3 years, to never call us a region. A region is a location and we are a people. This Regional Council is a community of people doing their best to build relationships in the way of Christ. And this spring, I will take my leave as president of this regional council and I do so joyfully trusting in what we have begun. We are not a court, we are a council in a conciliar model, with a call to move into the kind of leadership that lives out this model which holds emphasis on shared leadership. I have given the gifts I had to give to this time and this community, and Bold Discipleship calls me to step back so that another might do the same, giving their own gifts to this Regional Council. And I hope that this will continue, as we all contemplate our own gifts in leadership, so that we can give our gifts to our Regional Council, we must take turns in the president chair, so that throughout time better consensus will be created.

I thank you for letting me bring my full and authentic self to this task, and I am grateful for the people who

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have helped, encouraged and supported me throughout, especially to the staff who serve with great compassion.

### **Report from Executive Minister**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie highlighted items in her report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 3.

### **Prayer**

Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho

Let us Pray:
<p>The letter to the Corinthians tells us that : There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body which has many parts. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. <i>(I Corinthians 12)</i></p> <p>And so we give thanks for the gift of leadership that Linda and Rosemary have offered us these last years. We celebrate with joy and gratitude that they have been called by God for this leadership. We, the body of Christ have been blessed by their struggles and achievements. Bless Linda and Rosemary as they continue to offer their special gifts in your service. Amen</p>

### **Hymn**

Called by Earth and Sky Vs 1 (English)

### **Guest Speaker**

Rev. Wendy Evans provided reflections and opportunities to engage with questions of how faith and environment intersect.

### **Breakout Rooms**

You will begin in small breakout groups (of 3 people) for 5 min to briefly:

1. Name one thing from the presentation that resonated with you in a word, phrase, or sentence.
2. Try to identify where you are feeling this in your body (eg. mind, heart, gut, hands, feet, throat, etc.)

We will then come back together in the plenary and you will be invited to take another 5 minutes with your screens and microphones off to do something of your choice in your space that helps you to further embody what you have been reflecting – for example – to draw or journal or meditate or dance or do yoga or lie down still or eat something in a sacramental way.

And at the end of the 5 minutes, you will hear music begin playing to bring you back to the plenary for the closing of this reflection time and transitioning into the next part of the meeting.

### **COVID Task Group Update**

Peter Bisset Presented a PowerPoint updating members of the Regional Council on government regulations as well as best practices in regards to Covid 19.

**Prayers for Peace**

Rev. Darryl Macdonald led members of the Regional Council in a prayer for peace; this comes after war was declared in the Ukraine.

*Other places of conflict:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Boko Haram, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chechnya, Colombia, Darfur, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gaza, India, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kashmir, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, and more.

Darryl sang a blessing to the tune *Finlandia*:

God's healing stream, forever flowing through you; Christ's mending love, within your heart abide. Through desert times, when all seems lost, forsaken; The Spirit's breath to free you and provide. God's healing stream, Christ's love, the Spirit's freedom Will be your strength and ever be your guide.

**Report from Youth and Family Leadership Team**

Shanna Bernier highlighted items in the Youth and Family Leadership Team report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 23.

**Report from La Table des ministères en français**

Rev. Darla Sloan and Rev. Marie-Claude Manga shared a PowerPoint presentation for the year in review of La Table. Reporting can also be found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on pages 33-34.

**Prayer**

Virginia Wallace

**Let us Pray:**

The letter to the Corinthians tells us that :  
There are different ways of serving,  
but the same God is served.  
There are different abilities to perform service,  
but the same God gives ability to each of us.  
The Spirit's presence is shown in some way  
in each person for the good of all.  
Christ is like a single body which has many parts.  
If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;  
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.  
All of us are Christ's body,  
and each one is a part of it.  
*(I Corinthians 12)*

And so we give thanks for the gift that the members of these teams have offered us these last years. We celebrate with joy and gratitude that they have been called by God for this leadership. We, the body of Christ have been blessed by their struggles and achievements.

Bless the members of these teams as they continue to offer their special gifts in your service.

