
FALL GENERAL MEETING
November 1-2, 2024

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada its Fall General Meeting on Friday Evening, November 1st and Saturday morning, November 2nd, 2024. The theme for this meeting was “reinvigorating evangelism and exploring what that means to us in today’s context, especially as it relates to our strategic plan’s priority for growth”.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

Ministry Personnel and Candidates (50)

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Rev. Beryl Barraclough, Rev. Wayne Beamer, Rev. Janet Bisset, Rev. Arlen Bonnar, Rev. Dale Breikreutz, Rev. Barbara Bryce, Rev. Linda Buchanan, Florence Bukam, Lisa Byer de Wever, Marie Silvenie Chery, Rev. Kent Chown, Rev. David Clinker, Rev. Dr. Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Jessica Gauthier, Rev. Attila Gyorgy, Rev. Dr. Cathy Hamilton, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Rev. Helen Hliaras, Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones, Rev. Jan Jorgensen, Rev. Mher Katchikian, Rev. Andrew Lairenge, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Rev. Joelle Leduc, Qian Erika Liang, Rev. Darryl Macdonald, Rev. Marie Claude Manga, Rev. John Matheson, Rev. Alice McAlpine, Rev. Aron Molnar, Rev. Jennifer Mountain, Ozioma Obijiofor, Rev. Robert Patton, Rev. Angelika Piché, Rev. Cynthia Reynolds, Maureen Scott Kabwe DLM, Rev. Read Sherman, Rev. Darla Sloan, Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Virginia Wallace.

Lay Delegates (30)

Judy Bachelder, Deborah Beattie, Carol Bircher, Norman Robert Boie, Diane Campbell, Margaret Chesney, Beverly Clark, Elva Crawford, Hepta Deslandes, David Drew, Lynn Drew, Gerard Gouw, Marc Grenon, Charlotte Griffith, Norm Haslam, Thomas Kent, Janice Knowles, Jan Langelier, L. E. Moir, Johanna Morrow, Valerie Nickson, Natacha Sanson, Dorothy Shaw, Joan Shea, Frederick (Rick) Sheffer, Alwin Spence, Paul Stanfield, Brenda Lee Strickland, James Vanstone, Fiona Wardrop.

Regional Council Staff (6)

Judy Coffin, Dan Hayward, Joel Miller, Tori Mullin, Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Brian Ruse

Guests of the Regional Council (5)

David-Roger Gagnon, Onias Masawi, Monique Moser, Samantha Pepin, Tom Rigby

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

EVENING SESSION
November 1, 2024

Registration

Attendees are invited to register online at 6:15 PM for the evening session.

Gathering Music

Jessica Gauthier led gathering music on piano: ‘Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom’ MV 10; ‘Seigneur, tu cherches tes enfants’ (NVU 108); ‘O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath’ (VU 200).

Special Instructions

Rev. Kent Chown, Zoom technical-support for this meeting, provides zoom meeting instructions to participants in particular, the simultaneous translation feature, muting and unmuting, raising and lowering hand, the use of chat, use of polls. Indicate full name, language, pronouns, X if non-voting, and A if animator for discussion group.

Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) leads the Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer, speaking in Mohawk at the introduction and then changing to English.

Welcoming to the Land

Samantha Pepin (on behalf of Satewas) welcomed all to Mohawk Territory.

Reading From Mohawk Bible

(Acts 1:15-26) – Samantha Pepin read from the Bible (The Mohawk Bible) in her native language of Mohawk which was translated into Mohawk by Satewas (Harvey Gabriel).

Land Acknowledgment

Marc Grenon

A land acknowledgement was offered.

Opening Worship

Virginia Wallace and Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led:

- Led an opening prayer, reflecting on the prayer of disciples, to growing closer to God.
- Acknowledged/and honored the ministries of Judy Coffin and David-Roger Gagnon as they move on, Judy into retirement and David-Roger, into a ministry in Atlantic Canada.
- Scripture reading: Colossians 1:9-10
- Prayer of thanks for Community (for sense of belonging, strength in unity). Petitions for continued support and encouragement.
- Hymn: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying (VU 400)/ Dieu, tes enfants te prient (NVU 144)
- John 12:26
- Jesus: the perfect example of Service through Love.
- Prayer of thanks for Jesus. Petition for wisdom and discernment, and help to serve in the spirit and humility, to be a blessing to all we come in contact. May we truly desire to serve our heavenly Father.
- Hymn 'Dear Lord Lead Me': ASL Translation
- The Chair extended more gratitude toward David-Roger and Judy and let them know they will be missed.

