

**Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council**  
**Meeting of the Executive**  
**Thursday, November 16, 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
Adedeji Sunday Akintayo	Member
Denis Ashby	Member at large, Rep. First Third Ministries
Peter Bisset	Member, Finance and Extension Board
Rev. Barbara Bryce	Member, Granting and Enabling Leadership Team
Rev. Linda Buchanan	Member at large, Past-President
Valerie Epps-Nickson	Member, General Meeting Planning Team
Rev. Christine Marie Gladu	Member, Pastoral Relations
Rev. Pierre Goldberger	Member, La Table
Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly	Member, Executive Minister
Erika (Qian) Liang	Member
Rev. Read Sherman	Member, Living into Right Relations
Paul Stanfield	Member, Treasurer
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**

Rev. Marie-Claude Manga	Member at Large
Fred Braman	Member, Property and Finance
Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho	Member at large
Bailey Eastwood	Member, Community and Justice
Rev. Tami Spires	Member at Large
Shanna Bernier	Corresponding Member, Youth, Young Adult and Families Ministries

**GUESTS**

Rev. Helen Hliaras, Chair, VisionAction Team

This meeting received recommendations from the Pastoral Relations Team, in particular, licensed a Sacrament Elder and to made changes to a pastoral relationship; updated the 2023-24 Voluntary Associate Minister list; received recommendations from the Property & Finance leadership Team, in particular, in regards to the regional council's 2024 budget, the Knowlton United Church Ministry Plan, and the Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund; received recommendations from the Finance & Extension Board, in particular, in regards to its 2024 budget, and sabbatical leaves for ministry personnel; considered a Regional Council Policy regarding retired Designated Lay Ministers; and received reports from VisionAction (in regards to the Strategic Plan), Ministries in French (La Table), the Minister for Community of Faith, Cluster & Networks, Communications, the General Meeting Planning Leadership Team, and First Thirds Ministries.

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**Land Acknowledgement and Opening Devotions** – Rev. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister opened the meeting by acknowledgement the land, giving thanks to First Nations Peoples for their stewardship of the land, and called all to continue to work towards truth and reconciliation. Dan led devotions with an Invitation (call and response); sharing the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46 and sharing a meditation on the shared Gospel and the tension that exist in the Reign of Christ. Dan made reference to Peter Rollins' book, *Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales*, and then shared 'A Prayer Prior to a Church Meeting' (resource *Celebrate God's Presence*). Dan closed this time of devotion with a benediction: "May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road; May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve; May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love. May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you (resource *Voices United*).

**Calling to Order** – Marc Grenon, President, called the meeting to order at 9:27 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.

#### **Agenda**

**2023-11-16\_001 MOTION** (P. Bisset/L. Buchanan) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

**ORDER OF THE DAY 10 AM** – Rev. Helen Hliaras on behalf of VisionAction/ RC Strategic Plan

#### **Equity Support Person**

**2023-11-16\_002 MOTION** (B. Bryce/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Rev. Christine Marie Gladu as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

#### **Minutes of October 16, 2023**

**2023-11-16\_003 MOTION** (C-M Gladu/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of October 16, 2023 as circulated. **CARRIED**

#### **Email Poll of October 23, 2023**

**2023-11-16\_004 MOTION** (P. Standfield/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha: ka Regional Council Executive receive into its minutes the email poll of October 23, 2023:

*2023-10-23\_001 MOTION (F. Braman/P. Stanfield) Whereas on August 28, 2023 the Regional Council adopted the following motion:*

*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 Knowlton United Church to sell their land and building situated at 234 chemin de Knowlton, Knowlton (Brome Lake), QC JOE 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.*

*Whereas the parties have agreed to amend the documentation to change the name of the Buyer to La Fondation Kamaredine.*

*RESOLVED that the Regional Council motion of August 28, 2023 for the sale of the land and building of Knowlton United Church is amended, on the recommendation of its Property and Finance Leadership Team, to concur in the request of the Trustees of Knowlton United Church to change the name of the Buyer from Propriétés Kamaredine Inc to La Fondation Kamaredine (The Kamaredine Foundation). CARRIED*

