
SPRING GENERAL MEETING**June 7, 2025**

Theme: "Towards 2035"

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Spring General Meeting on Saturday, June 7th at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, QC. The theme for this meeting was "Towards 2035" and its focus was to explore statistical projections for The United Church of Canada in 2035. A Celebration of Ministries Service was held at Wesley United Church, Montréal, QC, the week prior to the meeting, on May 31st 2025.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry Personnel (25)**

Andrew Lairenge, Arlen Bonnar, Attila Gyorgy, Barbara Bryce, Christine Marie Gladu, Cynthia Reynolds, Darla Sloan, Douglas Throop, Florence Bukam, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Jennifer Mountain, Kent Chown, Lee Ann Hogle, Mark Hammond, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Read Sherman, Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Rev. Janet Bisset, Rev. Rolanda Taylor, Ronald Coughlin, Rosemary Lambie, Steve Lawson, Virgil Joel Kamga, Virginia Wallace and Neil Wallace.

Lay Delegates (29)

Carol Bircher, Diane Campbell, James Vanstone, Janice Knowles, Michelle Richard, Rosemary Shuttleworth, Valerie Nickson, Wade Eide, Célestine Alimasi, Christiane Boucher, Denis Ashby, Dorothy Shaw, Elva Crawford, Frederick Sheffer, Gerald H. Mc Intyre, Hepta Deslandes, Jan Langelier, Lily Rowe, L.E. Moir, Marc A. Grenon, Margaret Chesney, Martine Lacroix, Monique Moser, Norman Haslam, Norman Robert Boie, Peter Bisset, Rosemary Warren, Thomas Kent and Vivienne Galanis.

Corresponding Members - Candidates (5)

Erika Liang, Marie Silvenie Chery, Peter Mulumeoderhwa Buhendwa, Juyoung Lee and Nathaniel McMaster.

Regional Council Staff (8)

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

Guests of the Regional Council (7)

Diane Hanna, Gordon Brown, Jean Lagueux, Marion Golden, Rosanne Baatz, Renate Sutherland, and Sarah Wicks-Potter.

Regrets (2)

Fredrick Sheffer and Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Registration

Attendees were invited to log onto Zoom and arrive in person at the Palais des congrès de Montréal at 12:30 PM

Gathering Music

Aron Sipos, leading music

- *Stay with Me Remain Here with Me* (Voices United 950)

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:

Mohawk Bible

Teiensaketarhon (Alma Ransom) read Scripture from the Mohawk Bible (John 14:26 and Acts 4:2-9).

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 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 New-Comers

Norman Robert Boie invited those attending a regional council general meeting for the first to introduce themselves and be welcomed.

Opening Worship

Opening Worship consisted of a Taizé meditation by J. Berthier entitled "Mon âme se repose" followed by an Opening Prayer and the reading of Scriptures John 14:26 and Acts 4:29. Time was had for silent reflection followed by the reading of A New Creed.

Call to Order

Norman Robert Boie, President, called the meeting to order at 13:38

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

Voter Instructions

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly provided instructions for voting (the use of voting cards).

Omnibus Motion

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister

2026-06-7_001 OMNIBUS MOTION (E. Hébert-Daly/V. Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

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1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
 2. That the minutes of March 28-29, 2025, Winter Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
 3. That the 2024 Financial Statements of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council be received as circulated (see **Appendix B**);
 4. That the 2024 Financial Statements of the Finance & Extension Board be received as circulated (see **Appendix C**);
 5. That the 2024 Annual Report of the Finance & Extension Board of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council be received as circulated (see **Appendix D**);
 6. That the following individuals be nominated to the Finance & Extension Board from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2027: Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Peter Bisset, Norman Robert Boie, Fred Braman, Stephan Elkas, Jim Fyles, Michael Grier, Jim Moffat, Royal Orr, Frederick Sheffer and Paul Stanfield;
 7. That the following appointment of slate of officers of the Finance & Extension Board be approved for 2025-2026: President, Royal Orr, Vice-President, Fred Braman, Treasurer, Paul Stanfield and Secretary, Caroline Leamon;
 8. That the nominations for President-Elect be postponed until the November general meeting;
 9. That there be a one (1) year moratorium on all term limits for Leadership Team Chairs and their representatives on the Executive;
 10. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Norm Haslam (online), Valerie Nickson and Dr. Esther Guillen (in person);
 11. That the following person serve as Parliamentarians: Vivienne Galanis;
 12. That the following person serve as Chaplain: Rev. Christine Marie Gladu;
 13. That the following people serve as the Equity Support Team: Erika Liang and Rev. Dan Hayward;
 14. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant:

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Erika Liang and Rev. Dan Hayward were announced as the Equity Support Team. Dan shared Criteria to consider when making a meeting more equitable:

1. Am I responding with my bias(es)?
2. Just because we've always done it this way, should we continue?
3. Who is missing around our table in this discussion? (Do we need to consult sider?)
4. Whose voices haven't been heard? Have I spoken too much?