Call to Order

Marc Grenon, Past-President, Chair for this meeting calls 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 general meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it.

Welcome

Marc Grenon, Chair acknowledge newcomers (Rev. Aron Molar) and explained the theme which is based on Acts 1:15-26:

The Acts passage is one of the very first things the Apostles do after the Ascension of Jesus is to have a meeting and hold an election. This shows that when the regional council meets, and elects, we are continuing the most ancient practice of the Church. Meetings and elections are not late additions to the ministry of the Church - they are very much part of how we plan and carry out the mission God has given us in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

The theme of Acts 1:15-26 centers on the necessity of discernment and leadership within the early Christian community. In this passage, the apostles gather to address the vacancy left by Judas

Iscariot after his betrayal and death. They recognize the importance of maintaining the integrity and continuity of their mission.

Key elements of the theme include:

1. *Community Decision-Making*: The apostles come together to seek God's guidance in selecting a replacement, highlighting the importance of communal deliberation and prayer in making significant decisions.
 2. *Leadership and Accountability*: The need for leadership is emphasized, showing that continuity in governance was vital for the community's growth and mission.
 3. *Fulfillment of Scripture*: The apostles reference the scriptures concerning Judas, underscoring the belief that events in their journey were part of a divine plan, which reassures the community about God's sovereignty.
 4. *Divine Guidance in Selection*: The method of casting lots signifies seeking divine will, illustrating the reliance on God's direction in crucial matters.
- Overall, this passage illustrates the early Church's commitment to unity, responsible leadership, and reliance on divine wisdom as they navigate challenges

Omnibus Motion

2024-11-01-02_001 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Valerie Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of May 24-25, Spring General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown and Norm Haslam;
4. That the following person serve as Parliamentarian: Rev. Rosemary Lambe (Friday evening) and Rev. Darryl Macdonald (Saturday morning);
5. That the following people serve as Chaplains: Adedeji Sunday Akintayo and Rev. Marie-Claude Manga;
6. That the following people serve as the Equity Support Team: Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Rev. Marie-Claude Manga;
7. That this meeting include 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 to 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

Reopen nominations for General Council 45 Commissioners

2024-11-01-02_002 MOTION (Jan Langelier/Barbara Bryce) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council reopen nominations for General Council 45 Commissioners. **CARRIED** (41 yes, 11 no, 2 abstain)

- The Chair called for nominations three (3) times

*No new nominations came from the floor.

Marc Grenon explained the process – a mover and seconder was needed from the floor; then fill in form; include bio - which would be posted the following morning. After the call had gone out, Mark announced that nominations were closed.

Reopen nominations for Moderator Candidate

2024-11-01-02_003 MOTION (Virginia Wallace/Lisa Byer-de Wever) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council reopen nominations for Moderator candidate. (54 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention) **CARRIED**

- The Chair announce Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho is currently a nominee
- The Chair called for nominations three (3) times, request mover and seconder

*No additional nominations came from the floor.

Marc Grenon explained the process – a mover and seconder was needed from the floor.

It was explained that Moderator candidacy nominations could also come through the Executive; this general meeting is not the only avenue.

Election of Candidate for Moderator

2024-11-01-02_004 MOTION (Linda Buchanan/Marie-Claude Manga) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council nominate Rev. Samuel Vauvert Dansokho as Moderator Candidate. **CARRIED** (Samuel V. Dansokho abstained)

Minute for Equity

Rev. Rosemary Lambie - shared contact info of Equity Support Team Members; and then explained the six Equity Aspirations:

1. Questions biases
2. Challenge assumptions
3. Notice who's missing
4. Value all voices
5. Aim for equity
6. Live out our commitments

Rosemary also emphasized that the value of voices also included the recognizing the many different languages that could be heard at this meeting. Rosemary invited all to evaluate at the end of the meeting how well this general meeting unfolded equitably.

