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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 28-29, 2025**

Theme: "Daring Justice in Humility"

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Annual General Meeting on Friday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**

**Ministry Personnel (30)**

Beryl Barraclough, Wayne Beamer, Norman Robert Boie, Dale Breitreutz, Barbara Bryce, Linda Buchanan, Florence Bukam, Kent Chown, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Pierre Goldberger, Attila Gyorgy, Éric Hébert-Daly, Lee Ann Hogle, Andrew Lairenge, Rosemary Lambie, Steve Lawson, Darryl Macdonald, Onias Masawi, Jennifer Mountain, Birgit Neuschild, Robert Patton, Angelika Piché, Cynthia Reynolds, Maureen Scott-Kabwe, Read Sherman, Darla Sloan, Phyllis Smyth, Tami Spires, Rolanda Taylor, and Doug Throop.

**Lay Delegates (27)**

Celestine Alimasi, Denis Ashby, Judy Bachelder, Carol Bircher, Peter Bisset, Diane Campbell, Jennifer Carroll, Margie Chesney, Elva Crawford, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Undeg Edwards, Vivienne Galanis, Gerard Gouw, Tessa Griffin, Charlotte Griffith, Thomas Kent, Janice Knowles, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Valerie Nickson, Dorothy Shaw, Frederick (Rick) Sheffer, Paul Stanfield, Diane Stevenson-Cantin, James Vanstone, and Vera Young.

**Corresponding Members - Candidates (7)**

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Peter Mulumeoderhwa Buhendwa, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Juyoung Lee, Erika Qian Liang, Ozioma Obijiofor and Virginia Wallace.

**Regional Council Staff (7)**

Aviyah Abrams, Shanna Bernier, Esther Guillen, Rev. Daniel Hayward, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly (voting member), Joel Miller and Brian Ruse.

**General Council Staff (3)**

Sarah Charters, CFRE, Executive Officer, Philanthropy, The United Church of Canada, President, United Church of Canada Foundation, Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, and Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Responsable des Ministères en français.

**Guests of the Regional Council (5)**

Hugh Ballem (interpreter), Alicia Loria (interpreter), Gerald Mc Intyre, Alma Patton and Sarah Wicks-Potter.

**Regrets (1)**

Elisabeth Jones.

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum.

EVENING SESSION  
March 28, 2025

**Registration**

Attendees were invited to log on at 6:30 PM for the evening session.

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### **Gathering Music**

*Amen*, song by Semler

*There is Room for All* (More Voices 62)

### **Special Instructions**

Rev. Kent Chown, Scrutineer and Technical Support, provided some Zoom instructions for this meeting, in particular, how to identify oneself, use the simultaneous translation feature, mute and unmute, raise and lower hand, use of chat and voting.

Norman Robert Boie thanked Shanna and Esther for selecting and preparing the gathering music, and Kent for Zoom technical instructions.

### **Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer**

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) greeted all in his native language of Mohawk and then led in the reciting of the Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer.

### **Welcoming to the Land**

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) welcomed delegates to Mohawk Territory of the Six Nations Confederacy:

We thank our Creator for providing us with His great gift of Mother Earth and for all he has provided for us.

Let us show our thanks and respect for her, by caring for her, by using only what is needed with gratitude everyday.

Let us greet each other with Kanoronkwatsera which means love, kindness and respect.

May our Sonkwaieatison, Creator, be with us as we gather.

Etonaieawen, Amen.

### **Reading from the Mohawk Bible**

Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom) read from the Mohawk Bible (Luke 15:1-7; The Parable of the Lost Sheep)

### **Land Acknowledgment**

Norman Robert Boie, President, led the land acknowledgement:

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

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

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

### **Welcoming Newcomers**

Norman Robert Boie invited newcomers to introduce themselves (the following presented themselves as newcomers): Juyoung Lee, Onias Masawi, Gerald H. McIntyre, Rev. Rolanda Taylor, Adeolu Ade-Benson, Celestine Massi (Under 30) and Peter Buhendwa.

### **Opening Worship**

Erika Leung led an Opening Prayer. Celestine Alimasi read Scripture Leviticus 19:32-34. Ozioma shared a reflection on Luke 15:1-7 “The Parable of the Lost Sheep” and contrasted this passage with The United Church of Canada’s continued participation in justice seeking and justice making initiative. Ozioma highlighted the Beaconsfield Initiative and provided some details surrounding the specific programs that are being through it. Juyoung shared a closing benediction.

