

**Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council****Meeting of the Executive****Thursday, September 21, 2023 – 9 AM****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**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Marc Grenon                | Chair, President   |
| Rev. Linda Buchanan        | Member at large, Past-President  |
| Adedeji Sunday Akintayo    | Member (departed at 11:30 AM)  |
| Denis Ashby                | Member at large, Rep. First Third Ministries                                       |
| Peter Bisset               | Member, Finance and Extension Board  |
| Fred Braman                | Member, Property and Finance   |
| Rev. Barbara Bryce         | Member, Granting and Enabling Leadership Team                                      |
| Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho    | Member at large  |
| Bailey Eastwood            | Member, Community and Justice  |
| Rev. Christine Marie Gladu | Member, Pastoral Relations   |
| Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly      | Member, Executive Minister   |
| Erika (Qian) Liang         | Member (joined at 11 AM)   |
| Rev. Read Sherman          | Member, Living into Right Relations  |
| 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. Dan Hayward           | Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister                                  |
| Joel Miller                | Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary |
| Brian Ruse                 | Corresponding Member, Finance and Office Administrator                             |

**REGRETS/ABSENT**

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Valerie Epps-Nickson    | Member, General Meeting Planning Team |
| Rev. Pierre Goldberger  | Member, La Table                      |
| Rev. Tami Spires        | Member at Large                       |
| Rev. Marie-Claude Manga | Member at Large                       |

\*This meeting focused on motions adopted by the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team (PRLT) and Property & Finance Leadership Team (PFLT) while acting as commissions; proposes a community of faith supervision fund; proposes a regional council venue checklist; considers how the regional council might address the use of hymns in cases where they are composed by those accused of crimes, such as sexual abuse; recognizes Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM) within the Regional Council; receives a recommendation from both the PFLT and LIRRLC regarding Mohawk Bibles, focuses on a Communication Strategy; considers a sabbatical for the Executive Minister; provides an update on planning the visit of the United Church Partner Council, considers visioning accompaniment to St-James United Church (Montreal) and considers support for Church office administrator conference.

**Land Acknowledgement** – Bailie Eastwood led the land acknowledgement, giving thanks to Creator for First Nations Peoples and their stewardship of settled land. Bailie called on all to work towards right relations,

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acknowledging the hurt to First Nations Peoples caused by settler colonies, and reminded the need for reconciliation and reparation of relationships.

**Opening Devotions** – Bailey Eastwood shared music to as they led the opening devotion, “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker” (Lyrics: Ruth Duck - Music: Ron Klusmeier). Bailey shared a poem called “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver. Bailey ended this time of devotion with a *Prayer of Gratitude* (5 senses prayer). All were invited to participate, sharing the things they are grateful for, as the prayer reflected on each of the 5 senses.

**Calling to Order** – Marc Grenon, President, called the meeting to order at 9:16 AM.

**Circle Time of Sharing** – All were invited to share.

**Good News Stories** – All were invited to share good news stories of things they are seeing in the Church. *There were many good news stories!*

### **Equity Support Person**

**2023-09-21\_001 MOTION** (D. Ashby/C. M. Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Rev. Read Sherman as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

### **Minutes of June 15, 2023**

**2023-09-21\_002 MOTION** (B. Bryce/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of June 15, 2023 as distributed. **CARRIED**

### **Agenda**

**2023-09-21\_003 MOTION** (S. V. Dansokho/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended to include additional reporting. **CARRIED**

### **Correspondence In**

- a) May 12, 2023, Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, on behalf of both the Lay Worship Leaders Support Team and the Retreat Planning Committee, re information session at its meeting in the fall; topic: Should hymns composed by those accused of crimes, such as sexual abuse, be excluded from use in worship? (*for action under section 3*);
- b) June 15, 2023, Luc Mercier, Treasurer, Société d'histoire du protestantisme franco-québécois, re Protestant cemetery at Berthierville, QC (*for information*);
- c) June 19, 2023, Carol Reddick, Chair, Official Board, Union United Church, re response to letter received from Marc Grenon, re end of review of Union United Church (*for information*);
- d) June 20, 2023, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, re recognizing Nakonha:ka Regional Council giving \$253,622 in 2022 for the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada (*for information*);
- e) July 12, 2023, Sandy Woods, Chair, Official Board, St. James United Church (Montreal), re Invitation to the Executive of Nakonha:ka Region to a face-to-face meeting about our future ministry plans and partnership with St. James (*for information*);
- f) August 8, 2023, Alan Breakey, re Marlow Cemetery, South-Beauce (*for information*);
- g) August 8, 2023, Rev. Dr. Harry Oussoren, re Proposal with respect to the Indian Act which governs the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada (*for information*);
- h) August 10, 2023, Rev. Howard Cain, Ecumenical Officer- North Country Association of United Church of Christ New York re itinerary for Bishop Nithiyarnandam of the Church of South India (potential for preaching in Quebec) (*for information*);
- i) August 17, 2023, Danielle Godin, re caretakers of the New Glasgow Community Cemetery (*for information*)

- j) August 30, 2023, Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, re Proposal with respect to the Indian Act which governs the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada (*for information*);
- k) September 13, 2023, copied on a letter from Lynella Reid-James, Chair, Nominations Committee, to Rev. Cynthia Reynolds, re appointment to the Quebec and Eastern Ontario Candidacy Board (*for information*);
- l) September 13, 2023, copied on a letter to Nicole Hamel, Saint-Pierre & Pinguet, from Beverly Tyhurst, Office of Vocation, re approval of salary support grant for supervised ministry education (*for information*);
- m) September 14, 2023, Chantal Winslow, Norther Spirit, Living Skies, Prairie to Pine Regional Councils and Brandy Emmerich, St. Martin's United Church, re Funding support for 2024 United Church Office Administrator's Conference (*for action under new business D*);

### Correspondence Out

- n) June 18, 2023 Marc Grenon, President, to Carol Reddick, Chair, Official Board, Union United Church, re end of review of Union United Church (*for information*).

### Business arising

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

#### 1. Pastoral Relations – Rev. Christine Marie Gladu

##### a) Motions Adopted Over the Summer

**2023-09-21\_004 MOTION** (A. Akintayo/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive into its minutes the following motions from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team:

- i) *MOTION (T. Spires/M. Khatchikian) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, acting as a commission, having reviewed the request of the Armenian Evangelical pastoral charge, finds that there are few ministry personnel within a reasonable distance of the community of faith who are able and willing to administer the sacraments in the Armenian language, and there is a member of the community of faith, Mr. Mardirios Eglecian, whom it believes is suitable to perform the function of Sacraments Elder, the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team will oversee a training program for the proposed Sacraments Elder. CARRIED*
- ii) *MOTION (T. Spires/M. Grenon) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, acting as a commission, approves the reappointment of Rev. Mher Khatchikian, ordained minister, to the Rennie's pastoral charge, part-time, 20 hours/week, from October 1 2023 to September 30, 2024. CARRIED*
- iii) *MOTION (M. Grenon/J. Bisset) On the request of the Creek-Waterloo Pastoral Charge, and in consultation with Rev David Lambie, the current minister, the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, acting as a commission, approves the request of the Pastoral Charge and Minister to move from full-time to part-time ministry, effective October 1, 2023, and that Rev Lambie's working hours be reduced from 160 hours/month to 80 hours per month. We thank Rev Lambie very much for all the hard work and dedication to full time ministry he has served over the years and commend him for this selfless act to help the ministry and vocation of the Creek-Waterloo Pastoral Charge continue and ensure the future of the Pastoral Charge. CARRIED*

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**CARRIED****b) Community of Faith Supervision Fund**

**2023-09-21\_005 CONSENSUS MOTION** that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive refer to Property and Finance Leadership Team the request of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to include in the Regional Council's budget (2024) \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to be able to fund supervision for Pastoral Charges that are required to be supervised, but are financially unable to afford it, because of size or distance.

