
Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Meeting of the Executive
Thursday, June 19, 2025

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

Norman Robert Boie	Chair, President
Adedeji Sunday Akintayo	Member
Denis Ashby	Member at Large, Rep. First Third Ministries
Rev. Barbara Bryce	Member, (Co-Representative) Granting and Enabling Leadership Team
Rev. Florence Bukam	Member at Large
Lisa Byer-de Wever	Member, Living into Right Relations Leadership
Rev. Dr. Christine Marie Gladu	Member, Pastoral Relations
Rev. Mark Hammond	(New) Member, (Co-Representative) Granting and Enabling Leadership Team
Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly	Member, Executive Minister
Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Member at Large
Erika (Qian) Liang	Member at Large
Rev. Marie-Claude Manga	Member at Large
Nathanial McMaster	(New) Member, Nominations
Royal Orr	(New) Member, Finance and Extension Board
Paul Stanfield	Member, Treasurer
Aviyah Abrams	Corresponding Member, Communications and Administration
Dr. Esther Guillen	Corresponding Member, Communities of Faith Support Minister
Rev. Dan Hayward	Corresponding Member, Pastoral Relations Minister
Joel Miller	Corresponding Member, Program Assistant to Executive Minister, Recording Secretary
Brian Ruse	Corresponding Member, Finance & Office Administrator

REGRETS/ABSENT

Rev. Bailey Eastwood	Member, Community and Justice
Rev. Pierre Goldberger	Member, La Table
Rev. Virginia Wallace	(New) Member, General Meeting Planning

This meeting of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive will deal with regular business, but will focus on the following key areas:

- Discern next steps regarding *Towards 2035* Statistical Projections – *Vision Keepers*
- Receive a request for direction from the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Leadership Team
- Discern way forward regarding St. James United Church Working Group
- Decides date and time of future Executive meetings

Land Acknowledgement – Royal Orr led the land acknowledgement, sharing specific details about the unceded territory of the Abenaki (Wapánahki) from where he was joining this Executive meeting from (Hatley, QC).

Opening Devotions – Royal Orr shared an excerpt from the *Song of Faith* and encouraged all to use it during their personal times of devotion.

Calling Meeting to Order – Norman Robert Boie, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM:

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 executive meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it.

Au nom de Notre Seigneur, Jésus-Christ, chef souverain de l'Église, et par l'autorité qui m'a été conférée par le Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council de l'Église unie du Canada, je déclare que cette réunion exécutive est dûment constituée et qu'elle siègera pour le déroulement de toute affaire dont elle sera adéquatement saisie.

Equity Support Person

2025-06-19_001 MOTION (D. Ashby/C. M. Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Adedeji Sunday-Akintayo as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

Minutes of May 15, 2025

2025-06-19_002 MOTION (R. Lambie/C. M. Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of May 15, 2025 as corrected:

Addition of Brian Ruse to attendance list of May meeting. **CARRIED**

Order of the Day (10:40 am) – Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, Charlotte Griffith, CO-Chairs of License Lay Worship Leaders Leadership Team, and Rev. Janet Bisset.

Order of the Day (11:15 am) – Rev. Linda Buchanan, on behalf of Community and Justice Leadership Team; sharing about Beaconsfield United Church Refugee Intercultural Ministry

Agenda

2025-06-19_003 MOTION (R. Orr/R. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition of *motion 16* under section 1 (Pastoral Relations)
2. Addition of *2025-06-07 AGM survey* under section 7
3. Addition of reference document under section *2025-06-19 St. James Way Forward* under new business *d*
4. Addition of correspondence *n*
5. Addition of *T-shirts and bandanas for General Council Commissioners* under new business *e*

CARRIED

Introductions & Time for sharing – All were invited to introduce themselves and share some personal background information.

Orientation for Newcomers, Questions – Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted: that the Executive meets on the third Thursday of the month from 9 am-noon; that the technology being used is mainly email, Zoom, and SharePoint/ChurchHub; how ChurchHub is to be used to access meeting information; what the Executive is as a governing body and how it serves the Regional Council; the agenda

format; the duty roster for land acknowledgement, opening devotions and equity support person; and how email polls function. Eric received questions following his presentation.

Business Arising – (none)

Correspondence In

- a) May 7, 2025, Richard Guay, re request for funding from Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture (ACAT Canada) (*for information*);
- b) May 8, 2025, LLWL Student Support Team, re establish a process by which we can evaluate and recommend for licensing, students who have taken the online LLWL course (*for action under section 4*);
- c) May 15, 2025, copied on a letter to Rev. Dr. Michael Blair, General Secretary, UCC, from Friends of the Justice for Palestine Network, re “intensification” of the genocidal war against Palestine and the indigenous Palestinian population (*for information*);
- d) May 22, 2025, copied on a letter from Caroline Leamon, Secretary, Finance & Extension Board (F&E), to Rev. Tami Spires, re F&E approval of request for the Trustees of Trinity United Church (Cookshire) to extend the deadline fixed by the Regional Council motion of January 29, 2025, for the sale of their Church Building and land (*for information*);
- e) May 22, 2025, copied on a letter from Susan Jackson, Information & Statistics Coordinator, Organizational Development and Strategy, The United Church of Canada, re disbanding of Italian Church of the Redeemer PC (MS 3091820; COF 30250) and Italian Church of the Redeemer UC (COF 35165) (*for information*);
- f) May 22, 2025, Vera Young, Laurentian Area Ministry (LAM), Council Secretary, re human and financial resources (\$4000) to support LAM (*for information – see section 2*);
- g) May 26, 2025, copied on a letter from Susan Jackson, Information & Statistics Coordinator, Organizational Development and Strategy, The United Church of Canada, re disbanding of St. Andrew's (Delson) PC (MS 3094260; COF 33028) and St. Andrew's UC (COF 35168) (*for information*);
- h) May 28, 2025, Rev. Dr. A H Harry Oussoren, Justice for Palestine Network, re letter sent to Rev. Dr. Michael Blair, General Secretary, UCC re “intensification” of the genocidal war against Palestine and the indigenous Palestinian population (*for information*) – see *correspondence b* above
- i) May 29, 2025, Sandra Woods, St-James United Church, re proposed working group for development of St-James United Church (*for action under new business b*);
- j) May 29, 2025, Susan Jackson, Information & Statistics Coordinator, Organizational Development and Strategy, The United Church of Canada, re Pastoral Charges that have not yet submitted their 2024 Statistical Forms-Please submit your 2024 Forms by June 23, 2025 (*for information*);
- k) June 4, 2025, Margie Chesney, re Hudson Pastoral Charge - Lobbyisme Quebec and municipal zoning (*for action under section 2*);
- l) June 9, 2025, copied on a letter from Saint-Columba House, re the nomination of Sarah Clark as the General Director (*for information*);
- m) June 11, 2025, Rev. Dr. Marjorie Purnine, Dean of the New York School of Ministry, Associate Conference Minister, New York Conference, United Church of Christ, re UCC greetings video (*for information*) – see *video link*: <https://uccny.info/UCCNYHoward>;
- n) June 18, 2025, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, re proposal for t-shirts and bandanas for General Council Commissioners attending General Council 45 (*for action under new business, e*).

Correspondence Out

- o) May 7, 2025, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, responding to Richard Guay's correspondence of May 7th, re request for funding from Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture (ACAT Canada) (*for information*);
- p) May 15, 2025, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister letter to Sandra Woods, St-James United Church, re Executive response to proposed working group for development of St-James United Church (*for action under new business b*);
- q) June 4, 2025, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, to Margie Chesney, re Hudson Pastoral Charge - Lobbyisme Quebec and municipal zoning (*for action under section 2*).

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

1. Pastoral Relations Leadership Team – Rev. Christine Marie Gladu

2025-06-19_004 MOTION (R. Lambie/N. McMaster) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the appointment of Rev. Morgan Bell, ordained minister, to the Montreal Diocesan Theological College as Director of United Church Studies, 30 hours/week, July 14, 2025, to July 13, 2030, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_005 MOTION (E. Liang/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the change in the terms of call of Rev. Cynthia Reynolds to the Wesley Pastoral Charge, from 24 to 20 hours per week, effective September 1, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_006 MOTION (E. Liang/M-C Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the call of Rev. Cynthia Reynolds, ordained minister, to the Cowansville Area Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), effective September 1, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_007 MOTION (D. Ashby/M. Hammond) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the appointment of Rev. Beryl Barraclough, ordained minister, to the Westmount Park Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), August 17, 2025, to August 16, 2026, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_008 MOTION (R. Lambie/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the reappointment of Rev. Mead Baldwin, ordained minister, to the Waterville-North Hatley Pastoral Charge, part-time (5 hours/week), July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_009 MOTION (R. Lambie/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the appointment of Kelley Molloy, candidate, to candidate supply in Laurentian Area Ministry through the Harrington Pastoral Charge, full-time (40 hours/week), June 3, 2025, to May 31, 2026, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_010 MOTION (R. Orr/M.-C. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the

call of Rev. Dr. Christine-Marie Gladu, ordained minister, to the Lakeshore-Trinity Pastoral Charge, full-time (40 hours/week), effective September 1, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_011 MOTION (L. Byer-de Wever/M.-C. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the appointment of Rev. Rosemary Lambie, ordained minister, to the Mount Royal Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), September 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_012 MOTION (D. Ashby/N. McMaster) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the change in the terms of call of Rev. Darla Sloan to the Saint-Pierre et Pinguet Pastoral Charge, from 14 to 20 hours per week, June 1 to August 31, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_013 MOTION (M.-C. Manga/F. Bukam) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the appointment of Rev. Willy Patrick Ngomsi, ordained minister in the process of admission, to the Saint-Pierre et Pinguet Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027, be approved, and that he be granted a licence to administer the sacraments. **CARRIED**

2025-06-19_014 MOTION (R. Lambie/F. Bukam) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to relicense (with gratitude for their service) the following Sacraments Elders:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| - Carole-Anne Dubé | Metis Beach |
| - Brenda Lee Strickland | Harrington Harbour |
| - Marguerite Cox | Harrington Harbour |
| - Stéphane Godbout | Sainte-Adèle |
| - Mardiros Eylenjian | Armenian Evangelical |