### **CARRIED**

#### **Correspondence In**

- a) October 19, 2023, Rabbi Schachar Orenstein, re appreciation for letter of support and solidarity sent from the Regional Council (*for information*);
- b) October 20, 2023, Samer Laham, re appreciation for letter of support and solidarity sent from the Regional Council (*for information*);
- c) October 31, 2023, Rabbi Sherril Gilbert, Co-Executive Director, ALEPH Canada (Alliance for Jewish Renewal in Canada), re appreciation for letter of support and solidarity sent from the Regional Council (*for information*);
- d) November 15, 2023, Yair Szlak, President and Chief Executive Officer, Federation CJA, re thanks to President of Regional Council for sending letter of support (*for information*);

#### **Correspondence Out**

- e) October 19, 2023, to Rabbi Sherril Gilbert, Co-Executive Director, ALEPH Canada (Alliance for Jewish Renewal in Canada), from Marc Grenon, Nakonha:ka Regional Council President, re offer of support and solidarity (*for information*);
- f) October 19, 2023, to Rabbi Schachar Orenstein, from Marc Grenon, Nakonha:ka Regional Council President, re offer of support and solidarity (*for information*);
- g) October 19, 2023, to Samer Laham, from Marc Grenon, Nakonha:ka Regional Council President, re offer of support and solidarity (*for information*);
- h) October 26, 2023, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Steve Lawson, Knowlton United Church (and Notary) re Amended Certificate for sale of Knowlton United Church (*for information*);
- i) October 31, 2023, Annie Namala and Samer Laham, Partner Council members, expressing thanks to the Regional Council for their welcome (*for information*);
- j) November 9, 2023, to Synagogue Beth Tikvah, from Marc Grenon, Nakonha:ka Regional Council President, re offer of support and solidarity (*for information*);
- k) November 9, 2023, to Federation CJA (Combined Jewish Appeal), from Marc Grenon, Nakonha:ka Regional Council President, re offer of support and solidarity (*for information*);
- l) November 10, 2023 Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho, Plymouth Trinity United Church re Trinity Centres Foundation (*for information*);

Discussion: It was suggested to share the letters of support and their responses widely throughout the Regional Council. It was highlighted that there was an article from Samuel V. Dansokho about the partner council visit in the last newsletter, and there will be another article from Paula in next week's newsletter. I will add a mention of the regional council letters of solidarity to partners regarding the current situation in Gaza/Israel (and a link to the actual correspondence sent out and received) in the next newsletter

#### **Business arising**

Supporting and enhancing the life of Communities of Faith where ministry takes place
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1. **Pastoral Relations** – Rev. Christine Marie Gladu

**2023-11-16\_005 MOTION** (C-M Gladu/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that, having successfully completed the Sacraments Elder training program overseen by the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, Mardiros Eglenceyan be licensed as Sacraments Elder in the Armenian Evangelical Pastoral Charge for the period December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024. **CARRIED**

**2023-11-16\_006 MOTION** (C-M Gladu/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to approve the request of Rev. David Lefneski and the Cowansville Area Pastoral Charge to change the terms of his pastoral relationship, from 20 to 10 hours/week, effective February 1, 2024, until his official date of retirement on July 1, 2024. **CARRIED**

2. **Voluntary Associate Minister (2023-24)** – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly

**2023-11-16\_007 MOTION** (B. Bryce/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive for information, and add the following person to the list of names of Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM) (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	
Frank	Giffen	Lakeshore Trinity United Church	

**CARRIED**

3. **Order of the Day (10 AM) VisionAction** – Rev. Helen Hliaras, Chair of Team

- see *Strategic Plan (final draft)* as **Appendix A**

**2023-11-16\_008 MOTION** (B. Bryce/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive make Rev. Helen Hliaras a corresponding member for the purposes of this meeting.

**CARRIED**

It was highlighted that the strategic plan is a living document and will help guide moving forward, as well as being able to be refined.