Chaplain

Rev. Christine Marie Gladu was announced as being the chaplain for this meeting.

The Right Reverend Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator's Greeting to the Regional Council

The Right Reverend Camen Lansdown, Moderator, shared a personal greeting to the regional council, and highlighted her looking forward to meeting representatives at that upcoming 45th General Council in Calgary.

Towards 2035

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister shared a presentation on the vision for the church entitled *Toward 2035*, defined as an urgent need, based in discipleship commitment and data analysis, to come together in a denominational-wide strategy towards 2035. This strategy is inspired by call and is rooted in truth – both decline and growth – and addresses the likely trajectories, towards a better future. Eric began his presentation reminding all of the current call and vision of the Church: “We Sing of a Church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broke but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place” – from *A Song of Faith* (2006). Eric asked the question: Can you name something about the news you have come to know – the Good News you have experienced as a disciple of Jesus – that you want to share? Some thing

you long to see embodied in our time and place? All were invited to share their responses to this question in one word (here are a few that were shared): resonance, evangelism, faith, love, hope, Community, beloved-ness, Emmanuel, transcendent, loyalty, unexpected conversation, unconditional love, pilgrimage, sharing, inspiration, freedom, caring, diversity, accompaniment, hallelujah, change, beginning, passion, unity, revelation, story-telling, etc. Eric encouraged all to hold onto these responses as he shared the statistical data and current trends within The United Church of Canada and their projections a decade from now if nothing were to change. This presentation looked at the trajectory of the church between 1993 and 2023, and projects its likely trajectory in 2035. It considers trends in membership, giving, Sunday worship attendance, Sunday school attendance, number of pastoral charges, Ministry Personnel, Pastoral Charges served by Ministry Personnel, and sustainability of both denominational and congregational finances. 2035 projections suggest a greater degree of vulnerability.

Health Break

A break in the meeting was held for 15 minutes.

Gathering Music

Aron Sipos shared instrumental music on the piano, calling all back to the meeting space.

Towards 2035

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister shared that despite projections, it is the hope that The United Church of Canada in 2035 will be: “inspired, resilient communities of disciples, rural, and urban, coast to coast, francophone, indigenous, and intercultural, more closely reflecting the diversity of Canada”. Components like, connection, flexibility, innovation and urgency, can support communities of faith; enable local & geographic discernment; engage in cooperative and collaborative experiments; support intercultural; and support first third.

Small Group Discussions

Following Towards 2035 presentation, small group discussions considered the following questions:

1. Which things are we letting go of?
2. If we are to intervene, how and where should we do it?

Following group discussions, Eric informed that the regional council is creating a team of Vision Keepers, whose role will be as an informal advisory team that helps the regional council to see the wider picture and ensure that it doesn't lose sight of the future the Church is working towards. It will be a data-informed team that is always seeing the broader picture. It is the change-agent that is working to shift and shape the culture of ministry with an eye to its future.

2025-06-7_002 MOTION (D. Ashby/N. McMaster) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council recognize the following people to serve on the Vision Keepers Advisory Team for the regional council: Peter Bisset, Norman Robert Boie, Angelika Piche, Benjamin Ryan, Royal Orr and Jim Fyles. **CARRIED**

Introduction of Community of Faith Support Minister – Dr. Esther Guillen

Dr. Esther Guillen was introduced as the new Community of Faith Support Minister and was invited to speak and share some details of the things she hopes to accomplish in her new role.

Nominations

a) Executive

2025-06-7_003 MOTION (R. Sherman/M. Moser) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team that the following people serve on the Executive:

Full voting Members:

President (2-year maximum)	Norman Robert Boie (2026)
President-Elect (Elected in “off year” for one-year term)	to be determined
Past-President (one year)	vacant
Treasurer (no term)	Paul Stanfield
Executive Minister	Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
 <u>Representative of the following Leadership Teams (2 years):</u>	
Pastoral Relations	Rev. Christine Marie Gladu
Representative of La Table	Rev. Pierre Goldberger
First Third Ministry	to be determined
Living in Right Relations Leadership Circle	Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever
Justice and Community Ministries	Rev. Bailey Eastwood
Granting and Enabling Leadership Team	Rev. Mark Hammond & Rev. Barbara Bryce (rotating)
General Meeting Planning Leadership Team	Rev. Virginia Wallace
Finance and Extension Board	Royal Orr
Nominations	Nathaniel McMaster

Five (5) Full Voting Members at Large (3 years)

1. Marie-Claude Manga, pasteure (2026)
2. Erika (Qian) Liang (2026)
3. Rev. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo (2027)
4. Rev. Rosemary Lambie (2027)
5. Florence Bukam, pasteure (2027)

Corresponding Non-Voting Members

Pastoral Relations Minister	Rev. Dan Hayward
Communications Staff Person	Aviyah Abrams
Program Assistant to the Executive Minister	Joel Miller
Community of Faith Support Minister	Dr. Esther Guillén
First Third Ministry	Shanna Bernier
Property, Finance and Administration Manager	Brian Ruse

CARRIED

- a) **Report on How We Move Forward for Executive Restructuring?** - Nathaniel McMaster, Nominations Chair shared that the Nominations Leadership Team hopes to bring a proposal to a future general meeting (and in collaboration with the Vision Keepers) for the restructuring of the Executive.