CARRIED

2025-06-19_015 MOTION (R. Lambie/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to grant a licence to administer the sacraments to Jessica Gauthier, candidate in Supervised Ministry Education at the Cedar Park pastoral charge, for the remainder of her appointment (which ends June 30, 2026), effective immediately. **CARRIED**

2. Finance and Extension Board (F&E) – Royal Orr

- See *Extract of minutes from meeting of the F&E Board held on 2025-06-12* as **Appendix A¹**
- See *Extract of email poll resolution of the F&E Board held on 2025-05-22* as **Appendix A²**

2025-05-15_016 MOTION (R. Orr/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receives for information, the extract of resolution of the Finance & Extension Board of the email poll held on May 22, 2025, and the extract of minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board held on June 12, 2025. **CARRIED**

a) Hudson Pastoral Charge - Lobbyisme Quebec and municipal zoning

2025-05-15_017 MOTION (R. Orr/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Norman Robert Boie as the registered lobbyist for *Lobbyisme Quebec*. **CARRIED**

b) Mount St-Bruno United Church

- See *June 8, 2025 Final MBUC First Instance Approval Motion for Meeting* as **Appendix A³**

2025-05-15_018 MOTION (R. Orr/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, on the recommendation of its Finance and Extension Board, concur in the request of the Trustees and Congregation of Mount Bruno United Church for First Instance approval to continue negotiations initiated by the Ville de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville for the sale of their Church Building and land at 25, rue Lakeview in Saint-Bruno (lots 2 417 703, 2 451 953 and 2 451 954 of the Cadastre du Québec), to allow for the development of the site and a long-term leaseback of the church sanctuary and offices, with the proviso that the final terms of any such arrangement shall be subject to the approval of the Finance and Extension Board and that the Regional Policy on Leases and Net Proceeds will apply as administered by the said Board. **CARRIED**

c) Montreal City Mission (MCM)

- See *MCM Expansion Budget Adjusted* as **Appendix A⁴**

2025-05-15_019 MOTION (R. Orr/P. Stanfield) Whereas Montreal City Mission Management, after careful consideration and needs analysis, has been authorized by the Board to expand operations to Quebec City as well as in Montreal;

Whereas the Finance and Extension Board has in its constitutional mandate Article 3.1 “to enable and facilitate by way of financial and material assistance and expertise, the extension of the United Church of Canada...”;

Whereas it is in the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s Regional Strategic Plan to develop and/or expand Communities of Faith;

Whereas the Finance and Extension Board has established a Task Group to study Extension Funding and recommend detailed Terms of Reference for direct granting to recognized expansion projects; (Work in Progress)

BE IT RESOLVED:

That, on recommendation of its Finance and Extension Board, Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council recognize this expansion opportunity **at this time** and authorize the Finance and Extension Board to grant directly to Montreal City Mission an amount of \$60,000 to facilitate expansion. **CARRIED**

Additional information: It was noted that these funds are to come from the endowment fund, and is for one year.

3. (10:40 am) Order of the Day – Licensed Lay Worship Leaders – Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, Charlotte Griffith

- see *correspondence b*

Corresponding Member

2025-06-19_020 MOTION (R. Orr/R. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive make Rev. Lee Ann Hogle and Charlotte Griffith corresponding members for the purposes of this meeting. **CARRIED**

It is felt that the online training course offered by Canadian Shield Regional Council is not sufficient training for licensing LLWL. It is suggested to provide an extensive training course through Dio that is currently being offered to francophone students, and costs be paid as follows: 30% Regional Council, 30% students own church, 30% student). It is suggested that if a course can be created, a letter goes out to

the regional council requesting that new students inform the LLWL Leadership Team when wanting to take any training. It was highlighted that the Leadership Team should honor the work of students already involved in taking the online course through Laurentian Shield Regional Council. Dr. Esther Guillen will work with the LLWL Leadership Team and Dio to see what is possible, and when a framework is in place, communication goes out regarding new process.

4. **Granting & Enabling Leadership Team** – Rev. Barbara Bryce

At its meeting on June 4, 2025, the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team approved the following grants:

Kelley Fund

- *Montreal Diocesan Theological College: Certificate in Bilingual Ministry: requested \$18,000 over two years: no grant awarded from the Kelley Fund.*
- *Union UC: Harvesting Wholeness: requested and granted \$2,500 from the Kelley Fund.*
- *Montreal Diocesan Theological College: Bilingual & Low-Residency Programming: requested \$25,000, granted \$5,000 from the Kelley Fund.*

MOTION (F. Braman/L.E. Moir) that the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team award a \$4,500 grant from the Bhal-Jun Fund and a \$4,500 grant from the Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund to Montreal Diocesan Theological College for its Certificate in Bilingual Ministry program. CARRIED

MOTION (F. Braman/R. Sheffer) that the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team award a \$10,000 grant from the Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund and a \$10,000 grant from the Bhal-Jun Fund to Montreal Diocesan Theological College for its Bilingual & Low-Residency Programming project. CARRIED

Good Samaritan Fund

MOTION that the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team award the following grants from the Good Samaritan Fund, as recommended by the Trustees:

Auberge Madeleine: Hébergement et support pour femmes âgées en situation d'itinérance: \$25,000 (R. Sutherland/R. Sherman)

WIN Intergenerational Network: \$20,000 (R. Sutherland/R. Sheffer)

Saint Columba House: Reaching out to Isolated Seniors: \$30,730 (R. Sutherland/M. Khatchikian)

CARRIED.

Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund

MOTION (F. Braman/R. Sheffer) that a \$10,000 grant from the Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund be awarded to Georgeville United Church for the MOU with the Georgeville Historical Society project. CARRIED.

MOTION (F. Braman/M. Hammond) that a \$10,000 grant from the Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund be awarded to Saint Columba House for the Firm Foundation for Saint Columba House project. CARRIED.

Bhal-Jun Fund

MOTION (R. Sutherland/M. Hammond) that a \$15,000 grant from the Bhal-Jun Fund be awarded to Montreal City Mission for the Resonance: Seeking Connections in a Secular World project.

CARRIED with an abstention by L.E. Moir.

Appreciation was extended to the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team for their work.

Additional Information: Erskine & American applications are being received throughout the year. Folks need to be reminded of the granting cycle (once a year).

There is about 1 million dollars as part of the Italian Church of the Redeemer fund, the terms of reference will be distributed at next meeting.

Nurturing Social Justice and Outreach programs
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5. **Living Into Right Relations Leadership Circle (LIRRLC)** – Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever shared that the circle is looking at a different way of working. Lisa will be the sole representative to the Executive going forward. The database and resources are being used more and more widely across the country (commemorative dates and historical events) – Aviyah was thanked for the work she undertook to get this database started. Blanket exercise is ongoing. Powwows are coming up. There also seems to be more hits regards LIRRLC communications.

All were encouraged to read Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole's (Mohawk minister in Ottawa) article in Broadview for June 2025. It's an important history lesson on the UCC relationship with the Indigenous Church.

It was suggested that any financial request be made to the Finance and Extension Board with a proposed budget and needs.

6. **Community and Justice Leadership Team**

- a) **(Order of the Day: 11:15 am)** Beaconsfield United Church Refugee Intercultural Ministry – Rev. Linda Buchanan

Corresponding Member

2025-06-19_021 MOTION (R. Lambie/M.-C. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive make Rev. Linda Buchanan corresponding members for the purposes of this meeting.
CARRIED

Rev. Linda Buchanan shared extended gratitude to the regional council for its support of Beaconsfield's United Church's Senior Programming and the West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre.

Linda also shared details about the Beaconsfield United Church Refugee Integration and Support Program (BUCRISP) <https://www.beaconsfieldunitedchurch.com/refugee-integration-and-support-program.html>

The Intercultural Church for the West Island and Beyond Cluster's request for funding will be forwarded to the Finance & Extension Board and the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team for further consideration.

Building Communications

7. **Communications** – Aviyah Abrams

- See *Communications Report* as **Appendix B^{EN & FR}**
- See *2025-06-07 Toward 2035 Regional Gathering Evaluation Survey / Sondage d'évaluation du rassemblement régional "Direction 2035"* as **Appendix B²** – Aviyah Abrams shared the details of the AGM evaluation survey.

8. **General Meeting Planning** – Aviyah Abrams shared details in her report on AGM survey results.

- a) **Save the Date! Fall General Meeting/Centennial Celebration**
i. Centennial Celebration (November 15th 2025) - St. Paul's United Church, Magog, QC

New Business –

- a) **Towards 2035/Vision Keepers Advisory Team**– Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
- See *Vision Keepers Concept Paper* as **Appendix C**

Decision taken at AGM: 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

- i) **Establishing a Date for the Congregational and Ministerial Leadership Gathering**
- Oct 17, 2025: West Island,
- October 18, 2025: Eastern Townships

- b) **Pastoral Relations Leadership Team Commission Powers**
2025-06-19_022 MOTION (R. Lambie/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive grant Commissioning Powers to the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, for the duration over the summer and until the Executive meets again in September, and for the purposes of fulfilling the scope of its mandate (calls, appointments, licensing sacraments, etc.). **CARRIED**

- c) **Proposal: Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines (for information)**
- See *Proposal: Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines* as **Appendix D¹**
- See *Beaconsfield United Church, Official Board, E-Mail Vote February 20th, 2025* as **Appendix D²**

- d) **St-James United Church Working Group**
- See *2025-06-19 St. James Way Forward* as **Appendix E**

Eric will share a proposal regarding creating a Commission for St. James United Church, and a future email poll will go out to the Executive.

- e) **Proposal for T-shirts and bandanas for General Council Commissioners**
- See correspondence *n*

There was consensus to have t-shirts and bandanas for GC 45 Commissioners, funds to come from contingency fund.

- f) **Regular Meeting times of the Executive** (has been third Thursday of the month at 9 am).

- g) **September in-person Executive meeting?** To be determined in near future.

- h) **La Table** – Marie-Claude Manga, pasteure, shared the following:

- Commémoration de la journée Mondiale des réfugiés qui aura lieu à Trinity Plymouth le 22 Juin 2025.

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- Les différentes communautés de foi se préparent pour célébrer les 100 ans de l'EUC: St Marc à Ottawa, Plymouth Trinity à Sherbrooke, Missions Protestantes Toronto et Longueuil, CF-MRUC à Mtl. Certaines dates sont déjà divulguées, certaines sont à venir.

Equity Monitor Reporting – nothing to report currently.

