

2025

Year in Review



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## Contents

<b>Preamble</b> .....	3
<b>Reports</b> .....	3
President .....	3
Executive Minister .....	5
Pastoral Relations Minister .....	7
Community of Faith Support Minister .....	8
Communications .....	9
Office of Vocation .....	10
Nakonha:ka Growth Report .....	11
Stewardship Report .....	13
2025 Financial Review.....	14
Finance and Extension Board - Executive Summary .....	15
<b>Leadership Teams</b> .....	17
Nominations Leadership Team .....	17
First-Third Leadership Team .....	20
Licensed Lay Worship Leaders .....	22
Living In Right Relations Leadership Circle .....	24
General Meetings Planning Team.....	25
<b>La Table</b> .....	27
French Ministries .....	27
<b>Other Networks</b> .....	31
Québec Regional United Church Women (UCW) .....	31
<b>Outreach</b> .....	32
Saint Columba House.....	32
Montreal City Mission.....	33
<b>Colleges</b> .....	34
The United Church Studies Program at Montreal Diocesan Theological College.....	34
<b>Strategic Plan</b> .....	36
Strategic Plan Final Report (March 2026) .....	36
<b>In Memoriam</b> .....	42
<b>Retirees</b> .....	44
<b>Newly Celebrated Ministry Personnel</b> .....	46

<b>Anniversaries</b> .....	48
<b>Summary of Actions by Executive and Regional Council (2025)</b> .....	48
January 16, 2025 .....	48
February 20, 2025 .....	50
March 20, 2025 .....	51
Regional Council Annual General Meeting - March 28-29, 2025 .....	53
April 23, 2025 .....	56
May 15, 2025 .....	57
Regional Council General Meeting – June 6-7, 2025 .....	60
June 19, 2025 .....	63
September 18, 2025.....	66
October 16, 2025 .....	68
Regional Council General Meeting – November 15, 2025.....	69
November 20, 2025 .....	71
<b>The Rules of Debate and Order</b> .....	73
<b>Enabling Motions</b> .....	77
<b>Nakonha:ka Regional Council Staff</b> .....	80
<b>Our Affirmation of Faith</b> .....	83

## Preamble

This report book provides a historical record of work and life of The Nakonha:ka Regional Council, for the period beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, ending December 31, 2025.

The first section includes reports from the President, the Executive Minister, the Pastoral Relations Minister, the Community of Faith Support Minister, the Communications Officer, the Office of Vocation Minister, the Growth Animator and the Community of Faith Stewardship Support. It also provides a regional council financial summary; reporting from the Finance and Extension Board; reporting from Leaderships Teams (Nominations, Living into Right Relations, First Thirds Ministries, Licenced Lay Worship Leaders, General Meeting Planning); reporting from The Québec Regional United Church Women (UCW), French Ministries (*La Table*), Saint-Columba House, Montreal City Mission, the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, and the strategic plan final report.

The second section provides an in memoriam of ministry personnel who have died; names ministry personnel who have retired, names new ministry personnel who have been received into The United Church of Canada within the boundaries of regional council, and highlights anniversaries of Ministry Personnel (retired and active) for years of holding designations within The United Church of Canada

The third and final section of this report book provides a summary of the decisions taken by the Executive and the Regional Council over the year (2025); provides the Rules of Debate and Order, the Enabling Motions, and provides the list of current staff members of the regional council and their job descriptions.

## Reports

### President

Dear friends,

The past year has been marked by several important moments for our Church and for our Nakonha:ka Regional Council. As is often the case in the life of the Church, these moments have been filled with challenges, discernment, and hope.

One of the major events of the year was undoubtedly the 45<sup>th</sup> General Council of The United Church of Canada. This gathering allowed us to meet with Church members from all regions of the country. Over several days, we shared, reflected, and made decisions together that will have a real impact on the governance of our Church, but also on how we want to live out our mission in today's world.

Among the significant moments of this General Council, we elected a new Moderator for The United Church of Canada, Rev. Kimberly Heath. We wish her wisdom, courage, and inspiration in this important ministry for the whole Church.

