
FALL GENERAL MEETING**November 15, 2025**

Theme "100 Years: Rooted in Faith, Eyes to the Future"

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Fall General Meeting on Saturday, November 15th 2025, at St. Paul's United Church in Magog. The theme for this meeting was "100 Years: Rooted in Faith, Eyes to the Future". A centennial celebration of The United Church of Canada was held following the business meeting.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

Ministry Personnel (Ordained, Diaconal, Designated Lay) (31)

Adedeji Akintayo, Andrew Lairenge, Angelika Piche, Barbara Bryce, Beryl Barraclough, Birgit Neuschild, Cathy Hamilton, Christine Marie Gladu, Cynthia Reynolds, Dale Breitreutz, Darla Sloan, David Lefneski, Douglas Throop, Eric Hebert-Daly, Florence Bukam, Kelley Molloy, Kent Chown, Linda Buchanan, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Mark Hammond, Mead Baldwin, Mher Khatchikian, Patricia Lisson, Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Pierre Goldberger, Read Sherman, Reginald Jennings, Rosemary Lambie, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Tami Spires, Virginia Wallace.

Lay Representative (Appointed by Community of Faith) (27)

Alicia Southall, Carol Bircher, Charlotte Griffith, Denis Ashby, Diane Campbell, Dorothy Shaw, Elva Crawford, Gerard Gouw, Graham Southall, James Vanstone, Jan Langelier, Janice Knowles, Judy Bachelder, Kefas Tabath Augustine, L. E. Moir, Margaret Chesney, Michelle Richard, Monique Moser, Norm Haslam, Norman Robert Boie, Paul Stanfield, Paul Surprenant, Peter Bisset, Rosemary Warren, Thomas Kent, Valerie Nickson, Vivienne Galanis.

Candidates for Ministry (3)

Erika Liang, Juyoung Lee, Peter Buhendwa.

First Third (under 35) (1)

Sarah Garceau.

Regional Council/ General Council Staff (5)

Aviyah Abrams, Brian Ruse, Dan Hayward, Esther Guillen, Joel Miller.

Guests (12)

Beverly Clark, Darren Foka, Diane Stevenson-Cantin, Gerald H. Mc Intyre, Guy-Lin Beaudoin, Howard Kane, Jean-Daniel O'Donnada, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Morgan Bell, Robert Patton, Royal Orr, Sarah Wicks-Potter.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Registration

Attendees participating in person were welcomed at St. Paul's United Church, Magog beginning at 8:30 am. Attendees participating online were welcomed to connect through Zoom beginning at 8:30 am.

Gathering Music

Leslie Young, music director.

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, indicating full name, language, pronouns, X if non-voting, and A if animator for discussion group.

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, provides instructions on how to use simultaneous translation headsets for in person participants at St. Paul's United Church.

Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer

Ronwahaweta (Rev. Robert Patton) led the Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer

Welcoming to the Land

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

Land Acknowledgment

Norman Robert Boie, President, leads the land acknowledgement:

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

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

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

Opening Words, Welcome to New-Comers, Welcome from Hosting Congregation

Words of welcome were offered by the President of the regional council, as well as from members of the hosting congregation, St. Paul's United Church, Magog.

Opening Worship

Opening worship began with a reading from Psalm 119:105, a short reflection, a Prayer, and the singing hymn "I Know Your Word" (MV 108). This was then followed by the reading of Proverbs 21:17, a short reflection, a Prayer, and the signing of hymn "Draw the Circle Wide" (MV 145). The opening worship concluded with a benediction.

Call to Order

Norman Robert Boie, President, called the meeting to order at 9:43 AM

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

Minute for Equity

Rev. Tami Spires and Dr. Esther Gillen highlighted the following criteria to consider for making a meeting more equitable:

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

Chaplains

Rev. Darla Sloan and Rev. Angelika Piché

Omnibus Motion

2025-11-15_001 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Virginia Wallace) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of June 7, 2025, Spring General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the cut off time for receiving emerging issues for addition to the agenda be 11AM;
4. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Joel Miller (online), Rev. Kent Chown (in person);
5. That the following person serves as Parliamentarian: Rev. Rosemary Lambie;
6. That the following people serve as Chaplains: Rev. Darla Sloan (online), Rev. Angelika Piché (in person);
7. That the following people serve as the Equity Support Team: Rev. Tami Spires (online), Dr. Esther Guillén (in person);
8. That this meeting include the behavioral covenant (to be shared in unison):

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 2025 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

Report from General Council 45 Commissioners

Rev. Rosemary Lambie (Past-Executive Minister) shared some highlights (and many photos) of what took place at General Council 45. General Council Commissioners representing the regional council that were in attendance were invited to share their experience.

Towards 2035, Vision Statement, Vision Keepers

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, shared the strategic vision of The United Church of Canada as it responds to the statistical projection depicted in *Towards 2035*, (encapsulated withing the following statement):

In The United Church of Canada, inspired, resilient and diverse contextual communities of disciples seek to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. The church is present and deeply connected coast to coast to coast, in rural and urban settings, and in ecumenical and global relationships. Guided by hope-filled, adaptive and effective ministry leaders, the denomination is increasingly multigenerational, multiracial, and intercultural.

Eric shared that that the regional council has created a group of dedicated volunteers "Vision Keepers" who will act as an informal advisory team that will help the regional council to see a wider picture of the Church and ensure that it doesn't lose sight of the strategic vision of The United Church of Canada. This advisory team will be a data-informed team, always seeing the broader picture (for more information, see *Vision Keepers Concept Paper* as Appendix C of the June 19, 2025 Executive minutes).