Conclusion

The Chair declares that all business having come before this meeting of the Executive is duly completed, and that the meeting is concluded at 12:07 PM.

Closing Prayer – Denis Ashby closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next meeting dates

- Thursday, September 18 may be an in-person meeting (location to be determined)

Norman Robert Boie
Chair, President

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly
Executive Minister

Nakonha:ka Executive Duty Roster			
Responsabilités des membres de l'exécutif pour Nakonha:ka			
	Opening Devotions / Moment de réflexion	Equity Monitor / Équipe d'équité	Closing Prayer / Prière de clôture
<i>Été/summer</i> – Don't meet unless called by the Chair			
<i>sept/sep 2025</i>	Norman Robert Boie	Lisa Byer-de Wever	Royal Orr
<i>oct/oct 2025</i>	Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Florence Bukam	Pierre Goldberger
<i>nov/nov 2025</i>	Denis Ashby	Pierre Goldberger	Florence Bukam
<i>dec/déc 2025</i>	Rev. Virginia Wallace	Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Erika Liang
<i>jan/janv 2026</i>	Adedeji Sunday Akintayo	Marie-Claude Manga	Norman Robert Boie
<i>feb/fév 2026</i>	Barbara Bryce	Rev. Rosemary Lambie	Bailey Eastwood
<i>march/mars 2026</i>	Erika Liang	Royal Orr	Rev. Rosemary Lambie
<i>apr/avr 2026</i>	Florence Bukam	Denis Ashby	Christine-Marie Gladu
<i>may/mai 2026</i>	Lisa Byer-de Wever	Erika Liang	Rev. Virginia Wallace
<i>june/juin 2026</i>	Royal Orr	Adedeji Sunday-Akintayo	Denis Ashby

Appendices

Appendix A ¹	Extract of minutes from meeting of the F&E Board held on 2025-06-12	Page 12
Appendix A ²	Extract of email poll resolution of the F&E Board held on 2025-05-22	Page 13
Appendix A ³	June 8, 2025 Final MBUC First Instance Approval Motion for Meeting	Pages 14-25
Appendix A ⁴	MCM Expansion Budget Adjusted	Page 26
Appendix B ^{EN}	Communications Report	Pages 27-29
Appendix B ^{FR}	Rapport de Communication	Pages 30-32
Appendix B ²	2025-06-07 AGM Evaluation Results	Pages 33-35
Appendix C	Vision Keepers Concept Paper	Pages 36-37
Appendix D ¹	Proposal: Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines	Pages 38-41
Appendix D ²	Beaconsfield United Church, Official Board, E-Mail Vote February 20th, 2025	Page 42
Appendix E	2025-06-19 St. James Way Forward	Page 43

Appendix A¹

LE CONSEIL DE FINANCES ET DE L'EXPANSION du
THE FINANCE AND EXTENSION BOARD of

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA – THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

514-634-7015

225 50^e avenue, Lachine, QC, H8T 2T7

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Board Resolutions

Extract of minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada held on June 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom videoconferencing

Finance Committee:

Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund application extension – Hudson PC

MOTION (F. Braman/P. Bisset) RESOLVED that, given the construction delays of the Côte St. Charles building project, Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting by its Finance and Extension Board as a Commission, grant Hudson Pastoral Charge permission to apply for a grant of up to \$4,000 from the Hybrid Worship Technical Assistance Fund with a deadline of December 31, 2025 (the previous extension was until September 30, 2024). CARRIED.

Pastoral Relations recommendation: Compassionate leave – Laurentian Area Ministry

MOTION (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council (the "CrNRC"), acting by its Finance and Extension Board as a Commission, authorize contributing \$4,000 to the Laurentian Area Ministry/Ministère régional des Laurentides ("LAM"), to be funded from the CrNRC's contingency budget, based on a recommendation from Pastoral Relations regarding compassionate leave for LAM. CARRIED.

Certified true minutes of Board meeting of June 12, 2025.

Caroline Leamon

Caroline Leamon
Secretary

Appendix A²

LE CONSEIL DE FINANCES ET DE L'EXPANSION du
THE FINANCE AND EXTENSION BOARD of

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
NAKONHA:KA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA – THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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Executive Committee Resolution

Report on the results of an email polling of the Executive Committee conducted in lieu of a meeting of the Finance & Extension Board of Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council of the United Church of Canada on May 22, 2025:

RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, acting by its Finance and Extension Board as a Commission, concur in the request of the Trustees of Trinity United Church (Cookshire) to extend the deadline fixed by the Regional Council motion of January 29, 2025 for the sale of their Church Building and land, to June 30, 2025.

The above resolution was circulated via email to the members of the Executive Committee of the Finance & Extension Board on May 20, 2025, the deadline for responding was 12:30 p.m. EST on May 22, 2025. A majority of Executive Committee members voted in favour of the resolution via email by the stated deadline and the resolution was duly adopted on May 22, 2025.

Caroline Leamon

Caroline Leamon
Secretary

Appendix A³Mount Bruno United Church
Meeting of the Congregation June 8, 2025

Motion by Jacques Charbonneau, seconded by Richard MacCaul

Whereas the Ville-de-Saint-Bruno (City) requested the Trustees of Mount Bruno United Church (MBUC) to consider the sale of the property, located at 25 Lakeview, St. Bruno, Quebec J3V 2L4 for the purposes of the development of a St. Bruno Community Centre which would incorporate the existing sanctuary and renovated office and common space (spaces).
See Project Description - City of St Bruno Proposal. Annex (A)

Whereas, the City proposes a plan that would provide space for the Community of Faith in a lease agreement for multiple years.

Whereas the Trustees and Church Council of MBUC have reviewed the proposal and have established;

- a) Preliminary terms and conditions under which they would recommend to proceed with further discussion with the City. See Annex (B)
- b) Preliminary facility requirements to be included in the development plan. See Annex (C)
- c) Preliminary long-term lease requirements. See Annex (D)

Resolved :

1. The congregation of MBUC request first instance approval from Conseil régionale Nakonha:ka Regional Council for the sale of the church building and land situated at 25 Lakeview Lot numbers 2417 703, 2451 953, and 2451 954 in the Municipality of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Quebec and authorize the Trustees of MBUC to:
 - a) MBUC Trustees Sign a Letter of Intent to negotiate the Terms and Conditions of a Development Agreement in accordance with Annex B & C
 - b) MBUC Establish the selling price for the Mount Bruno United Church property at \$1,745,600. Additional property improvements to the Sanctuary will be provided by the City estimated at a value of \$100,000.
 - c) The City will compensate Mount Bruno United Church for the purchase price of the property with terms as listed under the Development Agreement which will include cash payments and a zero-dollar lease for up to 20 years with options to renew.
The cash payment \$736,400 will be paid in two lump sums, \$100,000 due at the signing of the Development Agreement and \$636,400 due at the time of the transfer of property. The Balance of Payment will be in lieu of the use of space by MBUC and documented in the Lease Agreement along with default conditions.
 - d) Subsequent to negotiations, sign the Development Agreement after:
 1. Receiving approval from the Finance and Extension Board of the Conseil régionale Nakonha:ka Regional Council
 2. Obtaining a legal opinion on the final Development Agreement.

- e) Post construction and prior to occupancy sign a Lease agreement with the City of St Bruno after:
1. Receiving approval from the Finance and Extension Board of the Conseil régionale Nakonha:ka Regional Council
 2. Obtaining a legal opinion on the final Lease Agreement.

In Addition

Mount Bruno United Church is in agreement with the Conseil Regionale Nakonha:ka Regional Council policy regarding proceeds from the sale of property and is in agreement with the Regional policy on Leases.

Temporary Space

The Ville de Saint-Bruno will provide space at no charge for services, church offices, education center space off-site while the building is under construction.

The City will also be responsible for all moving and storage costs of the contents of Mount Bruno United Church building and ensure the protection and care of the grand piano, and pipe organ in the Sanctuary.

The project will be scheduled for completion and occupancy in the 4Q of 2027.

Annex A The Project

Letter of Intent from the Ville-de-Saint-Bruno, September, 2022

Presentation of the Project by the City, March, 2023



LUDOVIC GRISÉ FARAND
Maire de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville



CABINET DU MAIRE

Le 7 septembre 2022

Mr. Jacques Charbonneau
Charmain Church Council
Mount Bruno United Church
25, rue Lakeview
Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville (Québec) J3V 2L4

Subject: Letter of Intent to Acquire the Property at 25 Lakeview Street

Dear Sir

I am writing to inform you of the City of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville's interest in the above-mentioned subject.

The City is very interested in entering into an agreement with Mount Bruno United Church to ensure that it can perpetually carry out its pastoral activities in the existing chapel, while allowing the creation of a civic and community centre that could benefit the entire community of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.

In this regard, you will note that the *Table de Solidarité of Saint-Bruno* is currently conducting a study to identify the needs of community organizations. This study will allow us to make a proposal for the creation of a public space and community building on the premises of your property.

We are convinced that the community values that our two organizations share could allow us to realize an extraordinary project for the citizens as well as your congregants. We would be extremely proud to be able to carry out such a structuring project for the community and your organization in one of the most beautiful surroundings of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.

1585, rue Montarville, Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville (Québec) J3V 3T8

stbruno.ca



LUDOVIC GRISÉ FARAND
Maire de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville



CABINET DU MAIRE

If you believe that our respective interests can be combined for this project, I invite you to contact me at a time that you deem appropriate in order to further discuss the financial terms and other conditions that might be considered for the realization of this wonderful project.

Yours sincerely,

The Mayor,

Ludovic Grisé Farand



Vision of a community and civic hub for both the people of Saint-Bruno and Mount Bruno United Church's congregants

Let's begin our journey together!



Shared history

Built in 1960, Mount Bruno United Church has taken root and flourished in the heart of the village of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, on the edge of the magnificent Parc du Village.

The heritage value of Mount Bruno United is undeniable and recognized by all.

Today, the City is proposing to enhance and deploy this heritage around the community, cultural and social life that surrounds it. All of which complements the mission of the church.

Shared values

We hope that the community values that our two organizations share could allow us to realize an extraordinary project for the citizens as well as your congregants.

We would be extremely proud to be able to carry out such a large-scale, structuring project for the community and your organization in one of the most beautiful surroundings of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville.