Norman Robert Boie extended thanks to all who had taken the time to join this meeting, and all those who had taken part in the planning and preparations for this meeting.

### **Call to Order**

Norman Robert Boie, President, called the meeting to order

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

### **Omnibus Motion**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister

**2025-03-28-29\_001 MOTION** (E. Hebert-Daly/V. Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of November 1-2, 2024, Fall General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the Regional Council appoint BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. to conduct the Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s 2025 review engagement;
4. That the Regional Council appoint BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. to conduct the Finance & Extension Board’s 2025 review engagement;
5. That the Regional Council receive for information the following grant distributions for 2024-25:

a. **Kelley Fund Grants**

- Saint Lambert UC: Chimers Handbell Choir: \$1,500
- Beaconsfield UC: PAGTATANIM Conference: \$6,900
- Shawbridge United Church: Come for Breakfast: \$1,050

b. **Erskine & American – Mountainside Fund Grants**

- Auberge Madeleine: Hébergement et support pour femmes aînées en situation d’itinérance: \$15,000
- Beaconsfield UC: Refugee Support & Integration Program: \$35,000
- Beaconsfield UC: Peer Support Program – Refugees: \$8,000
- Camp Cosmos: Amazing Kids at Camp Expansion: \$15,000
- Camp Cosmos: Culture & Nature Program: \$12,500
- Cedar Park UC: Community Connections: \$7,000
- Montreal City Mission: Power Within: \$15,000
- Mount Royal United Church: Communauté francophone: \$9,000
- Riverside UC: Riverside Intercultural Ministry: \$30,000

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- Saint Columba House: Read to Succeed: \$11,000
  - Saint Lambert UC: Sanctuary Alive: \$12,000
  - St. Martha's Chapel: Ecumenical Weekly Young Adult Bible Study: \$15,000
  - West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: Youth Based Programming & Outreach: \$35,000

**c. Good Samaritan Fund Grants**

- Riverside UC: Out to Lunch Program: \$25,000
- Riverside UC: Riverside Cares: \$45,000
- Quebec Community Health Foundation: Patient Navigator Project: \$35,000
- Richmond-Melbourne UC: Seniors' Spiritual Awareness Program: \$35,000
- Montreal West UC: Extra Miles Senior Visiting Program: \$15,000
- Beaconsfield UC: BUC Seniors Programs: \$26,000
- Saint Paul's UC, Magog: Healthy Seniors' Living Exercise Program: \$23,500
- Cedar Park UC: Afternoon Tea Concerts for Seniors: \$5,900
- West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: Seniors' Programming: \$35,000
- Danville-Asbestos Trinity UC: English Conversation & Tea: \$9,000

**d. Rosemary Lambie Fund Grant**

- Camp Cosmos: Amazing Kids at Camp Expansion: \$5,000

**e. Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund Grant**

- Mission Protestante Francophone de Longueuil: Continuation de ministère de paroisse: \$15,000

**f. Trois-Rivieres French Ministry Fund Grant**

- Danville-Asbestos Trinity UC: French Ministry: \$7,000

**g. Bhal-Jun Fund Grants**

- Saint Columba House: \$10,000
- Montreal City Mission: Resonance – Where Faith & Secularity Meet: \$15,000

6. That candidates who are not in an appointment and those present as invited guests of this Regional Council be named as corresponding members of the Court;
7. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Valerie Nickson;
8. That Rev. Darryl Macdonald serve as Parliamentarian;
9. That the following people serve as Chaplain: Rev. Cynthia Reynolds and Rev. Pierre Goldberger;
10. That Rev. Dan Hayward and Erika Leung serve as the Equity Support Team;
11. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant and virtual manners:

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

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

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

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

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

Many Voices: And so, we commit to honouring our intercultural vision through welcoming the conflict of

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ideas; making space for the full and equitable participation of all, enabling especially people who are quiet to speak; being mindful of our body language; listening carefully without interruption and separate people from problems;

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

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

#### Virtual Manner

Use the Chat feature of Zoom appropriately:

-understanding that speaking in Public Chat is equivalent to speaking out loud in a meeting and is disruptive and rude and should be directed to the Chair of the meeting and used for Points of Order and/or matters of personal privilege;

-responding in Chat when invited to do so by the Chair;

-using direct messaging when desiring or needed to engage with another

Use of transcription not for use outside of the meeting/event.