*Amen*

**Hymn**

Du ciel et du la terre NVU 216 vs 3 français

**Goodnight Blessing (8:30 PM)**

	Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities, united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice
Cathy	Introduction of Bold Discipleship Mohawk “We are strong in our mind that we are following the tracks/trail/footsteps of our Creator.”
	<p><b>Body Prayer</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Stretch your arms high and wide above your head.</i> “<b>I thank you, Holy One, for the gift of another day of life.</b>”</li> <li>2. <i>Hold arms out from your sides, a little below shoulder height. Move (pivot) to the left and to the right with your arms stretching outward toward the cosmos.</i> “<b>I reach out in compassion to my siblings throughout the universe.</b>”</li> <li>3. <i>Stretch your arms out straight in front of you, slightly apart, palms up.</i> “<b>I give to you all I am and all I have.</b>”</li> <li>4. <i>Pull your hands close together and cup them as a container.</i> “<b>I open my entire being to hold the gift that you have given me this day.</b>”</li> <li>5. <i>Bend over, reach down, and touch the floor, or better yet, the ground, if you are outside.</i> “<b>I touch the Earth with awe, reverence, and gratitude, promising to care well for her.</b>”</li> </ol> <p><i>Stand up, cross hands over your heart,</i> “<b>I thank you for being with you throughout this day, feeling your love strengthen me and shine through me.</b>”</p>
Alma and Shanna	Exploration of the translation into mohawk of the theme; learning pronunciation
Recording	Hymn: Jesus Christ is waiting
	<p>Now our closing is a continuation of our Thanksgiving Address. Nia wen Takwaieatison, Thank you, my Creator, you who made us. I send you my greetings, my love and kindness, my Thanksgiving. Let us bring our minds together and give our thanks to, our Creator for bringing us together tonight. We give thanks for giving us this new technology to enable us to meet at a distance and still be together and do your work. We thank our Creator for blessing us with words, words of wisdom, knowledge and music to share so your work can be done in our world.</p> <p>As we close, just as in our circles, we close our bundles, giving our Creator our respect and Niawen Kowa (means Great Thank You). We now carry our bundle forward to our next gathering. We thank our Creator for allowing us to have our meeting and now as we close we again thank you Takwaieatison, Loving Creator for watching over our loved ones to find them the way we left them. We carry the love and teaching with us in all we do. Now we end our words Etonaiawen, Amen</p>



**SESSION 2**

March 12, 2022 (9 AM – Noon)

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (38)**

Mead Baldwin, Beryl Barraclough, Janet Bisset, Dale Breitreutz, Barbara Bryce, Linda Buchanan, Kent Chown, David Clinker, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Wendy Evans, Ryan Fea, Christine-Marie Gladu, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Cathy Hamilton, Helen Hliaras, Lee Ann Hogle, Alyson Huntly, Bill Jay, Jan Jorgensen, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Mher Katchikian, Andrew Lairenge, Dave Lambie, Darryl Macdonald, Marie-Claude Manga, John Matheson, Heather McClure, Jennifer Mountain, Birgit Neuschild, Ohannes Siwajian, Darla Sloan, Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Martha Nell Thomson, Douglas Throop, Stephane Vermette and Neil Whitehouse.

**Lay Delegates (33)**

Judy Bachelder, Carol Bircher, Peter Bisset, Fred Braman, Diane Campbell, Alan Coffey, Elva Crawford, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Colin Forde, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, Marc Grenon, Richard Guay, Thomas Kent, Janice Knowles, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Valerie Nickson, Natacha Sanson, Ivylin Scott, Dorothy Shaw, Frederick (Rick) Sheffer, Paul Stanfield, Diane Stevenson-Cantin, Nancy Stewart, Valerie Strong, Gary Tompkins, Fiona Wardrop, Vera Young, Robert (Ronwahaweta) Patton, Charlotte Griffith and Norm Haslam.

**Corresponding Members - Candidates (5)**

Norman Robert Boie, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Bailey Eastwood, Cynthia Reynolds and Virginia Wallace.

**Lay Delegates Under 30 (6)**

Denis Ashby, Diane Best, Rachel Lambie, David Simons, Bethan Wardrop and Émilie Wood.

**Regional Council Staff (9)**

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

**Guests of the Regional Council (10)**

Anwar Alhjoor, Rita Beauséjour, Hugh Ballem (simultaneous translator), Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Charles Dougherty, Kirsty Hayward, Alicia Loria (simultaneous translator), Alma (Teiensaketarhon) Ransom, Benjamin Ryan and Kelley Molloy

**Regrets (7)**

Beverly Clark, Shirley Stark, James Vanstone, Rev. Arlen Bonnar, Denis Fortin, Rev. Shaun Fryday and Rev. Angelika Piché.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

**Coffee Time & Signing in**

Attendees were invited to sign in 15 minutes ahead of the start of the meeting.