**CARRIED**

\* Consult Community of Faith Supervisors Practice and Policy

**2. Property and Finance Leadership Team (PFLT) – Fred Braman;****a) Motions Adopted Over the Summer**

**2023-09-21\_006 MOTION** (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive into its minutes the following decisions of the Property and Finance Leadership Team, acting as a commission on behalf of the Regional Council:

*i) Knowlton – Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge (motion adopted effective June 17, 2023)*

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting through its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, concurs in the request of the Trustees and Congregation of Knowlton United Church (Knowlton – Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge), to grant first instance permission to the said Trustees to market the Church Property located at 234 chemin de Knowlton, Knowlton (Brome Lake), QC JOE 1V0, being Lot 4,266,300 of the Cadaster of Québec within the price range submitted to the Property and Finance Leadership Team and on an as-is, where-is basis, the final sale being subject to Regional Council consent.*

*FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Council accepts the undertaking of the said Trustees and Congregation for the Plan of Distribution as set by the Regional Council Policy on the Use of Net Proceeds from the sale of church property – 10% for Indigenous Ministries of The United Church of Canada, 5% for the Mission and Service Fund and 10% for the Regional Council's Strategic Ministries Fund. The remaining 75% is for the congregation's Trustees with a Ministry Plan that has an annual limit of 5-8%, approved by the Regional Council.*

*ii) Bishopton United Church (motion adopted effective June 19, 2023)*

*Whereas Regional Council adopted a motion on August 5, 2022 to approval the final sale of the Church Property of Bishopton United Church, to approve the Plan of Distribution of its net proceeds and assets and to disband after completing the sale and distribution process then planned to be completed in 2022,*

*Whereas after months of delay the anticipated sale was not completed, and*

*Whereas the Trustees of Bishopton United Church are continuing efforts to market the Church Property;*

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting through its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, revokes the Regional Council motion of August 5, 2022 and confirms that Bishopton United Church continues its existence as a Congregation of the United Church of Canada until after the sale process is fully completed, as if the motion of August 5, 2022 had not been adopted. The terms of a final sale, Plan of*

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*Distribution and disbanding shall require final Regional Council approval prior to implementation.*

iii) Kahnawake United Church (motion adopted effective July 3, 2023)

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council (acting by its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission) concur in the request the Trustees of Kahnawake United Church for a \$3000 grant (from the Regional Council's contingency fund) to assist them in replacing their existing heating oil furnace and tank by an electric heat pump system. RESOLVED further that the Regional Council commends the Trustees and Congregation of Kahnawake United Church for their careful stewardship and responsible care for the environmental impact of their Church Building in their community.*

iv) Worship Leaders Retreat (motion adopted effective July 22, 2023)

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting by its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, amend the 2023 Budget to increase the budget for the fall 2023 retreat for worship leaders by \$2,067 and directs that the revised budget for the said retreat of \$ 10,218 be included in the 2023 Budget line item Pastoral Relations Support.*

v) Plymouth-Trinity United Church (motion adopted effective August 15, 2023)

*Whereas the contemplated sale of the land and building of Plymouth Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke, QC, as authorized by the Regional Council resolution of January 19, 2023 could not be completed, but a new transaction with the Ville de Sherbrooke itself is envisaged and it is hoped will be completed this year.*

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting by its Property and Finance Leadership Team, as a Commission, concurs in the request of the Trustees of Plymouth Trinity United Church to cancel the prior motion of January 19, 2023 and to offer to sell their land and building (Lot 1 048 129 of the Cadastre du Québec, 380 rue Dufferin, Sherbrooke, QC J1H 4M7) to the Ville de Sherbrooke on an as-is, where-is basis for a price of \$650,000 and otherwise on the terms to be settled by said Trustees and the Buyer including a leaseback for transitional period, and this approval includes the power to sign the Deed of Sale and ancillary documentation, provided that the transaction is completed in 2023 or such later date as is accepted by the said Property and Finance Leadership Team of said Regional Council;*

*RESOLVED further that the Regional Council accepts the undertaking of the Trustees of Plymouth-Trinity United Church that the Regional Policy of the Net Proceeds of Sale of Property shall apply such that 10% of the Net Proceeds shall be shared with the United Church of Canada for indigenous ministries, 5% with the Mission and Service Fund and 10% to the Finance & Extension Board for the Regional Council's Strategic Ministries Fund and the remainder held for the benefit of Plymouth-Trinity United Church under the terms to be approved by the Regional Council in the Ministry Plan to be submitted by the said community of faith shortly.*

*RESOLVED the Regional Council commends Plymouth-Trinity United Church and its Trustees on their bold and faithful decision to sell their long-standing home and to share with the broader United Church of Canada*

vi) Knowlton-Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge (motion adopted effective August 28, 2023)

*RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting through its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, concurs in the request of the Trustees of*

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*Knowlton United Church to sell their land and building situated at 234 chemin de Knowlton, Knowlton (Brome Lake), QC J0E 1V0 (Lot 4 266 300 of the Cadastre du Québec) to Propriétés Kamaredine Inc. (Buyer) for the price of \$575,000 on an as-is where-is basis under the terms of the Buyer's Offer PPG15229 dated August 19, 2023 as amended by Document AM14780 accepted by the said Trustees on August 25, 2023, with such adjustments and customary arrangements as the Trustees may agree. This approval also extends to the conclusion by the said Trustees of the transfer to the Municipalité de Lac-Brome on the same terms should the municipality exercises its legal right of first refusal if applicable. **CARRIED***

- b) The following two motions were adopted by PFLT, acting as a Commission on September 12<sup>th</sup>:

**2023-09-21\_007 MOTION** (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive into its minutes the following decisions of the Property and Finance Leadership Team, acting as a commission on behalf of the Regional Council:

i) Merging Waters

*MOTION (J. Vanstone/R. Sheffer) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting by its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, concurs in the request of the Trustees of Merging Waters United Church to sell the former property of Beaurepaire United Church (25 Fieldfare, Beaconsfield, QC – lot 5,014,012) to Villa Beaurepaire for a price of \$1.195 million on a strictly as-is, where-is basis with such other adjustments as the said Trustees may agree. **CARRIED.***

ii) Saint Columba House

*\*They have requested Regional Council approval of their request to the General Council for a grant of approximately \$4,200 to replace an emergency exit door in their building.*

*MOTION (P. Bisset/R. Sheffer) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting through its Property and Finance Leadership Team as a Commission, approves the application from Saint Columba House to the Real Property Fund of the General Council Office for reimbursement of the \$4,209.66 cost of emergency repairs. **CARRIED.***

**CARRIED**

\* It was noted that the grant for Saint Columba House has since been approved by the General Council Office.

c) **Nakonha:ka Regional Council Venue Checklist**

- See *NRC Venue Checklist* as **Appendix A**

Following the most recent Regional Council meeting in Sherbrooke, Peter Bisset came up with a checklist (NRC Venue Checklist) to be used to prepare for future Regional Council meetings.

**2023-09-21\_008 MOTION** (F. Braman/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive the recommendation from the Property and Finance Leadership Team that the checklist developed by Peter Bisset be used to prepare for future Regional Council meetings. **CARRIED**

**3. How does the regional council wish to discern on the use of hymns in cases where they are composed by those accused of crimes, such as sexual abuse? – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly**

Guidelines and suggestions are being looked at by a task group creating a new hymnal (*Then Let Us Sing!*); it was suggested to wait for what will be provided by this group. It was suggested that a working

group could consult with congregations to help resolve the issue; create spaces within the Regional Council to have conversations (in person). Éric will work on a plan for consideration by the Executive.