### **CARRIED**

#### Equity Support Team

The following people were identified as Equity Support Persons for this meeting: Rev. Dan Hayward and Erika Lueng. Dan shared criteria for making a meeting more equitable.

#### Chaplains

The following people were introduced as Chaplains for this meeting: Rev. Cynthia Reynolds and Rev. Pierre Goldberger

#### Emerging Issues

Eric Hebert-Daly announced that time was worked into the agenda on Saturday to look at emerging issues and encouraged recommendations be sent to him before 8:45 p.m.

#### Strategic Plan Interim Report

- See *Strategic Plan Interim Report* as **Appendix B<sup>1</sup>**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared the interim report in detail, highlighting that it is now the springboard for 2025-26 focuses. He also mentioned that this report and its outcomes be affected by statistical projections for 2035; these projections will be shared publicly in the coming months.

Highlights included:

*Activity Stream 1: Build and Strengthen Relationships Between Regional Council and Communities of Faith* – A more intentional communication strategy must exist between the Regional Council and Communities of Faith. Communications from the communities of faith to the regional council needs to be facilitated in a way that allows for information to flow (i.e. following general meetings, when there are new representatives to the regional council, etc.). Esther Guillen, Community of Faith Support Minister, explained her role, and differentiated it from the focuses of Activity Stream 1.

*Activity Stream 3: Create at least 7 new communities of faith* – Question was asked: What would the accompanying persons do? Answer: To provide accompaniment (providing answers to questions, information about the UCC, etc.) to emerging ministries wanting to join/learn more about the UCC.

*Activity Stream 5: Expand the Regional Justice Network* – Dr. Esther Guillen and Bailey Eastwood will be meeting soon and anyone with a passion for expanding the regional justice network were invited/welcomed to attend.

*Activity Stream 7: Equip lay and ordered leaders to create spaces of intersection encouraging hope between communities of faith and local communities* – Dr. Esther Guillen can be contacted directly for more information.

*Activity Stream 8: Invigorate Worship – Then Let Us Sing!* hymnal resource will also be available in French (under *Ensembles chantons*!).

*Activity Stream 9: Strengthening First-Third Ministries* – See *First Third Ministries Strategic Plan* as **Appendix B<sup>2</sup>**

*Activity Stream 10: Strengthen Environment Network* – Question was asked: What was the goal of this network? Answer: To work with Communities of Faith who desired more focus on ecological justice, greening their church buildings, having conversations with others interested in Environmental issues.

Eric also highlighted the following points:

#### **Purpose of the regional council**

- Healthy communities of faith (service, support, oversight)
- Equipped leadership
- Good governance

#### **Challenges we face as a church in our context**

- Sufficient ministry personnel
- Finances
- Aging membership
- Failing infrastructure – human and buildings

a) **Break out Rooms** (the following questions were discussed in small discussion groups):

#### **Are we on the right Track?**

1. As we look to adjusting our strategic plan for 2026/2027:

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2. Are these the right priorities based on our role?
  3. What should we be doing to strengthen our ministries?

**2025-03-28-29\_002 MOTION** (É. Hébert-Daly/V. Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the Strategic Plan Interim Report as circulated (see *Strategic Plan Interim Report* as **Appendix B**).  
**CARRIED**

### **Good Night Blessings**

Juyoung Lee and Élisée shared in the reading of a closing Benediction. A video was shared (Passe-Partout) as part of the good night blessings.

## **MORNING SESSION** March 29, 2025

### **Gathering Time**

Attendees were invited to log on at 8:45 AM for the morning session.

### **Gathering Music**

*Justifié*, Belem Music

### **Special Instructions**

Rev. Kent Chown, Scrutineer and Technical Support, provided some Zoom instructions for this meeting, in particular, how to identify oneself, use the simultaneous translation feature, mute and unmute, raise and lower hand, use of chat and voting.