Affirm Process – Introduction, Testimonials

Individuals presented themselves and shared personal experiences of being 2SLGBTQI+ within The United Church of Canada. Following testimonials, it was highlighted that at General Council 45 The United Church of Canada formally shared its written apology to 2SLGBTQIA+ people and communities.

Affirm Process – Discussion

Dr. Esther Guillen and Denis Ashby highlighted the components of the education and discernment process for becoming and affirming regional council, in particular:

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1. Hearing personal stories from within your ministry and the community in order to understand the need for this action.
 2. Hearing about and discussing the modern theological understanding of scriptures which, for years and still today, are used to discriminate
 3. Hearing from Affirming ministries what impact that decision has had on their ministry. Discussing what it might mean for your ministry.
 4. Hearing about and discussing the social justice aspects of why becoming Affirming is important.

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to form small groups and consider what the regional council becoming an affirming ministry would mean them? (for more information about Affirm United: (in English) <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>, (in French) <https://saffirmerensemble.ause.ca/>)

Introduction Here From The Beginning

“Here From The Beginning” is an exhibition that showcases the contributions and experiences of Black people within the church (for more information see: <https://herefromthebeginning.ca/>).

The exhibit was available for viewing during the health break.

Health Break

A break was held for stretching and refreshments.

Gathering Music

Leslie Young, music director.

Nominations Leadership Team, President-Elect, Executive Restructuring

Nathaniel McMaster, on behalf of the Nominations Leadership Team, shared that nominations remain open for the position of President-Elect. An invitation was extended to members of the regional council to submit expression of interest forms for serving in a variety of capacities within the regional council.

Nathaniel also shared models of leadership that other regional councils currently use and explained how these models were informing the Nominations Leadership Team proposal for restructuring the regional council's executive. A finalized proposal will be presented at the annual general meeting in March 2026.

Budgets 2026

- a) Regional Council 2026 Budget
Paul Stanfield, Regional Council Treasurer
 - See *Regional Council 2026 Budget Details* as **Appendix B¹**
 - See *Regional Council 2026 Budget Graphs/Charts* as **Appendix B²**

2025-11-15_002 MOTION (Paul Stanfield/R. Sherman) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council approve the Regional Council 2026 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

- a) Finance & Extension Board (F&E) 2026 Budget
Paul Stanfield, Regional Council Treasurer
 - See *Finance & Extension Board 2026 Budget Details* as **Appendix C¹**
 - See *Finance & Extension Board 2026 Budget Graphs/Charts* as **Appendix C²**

2025-11-15_003 MOTION (Royal Orr/D. Ashby) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council approve the Finance & Extension Board 2026 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

Granting & Enabling Leadership Team

Rev. Barbara Bryce, Rev. Mark Hammond

- See *Granting & Enabling Leadership Team Report (November 2025)* as **Appendix D**

2025-11-15_004 MOTION (Barbara Bryce/Mark Hammond) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team Report (November 2025) as presented. **CARRIED**

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Morgan Bell, Director of United Church Studies, Montreal Dio shared an inspiring reflection on the theme of this general meeting. Following this presentation, participants formed small groups to discuss.

Save the Dates! Nakonha:ka Upcoming Regional Council Events

- i. March 20 - 21, 2026 – Online AGM
- ii. June 6, 2026 – Montreal, QC (TBC)
- iii. November 20-21, 2026 – Online Fall Meeting
- iv. May 29, 2027 – Lachute, QC (TBC)
- v. November 20, 2027 – Online Fall Meeting

Covenanting dates

- Rev. Cynthia Reynolds and the Cowansville Area Pastoral Charge, November 23 – 2 PM
- Rev. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo and the Riverside Pastoral Charge, November 30 – 2 PM.

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 following the rise of the regional council's centennial celebration of The United Church of Canada.

Lunch

The meeting ended for lunch. Participants were reminded that the centennial celebration would take place in the afternoon.

Choir Practice & Worship Leads Gathering

Sanctuary, St. Paul's United Church, Magog

Sanctuary Doors Open to Welcome All

St. Paul's United Church, Magog

Nakonha:ka Regional Council Centennial Celebration of The United Church of Canada

In the sanctuary of St. Paul's United Church, Magog, the regional council held its centennial celebration of The United Church of Canada. The service began with words of welcome, a call to worship, the singing of hymn "Grateful" (MV 182), the Prayer of Confession, the singing of hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart" (MV 79), words of assurance, the singing of hymn "Ô mon âme" (NVU 330), Scripture reading Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-3, a meditation offered by Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho entitled "Concerning Habakkuk's Vision", the signing of hymn "Jésus, Jésus" (NVU 239a,b), the call to Communion, the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, the Act of Remembrance, the Prayer of Transformation, the Prayer after Communion, the signing of hymn "I See a New Heaven" (VU 713), closing words, commissioning and Benediction and final words and Blessing. A small reception was held after the service.

-Appendices-

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

Appendix A	Minutes of June 7, 2025, Spring General Meeting
Appendix B ¹	Regional Council 2026 Budget Details
Appendix B ²	Regional Council 2026 Budget Graphs/Charts
Appendix C ¹	Finance & Extension Board 2026 Budget Details
Appendix C ²	Finance & Extension Board 2026 Budget Graphs/Charts
Appendix D	Granting & Enabling Leadership Team Report (November 2025)