**4. Voluntary Associate Minister (2023-24)** – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly  
**2023-09-21\_009 MOTION** (L. Buchanan/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive for information the list of names of Voluntary Associate Ministers (retired ministry personnel not appointed, or engaged in ministry not recognized as ‘community of faith’) for July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024.

| First name     | Last Name  | Community of Faith                   |  |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Gérald         | Doré       | Église Unie Saint-Pierre et Pinguet  |  |
| David          | Fines      | Emmanuel United Church (Cowansville) |  |
| Denis          | Fortin     | Église Unie Saint-Pierre et Pinguet  |  |
| Pierre         | Goldberger | Église Unie Saint Jean               |  |
| Cathy          | Hamilton   | Cedar Park United Church             |  |
| William (Bill) | Jay        | Montreal West United Church          |  |
| Pierre-Paul    | Lafond     | Église Unie Belle Rivière            |  |
| Rosemary       | Lambie     | St-Andrew's (Delson)                 |  |
| Patricia       | Lisson     | St. James United Church (Montreal)   |  |
| John           | Matheson   | Mountainside United Church           |  |
| Richard        | Miller     | St. Genevieve United Church          |  |
| Maureen-Scott  | Kabwe      | Kahnawake United Church              |  |

**CARRIED**

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs

**Break (10:30 AM)** – a 10 min break was had by all.

**5. Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle** – Rev. Read Sherman  
- See *LIRRLC Report* as **Appendix B**

**a) Mohawk Bible**

The motion concerning the Mohawk Bible, adopted September 5, 2023, requires approval of the Regional Council Executive, as it is a joint recommendation with the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle.

**2023-09-21\_010 MOTION** (F. Braman/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive and approve the following joint recommendation from the Property and Finance Leadership Team with the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle:

Whereas the Conseil Nakonha:ka Regional Council recognizes the extraordinary gift that is this Mohawk (Kanien'kéha) translation of the Bible undertaken by Satewas Gabriel of Kanesatake United Church, we also envision its distribution to be a support of ministry and a sign of our desire for mutual relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons;

Whereas the Regional Council celebrates this opportunity for expressing respect and friendship on the part of non-Indigenous communities of faith so that we might develop our relationships with Indigenous communities living with and among us, we note that the fundamental message the Bible

offers to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike is the universal love of our Creator, even as we acknowledge that this Bible is also a treasury of the Mohawk language;

Whereas the Property and Finance Leadership Team recommends a one-time expenditure of \$10,000 to support the sharing of the Mohawk Bible within the Nakonha:ka Region and its neighbouring partners in faith, with a special focus on communities of faith within Mohawk Territory;

RESOLVED that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council accept the joint recommendation of its Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle (LIRRLC) and the Property and Finance Leadership Team to allocate \$10,000 from the contingency fund for the distribution of Mohawk Bibles, an initiative originating within the Kanesatake United Church community of faith.

RESOLVED that the Regional Council directs that 1) at least 12 such Bibles be directed to both Kanesatake United Church and Kahnawake United Church for distribution as they see fit in their respective communities, 2) Mohawk Bibles be made available to any community of faith within the Nakonha:ka Region that commits to honouring the treaty values of Respect, Friendship, and Peace with all Indigenous folk living near and among them, 3) respectfully offering up to 12 Mohawk Bibles (each) to neighbouring Regional Councils and the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, earmarked for distribution to Mohawk-speaking communities in their respective areas, including an invitation for them to offer Mohawk Bibles to non-Indigenous communities of faith in their areas; and 4) any balance of remaining Bibles as directed by LIRRLC. **CARRIED**

\* logistics for distribution of Mohawk Bibles will be planned by the Regional Council staff.

- b) **Remit 1- Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization** - Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly  
<https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>
- What else can be done to get people to vote (only 4 PC who have voted so far)
  - 76 (pastoral charges) to call in order to pass along the 'get out and vote' message (4 people have volunteered to connect with pastoral charges – more are needed!) Christine Marie Gladu, Shanna Bernier, Fred Braman volunteered to help
  - Resources are available (FAQs, scripts)
    - See *Remit FAQs* as **Appendix C<sup>1</sup>**
    - See *Draft Script* as **Appendix C<sup>2</sup>**
  - On October 4<sup>th</sup> the Regional Council will be holding an evening information session in English and will offer one in French on the evening of October 11<sup>th</sup>.

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| Building Communications |
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6. **Community of Faith/ Clusters/Networks** – David Roger Gagnon;  
- See *Clusters and Networks report* as **Appendix D<sup>1</sup> (EN) D<sup>2</sup> (FR)**
7. **Communications**– Judy Coffin  
- See *Communication Report* as **Appendix E<sup>1</sup> (EN & FR)**  
- See *Strategic Communication* as **Appendix E<sup>2</sup> (EN & FR)**

\* Ideas were shared with Judy for how to encourage members of the Regional Council to read the newsletter (or take time to learn about what is going on within the Regional Council). Appreciation was extended to Judy for her reflections at the beginning of her newsletter.

There was also support expressed for the communications plan.



**8. Nominations** – Rev. Linda Buchanan

- See report *2023 Study\_First Steps* as **Appendix F**

**9. General Meeting Planning** – Valerie Nickson

- See report as **Appendix G**

**10. First Thirds**

- See *What are best practices to create high quality children's spaces in Church?* as **Appendix H**

**New Business**

**A. Sabbatical Regional Council Executive Minister** – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly

**2023-09-21\_011 MOTION** (S. V. Dansokho/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive grant its Regional Executive Minister, Éric Hébert-Daly, a three-month sabbatical from June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 to September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024, followed by two weeks of holiday from September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 to September 17<sup>th</sup> 2024. Furthermore, that the Regional Council will identify existing staff members to fulfill the role of Regional Executive Minister on an interim basis based on their availability throughout the summer during his absence. The Finance and Extension Board Sabbatical Committee would consider funding some costs associated with this sabbatical. **CARRIED**

**B. Visit of the United Church Partner Council** - Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly shared that he is searching for some help to prepare and agenda for this visit. This will take place in October 21-25, 2023. Peter Bisset and Denis Ashby volunteered. It was suggested that visits to Camino de Emmaus United Church and COCLA.

**C. St. James United Church (Montreal)** – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly

- visioning accompanier - Marc Grenon volunteered to be the Regional Council person that accompanies St. James in their visioning process. The Executive expressed its support for this.

**D. Funding support and sharing the information for the 2024 United Church Office Administrator's Conference**

Judy volunteered to get the word out; and to see how many administrators are currently in the Regional Council and to determine how many might be interested in attending the conference so that the Property and Finance Leadership Team can assess what size of a contribution might be useful in the 2024 budget.

**Announcements** – Mission Support committee asked for prayers – there are currently 19 applications for \$800,000 with only \$500,000 funds available.

**Equity Monitor Reporting** – It was applauded when the Chair allowed for ample space for interjections, questions, etc. It was made known that “siblings” is a much more inclusive expression than “brothers and sisters”. The tone of the meeting was positively influenced by allowing time for good news stories; and suggested that it become part of every agenda.

**Motion to adjourn**

**2023-09-21\_013 MOTION** (C.M. Gladu/S. V. Dansokho) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive adjourn this meeting at 11:55 AM. **CARRIED** (D. Ashby opposed).