### **Welcoming to Session 2**

Norman Robert Boie welcomed additional newcomers who were not present during the Friday evening session to present themselves (the following person introduced themselves): Sarah Charters, CFRE, Executive Officer, Philanthropy, The United Church of Canada, President, United Church of Canada Foundation.

### **Morning Blessing**

Juyoung Lee led the Opening Prayer. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7) was shared in French with a video animation. Juyoung shared a brief reflection, and asked the question: How did the Shepherd lose his sheep? Juyoung emphasized that despite it all, Jesus, is intimately tied to those seeking Him. Erika Liang also shared a reflection and asked people to contemplate the following questions: What should we do in order to be worthy of being called a beloved disciple? What kinds of calling should be offered from the pulpit to the pew to help people to serve and feel worthy? Jesus is telling us not to train people to be perfect, rather to let the people know that they are beloved. Love is freely given. This time of reflection was followed by Sarah Wicks-Potter leading a closing prayer.

Norman Robert Boie thanked the worship team for preparing and leading worship.

### **Introduction of Dr. Esther Guillen, Community of Faith Support Minister**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly introduced Dr. Esther Gillan, Community of Faith Support Minister, and outlined some of her responsibilities.

### **Introduction of Aviyah Abrams, Communications and Administrative Assistant**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly introduced Aviyah Abrams, Communication and Administrative Assistant, and outlined some of her responsibilities. Prior to taking on this role Aviyah was also involved in the regional council through the Living and Right Relations Leadership Circle.

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**Introduction of Peter Buhendwa, the new church plant leader with the Minstere en Francais for the Franco-Swahiliphone community**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly introduced Peter Buhendwa, Church Plant Lead, who is currently beginning his work in Sherbrooke.

**Emerging Issues**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly announced the following emerging issues were recommended to him for discernment during this meeting:

- **Political climate and relations between US and CAN** - Dr. Esther Guillen shared that an Experiential and Participatory workshop in Pastoral and Theological Responses to address the rise of political tensions. These workshops will use the *Seven Guiding Principles for Ethical Decision-Making and Justice Adopted* by General Council 44. The following Questions were asked: Is there anyway of involving partners like The United Church of Christ? Can the workshop address what can be done by worship leaders working with congregations who do not want to talk about this issue?
- **Reflecting on Israel/Palestine (Gaza)** – Maureen Scott Kabwe appreciated the response towards the first emerging issue and felt that the approach of having a participatory and experiential workshop can help to create a space for learning and understanding what actions are available and recommended through General Council. Maureen also highlighted the growing concern around authoritarian governments and the far-right version of Christian Nationalism. Rev. Eric Hebert shared the following list of a series of actions taken by the National Church:

***Statements made on the situation in Palestine and Israel in last year:***

March 2024: [Letter from the Moderator: A Call to Prayerful Solidarity](#)

October 2024: Adopted, [Principles for Justice Work in the United Church of Canada](#)

October 2024: <https://united-church.ca/news/united-church-canada-statement-about-palestine-and-israel-october-2024>

October 2024: [FAQs: General Council 44 Annual Meeting Decision and Just Peace in Palestine and Israel](#)

October 22, 2024: [General Council decision on advocacy work regarding Palestine and Israel](#)

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025: [Encouragement from the Moderator: When we need a breath, the rest of the choir carries the tune](#)

February 4, 2025: [Ecumenical Church Leaders Call for Permanent Ceasefire | The United Church of Canada](#)

March 6, 2025: [Ecumenical Statement Shows Solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli Partners | The United Church of Canada](#)

Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho shared some details on how the General Council and the General Council Executive is responding to this issue. It was iterated that this is a *Kairos Moment*: ‘the right or critical moment’ to encourage dialogue between Christians, Muslims and Jewish People; to address fear and persecution for raising the issues justice and suffering; to consider boycotting products that are produced because of injustices and sufferance to peoples; and more. Eric shared that there are several proposals coming to General Council 45 to address this issue (situation in Palestine and Israel). It was felt that the conversation needs to continue from a justice standpoint.

Question was asked: Could a day of Prayer be created within the Regional Council for this issue (and others requiring Prayer)? The regional council was thanked for having creating space withing this meeting to address



these issues, and some volunteered to work with others within the regional council wanting to discern further around this issue (Rev. Pierre Goldberger).

