

---

**SPRING GENERAL MEETING****May 24-25, 2024**

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held a Celebration of Ministries Service at Montreal West United Church on Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 in the evening, and a plenary session at Wesley United Church on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2024. The theme for this meeting was “reinvigorating evangelism and exploring what that means to us in today’s context, especially as it relates to our strategic plan’s priority for growth”.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

**Ministry Personnel (33)**

Mead Baldwin, Beryl Barraclough, Janet Bisset, Arlen Bonnar, Barbara Bryce, Florence Bukam, Marie Silvenie Chéry, Kent Chown, David Clinker, Gonzalo Cruz, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Rosa Donoso, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Cathy Hamilton, Éric Hébert-Daly, Helen Hliaras, Reg Jennings, Jan Jorgensen, Andrew Lairenge, Rosemary Lambie, Patricia Lisson, Darryl Macdonald, Marie Claude Manga, Robert Patton, Angelika Piché, Cynthia Reynolds, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Darla Sloan, Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Rolanda Taylor, Stéphane Vermette.

**Lay Delegates (24)**

Denis Ashby, Judy Bachelder, Diane Best, Peter Bisset, Norman Robert Boie, Margaret Chesney, Elva Crawford, Undeg Edwards, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, Marc Grenon, Nicole Hamel, Norman Haslam, Janice Knowles, Jan Langelier, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Valerie Nickson, Dorothy Shaw, Frederick (Rick) Sheffer, James Vanstone, Bethan Wardrop, Fiona Wardrop, Vera Young.

**Corresponding Members - Candidates (6)**

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Virgil Kamga, Erika Liang, Kelley Molloy.

**Regional Council Staff (6)**

Shanna Bernier, Judy Coffin, David-Roger Gagnon, Rev. Daniel Hayward, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly (voting member), Joel Miller.

**General Council Staff (3)**

Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Office of Vocation Minister, and Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Responsable des Minstere en francais.

**Guests of the Regional Council (6)**

Deborah Angelus, Hugh Ballem (interpreter), Diane Hanna, Alicia Loria (interpreter), Monique Moser, Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom).

**Regrets (15)**

Guy-Lin Beaudoin, Fred Braman, Linda Buchanan, James Christie, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Charlotte Griffith, Lee Ann Hogle, Helga Ovandes, Brian Ruse, Read Sherman, Paul Stanfield, Nancy Stewart, Douglas Throop, Virginia Wallace.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

---

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY AT MONTREAL WEST UNITED CHURCH  
MAY 24, 2024

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Montreal West United Church, situated in Montreal, Quebec, beginning at 7 PM. The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary to the processional hymn 'I have Called You by Your Name' (MV161). The service opened with words of welcome from President Mark Grenon, followed a welcoming from host congregation Minister Rev. Mark Hammond. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, welcomed all in attendance, extended an invitation to all to worship in ways they are comfortable, and highlighted some unique aspects contained in the bulletin. The Call to worship included a land recognition, which highlighted that that this celebration of ministries was being held on the traditional territory the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation. The Christ Candle was lit, followed by the Prayer of Approach, and the signing of the hymn 'Alleluia' (to the tune of Amazing Grace – a cappella). The Scripture reading was John 3:5-8 and verses were read aloud by each of the candidates. Rev. David Lefneski shared a reflection entitled "Spirit of Life...be birthed in us" which was followed by the singing of 'Alleluia' (to the tune of Amazing Grace – a cappella)

The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. Dan Hayward, the Pastoral Relations Minister, remembering Rev. Barend Biesheuvel of the Order of Ministry within the bounds of the Regional Council who had died during the most recent church calendar year. The in memoriam was followed by the singing of hymn 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness' (VU 375). Rev. Dan Hayward also led the celebration of the ministries for those retiring, recognizing Rev. David Lefneski of the Order of Minister within the bounds of the regional council. This part of the service ended with a concluding Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn 'Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song' (VU 641). Several ministers were highlighted for celebrating significant anniversaries in ministry and their names were read aloud (see service bulletin on regional council website for full details: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/celebration-of-ministry-service-may-2024/>). Changing Ministries were also honored, and congregations who had recently closed or amalgamated were recognized: Southwest and Summerlea Pastoral Charges, which have amalgamated to become the new Summerlea Pastoral Charge, and Beaurepaire United Church, as the building has been closed. The hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past (VU 806)' was sung following these recognitions. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led the offering, which followed with the singing of 'For the Fruits of All Creation' (VU 227) and Prayer.