**Closing Prayer** – Peter Bisset.

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Marc Grenon  
Chair, President

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Rev. Éric Hébert Daly,  
Executive Minister

**Next meeting dates**

- Thursday, October 19, 9:00 to noon on zoom
- Thursday, November 16, 9:00 to noon on zoom
- Thursday, December 21, 9:00 to noon on zoom

| Nakonha:ka Executive Duty Roster                          |  |                                     |                                       |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Responsabilités des membres de l'exécutif pour Nakonha:ka |  |                                     |                                       |
|   | Opening Devotions /<br>Moment de réflexion | Equity Monitor /<br>Équipe d'équité | Closing Prayer /<br>Prière de clôture |
| <i>Été/summer</i>   |  |                                     |                                       |
| <i>19 oct/oct 2023</i>                                    | Samuel V. Dansokho                         | Tami Spires                         | Pierre Goldberger                     |
| <i>16 nov/nov 2023</i>                                    | Christine-Marie Gladu                      | Denis Ashby                         | Paul Stanfield                        |
| <i>21 dec/déc 2023</i>                                    | Valerie Epps-Nickson                       | Fred Braman                         | Erika Liang                           |
| <i>18 jan/janv 2024</i>                                   | Adedeji Sunday Akintayo                    | Marie-Claude Manga                  | Marc Grenon                           |
| <i>15 feb/fév 2024</i>                                    | Barbara Bryce                              | Linda Buchanan                      | Bailey Eastwood                       |
| <i>21 march/mars 2024</i>                                 | Jan/Read/Lisa                              | Peter Bisset                        | Samuel V.<br>Dansokho                 |
| <i>18 apr/avr 2024</i>                                    | Tami Spires                                | Pierre Goldberger                   | Christine-Marie<br>Gladu              |
| <i>16 may/mai 2024</i>                                    | Erika Liang                                | Paul Stanfield                      | Valerie Epps-<br>Nickson              |
| <i>20 june/juin 2024</i>                                  | Linda Buchanan                             | Adedeji Sunday-<br>Akintayo         | Denis Ashby                           |

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**Appendices**

|                                   |  |             |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Appendix A                        | NRC Venue Checklist  | Pages 12-14 |
| Appendix B                        | Report from the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle  | Pages 15-17 |
| Appendix C <sup>1</sup>           | Remit 1 Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization<br>(FAQs)  | Page 18     |
| Appendix C <sup>2</sup>           | Remit 1 Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization<br>(Script)  | Pages 19    |
| Appendix D <sup>(EN) (FR)</sup>   | Report of Minister Supporting Clusters and Networks / <i>Rapport du Responsable pour la soutien aux réseaux et aux regroupements</i> | Pages 20-23 |
| Appendix E <sup>1 (EN) (FR)</sup> | Communications Report / <i>Rapport à propos des communication</i>  | Page 24-27  |
| Appendix E <sup>2 (EN) (FR)</sup> | Strategic Communication Plan 2024 / <i>Plan stratégique de communication 2024</i>  | Pages 28-29 |
| Appendix F                        | 2023 Study_First Steps.  | Page 30     |
| Appendix G                        | General Meeting Planning   | Page 31     |
| Appendix H                        | What are best practices to create high quality children's spaces in Church?  | Pages 32-33 |

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Appendix A**CrNRC Policy : Event Planning and Venue Inspection****Conseil regionale Nakonha:ka Regional Council****Topic Event Planning Summary and Venue Inspection Checklist**

**Purpose** The success of an event is measured in many ways –but events must also be measured in terms of safety. Event organizers have a duty of care to provide a safe working environment and to ensure that people are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. These checklists will provide a guide to many of the issues to be considered when organizing your event. When planning your event, it is important to remember that each event is different; from the type and number of people attending, to the nature of the event to the venue selected. Good planning means being prepared well in advance and ensuring that safety is a priority throughout the event, including initial pre-event analysis, through set up and dismantle. Stakeholders in any event include: event organizers;, volunteers; suppliers, caterers, and guests, building owner etc. Systematic planning will ensure success of the event. It is important to have on site operations to allow for smooth running of the event. It ensures participants have a point of contact should an emergency arise.

**Policy** Events sponsored by the CrNRC shall adhere to the following procedure:  
8 weeks prior to a planned event  
An Event Planning Overview document will be completed by the Event Planning Team  
4 weeks prior to a planned event (to allow for adjustments)  
An inspection of the proposed venue will be done using the Venue Checklist  
Prior to the event  
The documents will be reviewed and approved by the Regional Council Executive

**Responsible:** Event Planning Team

**Date :** Jun-23

| <b>CrNRC Policy : Event Planning and Venue Inspection</b> |                    |                             |              |                            |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Event</b>  |                    | <b>Event Planning Team</b>  |              | <b>Facilities Required</b> |
| <b>Event Description</b>                                  |                    |                             |              | Meeting Space              |
| <b>Event Date</b>   |                    |                             |              | Parking #                  |
| <b>Attendance</b>   |                    |                             |              | Access                     |
| <b>Requestor</b>  |                    | <b>Event Communications</b> |              | <b>Accommodation</b>       |
|   |                    |                             |              | Rooms                      |
| <b>Venue Proposed</b>                                     |                    | <b>Suppliers</b>            |              | <b>Meeting Room</b>        |
| Name  |                    | Name                        |              | Tables                     |
| Address   |                    | Contact Person              |              | Chairs                     |
| <b>Key Contact Persons</b>                                |                    | Phone                       |              | Projection                 |
| Name  |                    |                             |              | WiFi                       |
| Phone   |                    |                             |              | Other                      |
| E-Mail  |                    |                             |              |                            |
| <b>On Site Operations</b>                                 |                    | <b>Caterers</b>             |              | <b>Other Space</b>         |
| Name  |                    | Name                        |              | Auxilliary Room(s)         |
| Phone   |                    | Contact Person              |              | Office                     |
| E-Mail  |                    | Phone                       |              | Outdoor space              |
| <b>CrNRC</b>  |                    | <b>Guests/Artists</b>       |              | <b>Kitchen</b>             |
| <b>Event Ops</b>  |                    | Name                        |              | Preparation                |
| Name  |                    | Contact Person              |              | Serving Area               |
| Phone   |                    | Phone                       |              | Dishes, Cutlary            |
| E-Mail  |                    |                             |              | Refridgeration             |
| <b>Summary Agenda</b>                                     | <b>Pre Meeting</b> | <b>Day 1</b>                | <b>Day 2</b> | <b>Day 3</b>               |
| <b>Date</b>   |                    |                             |              |                            |
| <b>AM</b>   |                    |                             |              |                            |
| <b>PM</b>   |                    |                             |              |                            |