The General Council was preceded by a three-day pre-conference meeting bringing together various working groups. I had the privilege of participating in one of these gatherings, which brought together 2SLGBTQIA+ people from across the country. In a global context where we are observing, with concern, setbacks in the rights, safety, and dignity of LGBTQIA+ people, this meeting was both a moment of clarity

and hope. We took the time to listen to experiences from different regions of Canada and to reflect together on what the Church can offer as a space of welcome, justice, and healing.

In this spirit, the General Council opened with a particularly powerful moment: a service of apology from the Church to 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The Church acknowledged that some of its words and actions have deeply hurt people, both within and outside our faith communities. This gesture reminds us that inclusion is not just a word we say, but a path we choose to walk together. For us here in our Regional Council, it is also a call to action. A call to continue to become a fully inclusive region—a path we are pursuing with conviction.

Throughout the year, several conversations also focused on the future of The United Church of Canada as part of the Towards 2035 initiative. Based on data collected and projections for the coming years, working groups shared their analyses and began to envision strategies for the future.

These discussions are both realistic and hopeful. Yes, there are many challenges. But at the heart of these discussions remains a deep conviction: We believe that God is not done with us. We are called to invent new ways of being Church, to experiment, sometimes to make mistakes, but always to keep moving forward. To pick what bears fruit and let go of what is no longer necessary. Seeking, with courage and humility, how to be a living presence of Christ in today's world.

Last January, the presidents of the various regional councils had the opportunity to meet with the Moderator. This meeting was invaluable. It reminded us that, from coast to coast, many of our communities are experiencing similar realities. The challenges are shared, but so is the hope. And it is good to know that we are not walking alone.

In our own region, several communities of faith have gone through challenging times this year. Some are grappling with important questions about their governance, mission, or future. Others must make difficult decisions about their buildings, organization, or presence in their communities.

These discernments are often delicate and sometimes painful. But they are also moments of truth and transformation.

It is true that we are seeing a decline in some places: building sales, closures, or relocations. But it is equally true that we are also seeing signs of growth. New faith communities are emerging. Some parishes are discovering new momentum. As in spring, some plants did not survive the winter, but others are returning with renewed vigor.

I would like to highlight the remarkable work of Esther Guillen, who provides constant support to faith communities and serves as a valuable link between parishes and various committees in our region. Her commitment and generosity make a real difference in the life of our Regional Council.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who make life in our region possible: the staff members, whose work is often discreet but essential, and the many volunteers who give their time, energy, and passion in the service of the Church.

The Nominating Leadership Team is also doing important work to rethink our governance structures. We are aware that many people today are overburdened with commitments and responsibilities. Finding simpler and more sustainable ways of operating has become a necessity.

Finally, to all the communities of faith spread across this vast territory: know that our desire remains that each of you has what you need to be a living presence of Christ in your midst.

For my part, I feel deeply honored to represent our Regional Council. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It is a privilege to walk with you on this journey of faith, justice, and hope.

May God continue to guide us on this path.

Norman Robert Boie, President.

## Executive Minister

I often get told by people that this is an impossible job. Since the restructuring of the church and the significant size of the geography for all Regional Executive Ministers, it is understandably difficult to be everywhere and on top of everything. As I complete my third year in this role, I can confirm that it is a challenge. Everyone does want you to be at every covenanting service, every team or committee meeting for all three regional councils, and are inevitably disappointed when you have to turn down an invitation to a special event or service.

However, the key to managing this role is to determine where I need to be present and where it is less necessary. There is a team of excellent staff for this regional council that serves you very well and can be there when you need them. We're not a big team, but we will always try and make sure that you've got what you need to manage through challenging situations or when you just need a few words of encouragement.

In the last year, Towards 2035 has taken up a lot of my focus. It is a project that helps us be data-informed and strategic about where we want to be in ten years. It isn't about trying to be who we were in the 1960s when the United Church was opening a new congregation each week. It's not about trying to save every congregation from closure. It's about a realistic vision that encourages us to make decisions today and in the coming years that help to ensure that vision can become a reality. Can we be geographically present so that most Canadians would not need to drive more than an hour to connect to a United Church? Can we ensure that we are meeting the spiritual needs of all generations so that our church is truly intergenerational in ten years? Can we better reflect the diversity of the Canadian population?