A Celebration of New Ministries began with the reciting of "Our Affirmation of Faith". The candidates were presented by Rev. Caroline Penhale, Office of Vocation Minister for the Regional Council. Beryl Barraclough declared her vows and was presented with a bible and certificate. Family and friends presented her with a stole. The Regional Council presented a Chalices and Patens. Following the affirmation of Beryl, those in attendance responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958). The hymn 'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (VU 509) closed this portion of the service.

Beryl Barraclough

Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the  
United Church of Canada

The liturgy of Holy Communion (adapted from a version prepared by the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, 43rd Moderator, of the United Church of Canada) and was led by Rev. Caroline Penhale, Office of Vocation Minister and Rev. Cathy Hamilton, member of the candidacy board. It began with a Call and Response, the sharing of the Elements, the Prayer after Communion, and the signing of hymn 'Bread for the Journey' (NVU 154)'. The Executive Minister shared a closing benediction which was followed by the recessional hymn 'I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry' (VU 644).

---

PLENARY IN SANCTUARY OF WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, MONTREAL, QC  
MAY 25, 2024

**Registration**

Attendees were invited to join online at 8:30 AM; the doors at Wesley United Church were opened at 8:30 for those attending the meeting in person.

**Gathering Music**

'Through Ancient Walls' led by Dorian DeLuca on piano.

**Welcome From the President of the Regional Council**

Marc Grenon, President, welcomed all to the meeting and asked for patience while some technical glitches were being worked through. Marc announced that following this meeting, his term as President ends, that he has enjoyed fulfilling this role, and that he looks forward to continuing to serve the regional council in other ways.

**Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer**

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Rober Patton) led the Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer, which was accompanied with PowerPoint Slides.

**Welcoming to the Land**

Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom) welcomed those in attendance to the traditional lands of the Kanien'kéha:ka (Mohawk Nation) of the Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) Six Nations (consist of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora). Teiensaketarhon shared that she is a Mohawk from Yellow Island in the Saint Lawrence River, and thanked Ronwahaweta for the work he is doing at Kahnawake United Church. Teiensaketarhon shared a teaching on the meaning of reconciliation, which is to 'get along' and provided some details of the Haudenosaunee Creation Story that emphasizes this teaching.

**Land Acknowledgment**

Marc Grenon, President, led the Land Acknowledgement:

Acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for Aboriginal Peoples. It is recognition of their presence, both in the past and the present. Recognition and respect are essential elements of establishing healthy, reciprocal relations. These relationships are key to reconciliation...

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked on this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. May we live with respect on this land; united in peace and friendship; as all its people.

In order to promote mutual respect and understanding we acknowledge that the present geographic bounds of the Province of Québec and the Conseil régional Nagonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada are located on the Traditional Territory of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Nations Indigenous to Québec are Abenaki, Algonquin, Atikamekw, Cree, Huron-Wendat, Innu, Inuit, Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk), and Naskapi.

**Greetings from The Moderator of The United Church of Canada**

(Video Presentation) The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne extended greetings from the office of the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, expressed appreciation for the unique public witness of The United Church of Canada provided through Nagonha:ka Regional Council, and acknowledged with gratitude the many invitations received to come to this regional council. Carmen highlighted that time was approaching to prepare for General Council 45 (starting online June 14, 2025 and continuing in person in Calgary August 7-11, 2025) and

---

invited all to consider submitting their names to be Commissioners (with a special invitation extended to youth of the regional council).