| <b>CrNRC Policy : Event Planning and Venue Inspection</b> |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Venue</b>  | Date Checked:           |                                | Inspected By:                   |                           |                                |
|   |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| <b>Public Liability Insurance</b>                         | <b>Certificate Date</b> |                                | <b>Public Health</b>            | <b>Current Assessment</b> |                                |
| Venue   |                         |                                | Masking Required                |                           |                                |
| Service providers   |                         |                                | Social Distancing Required      |                           |                                |
|   |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| <b>Venue Inspection</b>                                   | <b>Applies /</b>        | <b>Additional Instructions</b> |                                 | <b>Applies /</b>          | <b>Additional Instructions</b> |
|   | <b>Checked</b>          |                                |                                 | <b>Checked</b>            |                                |
| <b>Entry / Exit areas</b>                                 |                         |                                | <b>Floor Plans Proposed</b>     |                           |                                |
| Signage   |                         |                                | Capacity meets standard         |                           |                                |
| Parking adequacy  |                         |                                | Table & Chair Spacing - egress  |                           |                                |
| Parking Supervision                                       |                         |                                | Seating - Distancing            |                           |                                |
| Access Ramps, Elevators, Stairs                           |                         |                                | Exits not Blocked               |                           |                                |
|   |                         |                                | Tech Space                      |                           |                                |
|   |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| <b>Emergency</b>  |                         |                                | <b>Waste Removal Facilities</b> |                           |                                |
| Site Plan posted with Exits indicated                     |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| Signage over Exits  |                         |                                | <b>Washrooms</b>                |                           |                                |
| Signage Fire Extinguishers, Blankets                      |                         |                                | Location and #s, Supplies       |                           |                                |
| Fire Extinguishers Insp Tag                               |                         |                                | Signage                         |                           |                                |
| First Aid Kits Available                                  |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| Signage First Aid   |                         |                                | <b>Food Services</b>            |                           |                                |
| Defibrillator on site                                     |                         |                                | Food Safety Plan                |                           |                                |
| Wall hangings, Curtains                                   |                         |                                | Licenses (MAPAQ, Alcohol)       |                           |                                |
| Hazardous Materials Storage                               |                         |                                | Kitchen Compliance MAPAQ        |                           |                                |
| Stairways & Exit Doors compliant                          |                         |                                |                                 |                           |                                |
| Emergency Lighting  |                         |                                | <b>Utilities</b>                |                           |                                |
| Site Emergency Plan, Training in place                    |                         |                                | Power Assessment & Availability |                           |                                |
|   |                         |                                | Ventilation Assessment          |                           |                                |
| <b>Event Security &amp; Operations Plan</b>               |                         |                                | HVAC/ Filtration/ Controlled    |                           |                                |
| Staff Identified, Badged                                  |                         |                                | Distribution                    |                           |                                |
| Communications Procedure                                  |                         |                                | Fresh Air                       |                           |                                |
| Cleaning staff on site                                    |                         |                                | Water Supply                    |                           |                                |

## Appendix B



Living into Right Relations Leadership Team

[rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com](mailto:rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com)**September 2023 LIRR Report to CRNakonha:kaRC Executive**

Blessings to you all as summer comes to a close and fall begins in earnest! How good the Creator is to bless us with seasons – times of activity, times of rest, times of harvest, times that are fallow. But all time is precious and productive in its own way. On behalf of the LIRR Leadership Team, I pray you all had restorative renewing times with family, friends and in nature over this summer. ☺

A few updates for you:

1. **Robert Patton recommended for ordination!** - After many years of study and discernment, Robert was recommended for ordination to serve Kahnawake United Church at the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering held in Edmonton, July 27 through 30. Congratulations to Robert and the wonderful people he will serve!
2. **National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering** - Several folks from Nakonha:Ka Regional Council attended the gathering, including Robert Patton, Alma Ransom, Sosan Montour, and the Rev. Jan Jorgensen. About 150 people attended in all, engaging in worship, fellowship, discernment over many issues facing the indigenous community, including the national drug use and suicide crisis, missing children and unmarked burial sites, the remit removing barriers from the formation of the new Indigenous Church, and business from the five Circles of the Indigenous Church.
3. **Remit 1:** LIRR members along with other volunteers will take part in a webinar on Weds. Sept 13, 2023 to prepare to engage Communities of Faith (COF) across the region in looking at and voting on Remit 1. The deadline for voting is March 31, 2024. It is all important that all COF have the opportunity to consider the remit and faithfully discern this request from the Indigenous Church of the wider church. If there are ways we as the Executive can be part of this campaign for awareness and action, leading by example, it would be a blessing and right action towards a future of self-determination and friendship between and among us as indigenous and non-indigenous United Church people. **We are still looking for a few volunteers to help with calling our communities of faith. If you are able, please contact Lisa Byer-de Wever ([minister@mergingwaters.ca](mailto:minister@mergingwaters.ca)) whose is coordinating this project.**
4. **Respect & Kanoronhkwa:shera:** This is the name of our Seeds of Hope funded project to hire a part-time (10 hours per week) Project Coordinator who will seek to a) create a nexus of communication between human rights and justice organizations within Quebec, highlighting the successes of Indigenous-led initiatives, as well as calls to action to come out and support such initiatives (we often hear about such calls for support after the fact); b) engage currently non-involved persons to participate in positive actions; c)

*We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of le conseil régional Nakonha:ka regional council  
and The Living Spirit Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation*





Living into Right Relations Leadership Team

[rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com](mailto:rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com)

conceive of and use imaginative and non-violent public actions to attract attention, inspire and create new sense of community among those seeking justice and right-living; d) foster stronger lobbies to address the levels of government, demanding the respectful and just treatment of all who live in Quebec. We are currently in process of hiring the project coordinator and hope to start the project by the first week of October, all things going well!

5. **Mohawk Bible Celebration & Dedication:** Pursuant to the deep generosity of so many donors, including the United Church of Canada Foundation, the Nakonha:Ka Regional Council, East Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC), Living Into Right Relations Leadership Team (LIRRLT), Anglican Diocese and others, the funds were found to enable a first printing of 1000 Mohawk Bibles! The launch was celebrated at Kanesatake United Church on September 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by a feast held at Kanesatake Ratihente High School. Over 100 attended, including friends from Nakonha:Ka Regional Council, EOORC Regional Council, the national Indigenous Church, Canadian Bible Society, Pentecostal and Jehovah's Witness, as well as local church and community members. Harvey Gabriel told the story of how the translation into Mohawk of all 66 books of the Bible came to be. Words of dedication were offered for this historic achievement on behalf of the faith and the implications the translation holds for the long-term survival of the Mohawk language as well. Copies of the beautifully designed (purple cover with gold embossing) Bible were given to special supporters of the project over so many years at a feast marking the occasion.

Over the summer, LIRRLT has been pleased to collaborate with leaders of the Property & Finance Leadership Team on a proposed initiative to fund the purchase of Mohawk Bibles to be distributed to our local Mohawk communities of faith and regionally to others as well.

6. **Rosemary Lambie Fund** – In early summer we were pleased to be asked to collaborate with those guiding the formation and guidelines for the recently created Rosemary Lambie Fund. This work is ongoing as we find together the right language and approach that may launch the fund in a way to be best received by those it will help and to be most effective in its purpose.
7. **Ongoing educational workshops** continue with the Kairos Blanket Exercise, which will be undergoing a new iteration/format. Details to follow in the fall.

*We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of le conseil régional Nakonha:ka regional council  
and The Living Spirit Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation*





Living into Right Relations Leadership Team

[rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com](mailto:rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Read Sherman, Jan Jorgensen, Lisa Byer-de Wever

Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle

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and The Living Spirit Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation*

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Appendix C<sup>1</sup>**Remit process (FAQs)**

Both Regional Councils AND the governing bodies (councils or boards) of pastoral charges vote on remits.

A majority must be obtained for each group (Regional Councils and Pastoral Charges).

A vote by members of the Regional Council does not indicate a congregation's support. These are two different things.

Failure to vote by the end of March 2024 is the equivalent of a 'no' vote. The 'yes' votes must exceed 50% of pastoral charges and 50% of regional councils.

Only 'yes' and 'no' can be recorded for this vote. No abstentions can be noted.

**Does this mean the indigenous church wants to separate?**

The motion is clear – an autonomous indigenous church would be established WITHIN the United Church of Canada.

**We want to see the structure before we vote!**

In an effort to decolonize our thinking and to live into being courageous community, we are making an intentional decision to not dictate or control the model that the indigenous church adopts that would suit its culture and its needs. That is why this remit is structured the way that it is, and why we do not have specific answers about the structure.

**What will this cost?**

The budgetary envelope for the indigenous church (while small relative to the wider church) has existed for years and would continue to exist in largely the same format.