Moving to this kind of thinking requires us to change our culture and our ways of doing business – congregationally, regionally and nationally. The Regional Council has put together a team of people called the "Vision Keepers" to help us keep these parts of the vision on the front burner and to help us not make decisions in isolation of one another. It's about ensuring that our vision is fully integrated with the actual day-to-day work we do.

Many of us have long claimed that during church union, the Congregationalists "won", and all the power rests at the community of faith level. While this certainly carries some truth with it, I feel that we've often decided to abandon our leadership when we may actually have been able to play a constructive role. Rethinking how we do things holistically is a key piece of the puzzle in determining how we might play that role more effectively – without undermining the decision-making where it belongs. Could we use our wider-church knowledge to recommend ministry personnel and congregational matches? Could we

encourage cooperation where we see that two communities have compatible and mutually beneficial ministries? Could we identify gaps in ministry offerings and provide some guidance, training and support to ensure that those gaps are filled? Can we rethink the role of our buildings so that they don't eat up most of our energy for ministry?

When we first saw the statistics for 2035, many of us were surprised and anxious by the numbers. They do, however, provide us with a window of opportunity to reorient our work across the church. The biggest barrier that we've identified in this process is the culture shift required. That is why we've been working to provide congregations with tools to help them have these conversations, held gatherings to help navigate the way forward, begun the process of restructuring and renewing our strategic plans in light of the challenge. It needs to be an all-hands on deck exercise.

In Nakonha:ka, we held two regional council meetings that were hybrid in 2025, in part to answer the desire to hold an anniversary service for the region in the fall and to benefit from the Resonance Conference in June. We return to a single annual hybrid meeting and two online meetings in 2026, but as we keep hearing a need for greater connection, we will continue to find opportunities beyond the meetings themselves to bring people together for conversation, learning and connection.

There is a significant concern about overall engagement in the regional council's activities that may stem from a significant reduction in the number of people to carry on the tasks at the congregational level, thereby reducing the energy and volunteers available for wider-church activities. We continue to struggle with this challenge and would appreciate thoughts on how we might address it. I continue to explore ways that the three regional councils I serve might work more collaboratively so that the efforts in one place may benefit us all. Some of our educational events have been shared across regions, and the emergence of a possible tri-regional equity forum is one of the early ways we might try to do this.

A full report on the final year of the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan is provided for your review and as a basis for what we might imagine going forward. A renewed plan will be presented in June 2026.

The piece that gives me hope, energy and joy in this work is the emergence of new communities of faith in our region. Over the last few years we've seen the development of a new French-language ministry at Mount-Royal United Church, a new online community of faith tied to Trinity United Church in Montreal called Sainte-Claire, a growing French African diasporic community that began in Longueuil and is now worshipping at Westmount Park, as well as the ever-growing and dynamic ministries at Beaconsfield and Riverside United Churches that have turned their attention to newcomers as a central aspect of their call. Danville United Church has an emerging ministry to Francophones and bikers. Plymouth-Trinity has a Swahili-speaking community that has sprouted and is growing. We are also in conversations with a Persian community of faith that is keen to join the United Church of Canada. For a province with an antagonism towards faith, the seeds of new growth are taking hold in ways that can only be described as breathtaking.

Deep gratitude to so many of you who contribute to the work of this regional council, particularly the members of the Executive and our President Norman Robert who offers so much of his time and energy to this transformational work we have undertaken. I am honoured to work with Aviyah, Brian, Dan, Esther, Joel, Sara and Shanna. They make so much possible.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry and service towards building the kingdom dream.

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Regional Executive Minister

## Pastoral Relations Minister

On the Second Sunday in Lent I preached on Genesis 12:1-4a and Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, Abram and Sarai (who get new names from God as Abraham and Sarah) as examples of faith. God says to Abram, “ Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.” Abram and Sarai do what God says: they leave their country, their relatives, and their home, and make the journey to the land God shows them. This isn’t like they just piled everything in the moving truck and followed in their car. They didn’t have to get three estimates for moving costs and submit it as the church does now when you call a new minister. They and their nephew Lot had to travel with all their possessions, and all their servants, on foot and with baggage on mules or camels, about the same distance as from Montreal to Fredericton but across a desert, when Abram and Sarai are not young people. GPS and Google Maps did not exist, nor did paper maps, so they had no idea how far away this land God would show them actually was.