### **Opening Worship**

The opening worship was led by Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Virgil Joel Kamga, and Norman Robert Boie. Virgil led the opening prayer and Normand read from the Scriptures Mark 10, 13-16. Emmanuel provided a reflection on the Bible passages read and compared them to the evangelism today. This time of opening worship was closed with music (Kora de Rolland Boussou Jésus que ma joie demeure).

### **Welcome to Wesley United Church!**

Rev. Cynthia Reynolds, Minister at Wesley United Church welcomed all to Wesley United Church. Cynthia started her ministry at Wesley the previous year. Individuals were identified who could help with questions and or concerns about the church. Cynthia, shared details about the layout of the Church (exits, bathrooms, spaces). The church is currently involved in potential clustering with other Churches in the west of Montreal. Wesley began in 1926. The original minister went door-to-door (spirit of evangelism) asking for support to start church. Cythia ended by highlighting many of the ministries taking place through Wesley United Church.

### **Call to Order**

Marc Grenon, President, called the meeting to order

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the Conseil Régional Nakhona: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.

### **Special Instructions**

Rev. Kent Chown asked presenters to speak closely into the microphones. Marc shared how to vote in person and online, and provided instructions for how to make use of simultaneous translation equipment (for people in person).

### **Omnibus Motion**

**2024-05-24-25\_001 MOTION** (E. Hebert-Daly/V. Nickson) that the Nakhona:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of March 15-16, 2024, Winter Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the 2023 Annual Report of the Finance & Extension Board of the Nakhona:ka Regional Council be amended on page 7, section b ‘Community Ministry’, to reflect “Christian evangelism is lived out by the inclusive programming offered at Saint Columba House” (see **Appendix B**);
4. that the changes brought to the Governance Handbook, omitting the use of the word ‘Mission’, be received for information (see **Appendix C<sup>1</sup>**) These changes were carried out in response to *GS 63 – Recommendations on the Use of the Word Mission* (see as **Appendix C<sup>2</sup>**);
5. That the Accountability Report to Regional Councils, Origin: General Council Executive & the General Council Offices be received for information (see **Appendix D**);
6. That the United Church Rural Ministry Network Report be received for information (see **Appendix E**);
7. That candidates and those present as invited guests of this Regional Council, be named as corresponding members of the Court;
8. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Norm Haslam (online), Shanna Bernier, Rev. Tami Spires, Valerie Nickson (in person);
9. That the following person serve as Parliamentarians: Rev. Tami Spires (morning), Jan Langelier (afternoon);

- 
10. That the following people serve as Chaplain: Rev. Angelika Piché, Rev. Florence Bukam;
  11. That Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Virgile Kamga G., Shanna Bernier and David-Roger Gagnon serve as the Equity Support Team;
  12. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant:

One Voice: Called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place as we offer our varying gifts,

Many Voices: We commit to keeping God at the center of everything we do;

One Voice: We confess, that we have not always lived up our vision of community, we need the Spirit to reorient us, to live an emerging faith, challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement,

Many Voices: We commit to be truthful in our communications by: speaking for ourselves; and speaking purposefully;

One Voice: We are called as a diverse community of people celebrating our differences;

Many Voices: And so, we commit to honouring our intercultural vision through welcoming the conflict of ideas; making space for the full and equitable participation of all, enabling especially people who are quiet to speak; being mindful of our body language; listening carefully without interruption and separate people from problems;

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

Many Voices: As we live into our call to discipleship we will hold one another to account when we do not keep to our commitments; We will take a future orientation in our discussions and imagination; demonstrate appreciation; And honouring the decisions of the body;

One Voice: We are called to lead in hope with purpose and vision as members of a community held and inspired by God, partnering with God in the mending of the world

Many Voices: So, we commit to keeping the discussion at the table and to be faithful stewards of our time.