**Morning Blessing & Covenanting**

	Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities, united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice
Cathy	1. <i>Stretch your arms high and wide above your head.</i>

	<p><b>“I thank you, Holy One, for the gift of another day of life.”</b></p> <p>2. <i>Hold arms out from your sides, a little below shoulder height. Move (pivot) to the left and to the right with your arms stretching outward toward the cosmos.</i> <b>“I reach out in compassion to my siblings throughout the universe.”</b></p> <p>3. <i>Stretch your arms out straight in front of you, slightly apart, palms up.</i> <b>“I give to you all I am and all I have.”</b></p> <p>4. <i>Pull your hands close together and cup them as a container.</i> <b>“I open my entire being to receive the gift that you have waiting for me this day.”</b></p> <p>5. <i>Bend over, reach down, and touch the floor, or better yet, the ground, if you are outside.</i> <b>“I touch the Earth with awe, reverence, and gratitude, promising to care well for her today.”</b></p> <p>6. <i>Stand up, cross hands over your heart,</i> <b>“May I be united with you throughout this day, feeling your love strengthen me and shine through me.”</b></p>
Darla Sloan	Introduction of Dynamic Discipleship
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	<p>President, I present to you, Rev. Daniel Hayward , who has been called to the position of PASTORAL RELATIONS MINISTER We believe he is well qualified and has been prayerfully selected.</p> <p>A covenant is a promise we make with God and with one another, a promise to live God’s Way.</p> <p>We are about to enter into a new covenant relationship with God, with you Dan, and with you the people of Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council.</p> <p>Dan, will you take up and continue your Christian ministry with Christ’s people in this new relationship.</p>
Dan Hayward	I will, God being my helper
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	(ask that the Rc open their mics) Do you, the members if Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council promise to support this ministry which will be exercised on your behalf and to commend and support Dan within this Regional Council
CrNRC	We will, God being our helper.
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Dan we welcome you as you enter into this covenant with us and we look forward to the ministry which you will exercise among and with us.
Hymn	Spirit of Gentleness VU 375 Vs 4

### **Report from Pastoral Relations Leadership Team**

Rev. Darryl Macdonald highlighted items in the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 13.

**Report from Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Leadership Team**

Charlotte Griffith, Rev. Lee Ann Hogle highlighted items in the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 25.

**Report from Nominations Leadership Team**

Rev. Dave Lambie reported that the Nominations Team continues to search to fill vacancies and informed that a nominations list would be presented and voted on at the spring general meeting.

**Prayer**

Norm Haslam

**Let us Pray:**

The letter to the Corinthians tells us that :  
There are different ways of serving,  
but the same God is served.  
There are different abilities to perform service,  
but the same God gives ability to each of us.  
The Spirit's presence is shown in some way  
in each person for the good of all.  
Christ is like a single body which has many parts.  
If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;  
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.  
All of us are Christ's body,  
and each one is a part of it.  
*(1 Corinthians 12)*

And so we give thanks for the gift that the members of these teams have offered us these last years. We celebrate with joy and gratitude that they have been called by God for this leadership. We, the body of Christ have been blessed by their struggles and achievements.

Bless the members of these teams as they continue to offer their special gifts in your service.

*Amen*

**Hymn**

Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 Vs 2 English

**Report from Justice and Community Leadership Team**

See Justice and Community Leadership Team report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 18.

**Report from Montreal City Mission**

Anwar Alhjoor provided an oral presentation on behalf of the Montreal City Mission and highlighted ongoing work that is taking place within the organizations, as well as the many communities the mission is serving.

**Report from Saint Columba House**

Lisa Byer-de Wever provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the work that has been carried out by Saint Columba House, as well as upcoming projects that continue to serve the surrounding community.

**Prayer**

Rev. Pierre Goldberger

**Let us Pray:**

Lord Jesus, you say to us "You there, come, follow me"...

in your life until the cross, you stood at the margins of Society and it is from there that you call us... you healed; you set the Samaritan woman free; you invited the children; you fed the shepherdless; you died abandoned by all except three faithful Women...And you live among us...

You dared to call to us "Come all of you and all the blessed ones of the earth..."

Because I was hungry and you gave me to eat; thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, a refugee and you opened your house to me; I was naked, and you took care of me; in prison, and you came to see me...

In truth, every time you did it to one of the most desperate of my siblings, you did it to me"...

It is among them that we still find You...