Thanks, and appreciation were extended to Rev. Helen Hliaras for her leadership and role of bringing a strategic plan to the regional council, and for her willingness to present this morning.

**Break (10:25 AM)** – a 10 min.

4. **Property & Finance Leadership Team (PFLT)** – Paul Stanfield

- See *Proposed RC 2024 Budget* as **Appendix B**

a) **Proposed 2024 Budget**

**2023-11-16\_009 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with recommendation of the Property and Finance Leadership Team to approve the draft 2024 budget and present at the Regional Council Fall General Meeting. **CARRIED**

Items of note:

The expected creation of the Rosemary Lambie Memorial Fund (\$100,000) in the 2023 Estimated Actual expenses as a withdrawal from the Contingency Reserve Fund. This reduces the level of the Contingency Reserve Fund at the start of 2024 to \$406,000.

The budgeted reduction in 2024 of the Contingency Reserve Fund of over \$69,000, somewhat higher than the previously anticipated reduction of \$60,000 or about the same as the reduction in the transfer from GCO for Mission and Service.

b) **Knowlton – Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge** – Paul Stanfield

- See *Knowlton United Church Ministry Plan* as **Appendix C**

**2023-11-16\_010 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with recommendation of the Property and Finance Leadership Team to, approve the Ministry Plan of Knowlton-Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge for 2023-24 for half-time ministry and a drawdown limited to 8% of its endowment funds annually with this Ministry Plan continuing through 2027 unless extra drawdowns are approved by Regional Council with the expectation that a new Ministry Plan will be submitted for the years after 2027 by the end of 2027 for approval by Regional Council. **CARRIED**

c) **Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund** – Peter Bisset

**2023-11-16\_011 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concurs with recommendation of the Property and Finance Leadership Team that communities of faith be given a deadline of December 31, 2023 to apply for grants from the Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund, with the exception of Hudson Pastoral Charge, which will be given an extension until September 30, 2024. **CARRIED**

5. **Finance & Extension Board** – Paul Stanfield

- See *Proposed F&E 2024 Budget* as **Appendix D**

**2023-11-16\_012 MOTION** (Paul Stanfield/ Peter Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the 2024 Budget for the Finance and Extension Board as presented. **CARRIED**

**2023-11-16\_013 MOTION** (Paul Stanfield/ Peter Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accepts the Sabbatical Leave Committee of the Finance and Extension Board's recommendation to approve the requests for Sabbatical Leave 2024 of:

1. Rev. Helen Hliaras, Minister of the faith community of Riverside United Church; mid-January – mid-March 2024 (two consecutive months) & December 2024
2. Rev. Birgit Neuschild, Minister of the faith community of Greenfield Park United Church; August, September & October 2024

for a time of reflection, renewal and new perspectives for ministry. The sabbatical leave is granted for a period of three months as outlined in the proposal of the applicants and does not include the regular time of vacation. Up to \$15,000 in funding is available for the sabbatical, which will cover all the ministers' contingency replacement costs and some eligible personal costs as well. **CARRIED**

6. **Regional Council Policy regarding retired Designated Lay Ministers (in response to GS 57 Ministry Leadership to Meet the Needs of The Church in the 2020s, Part B Designated Lay Ministry)** – Rev Eric Hebert-Daly

**2023-11-16\_014 MOTION** (B. Bryce/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive grant corresponding membership and sacramental privileges to all those who are retired from active ministry as Designated Lay Ministers, and make them eligible to apply for Voluntary Associate Minister status. Furthermore, that those who continue to be Designated Lay Ministers or who are currently completing studies to become a Designated Lay Minister, be permitted to carry their status and serve other Communities of Faith. **CARRIED**

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Note: The Regional Council has a DLM in an appointment, a DLM candidate in a Supervised Ministry Education appointment, and a person who retired as a DLM.

7. **La Table** – Rev. Pierre Goldberger

- See *Rapport d'activités des Ministères en français* as **Appendix E**

Pierre raised the concern for the lack of accompaniment for francophone's formation for leadership within the Church. Pierre also expressed that there is a desire to have accompaniment with emerging and diasporic communities of faith. There was a sense of urgency expressed, and the hope is that proposals will come to the next Executive.