Rev. Marie Claude Manga
Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Lisa Byer-de Wever

Chaplains

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo
Marie Claude Manga

Notice re Emerging Issues

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly explained that this meeting would be receiving formal notices by anyone one interested in raising a topic for discussion on Saturday. It was directed that notices must be submitted by the end of the Friday eventing session (participants were asked to send notices directly to the Executive Ministers email).

Focus Group Research Report

Tom Rigby of Callosum Research presented a full report on the focus groups held in Spring 2024. A detailed report was made available on the regional council website: <https://nakhonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-november-2024-online/>

- **Small Group Discussions** (20 mins) groups of 7 – 11-12 facilitators
 1. What surprised you?
 2. How does this influence the way you would invite people without a church background into your community?

Granting & Enabling – Status of Funding

Rev. Barbara Bryce, Chair, shared that:

- In June, GELT was given Commissioning Powers
- Granting cycles deadlines are Feb 15, May 15 and September 15

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- The Erskin and Mountainside Fund is only award at beginning of year (Feb 15 Grant cycle)
 - See <https://nakhaucc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Granting-Enabling-Leadership-Team-Grants-2024-10-29.pdf>

2024-11-01-02_005 MOTION (Barbara Bryce/Mher Khatchikian) that the Nakhaucc Regional Council receive for information the record of grant disbursements in 2024. **CARRIED**

Remembering Mary Saviadjuk

Rev. Jan Jorgensen called upon all to remember Mary Saviadjuk by lighting a candle and saying her name; and to remember all missing and murdered indigenous women.

Benediction

Virginia Wallace, closed the meeting with a prayer.

MORNING SESSION

November 2, 2024

Gathering Music

Jessica Gauthier led vocals music on the piano: 'When We Seek Language' (MV 49); Tu es la au Coeur de nos vies' (NVU 116); The Church of Christ in Every Age (VU 601).

Chair

The Chair explained that Norman Robert Boie, President, was not able to Chair this meeting t as he was attending a conference.

Morning Worship

Virginia Wallace and Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led:

- Disciple prayers – Paul’s prayer petitioning for believer’s growth, knowledge, spiritual strength, wisdom, understanding and empowerment to live a life worthy of their calling.
- Hymn: Teach Me God to Wonder (VU 299) ASL Translation
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3
- Spiritual Growth – to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, understanding Scripture, understanding God’s will, courage and strength to continue in the path of righteousness
- Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (MV 10)
- Romans 5:3-5
- Perseverance – strength to remain loyal to our faith, during challenging times and temptation, and humility to ask for God’s guidance.
- Prayer: for Strength, Wisdom and Perseverance during time of trial and temptation, and courage to preserver and wisdom to know when to seek God’s guidance.
- Hymn: I know Your Work -Oui Ta Parole (MV 108)
- Romans 15:13 ‘Power of the Holy Spirit to abound in hope’
- Prayer: Joy and Peace – God’s Grace to fill us with Joy and Peace and the Fruits of the Spirit.
- Hymn: La joie l’aurore (NVU 131).
- Benediction: Search for and use the Fruits of the Spirit, and share these fruits with the Community

Creating Safe and Respectful Environments

Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs shared key policies and complaint procedures of The Office of Vocation by introducing policy framework: 1. Sexual Misconduct and Response, 2 Workplace Discrimination, Harassment and Violence 3. Ethical Standards & Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel 4. Reported Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing).

Who to Contact with Questions: In the Office of Vocation: 1. Caroline Penhale Lukacs, Vocational Minister for Quebec & East Ontario; 2. Karen Valley, Program Coordinator, Pastoral Relations & Remedial Processes

In the Region: 1. Dan Hayward, Pastoral Relations Minister.

LLWL Recognition

Charlotte Griffith and Rev. Lee Ann Hogle shared that the following people have gone through the process for relicensing as LLWLs. Following their presentation this motion was adopted.