Regional Council information sites:

[Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization - Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council \(eoorc.ca\)](https://eoorc.ca)

[Indigenous Justice & Respectful Relationships Forum - East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada \(ecorcuccan.ca\)](https://ecorcuccan.ca)

For more information: [Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization | United Church 44th General Council \(generalcouncil44.ca\)](https://generalcouncil44.ca)

Quick Link to the voting form: [Remits Authorized by the 44th General Council, 2022 \(generalcouncil44.ca\)](https://generalcouncil44.ca)

Appendix C<sup>2</sup>**DRAFT SCRIPT**

(Feel free to amend and edit this so that it is suited to your way of speaking... make it natural!)

*Hello, may I speak with \_\_\_\_\_?*

*This is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling from the United Church Regional Council.*

*I understand that you are the \_\_\_\_\_ (role) at \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of congregation). Is that correct?*

IF YES, CONTINUE

IF NO...

*Oh, do you have any responsibilities in the church anymore? (NOTE WHICH THOSE ARE)  
And can you tell me who is the current \_\_\_\_\_ (role) at your church?*

*We're calling through to all the United Church pastoral charges in the region to check in about the  
upcoming remit vote that needs to take place before the end of March. Have you heard about this remit?*

(YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND HERE IF THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT A REMIT IS, OR WHAT THIS ONE IS ABOUT)

*When the United Church decides to make certain decisions, they must get the approval of a majority of  
pastoral charges to make it official. The current remit is in regards to the status of the Indigenous church  
and creating an autonomous body within the United Church, managed by indigenous leadership, that can  
look after the affairs of the Indigenous church in a way that meets their needs.*

*Has your pastoral charge had a chance to discuss it?*

(TAKE NOTE HERE OF WHEN THEY DISCUSSED IT, WHEN THEY PLAN TO VOTE ON IT IF THEY HAVE A DATE ESTABLISHED ALREADY).

*Pastoral charges that do not vote are considered to have voted 'No', which is why we are doing all we can  
to make sure that folks take the time to vote.*

*Did you know that there will be an information session being offered to anyone who sits on the board or  
council of their local church? It's being held on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm by Zoom. I can send you the link if  
you'd like to share it with members of the board or council of your pastoral charge.*

*<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85372530647?pwd=bUh2aE5ldVA4WFFYckVZRTJSVXpJQT09>. We'd  
encourage folks to attend if they have any questions.*

*Generally speaking, is there someone who should be on our mailing lists in your congregation so that we  
can share information between the Regional Council and the community of faith?*

(TAKE DOWN THIS NAME AND CONTACT).

*If you need any information or have any questions, please let me know.*

(LEAVE A PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL).

*Thanks for your time and for your help in ensuring that your pastoral charge votes. Have a good  
day/evening!*

Appendix D<sup>(EN)</sup>

**Supporting Networks and Clusters**  
**David-Roger Gagnon, Minister**  
**21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2023**  
**Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive**

**Cluster Development Work**

- For the *West Island & Riverside Cluster*, during the Summer, the Communities of Faith (CoF) all contributed to the shared worship, with each CoF serving as host for at least one Sunday. The CoFs took the Summer to explore in depth the Strategic Plan, using different parts of the fish as themes for each Sunday. Several CoFs will take part in a shared worship on October 1<sup>st</sup> for World Communion Sunday.
- For the *Saint-Francis Cluster*, meetings will resume in the coming weeks. The project to establish a collaborative approach to pastoral presence is on pause.
- For the *South Shore & Valleys Cluster*, they met for a shared worship celebration on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Kahnawà:ke. Almost all the CoFs were represented, and the church was full. The group shared a feast after worship thanks to the welcome of the community of Kahnawà:ke. Thank you to Robert Patton and Jan Jorgensen and all the members of the community for their welcome!
- For the *LAM Cluster* (Laurentian Area Ministries), the CoFs decided to offer a faith development programme across the cluster using the programme that I created, “*Digging Deeper*”, which twins the *Song of Faith* with the series “*The Chosen*”.
- For *Yamaska-Shefford*, the group celebrated three shared worship services during the year. For the near future, the group decided not to form a cluster, but the CoFs will share the 3 worship services for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of this liturgical year.
- Their conversation continues with communities of faith in the *Missisquoi* sector to explore the possibility of collaboration. A new CoF has joined the conversation.

**Network Development Work -Leadership Teams and Circles**

- The Team for the *Strategic Plan*, VisionAction, is in full public consultation process on the stats and ideas which have already been collected in order to help participants formulate directions and possible paths for the plan for 2024.
- The « *Living in Right Relations* » consultations will soon take place for Remit # 1. And the Living in Right Relations Circle will play an important role in the awareness raising process.
- The « *Justice & Communities* » wishes to resume activities shortly.
- « *Pride & Friends* » Network: For the moment, the network is on pause.
- The *Affirm United Process Group* specifically put itself on pause to leave space for the Affirm United/S’Affirmer ensemble Conference which was held at Beaconsfield United Church. All our thanks to the whole team that worked day and night to make sure that the event was a success!
- The « *Environment* » Network: Judy Coffin continues to share information for events and we are encouraging members to connect with the Green Faith project.

**Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montréal**

The Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Greater Montréal is sad to see our president, Rabbi Sherril Gilbert, leave her position to take on new responsibilities in formation at the seminary of their denomination. We owe her an

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enormous recognition for her great openness to working with the United Church through some difficult moments, and despite all, having asked us to be Hosting Church for the Christian Commemoration of the Shoah twice in the past few years. Every success in her new responsibilities !

*Retreat for All who offer Ministry in the Nakonha :ka Family*

The retreat will take place next weekend, the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September and 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

We have 45 who will participate Saturday, which is the day for all who offer ministry, lay and ordered.

Thank you VERY MUCH to the planning team for your dedication to this project!

*Ensemble, Chantons! – Then, Let Us Sing! – Hymnal Project*

The Sampler is now ready for CoFs who wish to evaluate the hymns that are suggested for inclusion in the new collection. If your CoF wishes to take part in the process of evaluation of the Sampler, please, let me know.

*The Birth of New Faith Communities – in Longueuil and in Joliette*

The new Ministère francophone de Longueuil continues to grow. Conversations have begun with one of our churches in the hopes of finding them an appropriate worship space. The Community Centre (an old school) does not allow space for Sunday School, and restricts them a great deal in their outreach work.

There is also a francophone-Malagasy community in Juliette that is taking shape. I am working with La Table in the hopes of finding them a church in that area which will allow them to pursue their growing work. The Diocèse de Joliette will be approached in order to see if one of the disaffected churches in la Nouvelle-Acadie could be rented for a period of time.

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

Minister Supporting Networks and Clusters

Appendix D<sup>(FR)</sup>**Soutien aux réseaux et aux regroupements****David-Roger Gagnon, responsable****21 septembre 2023****Exécutif du Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council****Travail – développement des Regroupements**

- Pour le regroupement de ***l'Ouest de l'Île & Riverside***, pendant l'été, les paroisses ont continué les célébrations de cultes toute ensemble, avec chaque paroisse servant comme hôte pour au moins un dimanche. Les paroisses ont pris l'été pour explorer d'avantage le Plan stratégique, utilisant les différentes parties du poisson comme thématiques pour chaque dimanche. Plusieurs paroisses vont participer dans un culte partagé pour le 1<sup>e</sup> Octobre pour le dimanche global de la Communion.
- Pour le regroupement ***Saint-François***, les réunions reprendront dans les prochaines semaines. Le projet pour établir une approche collaborative de présence pastorale est sur pause.
- Le regroupement ***Rive-Sud & Vallées*** se sont donnés rendez-vous pour un culte partagé le 13 juin à Kahnawà:ke. Presque toutes les paroisses ont été représenté, et l'église était pleine. Le groupe a partagé un festin après le culte grâce à l'accueil de la communauté de Kahnawà:ke. Merci à Robert Patton et Jan Jorgenson et tous les membres de la communauté de leur accueil !
- Pour le regroupement ***LAM*** (MRL - Ministères régional des Laurentides), les paroisses ont décidé d'offrir un programme d'approfondissement de la foi à travers le regroupement en utilisant le programme que j'ai créé, « *Digging Deeper* », qui jumelle *Le Chant de la foi* et la série « *The Chosen* ».
- Pour le groupe ***Yamaska-Shefford***, le groupe a célébré trois cultes conjointes pendant l'année. Pour le proche avenir, le groupe a décidé de ne pas former un regroupement, mais les paroisses vont partager les 3 cultes sur les 5<sup>e</sup> dimanches cette année liturgique.
- La conversation continue avec des paroisses dans le secteur ***Missisquoi*** pour explore une possible collaboration. Une nouvelle paroisse s'est jointe à la conversation.