Much like a bird taking flight for the community, Mount Bruno United Church has the opportunity to contribute to the vitality of the City's community and volunteer efforts, while maintaining its institutional vocation as a place of worship and its related services.

Shared project

The City of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville is pleased to share this vision, which we hope will appeal to you and entice you to entrust us with the ownership and development of the built environment of the church and surrounding area.

Here are the highlights of the proposed project :

- ✓ Creating a community and civic hub.
- ✓ Maintaining the institutional vocation of the place of worship and related services : daycare, multi-purpose room, community kitchen, administrative offices and service to certain non-profits related to the church.
- ✓ Adopting an architectural concept that combines modernity and heritage while respecting the site's current vocation.
- ✓ Preserving the heritage building on Montarville Street and the row of mature trees that border it, which further frames the new public square.
- ✓ With the help of urban design work, enhancing the place of worship by deploying structures or construction on either side of it, by a gradation of heights via lean-to roofs.

- ✓ Focusing the concept of the entrance square (Montarville and Lakeview streets) on the enhancement of the Village lake and the old presbytery, while respecting the human scale.
- ✓ Redeveloping Lakeview Street on a single level allowing for the enhancement of the event component and the extension of the community hub to parc du Village, which allows for the closure of the street during large-scale events.

- ✓ Offering a covered courtyard site that can accommodate a portion of the public market's booths, special events or any other activities.
- ✓ Building the main part of the parking area underground, with a few outdoor spaces retained, notably on Lakeview Street.



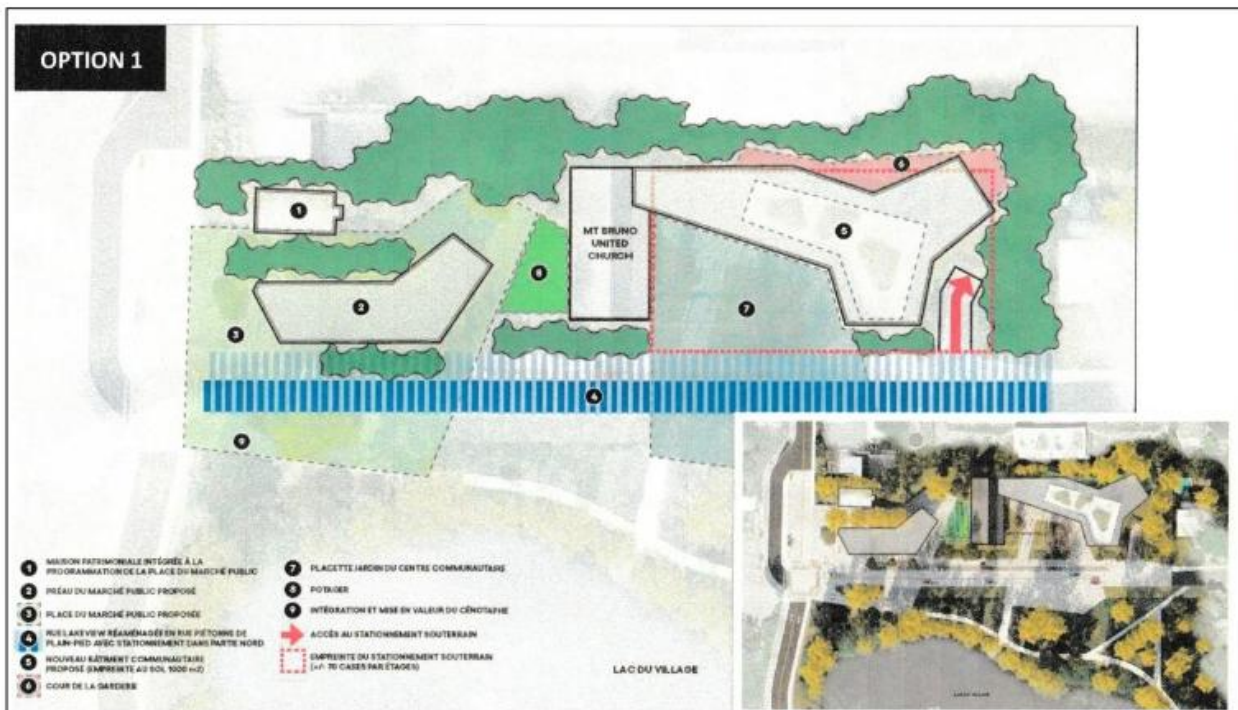
This new hub for community activities and events could include :

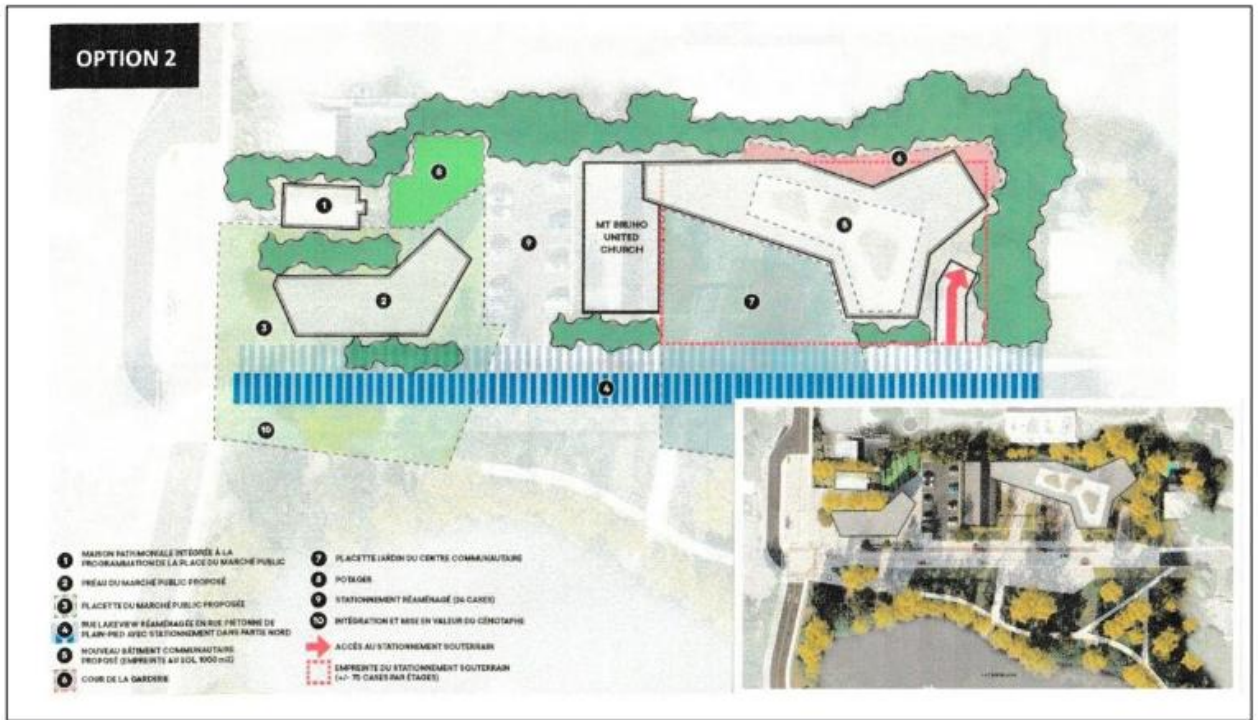
- ✓ Multipurpose rooms and Meeting rooms.
- ✓ Community exhibition hall with collaborative workspaces, tables, coffee, TV, couches, etc.
- ✓ Rooftop terrace with great view of the lake.
- ✓ Permanent or semi-permanent facilities for non-profits
- ✓ Shared spaces, such as a community kitchen, etc.



Moreover, this site has the potential for :

- ✓ Programming of activities, such as : outdoor dance floor, free access games, outdoor public arts, street animation, all kinds artistic performances.
- ✓ The street to become a public place that can be used to the fullest for events and activities.
- ✓ Providing sanitary facilities on this side of the park.
- ✓ Strengthening and diversifying the City's programming of activities and events.
- ✓ Providing a beautiful public square for the citizens and the churchgoers.
- ✓ Responding appropriately to rental requests from citizens and non-profits.





Shared benefits

The City proposes to the Church to enter in an agreement in order to ensure that it can perpetually carry out its pastoral activities in the existing chapel, while allowing the creation of a civic and community centre that could benefit the entire community of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, as well as the Church members.

The City is proposing to establish an acquisition agreement in exchange for a very long-term right of use - all based on the market value of the long-term lease (at least 40 years renewable) and the value of the asset to the City.

We consider this proposal to be a win-win-win for the Church, for the City and for the whole community.

Annex B Development Agreement Terms and Conditions

A Development Agreement will be signed that will document the terms of development and construction:

Payment:

A downpayment of \$100,000, non-refundable, at the signing of development agreement will be paid to MBUC and will be subtracted from the selling price.

Phase 1: Design This Phase will be funded by the City

1. A Development Council will be established including representatives of MBUC, the City, the Architect.
2. Regular meetings of the Development Council will be scheduled and Minutes published within 5 working days after the meeting.
3. During the first year, architectural plans, floor layouts, and construction documentation will be prepared. An RFQ process will be culminated followed by the signing of the CDC Construction Contract.

Note: The church is to be consulted and have final approval on the architectural plans of the Community Centre to ensure that the concept aligns with the Church's vision and standards.

Property Transaction:

The Property transaction will occur prior to Construction.

Phase 2: Construction Program

1. All necessary steps to protect the assets of MBUC will be taken.
2. Construction Delay - Cancellation of Agreement
Occupancy schedule will be fixed at 2 years maximum after signature of agreement. MBUC reserves the right to terminate the agreement for non performance at any time and demand balance of payment. A notice period 180 Days will be provided. Non-performance includes construction contract default, cancellation of the project, excessive delay, occupancy date not respected.

MBUC Presence

An MBUC presence on site to be maintained (Owner Representative)

Annex C Facility Requirements

The Ville-de-Saint-Bruno would construct spaces in the new Community Centre for Mount Bruno United Church, all situated at ground level.