2024-11-01-02_006 MOTION (Lee Ann Hogle/Linda Buchanan) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council receive the recommendation from the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Team to license the following people as Licensed Lay Worship Leaders within the Regional Council for 2 years (fall 2024- fall 2026): Deborah Beattie, Hepta Deslandes, Charlotte Griffith, Stéphane Godbout, Norman Haslam, Gail Hocquard, Carolyn Linde, Lorane McKenzie, Pamela Naylor, Valerie Epps Nickson, Joan Shea (lay worker), Alwin Spence, Brenda Lee Strickland. **CARRIED**

What is a lay worker: a person not trained to preach but are trained to work in the community providing pastoral care.

Emerging Issues

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

- a) Centennial Anniversary services planned by Brian Arthur Brown (and package that has been circulated). Eric explained the package and context. Brian Arthur Brown has written The Keys to the Kingdom and The Untied Church of Canada, The UCC and Foundation has launched three (3) events: June 2024, at the beginning of June 2025, and in August 2025. In regard to Brian Arthur Brown's plans, The regional council has its own subcommittee looking at plans for a centennial celebration. The Executive Ministers will be meeting to discuss this issue, and the Executive will be updated.

Specific concerns included: letters circulated were not on UCC letterhead; booklets had information that could be seen as misleading, the liturgy being proposed does not use language that is part of UCC ethos, makes requests for donations.

2024-11-01-02_007 MOTION (Lisa Byer-de Wever/Linda Buchanan) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council inform Brian Arthur Brown that the regional council will not be participating in his planned projects for the centennial celebration, as it has its own plans to celebrate the UCC's centennial, and the regional council will communicate this decision to Communities of Faith, along with fuller information, and include Rev. Glen Chestnut as a recipient of this communication. **CARRIED**

Proposal for General Council 45a) **Explanation of Process**

Eric Hebert-Daly explained that the regional council will be sending proposals to General Council 45 (can come from congregations to the regional council). There are two proposals that have been submitted.

b) **Proposals**

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo introduced the proposal.

- See *Proposal to Address Declining Membership by Expanding the United Church of Canada's Intercultural Ministry*.

Kent Chown introduced the proposal.

- See *Proposal: Development of an AI policy for the United Church of Canada*

- **Small Group Discussions** (20 mins) groups of 7 – 11-12 facilitators

1. What do you agree with in these proposals?
2. What are you concerned about in these proposals?

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- See *Proposal to Address Declining Membership by Expanding the United Church of Canada's Intercultural Ministry* as **Appendix D¹**

2024-11-01-02_008 MOTION (Adedeji Sunday Akintayo/Kent Chown) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council concur and forward to General Council the *Proposal to Address Declining Membership by Expanding the United Church of Canada's Intercultural Ministry* as amended:

- Under Recommendation change 'to establish' to 'respectfully encourage' Intercultural Ministry Leadership Teams.

CARRIED

- See *Proposal: Development of an AI policy for the United Church of Canada* as **Appendix D²**

2024-11-01-02_009 MOTION (Kent Chown/Valerie Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council (concur and forward to General Council the *Proposal: Development of an AI policy for the United Church of Canada*. **CARRIED**

Health Break

Ten (10) minutes

Gathering Music

Jessica Gauthier led vocals, and music on piano: 'We Have This Ministry' (VU 501); Jesus, je voudrais te chanter (NVU 63).

Election of General Council 45 Commissioners and Candidate for Moderator

Voting – Eric shared that President of the regional council is a commissioner ex officio; there are also category H commissioners.

a) **Election of General Council 45 Commissioners**

2024-11-01-02_010 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Cathy Hamilton) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council:

1. Name the following people to serve as Commissioners at General Council 45:

LAY (5)

Celestine Alimasi
Qian (Erika) Liang
Carolyn Linde
L. E. Moir
Ozioma Obijiofor

ORDER OF MINISTRY (5)

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo
Rev. Samuel Vauvert Dansokho
Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Rev. Marie-Claude Manga
Rev. Angelika Piché

2. Name following people as alternates to serve as Commissioners at General Council 45 (considered in the order they have received votes)

LAY

Marc Grenon

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Rev. Aron Molnar

Virginia Wallace

CARRIED**General Council Executive Report**

Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho shared the following items for information:

*Executive summaries and minutes can be found under the 'United Church Commons'; found at bottom of UCC website: <https://united-church.ca/>

- *7 key principals adopted* by the General Council Executive when facing issues related to justice:
 - Anti-oppression
 - Truth-telling
 - Holistic scope
 - Respect for human dignity
 - Full participation and decolonization
 - Equity, mutuality, respect and reparations
 - Costly and prophetic solidarity. Seven principles aid decisions-making going forward.
- *Enactment of Remit 1 - Autonomous Indigenous Church*. It changes the Basis of Union.
- *Retired DLM's* can now be made members of the regional council following retirement (already members when in an appointment).
- *Salaries* – Full compensation review, for pastoral relationships, general council staff and regional council staff. Interim Ministry Personnel to receive 3% increase and GC and RC staff 2.5% increase.
- *Task of General Secretary and Moderator in the future*.
- *Status of the Indigenous Council* – ongoing discussion.
- *Palestine & Israel* – based on the principles adopted above, a pastoral letter has been circulated from the Moderator including our immediate actions on Israel/Gaza in response to the proposals brought forward at the GC44 meeting.

Budgets

- a) **Regional Council 2025 Budget** – Paul Stanfield, Treasurer
- See *Regional Council 2025 Budget Graphs/Charts*

Explanation: A budget working group was created and proposed: In 2024 there is a projected deficit of \$28,000 and the plan is to take from the Contingency Fund to balance the budget (the deficit had been \$63,000 but a recent vacancy in a staff position has reduced the deficit). In 2025, expenses have been set at 1.26 million. Instead of drawing from the Contingency Fund, it is proposed instead to allocate funds from the Strategic Fund and the Finance & Extension Board to balance the budget. The largest change to the 2025 budget is under the category of salaries; adjustments (2%) and the creation of a Congregational Support Minister job position, which is intended to replace Cluster's and Networks Minister position. The General Council Grant remains the same in 2025 at \$392,000.

Comment: Congregational Support Minister Job description to come to future meeting for approval.

Ministry Retreat mentioned in two places in the budget - description under schedule 5: recommendation is to remove 'ministry retreat' from the line item in schedule 5 since it was not intended to be in that category. The schedule was updated.

What are the implications of *allocating funds from the Strategic Fund* – The strategic plan continues to be work on through new position. Assessment will have to be made on a year-by-year basis; with the evolution of the strategic plan. It was also highlighted that terms of reference can be modified.

It was asked that the F&E reflect on creating avenues for fundraising (as its original mandate, which also included building churches).

2024-11-01-02_011 MOTION (Paul Stanfield/David Clinker) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the Regional Council 2025 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

- a) **Finance & Extension Board (F&E) 2025 Budget** – Paul Stanfield, Treasurer
- *See Finance & Extension Board 2025 Budget Graphs/Charts*

Explanation: F&E uses a funding formula which takes the average for the last 8 quarters of the assets (15.1 million) and draws up to 5% from the assets (\$755,000). Most of this funding is directed back to the regional council – almost \$609,000 is made accessible through grants; \$106,000 is used for F&E staff and operational costs of F&E; and \$40,000 is also used for sabbaticals and bursaries. Changes in 2025 allocates \$31,000 to grants for strategic purposes (as seen in regional council's budget).

2024-11-01-02_012 MOTION (Paul Stanfield/Barbar Bryce) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the Finance & Extension Board 2025 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

GELT thanked F&E for the funds that it releases for grants. It was highlighted that a budget information session was held a week ago (which is the plan every year) to educate on budget.

These are the People in Your Neighborhood

Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, introduced Sharon Buttrey

This presentation:

- Discussed the purpose of deciphering: Neighbourhood Profiles – Who Is My Neighbour? - Offers the wider church a picture of our neighbourhood based on census data. But data is just that. Data. It's what we do with it that can be transformational.
- Video presentation from Sharon Buttrey of the General Council Office's Research and Development Team who creates the profiles: Explains what goes into these profiles and how you can pull information from them, and in particular: What story can you read in the profile? How does it affirm or challenge the story you, or your church, tells about your neighbourhood? – shared a detailed presentation on the kinds of data which can be collected, and how it can be used.
- Explain the break-out room activity: participants were invited to look at their neighbourhood profiles, and consider (see Neighborhood Profile Exercises distributed during meeting: https://unitedchurch-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/tmullin_united-church_ca/EbSZ8TAuDTdPgIESdj2qtTcB5X_t5Q_d2kp_QnZe-Oj_eQ?e=ezYiCC)
- Take aways: Tori shared some recent examples of how communities of faith have used their neighborhood profiles.