**Travail – le développement des Réseaux – Équipes et Cercles de Leadership**

- L'Équipe pour le ***Plan Stratégique***, VisionAction, est en plein processus de consultations publiques sur les données et les idées qui ont déjà été cueillis afin d'aider les participant.e.s à formuler des directions et sentiers possibles pour le plan pour 2024.
- Le Cercle de leadership « ***Relations justes*** »; les consultations auront lieu sous peu sur la Remise Numéro 1. Et le Cercle de leadership Relations Justes joue un rôle important dans le processus de sensibilisation.
- L'équipe de Leadership « ***Justice et communautés*** » souhaite reprendre ses activités sous peu.
- Le réseau « ***Fierté et amies et ami.e.s*** » : Pour le moment, le réseau est en pause.
- Groupe du Processus ***S'Affirmer ensemble*** s'est mis sur pause spécifiquement pour laisser la place au Congrès de Affirm United/S'Affirmer ensemble qui a eu lieu à L'Église Unie de Beaconsfield. Tous nos remerciements à toute l'équipe qui ont œuvré jour et nuit afin d'assurer que l'événement soit un succès!
- Le réseau « ***Environnement*** » : Judy Coffin continue de partager les renseignements pour les événements et nous encourageons les membres de se connecter avec le projet La foi verte (Green Faith).

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**Dialogue Judéo-Chrétien de grand Montréal**

Le Dialogue Judéo-Chrétien de Grand Montréal est triste de voir notre présidente, Rabbi Sherril Gilbert, quitter son poste pour prendre de nouvelles responsabilités en formation au séminaire de leur dénomination. Nous lui devons énormément de reconnaissance pour sa grande ouverture à travailler avec l'Église Unie à travers des moments difficile, et malgré tout, de nous avoir demandé d'être l'église hôte de la Commémoration Chrétienne de la Shoah deux fois dans les dernières années. Bon succès dans ses nouvelles responsabilités!

**Retraite Pour Toutes qui offrent un Ministère dans la Famille Nakonha:ka**

La retraite aura lieu la fin de semaine prochaine, le 29 & 30 septembre et 1<sup>er</sup> octobre.

Nous avons 45 dans l'assistance samedi, qui est la journée de toutes qui offre un ministère, laïque et ordonnés.

Merci BEAUCOUP à l'équipe de planification de votre dévouement à ce projet !

**Ensemble, Chantons! – Then, Let Us Sing! - Projet de recueil de chants**

L'échantillon est maintenant prêt pour les paroisses qui souhaitent essayer et évaluer les chants qui sont suggérer pour inclusion dans la nouvelle collection. Si votre paroisse souhaite faire partie du processus d'évaluation de l'échantillon, s'il vous plaît, faites-moi signe.

**La Naissance de nouvelles communautés de foi –à Longueuil & à Joliette**

Le nouveau Ministère francophone de Longueuil continue de grandir. Des conversations ont débuté avec une de nos églises dans l'espoir de leur trouver un lieu de culte plus appropriés. Le centre communautaire (une ancienne école) ne permet pas l'espace pour une école de dimanche, et les restreindre beaucoup dans leur travail d'outreach.

Il y a aussi une communauté francophone-malgache à Joliette qui se dessine. Je travail avec La Table dans l'espoir de trouver une église dans cette région qui les permettra de poursuivre leur travail de croissance. Le Diocèse de Joliette sera approché afin de voir si une des églises désaffectées dans la Nouvelle Acadie pourrait être louer pour une période de temps.

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

Responsable des réseaux et des regroupements











 **Central regional Nakamoka Regional Council UCC**  
@centralregional\_ucc · May 1  
"Our language – that's our identity" Kanesatake man  
translates Bible into Mohawk  
nnnpipapawbe.cdnnewslocal.mey via @mtgazette  
#Nakamoka #UCCan #egitassunee #MohawkBible  
#KanesatakeUC

Appendix E<sup>2(EN)</sup>**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN 2024**

In order to develop a strategic communications plan which allows maximum impact with minimum turnaround, as well as offering relevant, consistent and timely communications to the general public (external) as well as within the regional council (internal), I recommend that we identify, discern and develop the following resources.

**1) EDITORIAL TEAM**

- a. Create a small editorial team (maximum 3-4 people) who will help guide and shape a strategic internal and external communications plan on behalf of the regional council.
- b. Identify strategic objectives and measurable outcomes.

**2) LIST OF RELEVANT TOPICS**

- a. Identify current and future public issues that we, as members of The United Church of Canada in Quebec, may have a unique prophetic voice to share  
(eg. LGBTQ2S+, refugees and newcomers, anti-racism, accessibility, right relations, climate justice, medical assistance in dying, etc.)

**3) TEAM OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS**

- a. Identify and invite subject matter experts from our regional council (preferably bilingual) who may be qualified and available to speak on each of our core issues on demand
- b. Work with subject matter experts to create proactive media releases for each topic that may be customized as current news events arise
- c. Discern list of relevant hashtags (English and French) to use in social media posts
- d. Identify journalists and media outlets who specialize in relevant topics and build connections

**4) COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR 2024**

- a. Identify relevant commemorative / awareness days/weeks/months/events  
(international, national, provincial, local communities)
- b. Identify UCCan special days and events  
(national, regional, local)
- c. Identify key days and events from other religions and cultures
- d. Develop messages and collect resources linked to special days and events and schedule into calendar for newsletter, social media, press releases, etc.

Appendix E<sup>2(FR)</sup>**PLAN STRATÉGIQUE DE COMMUNICATION 2024**

Afin d'élaborer un plan stratégique de communication qui permette d'obtenir un impact maximal avec un délai minimal, et d'offrir des communications pertinentes, cohérentes et opportunes au grand public (externe) ainsi qu'au sein du conseil régional (interne), je recommande que nous identifions, discernions et développons les ressources suivantes.

**1) ÉQUIPE ÉDITORIALE**

- a. Créer une petite équipe éditoriale (3-4 personnes maximum) qui aidera à orienter et à façonner un plan stratégique de communication interne et externe au nom du conseil régional.
- b. Identifier les objectifs stratégiques et les résultats mesurables.