But they arrived. And they were blessed. We, followers of Jesus, are among the people who inherit this ancient blessing (Galatians 3:29). We are the people who are blessed to be a blessing. We need to consider, what might that blessing look like right now? How might we, as the United Church of Canada in this part of Quebec, be a blessing? How might we step out in faith, as Abram and Sarai did, unsure of what this may mean, what may come next, and how difficult it will be, so that we can be a blessing to our neighbours?

As Pastoral Relations Minister, I hear ministry personnel and communities of faith asking these questions all the time, as I work with called and appointed ministry personnel (ordained, commissioned, designated lay, and candidates), Ministry and Personnel Committees and other congregational committees, and governing bodies of communities of faith. Pondering these questions and the work of Pastoral Relations are guided by scripture, our statements of faith, the Manual and associated policies and procedures, the regional council’s strategic plan in fulfilling our vision of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice, and the Toward 2035 project, which is much more than numbers and is really an invitation to prayer and conversation about the future of God’s call to The United Church of Canada.

My main areas of work are:

- serving and supporting communities of faith, particularly in the areas of pastoral relationships with ministry personnel, employment of lay staff, and other Ministry and Personnel matters;
- helping communities of faith to discern options as they live out their ministry;
- encouraging and supporting ministry personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice – this particularly involves assistance with access to restorative care and in planning for retirement and transitions;
- supporting the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team, which is tasked with beginning and ending calls and appointments and appointing regional liaisons and community of faith supervisors to assist communities of faith;
- liaising with my Office of Vocation counterparts, other staff in this and other regions, and the General Council Office;
- supporting the Regional Council and its decision-making bodies.

A highlight in 2025 was being blessed with two new colleagues on Regional Council staff, Dr. Esther Guillén as Community of Faith Support Minister and Aviyah Abrams in Communications. Esther and I now share

the support work with communities of faith and ministry personnel, as the two overlap frequently and each impacts the other. I assisted with the retreat for “All Who Minister” held at Manoir d’Youville in Châteauguay in October, and the Annual Theology Conference in Ottawa later that month. Regional Pastoral Relations Ministers meet monthly online, but every three years we meet in person, which was an enriching experience in November at Five Oaks Retreat Centre near Paris, Ontario. And we marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Church Union at the November meeting of the Regional Council in Magog. And this year I committed to sending Christmas cards to retired ministry personnel and ministers on Restorative Care, which I hope was a way of blessing these faithful servants and another way to keep in touch.

We were indeed blessed when we held our Celebration of Ministries service on May 31 at Wesley United Church, marking ministry personnel retirements, memorials, and anniversaries, and ordaining Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Bailey Eastwood and Virginia Wallace, commissioning Lisa Byer-de Wever, admitting Florence Bukam, and celebrating Maureen Scott Kabwe, who had been commissioned at Kahnawake, and Sarah Wicks-Potter, commissioned in our Full Communion partner denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). What a celebration! And then Kelley Molloy was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister on October 26 at Morin Heights. So many blessings! This 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year really was a special one.

I want to express particular gratitude to the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team (Rev. Janet Bisset, Rev. Christine-Marie Gladu, Rev. Mher Khatchikian, Rev. Dave Lambie, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Rev. Tami Spires and Gary Tompkins) for their hard work – I just act on the decisions that these elected team members make so carefully and prayerfully.

I pray that 2026 will be a year in which I, a believer who is blessed and called to be a blessing, take a leap of faith into new and innovative ways to bless ministry colleagues, communities of faith, and our neighbours across Nakonha:ka.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Hayward UE (Rev.), Pastoral Relations Minister

## Community of Faith Support Minister

2025 was a big year for community of faith support, especially since this was the first year Nakonha:ka had someone in this specific role. I started working as your community of faith support minister in January 2025, with responsibility for supporting ninety-plus congregations, two missions, four church plants, and two emerging communities. In 2025 I visited forty-one different communities of faith, many of them multiple times, for worship, board meetings, visioning, vacation bible camp, building tours, and all manner of other work.

At the regional level, I worked closely with Nominations, Justice and Community Ministry, Finance & Extension, First Third, Pastoral Relations, Planning, Vision Keepers, and the Licenced Lay Worship Leaders Leadership Teams. In 2026 I will add Granting & Enabling to this list. Each of our leadership teams, boards, and commissions have taught me so much about our region and my role within it. I’m looking forward to a 2026 filled with even more meetings!