All: We affirm that we are Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, to offer leadership to The United Church of Canada as it seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. Amen

*In the 2022 Manual (see page 204), the expression Holy Manners is translated as rules of conduct based on respect and benevolence.*

## **CARRIED**

### **Minute for Equity**

Shanna Bernier reminded all to work towards bringing the kingdom of heaven here on earth, and work hard at working together to ensure that mutual respect is lived out. Shanna reminded folks how to use the chat online, or in person, raise hand and move to the mic. The names of those offering to provide equity support were read out loud and contact information on the screen. Team: Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Virgil Joel Kamga, Rev. Tami Spires, Shanna Bernier and David-Roger.

**Chaplains**

Rev. Angelika Piché, Pasteure Florence Bukam were asked to stand, and their contact information was shared.

**Elections of President and Executive Positions**

Rev. Helen Hliaras, member of the Nomination Leadership Team

**a) President**

Helen announced that The Nomination Leadership Team received two nominees for President:

1. Denis Ashby
2. Norman Robert Boie.

Other nominations were invited from the floor (none were received). The two nominees introduced themselves.

**Voting**

Instructions were provided on how to vote, and ballots were distributed and then collected by scrutineers.

**Results**

The results of the election favoured Norman Robert Boie.

**2024-05-24-25\_002 MOTION** (P. Lisson/J. Langelier) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council destroy the ballots. **CARRIED**

**b) Executive**

**2024-05-24-25\_003 MOTION** (H. Hliaras /C. Hamilton) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team that the following people serve on the Executive:

**Full voting Members:**

President (2-year maximum)  
President-Elect (Elected in “off year” for one-year term)  
Past-President (one year)  
Treasurer (no term)  
Executive Minister

Norman Robert Boie (2026)  
vacant  
Marc Grenon (2025)  
Paul Stanfield  
Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

**Representative of the following Leadership Teams:**

Pastoral Relations  
Representative of La Table  
First Third Ministry  
Living in Right Relations Leadership Circle  
  
Justice and Community Ministries  
Granting and Enabling Leadership Team  
General Meeting Planning Leadership Team  
Finance and Extension Board  
Nominations

Rev. Christine Marie Gladu  
Rev. Pierre Goldberger  
Denis Ashby  
(in rotation: Rev. Jan Jorgensen/ Rev.  
Read Sherman/ Lisa Byer-de Wever)  
Bailey Eastwood  
Rev. Barbara Bryce (interim)  
Valerie Epps-Nickson  
Peter Bisset  
Rev. Linda Buchanan

**Five (5) Full Voting Members at Large (2 years)**

1. Rev. Marie-Claude Manga (2025)
2. Erika (Qian) Liang (2025)

- 
3. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo (2025)
  4. Rev. Rosemary Lambie (2026)
  5. Florence Bukam, Pasteure (2026)

#### Corresponding Non-Voting Members

Pastoral Relations Minister  
Communications Staff Person  
Program Assistant to the Executive Minister  
Minister Supporting Clusters & Networks  
First Thirds Ministries  
Property, Finance and Administration Manager

Rev. Dan Hayward  
Judy Coffin  
Joel Miller  
David-Roger Gagnon  
Shanna Bernier  
Brian Ruse

#### **Break**

A ten (10) mins break was had by all.

#### **(following break) Gathering Music**

‘Peace Before Us’ (words and music by David Roger-Gagnon) led by Dorian De Luca on piano, and by David Roger-Gagnon on vocals.

#### **Theme Presentation – Reimagining Evangelism – Guest Speaker, Rev. Evan Swance-Smith**

Rev. Evan Swance-Smith shared a reflection on what it means to respond to the Call in the Bible to Spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love our neighbors by inviting them into our faith stories and sharing the way God’s love has touched our lives. Evangelism carries some negative connotations, because it has been known to create exclusion and division (fundamentalism), instead of being welcoming to all. Evangelism is not about filling pews (Evangelical mega churches have over a 95% turnover rate within two years!), it is about using resources (and understanding them) and discerning how to be Church in the world. Research has shown that compared to 2015, in 2023 new ministers are feeling less confident about their calling. What are the implications of this and what can be done to foster more confidence? Data also shows that the demographics are shifting. What are the implications of this and how can the UCC position itself to be a spiritual home for upcoming generations who are not well versed in Scripture? Or, how is the UCC to respond to the younger generations where more than 40% don’t believe in God - or trust the traditional way in which the way the Gospel is shared – the UCC is historically know a predominantly ‘white’ church (Evan suggested to read The False White Gospel by Jim Wallace)? Evangelism in this contemporary way (understanding changing demographics, discerning what the data is saying, making use of existing resources, meeting generations where they are at, building faith and trust, and seizing those opportunities to share Love), will unleash the Holy Spirit so that God’s Love flows more abundantly throughout the world.