### **2024 Report Book**

- See Report Book (2024) as **Appendix C**
- a) **President's Report** – Norman Robert Boie highlighted items in his report, in particular acknowledging the following people: Marc Grenon, Judy Coffin, David Roger Gagnon, Dr. Esther Guillen, Aviyah Abrams, and Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho.
- b) **Executive Minister Report** – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly highlighted items in his report and also shared some about the gifts he has discovered within the regional council. Strategic planning has been key for using these gifts and going deeper to address issues of justice, church collaboration, discernment, culture-shifts. Eric appreciated that the Finance and Extension board has revisited its mandate, seeing how to align itself with its original mandate of helping the church grow ('extension'). Eric shared appreciation for new staff and the gifts they have brought to their positions.

**2025-03-28-29\_003 MOTION** (S. V. Dansokho/T. Spires) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive and approve the Report Book (2024) as circulated (see *Report Book (2024)* as **Appendix C**). **CARRIED**

### **Updates to Governance Handbook**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared the updates to the Governance Handbook and answered specific questions (i.e., request for summary of changes).

- See *Governance Handbook (March 2025)* as **Appendix D**

**2025-03-28-29\_004 MOTION** (G. Gouw/V. Nickson /) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the updated Governance Handbook (March 2025) (see *Governance Handbook (March 2025)* as **Appendix D**).

Updates to the Handbook in 2024 include:

- a) Terms of Reference for the Nakonha:ka Growth Advisory and Support Leadership Team
  - See pages 32-33 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*
- b) Amendment to Terms of Reference for the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team
  - See page 26 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*
- c) Amendments to Terms of Reference of the Strategic Fund
  - See pages 27 and 28 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*
- d) Policy on Delegation of all Property and Finance Matters to its Finance and Extension Board (F&E)
  - See pages 34 and 35 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*
- e) Policy for Admission, Commissioning, Ordination and Recognition
  - See pages 68-70 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*
- f) Amendment to Policy on Leases
  - See page 44 in the *Governance Handbook (2025)*

**CARRIED**

### **Executive Restructuring**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

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**2025-03-28-29\_005 MOTION** (L. Buchanan/V. Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council extend its directive to the Nomination Leadership Team to study and prayerfully reflect on the Regional Council's terms of reference of its Executive, and report back its recommendations at the annual general meeting in March 2026.  
**CARRIED**

**(10:20 AM) Mission and Service & More**

Sarah Charters, CFRE, Executive Officer, Philanthropy, The United Church of Canada, President, United Church of Canada Foundation shared some stories and information about the Foundation and Mission & Service Fund. During the past year, this regional council distributed \$124,000.00 in Mission & Service Grants. This Regional Council contributed \$256,607.00 to Mission and Service Fund. Sarah encouraged all who have received grants to share their stories and the impact of receiving funding. Sarah highlighted the work of the Foundation and the contributions it has made to Montreal City Mission, to St- Columba House, and Camp Cosmos. Camp Cosmos also shared a video presentation about the work it has affected through the contribution made by the Foundation. The Foundation has taken the lead on the Centennial Celebration Campaign: <https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/centennialcampaign>. The Centennial Legacy Campaign has nearly \$7M confirmed from individuals and organizations. Other resources to help Communities of Faith: *Called to Be the Church*: The Journey program that helps congregations include stewardship as part of their discipleship. You can visit [www.united-church.ca/stewardship](http://www.united-church.ca/stewardship) for more information. Sarah answered questions surrounding bequest and legacy and how they have helped the Church continue to respond to God's call. For information on the legacy campaign or grant opportunities, please reach out to [fdn@united-church.ca](mailto:fdn@united-church.ca).

**Health Break**

10 mins.

**Gathering Music**

*These Hands*, Dave Gunning

**Upholding Sacred Obligations: Final Report of The Special Interlocutor For Missing And Disappeared Children And Unmarked Burials**

Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator for the General Council, shared a presentation teaching about the final report of the Special Interlocutor on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials associated with residential institutions.