In 2026 I will continue to visit with our communities of faith, assist in developing our next strategic plan, walk with congregations in transition, a build relationships and networks within and without our region, particularly with our United Church educational institutions. It has been a wonderful first year, and I'm so excited to see what gifts and challenges are ahead in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Esther Guillén, Community of Faith Support Minister

## Communications

### Social Media, Newsletters & Website Highlights

#### Facebook and Instagram:

- Top posts were: Caelis Academy Ensemble concert at St. James United Church; the ad for Jean-Philippe Dubé Goupil's covenanting service; call for nominations in the region; Holding a Vision for the Future promotional post; an ad for the Here from the Beginning exhibition held at Union United Church.
- New content was created for Facebook and Instagram: Feel Good Friday, Thursdays in Black, and Getting the Right Tools for Your COF. Regular relevant postings attracted 11.9 K views on Facebook throughout the year, and the public CrNRC Facebook page received 1.8K visits, a 6.6% increase from 2024. The results were more modest for Instagram, with 2.4K views throughout the year and 43 visits of the CrNRC instagram page (a 7.5% increase from 2024), but the yearly reach on Instagram had a 87% increase. It is to be noted that Instagram is, in general, a much less popular platform for people looking for content from faith-based organizations.
- A content database was created in order to have ready-to-use posts for different occasions: liturgical events, commemorative days, celebrations, inspiration, etc.
- A goal for 2026 could be to clean-up online presence and keeping and updating pages that are still relevant to CrNRC, while closing others that haven't been updated for a few years, like the CrNRC Environment Network. Abandoned pages may deter people from the general public to look further when they come across results that don't yield new content.

#### Newsletters:

- Newsletter open rate was around 60-63% throughout 2025. The average for other faith-based organizations is around 45%.
- 26 regional newsletters were produced, both in English and French, in 2025 (4 more than 2024), in order to offer an uninterrupted flow of information and support upcoming events with more visibility.
- A separate newsletter dedicated to LIRR was created in January 2025, both written in English and French, and was sent out once a month, every month, to share news and spread awareness about Indigenous Peoples.

**Website:**

- There were 13k users for the CrNRC website during 2025, and the most visited pages were the Regional Events and the Regional Council Gathering events. In comparison, there were 4.6k users in 2024, and the most visited pages were Prayers for the family of Kelsey Watt, Regional Council Gatherings, and Staff.
- One of the reasons for traffic increase on the CrNRC website might be that a lot of ‘invisible’ work has been done on it during 2025, the most important of being the revision and correction of the French side, and the implementation of measures against spam and cyber-attacks attempts.
- The website will be optimized during the summer of 2026 for a better user experience and to facilitate access to information, which will probably lead to an increase in traffic. A revision and update of SEOs, which will also occur during the summer, should also contribute to the CrNRC’s online visibility.

Subscribers / followers	2024	2025
Newsletter	516	524 (+8)
Public Facebook page	255	320 (+65)
Instagram	155	156 (+1)

Respectfully submitted by Aviyah Abrams, Communications and Administrative Assistant

## Office of Vocation

Greetings from your Vocational Minister,

Another year has passed, bringing with it many reasons to celebrate and give thanks to God.

As I write this report, I am preparing for a visit with the faculty, staff, and students of Montreal Diocesan College. During my time there, I will attend classes, meet with students and faculty, lead evening prayer, and gather with United Church students for fellowship and conversation. I am grateful for the invitation to spend time with this learning community and am very much looking forward to the visit.

I serve as the staff resource for the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board. This board accompanies, oversees, and assesses applicants and candidates in the Candidacy Pathway. Board members carefully review numerous documents as they prepare for the many interviews they conduct with those entering and progressing through the Pathway.

In 2025, the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board conducted 30 interviews with applicants and candidates, and by year’s end was responsible for 23 candidates and 12 applicants. I am pleased to note that the year also saw the completion of the French translation of all Candidacy Pathway forms, significantly improving accessibility for francophone participants. Of the 35 individuals working with the board, 7 selected French as their primary language and 28 selected English. I give thanks for the volunteer

members of the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, who serve with care, integrity, and a deep commitment to both the candidates and the church as a whole.