1. Space Separation: A glass entrance wall with secured door between Mount Bruno United Church's leased space and the Community Centre.
2. United Church of Canada and Pastoral Charge presence evident with right to space on main signage
3. Architectural heritage and exterior artifacts maintained and preserved
4. Reserved/dedicated parking of 5 parking spaces with signage in the underground parking near elevator
5. Two offices with windows facing the lake
6. Two handicap-accessible washrooms in Mount Bruno United Church's leased space.
7. 50-person capacity meeting/fellowship space with kitchenette
8. 150 sq ft private pastoral care meeting room
9. Designated space for library, coat and boot racks and custodial closet in MBUC's space
10. Sufficient secure storage space allotted for files, equipment, books, supplies, etc

Annex D Preliminary Lease Terms and Conditions

A long term 20-year lease will be signed between the City and MBUC at no cost.

1. MBUC has the right to terminate the agreement at 5-year anniversaries. Balance of payment comes due at that point. Notice period 180 Days.
2. Should the Congregation of MBUC cease to be viable in the 20-year period, the United Church of Canada has the right to terminate the lease on 6 months notice and be paid any balance of price.
3. Right to terminate for non-performance by City at any time and demand balance of payment
Notice period 180 Days. Non-performance includes
 - Failure to operate and maintain complex as per standards of normal care
 - Inability for Mount Bruno United Church to access space and/or exercise religious rights and practices
4. Additional Rights: Mount Bruno United Church first right of refusal for additional 5-year period after initial agreement at the rental rate agreed to and first right of refusal for subsequent periods
5. Mount Bruno United Church use of other areas of the building at fair market rates
6. Mount Bruno United Church has the right to decorate and use their leased space at their discretion.
7. Insurance
 - Mount Bruno United Church to provide proof of liability insurance/renters insurance
 - City of St. Bruno to provide property insurance for replacement value of complex, Mount Bruno United Church to remain beneficiary of insurance
8. Taxes
Mount Bruno United Church space is tax-exempt
9. Operations and Maintenance
City will manage Operations and Maintenance of the entire complex including building, mechanical, electrical, lighting, heating, air conditioning, cleaning, windows and doors, structural and architectural elements including roof, exterior maintenance, security, fire protection systems, alarms.
All utilities and Wi-Fi service will be provided by the City at no cost to the church.

Leasehold Improvements to be executed prior to occupancy

1. Security and fire alarm systems installed, including bell ring at entrances
2. Upgrades to the Sanctuary space. This would involve revamping the space by removing the pews, installing a new floor and furnishings to evolve the Sanctuary into a multi-use welcoming open space for worship and activities. Further upgrades to the Sanctuary include lighting, sound and video equipment, and Wi-Fi system. New double doors are required as well as the addition of a second exit door in the Sanctuary.
3. New back door and windows in the parlour with entrance porch.

Registration of Lease, Hypothec, Guarantees, Non-Transfer of Property

1. The lease shall be registered.
2. The Deed of Transfer shall be registered with the specification of a legal hypothec of \$1,000,000 to secure the Church's rights in lease terms above.
3. The City will guarantee payments as described in default terms above.
4. The City also agrees to a non-transfer clause for ownership of the Community Centre for the duration of the 20-year lease.

Note:

Trinity Pre-School has been renting space from Mount Bruno United Church since 1969. Trinity Pre-School is a non-profit organization and requires the right to retain their identity as a private English pre-school. The Ville de Saint-Bruno has agreed that they will provide the equivalent classroom space for Trinity Pre-School as well as an outdoor fenced-in playground. The City will take over the lease for Trinity Pre-School from MBUC. The City has agreed to honour the terms of the existing lease, including a location on ground floor and the rental rate of the existing lease at the time of transfer. Going forward, the City agrees that rental increases will be limited to cost-of-living for as long as the pre-school continues to operate.

Appendix A⁴

		MCM Growth Projection					
		2025	2025	2026	2027	3 Years	Note
		Adjusted					
		9 months		Full Yr	Full Yr	Total	
Montreal							
Rental of additional space		\$22,500.00		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$82,500.00	St James
Hire JS admin assistant		\$18,750.00		\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	\$86,750.00	
Increase in hours of supervising lawyer		\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00	
Increase in IT		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	
TOTAL		\$47,750.00	\$47,750.00	\$40,500.00	\$40,500.00	\$176,500.00	
Quebec City: May - December							
Office setup							
Rent ((1436.65 X 8) *		\$11,493.00	\$11,493.00	\$17,239.00	\$17,239.00	\$57,464.00	
Office equipment & supplies		\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$13,200.00	
Personnel							
1 Lawyer		\$38,606.00	\$8,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$271,606.00	Deferred to Oct 2025
JS admin assistant		\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$69,500.00	
MCM QC Coordinator		\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$67,500.00	
Supervising Lawyer		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	
IT		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$10,000.00	
TOTAL		\$86,449.00	\$55,843.00	\$135,739.00	\$210,239.00	\$488,270.00	
Total MCM Expansion		\$134,199.00	\$103,593.00	\$176,239.00	\$250,739.00	\$664,770.00	

The above projections over 3 years do not include a portion of the current legal clinic coordinator's salary for Quebec City.
*rent based on price proposed by the Mère Mallet Community Center with market rent subsidized by Fondation Dallaire

2025-06-19 Communications Report to the Executive (submitted by Aviyah Abrams)**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Toward 2035 (2025-06-07 RCG): The three reminder emails, as well as the mentions in the newsletters from May and June, helped to significantly increase the numbers of participants, but the complexity of having two events in one, as well as too many information snippets, proved confusing for a large number of people. Wondering if our communications hurdles were part of a larger, perhaps systemic problem, I did a short research on the reading habits of Quebecers, and whether they have changed or not over the last five years. I found the following data:

According to Fondation alphabétisation:

- Nearly 1 in 2 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds do not finish high school.
- Quebec ranks 10th among Canadian provinces and territories in terms of written comprehension.
- In Quebec, 1 in 5 people have major difficulties in understanding and using written text.

From Pierre-Alexandre Buisson's Substack from November 26, 2023 titled Les Québécois ne lisent pas: *"Dans une chronique de 2017, Paul Journet affirmait : «En comparaison du reste du Canada, nous possédons encore moins de livres à la maison, moins de bibliothèques et souffrons plus de troubles de littératie.» Même pas besoin de se comparer aux européens, le reste du Canada suffit. «Depuis 10 ans, les Québécois lisent en moyenne trois livres de moins par année. À l'ère des distractions, du multitâche et de la pensée pataugeuse, se plonger dans un livre ressemble à un acte de résistance.» Trois livres de moins, sur une moyenne de 19 livres par année, pour les francophones qui lisent."*

Additionally, here is ChatGPT's take on the subject:

1. Traditional Book Reading Has Declined Slightly

- Surveys (e.g., from Pew Research) show that:
 - Fewer people read print books today compared to 10–20 years ago.
 - In the U.S., the share of adults who read at least one book in the past year has dropped from about 79% in 2011 to around 75% in recent years.

2. Digital Reading Is Up — But Often Shallow

- People are reading more text overall, but much of it is:
 - Online articles
 - Social media posts
 - Emails and chats
- These tend to be short-form, fast, and fragmented — not immersive.
- Attention spans are stretched thin by constant notifications and multitasking.

3. Audiobooks and Podcasts Are Growing

- Many who don't read physical books now listen to books or long-form content.
- Audiobook sales have grown by double digits annually for the past several years.
- This suggests a shift, not a disappearance, in how people engage with narratives and information.

4. Young People Still Read — But Differently

- Teens and young adults do read, especially fiction, manga, and fanfiction — often on platforms like:
 - Wattpad
 - Webtoon
 - AO3 (Archive of Our Own)
- But they may read less literary fiction or classic books than previous generations did in school.

5. Cognitive Shifts: Deep vs. Skim Reading

- Scholars like Maryanne Wolf warn that screen reading trains the brain to skim rather than reflect.
- This can reduce empathy, comprehension, and critical thinking when applied to complex texts.

The communication strategy for the next RCG should be revised and information streamlined to bullet point short info to help people easily find what they need to know. Furthermore, I believe that a collective effort should be made toward re-thinking communications in general, and that user-friendly tools should be added to our communication means, like short videos with key info written on the screen. With the winding down of Centennial celebrations, the communications team will now be able to meet and strategize.

COMMUNICATIONS ANALYSIS

Between mid-May and mid-June, overall engagement and the number of followers increased on our social media platforms (aside from Instagram) and website. The open rate of messages continues to be above the majority of other faith-based organisations (around 62%, compared to 45.5%).

Email Analytics

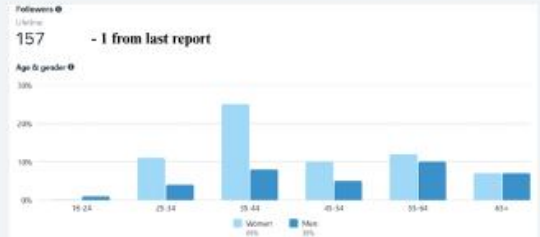
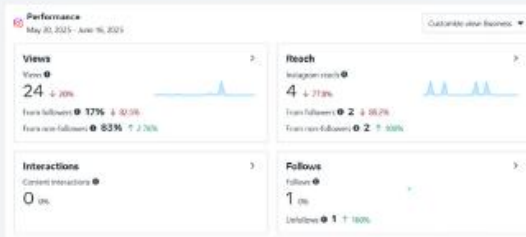
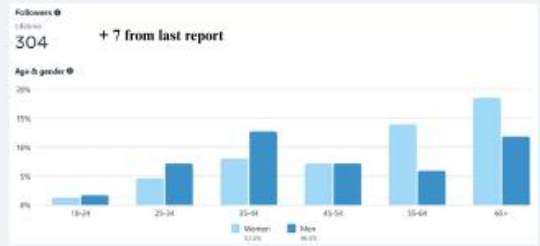
The chart below shows the detailed list of communications that were emailed out between mid-May and mid-June 2025.