#### **Small Group Discussions**

The following questions were posed for small group discussions:

1. What is a harmful narrative in your community or social circle that needs to be countered?
2. What is a faithful response to it?

#### **Grace before lunch**

The traditional Cameroonian hymn ‘Comment ne pas te louer?’ was sung as a grace before lunch.

#### **Lunch**

Attendees were asked to bring their own lunch; beverages and snacks were provided by the local congregation.

#### **Gathering Music**

The traditional Cameroonian hymn ‘Comment ne pas te louer?’ was sung again, led by Dorian De Luca, vocals

---

led by Rev. Florence Bukam, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo and Virgil Joel Kamga.

### **Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) – Learning on Purpose**

Lisa Byer-de Wever announced that CCS was offering a program called 'Learning on Purpose' in Montreal, June 17-28. All those interested in learning more were invited to visit: <https://ccsonline.ca/program/leadership-development/>

### **Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund Supporting Study of Clinical Pastoral and Spiritual Care**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Past-Executive Minister, announced that a fund was created in honor of Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary to support study of clinical pastoral and spiritual care. To make a donation please visit: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/101858>. It was announced that Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was taking place at Westmount Park United Church on June 16 at 4:30 pm.

### **Greeting from the General Council Office**

Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Vocational Minister for East Ontario and Quebec, brought greetings from the General Council Office and shared some coming events: The Moderator's Flourishing Event (September 21, 2024); Admission Matching Open House (September 22, 2024); 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-off Worship Service (June 9, 2024); General Council 45 in Calgary - Theme: Visions and Dreams (August 2025); The Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board meets in Montreal to interviewing 11 candidates and applicants (during last week of May 2024).

### **Invitation to become a General Council 45 Commissioner**

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, Moderator of the United Church of Canada invited member to begin discerning if they would like to let their name stand as a Commissioner to General Council 45. General Council 45 starts online June 14, 2025 and continues in person in Calgary August 7-11, 2025. More information is available at <https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/preparing-gc45>.

The Chair announced that the regional council will be electing General Council 45 Commissioners at its Fall general meeting on Nov. 1-2, as well as receiving General Council 45 proposals.

### **Stewardship**

Rev. Roger Janes, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff, shared a video presentation highlighting the role of stewardship throughout the Regional Council. As the Community of Faith Stewardship Staff person Roger provides communities of faith with resources, support, and coaching, in the areas of: Community of Faith Stewardship, Mission and Service, and Planned Giving. Roger highlighted a couple of resources available to congregations: The Stewardship Programs online, through CHURCHX, and the Community of Faith Stewardship webpage ([www.united-church.ca/stewardship](http://www.united-church.ca/stewardship)). Roger introduced his colleague Lindsay Vautour, who is the Donor Engagement Stewardship Associate; her email is - [lvautour@united-church.ca](mailto:lvautour@united-church.ca). Roger invited any one interested in learning more about Stewardship to contact him: Phone: 1-800-268-3781 Ext. 2072 / Email: [RJanes@united-church.ca](mailto:RJanes@united-church.ca).

Roger also reported that this Regional Council increased Mission and Service gifts by 74% over 2022 totals, and 54% higher than 2021 giving. The total gifts for 2023 were \$417,646 (Nationally \$20,831,564).