Supervised Ministry Education (SME) is a vital component of the Candidacy Pathway for those in the Ordained or former Designated Lay Ministry streams. Our board accompanied 17 candidates in 17 different SMEs at various points throughout 2025. Of these SME appointments, 6 were in Quebec. As Vocational Minister, I provide the initial training for the Community of Faith Connection Teams that support each candidate in an SME, and I serve as the logistical coordinator throughout the SME journey.

In May 2025, the Nakonha:ka Regional Council celebrated a joyful and spirit filled Celebration of Ministry service, during which four ordinands were ordained, one commissionand was commissioned, one designated lay minister was recognized, and one ordained minister was admitted to The United Church of Canada. This marked a total of seven new leaders who now serve within the region. The Candidacy Board of Quebec and East Ontario had the privilege of accompanying five of these individuals throughout their multi year journey in the Candidacy Pathway and shared in the joy of their final interviews and celebrations.

As part of its oversight responsibilities, the Office of Vocation introduced the new *Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy* last year. This policy consolidates and replaces the former *Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Violence Response Policy* and the *Sexual Misconduct Response Policy and Procedures*. The new policy is now incorporated into the updated Annual Declaration form (available in French or English) being used in 2026. Beginning this year, all ministry personnel, including active and retired clergy and candidates, who are completing their Annual Declarations will be asked to attest that they have read the updated policy. The submission window has also been shortened: in previous years the deadline was June 30, but for 2026 it is April 30. Support is available to any ministry personnel who require assistance in completing and submitting the Annual Declaration.

I give thanks for the dedicated and faithful work of the volunteers who serve the Board of Vocation, the Credentialling Committee, the Standards for Credentialling Committee, the Response and Remedial Committees, the seven Candidacy Boards, and the Admission Board.

May the work of the Office of Vocation continue to support, encourage, and sustain those called to ministry in this region and across the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs  
Vocational Minister, Quebec and East Ontario

## Nakonha:ka Growth Report

In 2025 I had the pleasure of serving the Regional Councils of Nakonha:ka, Eastern Ontario, and Eastern Ontario Outaouais for my second as Growth Animator, a deployed General Council Office staff position. My mandate is to accompany existing communities of faith toward renewal and to support the creation of new ministries.

I often reflect on Isaiah 43:19, in which God's voice says through the prophet: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (NRSVue) As I have engaged communities of faith in conversation about the state of the church today, I also hear God's voice speaking about new paths, and unexpected wellsprings. Places where God is at work nurturing new life.

Across the four quarters of 2025 I accompanied 33 ministry personnel and 92 communities of faith. This does not include the communities of faith who participated in the 100 Tables Project for our Centennial Year. Our three regions represented 15 (Nakonha:ka: 1, ECORC: 9, EOORC: 5) of the 117 congregations who embodied Jesus' welcome through invitational events centered around picnic tables from April to December 2025. A map with information about the project can be accessed at [united-church.ca/100tables/](https://united-church.ca/100tables/).

Highlights from 2025:

- a) Supported Wesley United (Buckhorn Pastoral Charge, ECO) who redesigned their Kitchen Party as a radically generous free community dinner, supported by a focused invitation plan. The event welcomed over 100+ people with a free meal celebrating their renovated kitchen.
- b) Supported Emmanuel United (Odessa PC, ECO), with ministry plan development and grant support in launching their first in a two-class series on beginner American Sign Language with 25 participants. This project stemmed from a congregational desire to breakdown communication barriers with deaf community members.
- c) Supported Plymouth-Trinity's (Sherbrooke, Nakonha:ka) Breakfast Club through ministry development and grant support which saw an increase in regular family participation on Sunday mornings.
- d) Began working with McKay United (Ottawa, EOO) to develop an impact assessment and grant support for their Music & Meditation program as well as an in-community pilot project for Spring 2026.
- e) Hosted a series of educational opportunities across the tri-regions, notably multi-congregation conversations on Towards 2035 (such as the November event in Bancroft ON with 40 participants from 6 communities of faith), workshops on the use of Neighbourhood Profiles as a resource for invitation, strengthening invitation with Google Business Profiles, and a 7-session clergy education series launching January 2026.