Email activity details (%)		Export	Show totals	May 17, 2025 - Jun 17, 2025				
Sent date	Message	Subject	Sends	Open %	Click %	Bounce %	Revoked %	
Jun 16, 2025	Sad News/Triste nouvelle	Memorial service for Douglas John Hall/ Service com...	471	59.66	1.06	0.00	0.00	
Jun 10, 2025	100th Anniversary Celebrations/ Célébrations du 100...	100th Anniversary Celebrations/ Célébrations du 100...	475	57.26	3.16	0.84	0.21	
Jun 6, 2025	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	Last reminder -Toward 2035 / Dernier rappel - Directi...	477	57.65	3.35	1.26	0.00	
Jun 4, 2025	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-06-04	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-06-04	477	63.52	19.71	0.63	0.00	
Jun 3, 2025	2025-06-02 LIRR Newsletter	2025-06-02 LIRR Newsletter / Infolettre du VERJ	477	61.84	17.19	1.26	0.00	
Jun 2, 2025	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	479	63.47	6.05	1.04	0.00	
May 30, 2025	Special Announcement	Special Announcement / Annonce spéciale	479	64.51	8.98	0.84	0.00	
May 28, 2025	Reminder/ Rappel Resonance2025/Toward 2035	Reminder/ Rappel Resonance2025-Toward 2035	483	58.59	5.38	2.07	0.00	
May 27, 2025	Centennial Celebrations	Centennial Celebrations/Célébrations du centenaire	483	60.87	3.11	2.28	0.00	
May 21, 2025	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-05-21	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-05-21	488	63.52	23.77	2.25	0.20	
Total			4,789					

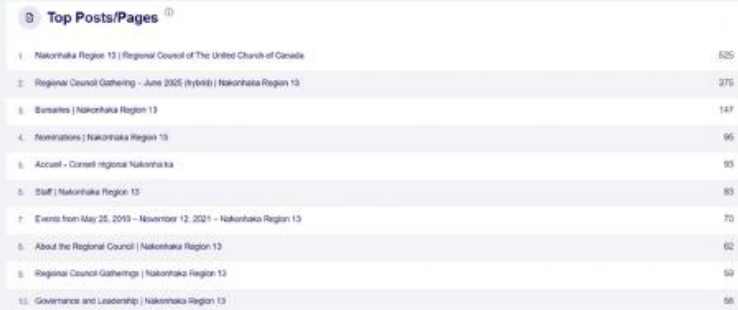
According to Nonprofit Tech for Good and Neon One, the open rates for faith-based organisations from mid-May to mid-June 2025.

- Nonprofits have an average email list size of 4,191 contacts (547 for small nonprofits and 6,602 for large nonprofits).
- Nonprofits have an average open rate of 28.59% and an average click rate of 3.29%.

Social Media and Web Site Analytics (mid-May to mid-June 2025)



Stats at a Glance



Appendix B^{FR}2025-06-19 **Rapport de communication au Conseil exécutif** (présenté par Aviyah Abrams)**OBJECTIFS STRATÉGIQUES**

Direction 2035 (2025-06-07 RCR) : Les trois courriels de rappel, ainsi que les mentions dans les bulletins d'information de mai et de juin, ont contribué à augmenter de manière significative le nombre de participants, mais la complexité d'avoir deux événements en un, ainsi que trop de bribes d'information, se sont avérées déroutantes pour un grand nombre de personnes. Me demandant si nos problèmes de communication ne faisaient pas partie d'un problème plus large, voire systémique, j'ai effectué une brève recherche sur les habitudes de lecture des Québécois et si ces dernières avaient changé ou non au cours des cinq dernières années. J'ai trouvé les données suivantes :

Selon la Fondation alphabétisation :

- Près d'un jeune sur deux issu d'un milieu défavorisé ne termine pas ses études secondaires.
- Le Québec se classe au 10e rang des provinces et territoires canadiens en matière de compréhension écrite.
- Au Québec, 1 personne sur 5 éprouve des difficultés majeures à comprendre et à utiliser un texte écrit.

Extrait du Substack de Pierre-Alexandre Buisson du 26 novembre 2023 intitulé Les Québécois ne lisent pas: *«Dans une chronique de 2017, Paul Journet affirmait : «En comparaison du reste du Canada, nous possédons encore moins de livres à la maison, moins de bibliothèques et souffrons plus de troubles de littératie.» Même pas besoin de se comparer aux européens, le reste du Canada suffit. «Depuis 10 ans, les Québécois lisent en moyenne trois livres de moins par année. À l'ère des distractions, du multitâche et de la pensée pataugeuse, se plonger dans un livre ressemble à un acte de résistance.» Trois livres de moins, sur une moyenne de 19 livres par année, pour les francophones qui lisent.»*

En outre, voici le point de vue de ChatGPT sur le sujet :

1. La lecture traditionnelle de livres a légèrement diminué et les enquêtes (par exemple, de Pew Research) montrent que :
 - Moins de personnes lisent des livres imprimés aujourd'hui qu'il y a 10 ou 20 ans.
 - Aux États-Unis, la proportion d'adultes ayant lu au moins un livre au cours de l'année écoulée est passée d'environ 79 % en 2011 à environ 75 % ces dernières années.
2. La lecture numérique est en hausse, mais souvent superficielle.
 - Dans l'ensemble, les gens lisent plus de textes, mais la plupart d'entre eux sont des articles en ligne : des articles, des messages sur les médias sociaux, des courriels et des discussions.
 - Ces textes ont tendance à être courts, rapides et fragmentés, et non immersifs.
 - Les notifications constantes et le multitâche réduisent la durée d'attention.
3. Les livres audio et les podcasts se développent.
 - De nombreuses personnes qui ne lisent pas de livres physiques écoutent désormais des livres ou des contenus de longue durée.
 - Les ventes de livres audio ont connu une croissance annuelle à deux chiffres au cours des dernières années.
 - Cela suggère un changement, et non une disparition, dans la manière dont les gens s'intéressent aux récits et à l'information.
4. Les jeunes lisent toujours, mais différemment.
 - Les adolescents et les jeunes adultes lisent, en particulier des romans, des mangas et des fanfictions, souvent sur des plateformes telles que Wattpad, Webtoon et AO3 (Archive of Our Own)
 - Mais ils lisent moins de fictions littéraires ou de livres classiques que les générations précédentes à l'école.

5. Changements cognitifs : Lecture approfondie ou superficielle.

- Des chercheurs comme Maryanne Wolf mettent en garde contre le fait que la lecture sur écran entraîne le cerveau à survoler plutôt qu'à réfléchir.
- Cela peut réduire l'empathie, la compréhension et la pensée critique lorsqu'il s'agit de textes complexes.

La stratégie de communication pour le prochain GCR devrait être révisée et l'information devrait être rationalisée sous forme d'informations courtes, afin d'aider les gens à facilement trouver l'essentiel. En outre, je pense qu'un effort collectif devrait être fait pour repenser la communication de la région Nakonha:ka en général, et que des outils conviviaux devraient être ajoutés à nos moyens de communication, comme de courtes vidéos avec des informations clés en surtitres. Avec la fin des célébrations du centenaire, l'équipe de communication va maintenant pouvoir se réunir et élaborer des stratégies.

ANALYSE DES COMMUNICATIONS

Entre la mi-mai et la mi-juin, l'engagement global et le nombre de followers ont augmenté sur nos plateformes de médias sociaux (à l'exception d'Instagram) et sur notre site web. Le taux d'ouverture des messages reste supérieur à celui de la majorité des autres organisations confessionnelles (environ 62 %, contre 45,5 %).

Analyse des courriels

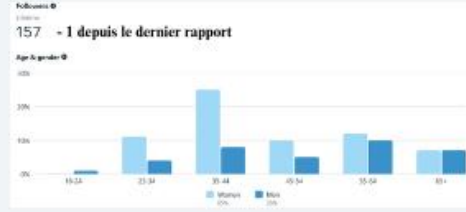
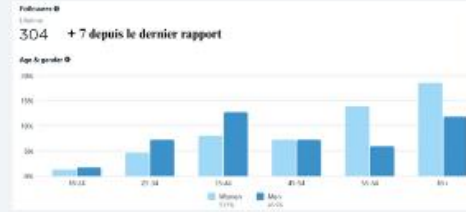
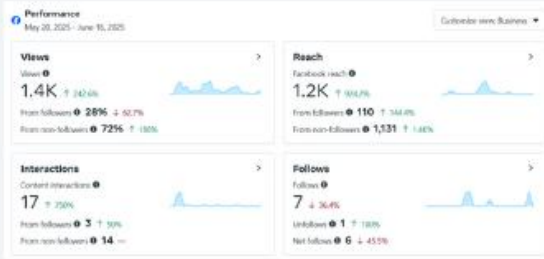
Le tableau ci-dessous présente la liste détaillée des communications envoyées par courrier électronique entre la mi-mai et la mi-juin 2025.

Email activity details (%)								Export	Show totals	May 17, 2025 - Jun 17, 2025	
Sent date	Message	Subject	Sends	Open %	Click %	Bounce %	Revoked %				
Jun 16, 2025	Sad News/Triste nouvelle	Memorial service for Douglas John Hall/ Service com...	421	59.66	1.06	0.00	0.00				
Jun 10, 2025	100th Anniversary Celebrations/ Célébrations du 100...	100th Anniversary Celebrations/ Célébrations du 100...	425	57.26	3.16	0.84	0.21				
Jun 6, 2025	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	Last reminder -Toward 2035 / Dernier rappel - Directi...	422	57.65	3.35	1.26	0.00				
Jun 4, 2025	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-06-04	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-06-04	422	63.52	19.71	0.63	0.00				
Jun 3, 2025	2025-06-02 LIRR Newsletter	2025-06-02 LIRR Newsletter/ Infolettre du VERJ	422	61.84	17.19	1.26	0.00				
Jun 2, 2025	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	Reminder -Toward 2035 / Rappel - Direction 2035	429	63.47	6.05	1.04	0.00				
May 30, 2025	Special Announcement	Special Announcement / Annonce spéciale	429	64.51	8.98	0.84	0.00				
May 28, 2025	Reminder/ Rappel Resonance2025/Toward 2035	Reminder/ Rappel Resonance2025-Toward 2035	433	58.59	5.38	2.07	0.00				
May 27, 2025	Centennial Celebrations	Centennial Celebrations/Célébrations du centenaire	433	60.87	3.11	2.28	0.00				
May 21, 2025	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-05-21	Newsletter / Infolettre 2025-05-21	438	63.52	23.77	2.25	0.20				
Total			4,789								

Selon Nonprofit Tech for Good et Neon One, les taux d'ouverture pour les organisations confessionnelles entre la mi-mai et la mi-juin 2025.