### **Reimagining the Executive of the Regional Council (**

Rev. Helen Hliaras, member on the Nominations Leadership Team, talked about some of the history which led the Nominations Leadership Team to propose their three Executive models this day. In June 2023 the regional council mandated the leadership team to consider other possible models of an Executive. In November 2023, the strategic plan supported this effort by including it as one of its strategic objectives. Since then, consultations have taken place, and the three models were generated. The mandate of the regional council is to have a recommendation on the structure of the Executive come to the Winter Annual General Meeting in March 2025.



Following a brief history, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Executive Minister, shared each of the models in fuller detail. A description of each of the three executive models can be read on the regional council website: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Review-of-Executive-Structure.docx>.

### **Small Group Discussions**

The following questions were posed for small group discussions:

1. In which ways would this model could benefit the Regional Council in the future?
2. In which ways would this model not benefit the Regional Council in the future?
3. What other ideas are comments could you add?

### **Four Attitudes of Evangelism**

Rev. Tory Mullin, Growth Animator. The importance of sharing the Good News with others. 1 Peter 3:15b “Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you”. But how? Some Considerations: 1. Evangelism requires consent. 2. We earn the right to share. 3. Evangelism requires words. The First Attitude: 1. *Open* “My heart is open to encountering Christ in others, both familiar and strangers”. 2. *Curious* “I care about those around me and listen to them deeply”. 3. *Prayerful* “I invite God to lead my thoughts and actions so that I may love others well”. 4 *Bold* “When invited, I risk sharing my story of transformation with others”. Tori shared some ordinary moments of evangelism: Sharing our God stories in church – Open Mic Sundays at Wesley United; Offering to pray for someone; Making a statement against injustice as a faith community.

Tori proposed that as an exercise, the following questions could be considered at a later time for small group discussions:

#### *Open*

Question: Reflect on a time you encountered Christ in someone else.

Activity: Share with your family or a good friend where you saw God this week.

#### *Curious*

Question: Reflect on a conversation you had with someone where you felt like they were genuinely interested in you as a person, what made you feel this way?

Consider: Make conversation this week with someone at church you don’t normally speak to. What did you learn about them?

#### *Prayerful*

Activity: Write yourself a short prayer to say when you meet someone during your day. Consider writing it on a post-it you can carry with you, or on your phone.

#### *Bold*

Activity: Write down your story of transformation, consider including these prompts: • God was there for me when.... • My faith has changed me in these ways... • To me, Jesus is... • My Good News is... • I believe because...

### **10 Tips for Growth**

Rev. Michel Anderson shared 10 growth tips, organized under three themes: Vision, Structure, and Culture. Vision: 1. You need a vision for growth. 2. Vision is best articulated by a lead or solo minister, not committees. 3. Vision is sustained by systems. Structure: 4. Let mission and ministry drive money, not the other way around. 4. Make decisions and take action quickly. 6. High on people, high on performance. Culture. 7. Practice radical hospitality. 8. Have a missional orientation, not a membership orientation. 9 A high risk appetite and high change

---

agility. 10. It's all about Jesus.

### **Break**

A ten (10) mins break was had by all.

### **Group Discussion on Evangelism**

Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, posed the following question for small group discussions:

1. What is the hope you have within you?

### **Early Findings from Marketing Study with Focus Groups**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared some of the details of the focus groups and the preliminary findings: A strategic plan objective (activity stream number 8 about communications) was to hold focus groups with individual who were unchurched or who had no regular experience in church and were of no other faith. There were 4 focus groups for francophones held on May 5-6; two groups of ages 35-55; ages 18-34; and ages 18-45 either new immigrant or a parent is a new immigrant. There were ample discussions about faith, then messaging about church, and lastly about The United Church of Canada. Key learnings: Out of 27 participants, 26 have not heard of The United Church of Canada. When people heard the word church, it meant Catholic Church and nothing else; Protestants were considered as being a completely different faith (Judaism, Islam).

The following three phrases were tested:

1. 'An open, modern, and inclusive Church exists' and the response was "to good to be true?"
2. 'A Church without dogma... it's possible! Come and explore the Christian faith in your own way with us!' and the response was "You can't have a church without dogma, dogma is what church believes?"
3. 'A place to feel welcome, just as we are!' and the response was "that sounds good, I would be interested in that, but it doesn't sound like it has anything to do with church?"