Sara's presentation focused on the following key concepts: Overview; Reparations; Legal, Moral, and Ethical Obligations; Obligations to Survivors; Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity; The Special Interlocutor's Report; Five Focal points: (Church Obligations, Cemeteries and Burial Sites, Records and Archives, Apology and Reparation, Major Findings and Obligations), Enforced Disappearances, Settler Amnesty and Culture of Impunity Commission of Inquiry, Settler Denialism and Confronting Denialism.

A copy of Sara Stratton presentation (PowerPoint slides and transcript) is available on the regional Council website: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-march-2025-online/>

The link to downloadable copies of the Special Interlocutor's report is <https://osi-bis.ca/report/final-report-october-2024-2/>

**a) Small Group Discussion Questions:**

- What stands out the most for you from the report?
- What (if anything) from the report do you find yourself resisting?
- What do you feel called to do in your church and community?

**Intro of Process for becoming an Affirming Regional Council**

Dr. Esther Guillen and Denis Ashby presented and shared the following key concepts:

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## Becoming an Affirming Ministry

### Components of the Education / Discernment Process

- a) Hearing Personal Stories from within your ministry and the community in order to understand the need for this action
- b) Hearing about and discussing the modern theological understanding of scriptures which, for years and still today, are used to discriminate
- c) Hearing from Affirming ministries what impact that decision has had on their ministry. Discussing what it might mean for your ministry.
- d) Hearing about and discussing the social justice aspects of why becoming Affirming is important.

This presentation focused on c.

Denis Ashby introduced Bronwen Harman, who has been involved in the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Affirming Process from the beginning. Bronwen was asked by Denis the following questions, and Bronwen shared her responses with the group:

1. Why did you get involved, on a Regional Council level, with the Affirm process?
2. We're already welcoming and everybody knows it, why do we need to be an Affirming Regional Council?
3. If my Regional Council is Affirming, what does that mean for my congregation? Does my church have to be Affirming now too?

To learn more, the following links were provided: <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>

Contact Denis Ashby for more information [denisashbyucc@gmail.com](mailto:denisashbyucc@gmail.com)

### **Resonance 2025 - Seeking Connections in a Secular World**

Norman Robert Boie shared details about *Resonance 2025*. For more information please visit: <https://www.resonance2025.com/> CRNRC2025 discount code (25%).

The question was raised as to whether the Regional Council will have a table display at this event? Norman Robert shared some personal information about how he is involved with the coordination and planning of this event, and articulated some of the inspiration for this event (i.e., responding to society becoming more and more secular, and discerning how spirituality (and Church) can respond).

Questions: Can updates to the website be made about what people travelling from the townships need to plan for (i.e., their own food and accommodations)?

Question: Can funding be made through the regional council for youth wanting to attend this event, and considerations for meals and accommodations?

### **Equity Report**

Rev. Dan Hayward and Erika Liang shared that the meeting went really well, having followed the criteria for equitable meetings and following Holy Manners.

### **Closing prayers**

Onias Masawi read Luke 15:1-7 and shared a reflection on the scripture passage entitled "Together We Stand", which focused on the following key concepts: God's Quest of the Lost; The Worth of Each Individual; Joy in Redemption; Community and Accountability; Reflection on Our Own Lives; and Unconditional Love. Onias shared a Closing Prayer inspired by the prayer of Saint Anthony – Patron Saint of Lost things, called all to recite with him, The Lord's Prayer, and closed this time of devotion with a Benediction.

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

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) shared the Ne wahtkwanonweraton - Thanksgiving Prayer (Closing Words)

**Save the Date!**

- May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, (12 PM – 4 PM) Celebration of Ministry Service (Wesley United Church, Montreal)
- June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025, Spring Meeting, Location: Palais des congrès, Montreal
- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 2025, Fall Meeting, (in person and incorporating the centennial celebration).

**Conclusion**

The Chair declares that all of the business having come before this Annual General Meeting has been duly completed, and that the meeting be concluded at 12:34 PM .

**Appendices**

Appendix available on the Regional Council website (under download documents):  
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-march-2025-online/>

Appendix A	Minutes of November 1-2, 2024, Fall General Meeting
Appendix B <sup>1</sup>	Strategic Plan Interim Report
Appendix B <sup>2</sup>	First Third Ministries Strategic Plan
Appendix C	Report Book (2024)
Appendix D	Governance Handbook (March 2025)