- Les organisations à but non lucratif ont une liste d'adresses électroniques moyenne de 4 191 contacts (547 pour les petites organisations à but non lucratif et 6 602 pour les grandes organisations à but non lucratif).
- Les organisations à but non lucratif ont un taux d'ouverture moyen de 28,59 % et un taux de clic moyen de 3,29 %.

Analyse des médias sociaux et du site web (de la mi-mai à la mi-juin 2025)



Top Posts/Pages

1. Nakonha Region 13 Regional Council of The United Church of Canada	525
2. Regional Council Gathering - June 2025 (hybrid) Nakonha Region 13	375
3. Bursaries Nakonha Region 13	147
4. Nominations Nakonha Region 13	96
5. Accueil - Conseil régional Nakonha:ka	93
6. Staff Nakonha Region 13	83
7. Events from May 25, 2019 - November 12, 2021 - Nakonha Region 13	70
8. About the Regional Council Nakonha Region 13	62
9. Regional Council Gatherings Nakonha Region 13	59
10. Governance and Leadership Nakonha Region 13	56

2025-34

The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Meeting of the Executive

June 19, 2025
Zoom Teleconferencing

Appendix B²

2025-06-07 Toward 2035 Regional Gathering Evaluation Survey / Sondage d'évaluation du rassemblement régional "Direction 2035" (22 answers)

1. How would you rate the overall success of the hybrid Regional Council Gathering of June 7, 2025?
/ Comment évalueriez-vous le rassemblement hybride ... du 7 juin 2025? (0: Poor / Faible, 10: Excellent)
20 responses



What worked well about this gathering of the Regional Council? / Qu'est-ce qui a bien fonctionné lors du rassemblement du conseil régional? (20 answers)

Presentations & Content

- Éric's presentation was praised for clarity, relevance, and delivery — (4 answers)
- Historical and future data (1992, 2023, 2035) was appreciated as informative and thought-provoking — (2 answers)
- Discussions (including small groups) were valued — (3 answers)
- Overall content was meaningful — (2 answers)
- Robert's opening and closing — (1 answer)

Organization & Structure

- Well-organized agenda and efficient use of time — (3 answers)
- Bilingual facilitation (Chair's fluency in English and French) was appreciated — (1 answer)
- Clear and concise meeting flow — (2 answers)

Community & Atmosphere

- Enjoyed being in person / seeing others — (2 answers)
- Warm welcome and hospitality ("la chaleur du comité d'accueil") — (2 answers)
- Opportunity to meet others from different parishes — (2 answers)
- Positive, engaging atmosphere overall — (2 answers)

Venue & Logistics

- Central location and excellent facilities — (2 answers)
- Good use of microphones, PowerPoint, and translation headsets — (2 answers)
- Lunch/food was excellent — (1 answer)

What could have worked better? / Qu'est-ce qui aurait pu mieux fonctionner?

(19 answers)

Representation & Inclusivity

- Concerns about lack of diversity in leadership groups (especially gender and fresh voices) — (3 answers)
- Calls for greater transparency in nominations and elections — (2 answers)
- More encouragement for lay involvement, not just clergy — (1 answer)

Time Management & Meeting Format

- More time for small group dialogue / discussion — (3 answers)
- Schedule timing with Celebration of Ministry and location being demanding for travelers — (2 answers)
- Meeting was too short for deep connection — (2 answers)
- Suggested: longer or separate meeting with more space for meals and relationship-building — (1 answer)

Process & Structure of Motions

- Lack of clarity on motions ("omnibus motions") and limited discussion — (2 answers)
- More time to review motions before voting — (1 answer)
- Chair should call for questions earlier during motions — (1 answer)

Language, Translation & Communication

- Perceived imbalance toward French; not enough English used — (1 answer)
- Translation of land acknowledgment was delayed or out of sync — (1 answer)
- Online instructions were heard by in-person attendees — distracting — (1 answer)
- Simultaneous translation possibly underused or unclear — (1 answer)

Technology & Audio

- Poor sound during announcements — (1 answer)
- Needed microphones in breakout/roundtable spaces — (1 answer)

Spiritual & Theological Content

- Not enough spiritual focus or theological framing — (2 answers)
- Opening prayer / land acknowledgment was too long/repetitive — (1 answer)

Communication & Logistics

- Food availability was not communicated in advance — (1 answer)
- Confusing pre-meeting messaging about Resonance conference access — (1 answer)
- Online participants couldn't see in-person attendees — (1 answer)

Content & Tone

- EM data presentation was too negative; suggested more hopeful or Quebec-specific framing — (1 answer)
- Wanted a financial presentation rather than just printed reports — (1 answer)

Other comments or suggestions? / Autres suggestions ou commentaires?

(16 answers)

Appreciation & Gratitude

- Thanks and appreciation for organizers and leadership ("Merci pour tout" and "The gathering was well organized." "The music was nice.") — (5 answers)

Scheduling & Timing Concerns

- Meetings too close together (March & June plenaries) — (1 answer)
- Meeting date conflicted with local church anniversary events — (1 answer)

Representation & Participation

- Concerns about low representation/attendance from some communities — (1 answer)
- Mismatch in breakout groups (Some groupings (e.g., urban vs. rural) didn't lead to helpful discussions for all) — (1 answer)
- Volunteers for worship not utilized after offering to help — (1 answer)

Financial Transparency & Conference Concerns

- Concerns about cost and transparency of Resonance Conference (\$60K in grants — Includes frustration about consulting fees, lack of communication, and costs passed to participants) — (1 answer)
- Lack of clarity/communication about post-event gala (Found out only via social media; not on the agenda or announced) — (1 answer)

Follow-up & Resources

- Request to receive Éric's data and PowerPoint — (1 answer)
- Hotel info request for November (Magog) — (1 answer)

Neutral or Non-Responses

- "Non" or "Pas vraiment" — (2 answers)

Appendix C

Vision Keepers

The Vision Keepers are an informal advisory team that help the regional council to see the wider picture and ensure that we don't lose sight of the future we are working towards. It is 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.

Mandate:

- Work with the statistical data (congregational statistics, Statistics Canada and Environics psychographic data) provided and mapped by the General Council, analyse it, assess it, contribute to it and understand it deeply.
- Uses the data to identify ministry trends in the region and proposes pathways on how we might best support them.
- Use their knowledge as a filter for decision-making by the Regional Council in an effort to ensure that decisions are not made in isolation of each other nor of the desired future.
- Evaluate and evolve the strategic plan for the region in line with the information at its disposal and with the desired future (to be approved by the end of 2025).
- Recommend agenda items that require deeper discernment by the decision-makers of the regional council.
- Shaping and shifting culture through recommending educational and engagement opportunities for appropriate audiences (congregational lay leaders, ministry personnel, leadership teams).

Timeline: This team will remain in place as the region lives into this new way of functioning. The goal (loosely held and evolutive) is for the governing body of the regional council to increasingly take on this role as it minimizes its focus on 'ordinary' business. It will be evaluated on an annual basis, 60 days prior to each AGM, to assess its continued service.

Orientation and Training: This team will get training and orientation to the task and the tools of this mandate.

A draft "Desired Future": (for initial discussion)

- A church that is geographically within reasonable distance for the population of our region but recognizes that not all ministries will continue (or continue in the form they are currently in)
- A church that is multigenerational and meets the needs of people at all stages of life but does not do that solely through Sunday School programming.
- A church that provides a diversity of ministry offerings throughout the region that extends beyond regular Sunday worship but does not expect all congregations to offer the full range.
- A church that reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity of our population both in culturally-specific communities of faith as well as within dominant-culture communities where the local population would suggest it.
- A regional council that can support and intervene in ways that are appropriate and efficient.
- Communities of faith that are connected to one another, collaborative and not isolated from the wider church.
- Communities of faith that have a minimum number of members and adherents (#), or are changing their model of ministry to suit a smaller community (chaplaincy-style ministry/online or house church)
- Communities of faith that are resilient and able to sustain themselves beyond a single crisis (financial and volunteer stewardship)

What this could mean:

- Is disbanding or amalgamating a faithful response to the situation for some communities of faith? And if so, what kind of legacy might they want to leave?
- Where there are gaps in certain types of ministries, are there communities of faith that could be interested in support to effectively offer those? (training, seed money, mentorship)
- Properties might be held rather than sold in places where new ministry might be possible or desired.
- Ministry personnel with particular gifts might be encouraged to consider serving in places where those gifts are most needed.
- Continued conversations about collaborative ministry models and possible efficiencies between communities of faith.
- Supporting ministry personnel through small group connection, new skills development (what we didn't teach you in seminary but could be useful to you now), retreats and events.

Appendix D¹**Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines**
Origin: Beaconsfield Initiative**What is the issue? Why is it important?**

The president of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr and the vice president Sara Duterte have commended the infamous policies of former President Duterte by continuing to advocate for extrajudicial killings, consistently calling for the murder of “drug personalities” and urging the police and military to eliminate all communist rebels while dismissing human rights. The ongoing National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) activities and the institutionalization, legitimization, and intensification of “red-tagging” – (the labelling of unarmed civilians, human rights defenders, and church members as a tactic of state terror to suppress dissent) frequently lead to extrajudicial executions and embedding these practices into law. Over the past six years, this has fostered a hostile atmosphere towards human rights defenders and church workers. This situation endangers the country's human rights defenders, church workers, and activists.

In this context, we highlight Canada’s obligation to advocate for human rights. This fall, we believe Canada has a critical opportunity to influence the resumption of the peace talks and demonstrate its commitment to international human rights, peacebuilding and women’s participation in peace processes. It is also vital that Canada ensure it is not complicit in human rights violations and extra-judicial killings in the Philippines and prioritizing human rights over economic interests. Unfortunately, Canada’s current policy regarding the Philippines, which includes our ongoing trade and military relations, turns a blind eye on human rights (HR) issues, implies that we might directly or indirectly contribute to HR abuses. An immediate audit of Canada’s provision of financial, programmatic, and technical support to the Government of the Philippines is crucial to assess on our participation in HR abuses. This audit should be completed and reported publicly to Parliament before any new agreements are considered, including visiting forces agreements that could place Canadian troops on the ground in the Philippines.

What is happening now?

Provide a description of the current practice or policy in question, identifying/citing the source of this information.