8. **Community of Faith/ Clusters/Networks** – David Roger Gagnon highlighted items in his report.

- See *Report from Minister Supporting Communities of Faith, Clusters & Networks* as **Appendix F<sup>(EN)</sup>** and **F<sup>(FR)</sup>**

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
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9. **Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle (LIRR)** – Rev. Read Sherman shared details from the report.

- See *Report from LIRR* as **Appendix G**

Building Communications
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10. **Communications**– Judy Coffin reiterated to keep the good news stories coming-in!

- see *Communications Report* as **Appendix H<sup>(EN)</sup>** and **H<sup>(FR)</sup>**

11. **General Meeting Planning, checking in on agenda** – Valerie Nickson will be in contact with Fred Braman and Rick Sheffer re Rosemary Lambie Fund and when it can be presented during the General Meeting.

- See *Fall General Meeting Draft Agenda* as **Appendix I**
  - a) Fall General Meeting Draft Agenda
  - b) Date of Annual General Meeting (March 15-16, 2024)
  - c) Spring General Meeting (May 25, 2024)

12. **First Thirds Ministry** – Denis Ashby highlighted items in the report.

- See *Fall General Meeting Draft Agenda* as **Appendix J**

13. **Nominations** – Rev. Linda Buchanan

- a) President-Elect vacancy – remains vacant for time being
- b) Executive model - work continues to develop

**New Business** –

a) Next Executive Meeting

There was consensus that the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be cancelled and that the Executive will reconvene on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements** – Valerie shared that the sold building in Delson has now been granted permission from the municipality to renovate (there was opposition in previous months).

**Equity Monitor Reporting** – Rev. Marie-Christine Gladu

**Conclusion**

The Chair declares that all of the business having come before this meeting of the Executive has been duly completed, and that the meeting is concluded at 11:54 AM.

**Closing Prayer** – Paul Stanfield, Regional Council Treasurer, closed with a traditional Irish Blessing – “May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.”

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Marc Grenon  
Chair, President

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Rev. Éric Hébert Daly,  
Executive Minister

**Next meeting dates** - Thursday, January 18, 9:00 to noon on zoom  
- Thursday, February 15, 9:00 to noon on zoom

<b>Nakonha:ka Executive Duty Roster</b>			
<b>Responsabilités des membres de l'exécutif pour Nakonha:ka</b>			
	<b>Opening Devotions / Moment de réflexion</b>	<b>Equity Monitor / Équipe d'équité</b>	<b>Closing Prayer / Prière de clôture</b>
<i>Été/summer</i>			
<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. Dansokho
<i>18 apr/avr 2024</i>	Tami Spires	Pierre Goldberger	Christine-Marie Gladu
<i>16 may/mai 2024</i>	Erika Liang	Paul Stanfield	Valerie Epps- Nickson
<i>20 june/juin 2024</i>	<b>Valerie Nickson</b>	Adedeji Sunday- Akintayo	Denis Ashby

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**Appendices**

Appendix A	Regional Council Strategic Plan (draft)	Pages 9-19
Appendix B	Proposed Regional Council 2024 Budget	Pages 20-29
Appendix C	Knowlton United Church Ministry Plan	Pages 30-32
Appendix D	Proposed Finance & Extension Board 2024 Budget	Pages 33
Appendix E	Rapport d'activités des Ministères en français	Pages 34-35
Appendix F <sup>(EN)</sup>	Report of Minister Supporting Clusters and Networks	Pages 36-37
Appendix F <sup>(FR)</sup>	<i>Rapport du Responsable pour la soutien aux réseaux et aux regroupements</i>	Pages 38-39
Appendix G	Report from the Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle NRC	Page 40
Appendix H <sup>(EN)</sup>	Venue Communications Report	Pages 41-42
Appendix H <sup>(FR)</sup>	<i>Rapport à propos des communication</i>	Pages 43-44
Appendix I	Fall 2023 General Meeting Draft Agenda	Page 45-46
Appendix J	Youth Forum Report	Page 47-48