**2) LISTE DES SUJETS PERTINENTS**

- a. Identifier les enjeux publics actuels et futurs pour lesquels nous, en tant que membres de l'Église Unie du Canada au Québec, pouvons avoir une voix prophétique unique à partager (*p. ex. LGBTQ2S+, personnes réfugiées et nouveaux arrivants, lutte contre le racisme, accessibilité, vivre en relations justes, justice climatique, l'aide médicale à mourir, etc.*)

**3) ÉQUIPE D'EXPERTS À PROPOS DES SUJETS PERTINENTS**

- a. Identifier et inviter des experts à propos des sujets pertinents parmi les membres de notre conseil régional (de préférence bilingues) qui pourraient être qualifié(e)s et disponibles sur demande pour s'exprimer sur chacune de nos questions centrales.
- b. Travailler avec les experts à propos des sujets pertinents pour créer des communiqués de presse proactifs pour chaque sujet, qui pourront être adaptés en fonction de l'actualité.
- c. Déterminer la liste des hashtags pertinents (en anglais et en français) à utiliser dans les publications sur les médias sociaux
- d. Identifier les journalistes et les médias spécialisés dans les sujets pertinents et établir des liens.

**4) CALENDRIER DE COMMUNICATION 2024**

- a. Identifier les jours/semaines/mois/événements commémoratifs/de sensibilisation pertinents (*communautés internationales, nationales, provinciales, locales*)
- b. Identifier les journées et événements spéciaux de l'Église Unie du Canada (nationaux, régionaux, locaux)
- c. Identifier des jours et des événements clés dans d'autres religions et cultures
- d. Élaborer des messages et collecter des ressources liées aux journées et événements spéciaux et les intégrer au calendrier pour les bulletins d'information, les médias sociaux, les communiqués de presse, etc.



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Appendix G

**The United Church of Canada  
Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council  
Nominations Leadership Team**

Study on the role of Nominations and the composition of the Executive  
Commissioned by the Regional Council June 4 2023

Meeting July 5 2023

Over the next 6 weeks the Nomination Team will read through RC Handbooks to learn about the policies of other RC's approaches. 7 RC's have been chosen to be the beginning of this study (see list below). As we read these handbooks we will keep 3 questions in mind:

- 1) How are other RCs different from ours? How is our RC special? What other RC ideas could work well within our RC?
- 2) What exactly does the executive do? (including: What can the executive do?) Answered through a comparative study of other RCs.
- 3) What is the process to enable the RC in the formation of the executive? How does the process empower individuals and communities to participate?

To enable our questioning we will also read from our own Handbook, specifically the section on the Nomination LT (pg 18-19) and the section on the Executive (pg15-17), as well as The Manual, specifically the section on the responsibilities of the GC Executive (pg 94-98) and the section on the responsibilities of the Regional Council (pg 75-83).

Regional Council Handbooks included in this phase of the study:

- \*Eastern Ontario Outaouais RC
- \*Eastern Central Ontario RC
- \*Canadian Shield RC
- \*Chinook Winds RC
- \*Horseshoe Falls RC
- \*Pacific Mountain RC
- \*Prairie to Pine RC

(these documents were all sourced from the website of the regional councils)

## Appendix H

**Report from the Genreal Meeting Planning Leadership Team**

The planning team of the Regional Council held their meeting on Sept 7 via zoom below are a few points that we started discussing for our November meeting. Our next team meeting is Oct 5

- Judy Coffin informed that registration will be done using the Regional Council website. It was highlighted that Zoom registration created problems during the last meeting. Judy shared that the general meeting dates (November 24-25, 2023) in the newsletter.
- Information Session: *Remit -1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization*: October 4<sup>th</sup> (EN) and 11<sup>th</sup> (FR) –. *Vision Action* and *Budget 2024* may also be holding information sessions. It was suggested to hold these information Sessions at least two weeks prior to meeting.
- Theme for the Regional meeting in November will be: 'Strengthening Invitation' - « Intensifier l'invitation : Faire preuve d'humilité et de confiance dans le partage de la foi »
- Questions to accompany registration form: All were asked to think about what might be asked and how we can really be a Welcoming Church
- It was noted that Jennifer Mountain has offered to share a debriefing session (learning session) to anyone who is interested after she attends The Moderator's Evolving Faith event in October

At our next meeting we will pull together our ideas and draft for the meeting of November 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>

**What are best practices to create high quality children's spaces in Church?**

The following notes are the reflections of four leaders in First Third Ministry, during our first conversation on this subject. We wanted to reflect on the question, what makes a good and friendly space for kids and youth at church? We have some ideas, and also many more questions. We hope that this conversation will continue and that with some collaboration and creativity we can create more flourishing Children's ministry spaces.

- **"Space" in this discussion doesn't just mean physical space, but also space in our brains, hearts and our planning.**
- **Intentional space for children in Churches feels rare and is deeply desired.**

Important Questions to consider:

- What is the context, culture and previous experiences which inform the families in community where you worship?
- What are some barriers that they might face, which prevents church from being a safe, accessible and welcoming space for them?
- Who are your kids, and what feels good for them?
- What is the purpose of the activities you want to offer to children?
  - Kids activities have many purposes – fidget and continue to pay attention and or experience the story in a different way.
  - We can accidentally fall down the slope of doing activities that have nothing to do with anything in an attempt to avoid coming on too strong with religious language.
- When, and where will you maintain and build this connection and community?

**What are some key steps to creating welcoming and inviting spaces for families?**

- Making a space homey, with colour, flexible seating, lights and comforting objects.
- Taking care of the space and maintaining it is important.
- Each space is different, and there are advantages of making a kid's space in the front vs back of the church. You need to explore what serves your community best.
  - What direction are the kids facing?
  - Can they see the action?
  - Where are the bathrooms?
- Intentional welcome into spaces
  - Clear signage free of jargon, in the languages of the community when possible.
  - Someone at the door to show people where to go, and offer them choices
  - Creative use outdoor spaces – nature is a great tool.

Some considerations about the supplies for pew bags or in children's spaces:

- Having a dedicated volunteer to create, maintain and refresh children's spaces is vital.
- Broken and used tools and supplies are not serving anyone.
- Markers dry out, and if you love markers, make sure they are washable.
- Pencil crayons require some effort to maintain, but are good for big kids
- Wax crayons/twistable crayons are great for little hands
- Fidget toys, books, playdough, foam blocks and small vehicles are all easily acquired and can provide lots of creative and engaging play.



- Flexible seating, including chairs of all sizes and shapes can remove barriers of access.

How can we tangibly strengthen invitation for families and young people?

- A well-placed invitation – sending a personal individual message to invite someone. Do not rely on announcements and social media. Personal connection will win every time.
- Creating easy and accessible ways to connect further – online sign-ups, QR codes in public spaces.
- Helping someone sign up for the newsletter
- Hosting Family Friendly community events for folks who do not connect with Sunday morning but are curious about church.
- Maintaining contact by other means – the phone tree doesn't just need to be for emergencies
- A dedicated children's space in the sanctuary can have unintended benefits to the wider community, and create awareness of your church as a welcoming space for kids.

Our thoughts about “Children's Time” (Also known as, “time for the young at heart, or “WOW” worship our way – Lisa Byers etc. )

- What is your objective? Children's time is about presenting the story in a different way then how it will be presenting to the adults.
- Avoid children performing for the adults' entertainment.
- The leader should move to the kids, instead of the kids needing to move to them – prioritise kids and reduce stress.
- Questions can be open to everyone.
- Avoid putting children on the spot.
- Participation is optional. Reinforce CONSENT all the time. Children need to learn their bodily autonomy is valid, and sometimes adults need a reminder as well.
- Diverse, experiential & multisensory learning are best!

Why does Sunday school even exist? Do you want a Sunday school?

- It existed to solve a problem of space – the baby boom created a need for childcare a reorganization of church space usage. It was not born out of a philosophical position or from well researched pedagogy.
- Nostalgia tells lies: early 20<sup>th</sup> century children's church classrooms were not ideal learning environments.
- Sunday school can be fun, but why is church boring?
- Children may feel excluded when they are shooed away, while others might crave the space of belonging with their peers.
- Do we take the kids to a different place to accommodate their needs, or the needs of the adults?