The United Church of Canada (UCC) has a long history of supporting partners in the Philippines through justice, peace, advocacy, emergency support, etc. We continue to walk with them in mutual radical accompaniment. During its 42nd General Council, the United Church of Canada called for a full communion agreement with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

In recent years, the UCC has engaged in human rights work in various capacities in the Philippines, internationally, and across Canada. The UCC is one of the founding members of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines Canada (ICHRP Canada), in 2019. UCC continues to be an active participant alongside the Beaconsfield Initiative and the Nakonha:ka Regional Council. Through the ICHRPs-Canada, the UCC became a significant contributor to the report *Investigate PH¹* which produced three reports documenting human rights violations under the Duterte government, shared with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international organizations.

Recently, Canadian organizations, including KAIROS and ICHRPs-Canada, have urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to prioritize peacebuilding over militarization, particularly as concerns grow regarding Canada’s Indo-

¹ <https://ichrp.net/iph/>

Pacific Strategy, which heavily emphasizes defence and military engagement. This strategy risks implicating Canada in systemic human rights abuses, as detailed in a recent ICHRP-Canada briefing paper.

Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, initiated in 2022, commits \$2.3 billion to strengthen the South China Sea engagement by prioritizing defence partnerships, naval deployments, and security capacity-building. While these initiatives aim to enhance Canada's position in the region, they signal a troubling departure from its historical role as a peacekeeper and humanitarian actor. Instead, they align Canada with the military-industrial-complex policies that compromise its commitments to human rights and democracy.

Canada's foreign policy should comply with its own "Voices at Risk" guidelines, which focus on safeguarding human rights defenders and promoting women's involvement in peace processes. Instead, Canada and Global Affairs Canada are siding with economic and military interests overshadowing human dignity and peace. Canada should be supporting the resumption of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace talks—reaffirmed by both parties in October 2023, not the sale of arms.

What is the recommendation?

1. The United Church of Canada to participate in opportunities for solidarity and advocacy by urging:
 - a. The Government of Canada to:
 - i) publicly support the resumption of peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and repeal counter-insurgency policies and address the root causes of armed conflict.
 - ii) take the following steps to ensure human rights are a priority for Canada in its relations with the GRP:
 - (1) Perform an audit of Canada's provision of financial, programmatic, and technical support to the GRP;
 - (2) Halt negotiations of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA);
 - (3) Suspend Canada's Memorandum of Understanding on Enhanced Defence Cooperation; and
 - (4) Commit to the participation of women in the peace process.
 - iii) To reinstate the funding to the NCCP initiated by Canadian Food Grains Bank in 2024.
2. United Church Regional Councils and communities of faith to:
 - a. engage in solidarity and advocacy through prayer and action with church partners in the Philippines toward addressing the root causes of the current conflict with the goal of acquiring a just peace, to stop extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and 'red-tagging' which have primarily targeted human rights defenders, lawyers, social activists, journalists, peasants, and church workers since 2001.
3. The General Council to:
 - a. provide prayer, educational and advocacy resources to church members, including the Annual September 1st Day of Prayer for Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines, connecting local solidarity efforts with NGO's, ecumenical and international efforts for just and lasting peace in the Philippines; and
 - b. continue to financially support the United Church of Canada's partners in the Philippines: National Council of Churches in the Philippines, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Ecumenical Bishops Forum, Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines, Regional Ecumenical Council in the Cordillera in their deep capacity for and implementation of programs that work toward addressing the root cause of the conflict and seeking a just and lasting peace in the Philippines.

Background information:

Provide details the General Council needs to make an informed decision on the proposal.

There is a critical opportunity now for Canada to influence the resumption of peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and to demonstrate the strong commitment of Canadians to international human rights, peacebuilding and women's participation in peace processes. It is also vital that Canada ensure it is not complicit in human rights violations and extra-judicial killings in the Philippines and that human rights remain a priority in Canada's foreign policies.

This motion for just and lasting peace in the Philippines is supported by many communities of faith across Canada with longstanding partnerships with churches, civil society organizations, and human rights defenders in the Philippines: The Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, Development and Peace/Development et Paix - Caritas Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Philippine Independent Church, Nakonha:ka Regional Council, ICHRP-Canada, ICHRP-Québec, as well as various unions (CUPE, Steelworkers of America, NUPGE, CSQ, FTQ, CSN, AFPC, etc.). As Christian churches and organizations, we firmly believe in justice and political negotiations to achieve long-term peace and justice for all.

The people of the Philippines have endured dictatorship, militarization and counterinsurgency attacks on human rights defenders for more than 50 years. Following the long dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, there was hope for peace with the transition to a democratic government in 1986 and the initiation of peace talks with the signing of the Hague Joint Declaration in 1992.

Despite several peace talks suspensions, significant progress was made until former President Rodrigo Duterte terminated talks in November 2017. All agreements achieved between the two parties during those negotiations were voided and replaced by counter-insurgency policies and strategies. There has been a wide use of red-tagging which vilifies individuals and groups as communists or terrorist. The red-tagging is being used against civil society and humanitarian groups, human rights defenders, Indigenous leaders, journalists, and even faith leaders. Red-tagged people have been harassed by the military, killed extra judiciously, or have disappeared. United Nations experts and human rights organizations point to the counter-insurgency campaign as the cause for the unprecedented escalation of human rights violations against civilians during Duterte's administration. Human Rights Watch characterized his presidency as "the worst human rights crisis since the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos."

Today, the Philippines under President Marcos Jr. (son of the former dictator) and Vice-President Sara Duterte (daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte) remains plagued by serious human rights violations, militarization, red-tagging, extra-judicial killings and attacks on human rights defenders and civil society. Duterte's counter-insurgency policies and strategies have been kept in place by President Marcos Jr. Our church partners in the region are victims of red-tagging, counterinsurgency, and being labelled as terrorists. Our UCC members, members of ICHRP Canada, and similarly many partner human rights organizations in the Philippines are increasingly "red-tagged" for their efforts toward just peace.

Canada's current trade and military policies and relationships with the GRP could directly or indirectly contribute to the continuation of human rights abuses. An immediate audit of Canada's provision of financial, programmatic, and technical support to the Government of the Philippines is essential. This audit should be completed and publicly reported to Parliament before any new agreements are contemplated, including visiting forces agreements that could place Canadian soldiers on the ground.

Recent developments in the Philippines present an opportunity for Canada in 2025 to support a path towards a just peace. On November 23, 2023, the GRP and the NDFP released a Joint Statement indicating a possible

resumption of peace negotiations. In October 2024, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to resuming the peace talks, and the Presidential Peace Adviser acknowledged the need to remove the conditions hindering the forging of a final peace agreement with the NDFP. Canada's public support and encouragement would be key.

How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

Describe in broad terms how this proposal engages with the United Church's established principles and positions on equity.

These words from the Song of Faith and the excerpt from the United Church web page explains perfectly why this proposal lives supports our commitment to equity:

“We sing of God's good news lived out,
a church with purpose:

faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,
human dignity defended,
members of a community held and inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending.

We sing of God's mission.”

Government officials, elected and non-elected have responsibilities to listen and engage with their communities to ensure that government decisions have the community's best interests at the forefront. Unfortunately, the loudest voices can often represent corporate interests—rather than those who most need justice and equity.

When people of faith build relationships with elected officials and structures, we can collaboratively create a vision of Canadian society

- that honours diversity, opposes hate and xenophobia, and is open to people fleeing persecution;
- that leads a movement of healing and protecting places and people being negatively affected by climate change, in our own communities and around the world;
- that leads with integrity in the international community—Canada's global relationships must demonstrate an unwavering commitment to human rights, dignity, and international law;
- that individually and collectively lives out in action the belief that all human beings are created in the image of God, equal, and infinitely precious.

Appendix D²

Beaconsfield United Church
Official Board
E-Mail Vote February 20th, 2025

Robin Little made a motion to approve the proposal to General Council on the continued work of the Beaconsfield Initiative entitled "Just and Lasting Peace in the Philippines."
Seconded by Lorne Walker. With majority approval, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Gail Johns
February 20th, 2025

Appendix E

St. James Next Steps
Options for Response to Saint James UC Working Group Composition

The case being made for the participation of the four people from St. James can be summarized as follows:

1. They are the most knowledgeable about the file and others would not be as strongly able to handle it.
2. This is not a decision-making body, so conflict of interest is mitigated and not covered by the recent decision of the General Council Executive.
3. Their board has confidence in these participants and has formally moved a motion to that effect.

We took the position that we would like to be consistent with the decision of the General Council Executive made in March that family members cannot participate in decision-making, so that even though it is not a decision-making body, that it would be inappropriate to have staff or family participate in those negotiations.

On the content:

St. James feels they were promised \$260,000 of financial support annually for their ministry from Kindred Works until the development was producing revenue. Kindred Works denies this, but this is why St. James is unhappy about the situation since they could have explored other solutions if they knew this is what they were facing.

Like many other ministries, St. James relies on the revenue from rental to continue its ministry. It's annual budget for ministry alone is \$380,000 and includes a large music ministry (staffed) and full-time ministry personnel.

They have started conversations with other developers because of their frustration with the Kindred Works process that has largely been doing their work quietly and without involving them in meetings with governments and authorities. Any such discussions should have been approved by the Regional Council, but they do not have the authority to sign new contracts or agreements without approval.

From a purely financial perspective, Saint James has not paid its assessments in the last two years nor made any payments on its loans from F&E. They are significantly indebted to Desjardins and have a property that still requires significant work with no funds to look after it – or to meet the matching funds required by government grants. They have no reserve funds and believe that they have reduced the costs of their ministry to the bare bones, however they have multiple staff, a full-time minister, and a full music program with an annual budget of \$380,000 for ministry purposes alone (outside of building expenses).

Possible ways to respond at this moment:

1. **Confirm** rejection of the proposed membership by St. James and stick to our previous statement that a staff person and the spouse of the minister have conflicted interests and cannot participate in the conversation.
2. **Divide** out the two conflicted persons when formal negotiations are involved, but keep them at the table for the conversation.
3. **Accept** their composition proposal and move on with the process.
4. **Simplify** by abandoning the original plan and suggest that St. James suggest an annual loan to last for seven years to be paid back by the revenue of the redevelopment to be considered by the F&E Board. A back-and-forth negotiation would be used to land on a final amount.
5. **Create** a commission that has specific authorities and powers to make decisions for Saint James for a year to make decisions about managing budgets.