We give you thanks for the ministries that serve You every day, Saint Columba's House and the Montreal City Mission, led by Lisa Byer and Paula Kline and their dedicated teams, and the Justice and Community Leadership Team, who call us together, like You, to love, to build Peace through Justice and Love. THANK YOU

### **Hymn**

Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 Vs 2 English (Slide 3)

### **Guest Speaker**

Part 2 – Rev. Wendy Evans provided reflections and opportunities to engage with questions of how faith and environment intersect.

### **Breakout Rooms**

(Approx. 30 min in groups of 3):

- 1) In what ways(s) do you feel called to slow down in response to the eco-crisis?
- 2) In what way(s) do you feel called to show up in response to the eco-crisis?
- 3) Can you describe a circle you are a part of that is encouraging and sustaining you in this call to be bold?
- 4) Reflect on anything else that is stirring up for you right now on this theme

Video: 'One' by Birdtalker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Odlw8WdsZS8>

Video: 'Earthrise' by Amanda Gorman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwOvBv8RLmo>

Text of Earthrise poem

<https://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/blog/2021/02/earthrise-poem-amanda-gorman>

Website resources:

GreenFaith

<https://greenfaith.org>

For the love of creation

<https://fortheloveofcreation.ca>

Watershed Discipleship

<https://watersheddiscipleship.org>

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Senior Stewards for the Environment  
<https://seniorstewardsactingfortheenvironment.org>

Books:  
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis Edited by Leah D Schade and Margaret Bullit-Jonas

All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis. Edited by Anyone Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson

From What is to What If: Unleashing the Power of Imagination to create the future we want By Rob Hopkins

### **Break**

There was a 10-minute break in the meeting.

### **Report from United Church of Canada Women Network**

Valerie Epps highlighted items in the United Church Women Network report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 28.

### **Report from Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle**

Lisa Byer-de Wever recounted how members of the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle experienced hurt when learning that their request for funding had led to the suggestion that funds earmarked for Indigenous Ministries to the National Church be reduced to cover the additional funding being requested. It was felt that this lack of sensitivity become a learning opportunity and led to the following motion:

**2022-03-11-12\_002 MOTION** (R. Sherman/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council receive the recommendation from the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle inviting the Conseil régional Nakhonha:ka Regional Council, and all Leadership Teams experience both the Kairos blanket exercise and Settler Mentality workshops offered by and through Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle within the next 6 months. **CARRIED**

It was highlighted that a reporting on this exercise would be provided in the future. Rev. Jan Jorgensen offered a prayer immediately after this time of sharing.

Additional reporting from the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle can be found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 15.

### **Report from Green Network**

Some members belonging to the network (Judy Coffin, Natacha Sanson, Lee Ann Hogle, Neil Whitehouse, David-Roger Gagnon) presented a PowerPoint highlighting the focus of the Green Network. Additional reporting can be found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 32.

### **Report from Pride & Friends Network**

Rita Beauséjour and Charles Doherty presented a PowerPoint highlighting ongoing work the network has undertaken in order to move towards create an affirming Regional Council. Additional reporting can be found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 31.

### **Prayer**

Natacha Sanson

**Let us Pray:**

The letter to the Corinthians tells us that :

There are different ways of serving,  
but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service,  
but the same God gives ability to each of us.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way  
in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body which has many parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;  
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body,  
and each one is a part of it.

*(I Corinthians 12)*

And so we give thanks for the gift that the members of these teams have offered us these last years. We celebrate with joy and gratitude that they have been called by God for this leadership. We, the body of Christ have been blessed by their struggles and achievements.

Bless the members of these teams as they continue to offer their special gifts in your service.

*Amen*

**Hymn**

Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 v 3 (slide 5)

**Motion to Extend the meeting**

**2022-03-11-12\_003 MOTION** (T. Spires/S. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council extend this meeting by 45 mins. **CARRIED**

**Report from Granting and Enabling Leadership Team**

Rev. Barbara Bryce highlighted items in the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 13, and also brought the following motions:

**2022-03-11-12\_004 MOTION** (B. Bryce/F. Braman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council:

Receive for information from the Granting and Enabling Team the following distribution from the Kelley Trust Fund

1. Ayer's Cliff, Magog, Georgeville Pastoral Charge: Pastoral Care Course: \$350
2. Montreal City Mission: A Movable Feast: \$3,000

Receive the recommendation from the Granting and Enabling Team regarding the Erskine & American – Mountainside fund and approve the following distribution:

1. Cedar Park United Church: Reconciliation Matters Gardens: \$5,000  
N.B.: Restoration and repurposing of old garden with indigenous themes.
2. Living into Right Relations: Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: \$30,000  
N.B.: This amount was granted in January 2022 as an emergency request. As it forms part of the 2022 distribution of E &A – M funds, it is included here so the financial balance is accurate. The Trustees noted at their meeting last week that this group can return at a later date with a new application if funding is still a concern.
3. Montreal City Mission: Holistic Reconciliation with Newcomer Families Phase Two: \$19,500

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- N.B.: Phase Two: Going deeper with outreach to Nigerian refugee group at Beaconsfield United Church. The Committee applauds sessions informing other communities of faith, to sensitize the non-refugee communities of this important endeavour. Continued invitation to share learning through audio-visual tools.
4. Saint Columba House: Promoting healthy nutrition and physical activity habits among children: \$10,000  
N.B.: The Committee granted \$10,000 of the approximately \$17,000 requested. The Trustees are willing to consider the balance, and perhaps more, at the next round of applications in May, provided the Applicant indicates the faith rationale as well as the concrete measures that make the faith aspects of the project fully explicit to participants in the community. This is to differentiate the program from state-funded public health initiatives. This Trust is mandated to fund projects in transformational ministry and outreach ministry. A project should explicitly identify with either or both of these objectives. We invite a sharing of results, as well.
  5. St. James United Church: St. James United/Multifaith Federation/Sisters of Sion Multifaith Library: \$20,000  
N.B.: Second phase of project, adding another important faith collection and integrating with inter faith activities, including proper display of books and materials.
  6. United Theological College: Montreal Mission Internship: \$5,000  
N.B.: Internships in a number of Montreal missions for 12 young adults (18-25) in cooperation with other foundations. Bravo!
  7. West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: Youth Based Programming and Youth Outreach: \$35,000  
N.B.: Phase two of ongoing project.  
The amount granted to date for 2022 is \$124,500 and the remaining balance available for 2022 is \$94,390.

N.B.: a revision to the terms of the Erskine & American – Mountainside Trust, effective February 2022, now allows the carry-forward of unused funds from the immediately previous year to the current year. The starting balance for 2022 was therefore \$218,890, consisting of 2021's remaining balance of \$37,012, plus available funds for 2022 of \$181,878.

Receive the recommendation from the Granting and Enabling Team regarding Good Samaritan Fund and approve the following distribution:

- Auberge Madeleine: Shelter and Counsel for Senior Women: \$20,000
- Saint Columba House: Seniors CARE Project: \$33,188
- St. Paul's United Church, Magog: Healthy Seniors' Living Exercise Program: \$12,622
- Richmond-Melbourne United Church: Seniors' Spiritual Wellness Program: \$25,000
- West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: West Island Rainbow Seniors: \$25,000
- Montreal City Mission: What if Seniors Mattered?: \$25,000
- Westmount Park United Church Contactivity Centre: Break out after the Pandemic: \$35,000, conditional on submission of financial statements
- Montreal West United Church: Extra Miles Senior Visiting Program: \$15,000
- Riverside United Church: Riverside Cares: \$30,000

N.B. With the above grants amounting to \$220,810 plus the previous grant of \$15,000 in January to the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, the 2022 total of Good Samaritan Fund grants is \$235,810. Starting in 2022, the United Church of Canada Foundation Board has approved raising the base granting rate to 4.25% , based on the average value of the fund over the last eight quarters. As a result, the minimum grant amount for 2022 has been determined to be \$313,203.16.

Receive the recommendation from the Granting and Enabling Team regarding Trois-Rivières French Ministry Fund and approve the following distribution:

1. \$4,500 grant from the Trois-Rivières French Ministry Fund to Église Unie Drummondville-Mauricie for their project “Services pastoraux aux francophones de la Mauricie”, with the stipulation that a grant will not be awarded next year until the issue of continuity of the ministry is resolved.

Receive the recommendation from the Granting and Enabling Team regarding Light-a-Spark grant and approve the following distribution:

Light-a-Spark grant (as part of Regional Council 2022 budget) to be awarded (as part of Regional Council 2022 budget):

1. \$5,000 Light-a-Spark grant be awarded to Église Unie Saint-Jean for their “Comité d’orientation” project. **CARRIED**

#### **Report from Property & Finance Leadership Team (P&F)**

Fred Braman highlighted items in the Property & Finance Leadership Team report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 27.