Closing Worship

Closing Worship included the reciting of *A New Creed* and the singing of hymn ‘Let Us Build a House / Bâtissons un lieu’ (MV 1).

Ne wahtkwanonweraton - Thanksgiving Prayer (Closing Words)

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

Save the Date!

- November 15th 2025, Fall Meeting, (in person at St. Paul’s United Church, Magog, QC; will incorporate a 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 4:58 PM .

Attendees were invited to the closing ceremonies of Resonance Conference at St. James United Church later that evening.

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY AT WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, MONTREAL
(MAY 31, 2025)**

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Wesley United Church, situated in Montreal, Quebec, beginning at noon. The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary to the processional hymn 'I have Called You by Your Name' (MV161). The service opened with welcoming words from the hosting congregation Minister Rev. Cynthia Reynolds, and from the President of the regional council Norman Robert Boie. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led the Call to Worship, which included a land recognition highlighting that this celebration of ministries was being held on the traditional territory the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) Nation. The Christ Candle was lit, followed by the Prayer of Approach. The Scripture readings were Ezekiel 37:1-14, read aloud by Maureen Scott-Kabwe, Diaconal Minister, and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, read aloud by Sarah Wicks-Potter. Rev. Patricial Lisson shared a reflection entitled "Soul of the Community: Building Neighbours of Love" which was followed by the singing of hymn 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness' (VU 375 / NVU 47).

The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. Dan Hayward, the Pastoral Relations Minister, remembering members of the Order of Ministry within the bounds of the regional council who had died during the most recent church calendar year: Rev. Dorothy Cunningham, Rev. Heather Dobson, Rev. Thomas Edmonds, Rev. Dr. John Finlayson, Rev. Dr. Douglas John Hall, Rev. Arnold McDonald and Rev. Douglas Stewart. The In Memoriam was followed by the reciting of a Prayer and response, and the singing of hymn 'Blessed Assurance / Quelle assurance' (VU 337). Rev. Dan Hayward also led the celebration of the ministries for those retiring, recognizing members of the Order of Minister within the bounds of the regional council: Rev. Steve Gillam, Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones, Rev. Janette Jorgensen, Rev. David Lambie and Rev. Kent Chown. This part of the service ended with a concluding Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn 'We Are Companions on the Journey'. Changing Ministries were also honored, and congregations who had recently closed or amalgamated were recognized. These included: St. Andrew's Delson United Church, the Italian Church of the Redeemer, Knowlton-Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge. The sale of Granby United Church was also highlighted. The hymn 'Ne crains rien, je t'aime' was sung, and then Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led the offering, which followed with the singing of 'For the Fruits of All Creation' (VU 227), a Prayer, and the singing of a choral Ndikhokhele. Offerings support the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

A Celebration of New Ministries began with the reciting of "Our Affirmation of Faith". Maureen Scott Kabwe was honoured and presented with gifts for her recent commissioning as a Diaconal Minister of the United Church of Canada. Sarah Wicks-Potter was honoured and presented with gifts for her recent commissioning into The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a denomination in which The United Church of Canada is in full-communion. The candidates were presented by Rev. Caroline Penhale, Office of Vocation Minister for the Regional Council. Each declared their vows and were presented with A bible and certificate. Family and friends presented Stoles. The Regional Council presented Chalices and Patens. Following the affirmation of each of the candidates, those in attendance responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958). The hymn 'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky' (VU 509) closed this portion of the service.

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo

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

Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil

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

Bailey Eastwood	Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada
Virginia Lynn Wallace	Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada
Lisa Byer-de Wever	Commissioned to the Ministry of Education, Service, and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada
Rev. Florence Bukam	Admitted to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada

The liturgy of Holy Communion (adapted from a version prepared by the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, 43rd Moderator, of the United Church of Canada) and was led by Rev. Cynthis Reynolds and Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Co-Chairs, Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board. Holy Communion began with a Call and Response, the sharing of the Elements, the Prayer after Communion, and the signing of hymn 'Bread for the Journey' (NVU 154). The Executive Minister shared a closing benediction which was followed by the recessional hymn 'My Love Colours Outside the Lines' (MV 138).

Normand Robert Boie,
President, Chair

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

APPENDICES-

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

Appendix A	Minutes of March 28-29, 2025, Winter Annual General Meeting
Appendix B	2024 Financial Statements of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Appendix C	2024 Financial Statements of the Finance & Extension Board
Appendix D	2024 Annual Report of the Finance & Extension Board of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council