A full report is being generated and will be shared widely throughout the regional council.

### **Office of Vocation / Presentation of Candidates**

Rev. Caroline Penhale shared the names of current candidates within the regional council: Virginia Wallace, Adedeji Akintayo, Marie Silvenie Chery, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Erika Leung, Virgile Kamga, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Kelley Molloy, Jessica Gauthier, Prospere Bitchoka Mbea. Each of the candidates took turns sharing what 'evangelism' meant for them.

Caroline, on behalf of the Candidacy Board, welcomed prayers for the upcoming week of interviews.

### **Equity Report**

Rev. Rosemary Lambie shared that: Technical glitches need to be better prepared for; there was great appreciation for table group times, and table group facilitators (to ensure balance and note taking), however this was lacking for online participants and this needs to be improved; online participants need to be more apparent, and efforts should be made to insure full participation with online participants; presentation of videos and presentations must be improved to ensure bilingualism.

### **Covenanting with New Executive**

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly led the covenanting service with the newly formed Executive: a call and response were read which acknowledged what the word covenant denotes. Both Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho and Rev. Tami Spires were honored and thanked for their having served on the Executive (their terms have now come to an end). This was following by the singing of hymn 'We Have This Ministry' (VU 510) and a Prayer. Members of the newly formed Executive were called to stand and acknowledge their promise to serve, and the regional council

---

members were asked to stand and acknowledge their promises of support. This time of covenanting was closed with a prayer.

### **Closing Worship**

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Rev. Angelika Piché, Rev. Florence Bukam and Virgil Joel Kamga led the closing worship, which began with a hymn by Samuel Shukrani's- PAPA OH (video presentation), the reciting of The New Creed, a musical interlude 'Laudate omnes gentes' (musical accompaniment prerecorded), an intercessory Prayer, a musical interlude 'Laudate omnes gentes' and lastly a closing benediction.

### **Ne wahtkwanonweraton - Thanksgiving Prayer (Closing Words)**

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Rober Patton) led the Ne wahtkwanonweraton / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer (closing words).

### **Save the Dates! Nakhonha:ka Upcoming Regional Council Events**

- June 8, 2024, Deep Spirituality Worship Showcase
- September 20-21, 2024, Moderator's Flourishing Event
- September (TBD), Then, Let Us Sing!/ Ensemble, chantons!
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, Ministry Retreat (retired ministers are also welcome!)
- November 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 (evening), November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 (morning) Fall Meeting, Online
- March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, Annual Meeting, Winter, Online
- June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 (evening), June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 (day), Spring Meeting, Location TBD
- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 2025, Fall Meeting, Online

### **Closing Words from the Chair**

Marc Grenon, now having become the Past-President, expressed gratitude to all who had help him accomplish his role in serving as President, and indicated that he looks forward to continuing to serve the regional council in new ways.

The court shared its appreciation for Marc's accomplishments with resounding applause and a standing ovation.

### **Conclusion**

The Chair declares that all of the business having come before this general meeting has been duly completed, and that the meeting be concluded at 4:45 PM.

---

Marc Grenon, Past-President, Chair

---

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly  
Executive Minister

---

Joel Miller  
Recording Secretary

### **-Appendices-**

Appendix available on the Regional Council website (under download documents):  
<https://nakhonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-may-2024-hybrid/>

Appendix A	Minutes of March 15-16, 2024, Winter Annual General Meeting
Appendix B	2023 Annual Report of the Finance & Extension Board of the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council
Appendix C <sup>1</sup>	Changes brought to the Governance Handbook omitting the use of the word 'Mission'
Appendix C <sup>2</sup>	GS 63 – Recommendations on the Use of the Word Mission
Appendix D	Accountability Report to Regional Councils, Origin: General Council Executive & the General Council Offices
Appendix E	United Church Rural Ministry Network Report