#### **Report from Finance & Extension Board, President’s Report**

Peter Bisset highlighted items in the Finance and Extension Board, President’s report to the Regional Council found in the report book (**Appendix B**) on page 11.

#### **Prayer**

Marc Grenon

#### **Let us Pray:**

The letter to the Corinthians tells us that :  
There are different ways of serving,  
but the same God is served.  
There are different abilities to perform service,  
but the same God gives ability to each of us.  
The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way  
in each person for the good of all.  
Christ is like a single body which has many parts.  
If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;  
if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.  
All of us are Christ’s body,  
and each one is a part of it.  
*(I Corinthians 12)*

And so we give thanks for the gift that the members of these teams have offered us these last years. We celebrate with joy and gratitude that they have been called by God for this leadership. We, the body of Christ have been blessed by their struggles and achievements.

Bless the members of these teams as they continue to offer their special gifts in your service.

*Amen*

#### **Hymn**

Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 v 4

#### **Report Book (2021)** (see **Appendix B**)

**2022-03-11-12\_005 MOTION** (S. V. Dansokho/M. Grenon) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive the report book (2021) as distributed. **CARRIED**



**Amendment to the terms of reference of the Executive** (see Appendix C)

**2022-03-11-12\_006 MOTION** (J. Mountain/D. Ashby) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council accept the amendment to the terms of reference of the Executive, and update the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED**

**License Lay Worship Leaders** (see Appendix D)

**2022-03-11-12\_007 MOTION** (D. Best/M. Baldwin) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the document created by the working team representing the ministry of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Ministries in French and update the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED**

**Policy on Pulpit Supply Compensation** (see Appendix E)

**2022-03-11-12\_008 MOTION** (M. Khatchikian/V. Epps-Nicskon) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the Policy o Pulpit Supply Compensation, and update the Governance Handbook. **CARRIED**

**General Council 44 Commissioners' Update**

The Leading Elder Rev. Linda Buchanan highlighted that information sessions for General Council 44 have begun online. Additional information can be found at <https://generalcouncil44.ca/>.

**Closing Worship**

	Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities, united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice
Cathy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Stretch your arms high and wide above your head.</i>  <b>"I thank you, Holy One, for the gift of another day of life."</b></li> <li>2. <i>Hold arms out from your sides, a little below shoulder height. Move (pivot) to the left and to the right with your arms stretching outward toward the cosmos.</i>  <b>"I reach out in compassion to my siblings throughout the universe."</b></li> <li>3. <i>Stretch your arms out straight in front of you, slightly apart, palms up.</i>  <b>"I give to you all I am and all I have."</b></li> <li>4. <i>Pull your hands close together and cup them as a container.</i>  <b>"I open my entire being to receive the gift that you have waiting for me this day."</b></li> <li>5. <i>Bend over, reach down, and touch the floor, or better yet, the ground, if you are outside.</i>  <b>"I touch the Earth with awe, reverence, and gratitude, promising to care well for her today."</b></li> <li>6. <i>Stand up, cross hands over your heart,</i>  <b>"May I be united with you throughout this day, feeling your love strengthen me and shine through me."</b></li> </ol>
Shanna or Youth	Introduction of Bold Discipleship
	Jesus Christ is Waiting Vu 117 vs 1, 5

**Equity Team feedback**

Members of the equity team provided feedback for the meeting, highlighting what made the meeting work well and what can be improved going forward.

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**Closing Motions**

**2022-03-11-12\_009 MOTION** (R. Lambie/V. Epps-Nickson) that following the rise of this general meeting of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Executive until the next general meeting. **CARRIED**

**2022-03-11-12\_010 MOTION** (V. Epps-Nickson/R. Lambie) that the meeting be adjourned at 1:06 PM, and that the President declares this general meeting of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council duly concluded. **CARRIED**

**Last Announcements and Reminders**

In person General Meeting Lakeshore Trinity United Church on June 4<sup>th</sup>

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Rev. Linda Buchanan  
Chair

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Rev. Rosemary Lambie  
Executive Minister

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Joel Miller  
Recording Secretary

**Appendix**

- Appendix A Minutes of November 12-13, 2021 General Meeting
- Appendix B Report Book (2021)
- Appendix C Terms of Reference of the Executive
- Appendix D Document created by the working team representing the ministry of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and Ministries in French
- Appendix E Policy on Pulpit Supply Compensation

All appendices are available on the Regional Council website (under download documents):

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-march-2022/>