Presentations

- a) **Resonance 2025 – Seeking Connection in a Secular World** – Norman Robert
- In-Person | Montreal | 5-6-7 June 2025, Palais des congrès de Montréal,
 - Prelaunch | Prélancement February 12 Février 2025 Bishops : In the afternoon Bishop's Chapel Choir Performance, Sacred Music as a space of Resonance; Presentation 'Divine and Ultimate Concerns' Fac. Philosophy, Sponsored by the Philosophy and Liberal Arts Program
 - 3-day conference: Being Spiritual in a Secular World: Exploring spaces of dialogue, connections and relationships: A bilingual event with simultaneous translation Fr-En | En-Fr
 - Questions being considered: Balancing spiritual beliefs in a secular world can be challenging: How the secular and the spiritual can come together in modern spaces of Resonance: work, family, art, religion and nature, grief, architecture, culture ...?
 - There will be a Duplex – Conversation between Charles Taylor, Philosopher and Hartmut Rosa, Sociologist & Political scientist
 - What to expect?: Thought-Provoking Panels; Q&As; Experiential Activities; Building relationships; Dynamic discussions.

Equity Report

-time: be aware that guests who are invited to present, may need a little more time, and manage time with these guest presenters as a priority

-slides: presenters need to be aware of their font size and colored backgrounds

-discussion surrounding Israel/Palestine: use of word apartheid (differentiate between People's and State – there are divergent views, not monolith.

-ensure discussions are not two-way between individuals, ensure proper addressing of the court.

Closing Worship and Covenanting with LLWLS

Charlotte Griffith, Lee Ann Hogle, Charlotte Griffith

Details from covenant liturgy:

- The names of those being relicensed were displayed.
- Scripture reading: 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Extracts taken from Song of Faith
- The words of covenant were spoken and promises and promises of support were proclaimed.
- Hymn: I Have Called you By Your Name (MV 161) ASL Translation

The following *Reflection* was shared to close this Time of worship: Around a Thin Place: An Iona pilgrimage guide, © 2011 Jane Bentley & Neil Paynter, Wild Goose Publications.

The *Closing Benediction*: The Pilgrim Spirit © 2007 Andrea Skevington

Ne wahtkwanonweraton - Thanksgiving Prayer (Closing Words)

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) led the Ne wahtkwanonweraton / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer (the closing is a continuation of our Thanksgiving Address).

Nia wen Takwaieatison, ne wahtkwanonweraton.

Save the Dates! Nakhonha:ka Upcoming Regional Council Events

- March 28th, 29th 2025, Annual Meeting, Winter, Online
- June 6th 2025 (evening), June 7th 2025 (day), Spring Meeting, hybrid
- November 14th, 15th 2025, Fall Meeting, Online

Conclusion

The Chair declares that all of the business having come before this general meeting has been duly completed, and that the meeting be concluded at 12:58 PM.

Rev. Kent Chown was thanked and applauded for his technical support.

Marc Grenon, Past-President, Chair

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

-Appendices-

Appendices available on the Regional Council website (under [download documents](https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-november-2024-online/)):
<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-november-2024-online/>

Appendix A	Minutes of May 24-25 Spring General Meeting
Appendix B	Granting & Enabling Grant Distribution in 2024
Appendix C	Bios of nominees for General Council 45 Commissioners and Moderator
Appendix D ¹	Proposal to Address Declining Membership by Expanding the United Church of Canada's Intercultural Ministry
Appendix D ²	Proposal: Development of an AI policy for the United Church of Canada
Appendix E ¹	Regional Council 2025 Budget Graphs/Charts
Appendix E ²	Finance & Extension Board 2025 Budget Graphs/Charts