The past year has reaffirmed how local leadership, both lay and ordered ministry personnel, are hungry for leadership development, especially focusing skills for collaborative ministry, communication for public witness and evangelism, as well as free and low-cost resources for ministry (such as software, education opportunities, curriculums...etc).

I look forward to continuing to accompany ministry leaders and communities on the new pathways the Spirit is guiding us on over 2026. I perceive God at work, calling us to the dream our church has named and shared, in becoming a faith community of inspired, resilient, and diverse disciples who seek to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator

## Stewardship Report

Communities of Faith that successfully nurture people in stewardship and generosity know how VITAL it is to **Inspire, Invite and Thank** them.

Good stewardship is NOT about guilt, or duty, or threats. These don't work and don't build up the sustainability of your Community of Faith in the short or long term.

Inspiring stories from the work and life of your Community of Faith, along with people sharing their own personal testimony about how the Community of Faith matters to them can energise your Community of Faith.

That's what people's gifts of money and time are doing. They are changing lives and making a difference. Invitations to share that are clear and specific help people know what the expectations are. If you are not giving, start. If you are giving sporadically, give regularly. If you are giving regularly, give proportionately. Your Community of Faith must intentionally help people to move along that generosity pathway.

Giving and generosity help people grow in faith and deepen their reliance on God's generosity and abundance. That's why you invite them to get involved.

Thanking people makes sure they do not feel like resources to be extracted. You cannot say thank you enough. No one ever left a church for being thanked too much. Many have left because they felt ignored or taken for granted. Thank from the pulpit. Thank in the newsletter. Thank personally. Thank promptly. Thank often.

Every time someone gives away their money or their time, they are making a choice and a commitment to your Community of Faith and their decision to follow Jesus. They deserve to be thanked.

### **Are you wondering what all this might look like in your Community of Faith?**

We can help you discover the stewardship journey you need to take through the courses in Called to Be the Church: The Journey.

**Getting Started in Stewardship** – a 90-minute webinar to introduce some stewardship best practices and help participants view generosity as a spiritual practice rather than a necessary evil!

**Stewardship Best Practices** – an in-depth, multi-week, exploration of current stewardship best practices with lots of practical suggestions and customizable resources, and ending with a detailed stewardship plan and ongoing coaching to help you achieve your goals.

**Setting Up Your Congregational Giving Program** – Two 2-hour online sessions that help you to plan and carry out a successful stewardship campaign.

**Bequests and Estate Giving** – Two 1-hour online sessions to learn how to set up a Planned Giving program in your Community of Faith and learn how to inspire and invite various planned gifts.



You can find the upcoming course dates and times on [CHURCHx](#).

You can also access stewardship resources, through the [United Church website stewardship page](#). Check out our free downloadable [resource kits](#), or our [stewardship worship materials](#).

But don't take our word for it. **Here is what actual participants have to say:**

A participant from Barrhaven United Church, Nepean (Ottawa) Ontario says, "I am certainly glad that I took it because I had the wrong preconception of what stewardship was."

After watching their Community of Faith exceed their stretch goal of giving going up by \$25K/year by over \$5000, a participant from a recent Stewardship Best Practices course had this to say "The formula works. I was skeptical about all this foofy stuff, but Inspire, Invite and Thank works!"

"The United Church has put together a well-trained and enthusiastic group to challenge your thoughts and actions around Stewardship. Take 30 minutes and make an appointment to connect with your regional rep; a good time investment." A participant from Sauble Beach United Church, Sauble Beach, ON.

Get the Stewardship help you need. Contact the [Community of Faith stewardship support team](#).

## 2025 Financial Review

In 2025 total expenses exceeded total revenue by about \$49,000. This marks the second consecutive fiscal year since the inception of the Regional Council in 2019 that we incurred a deficit. These results were worse than anticipated, due to unforeseen legal expenses, higher Regional Council meeting expenses and higher IT fees.

We are fortunate to have built up a reserve from 2019 – 2023, which was used to fund the deficit in 2025. We once again benefitted from a generous grant from the Finance & Extension Board, which allowed us to provide total Mission Support of \$523,000 to 14 different organizations.

The Worship Leaders' Retreat, first held in 2023, took place again in 2025 and continues to be an annual event for which we have budgeted. We have also budgeted for ongoing funding for the Living into Right Relations Circle.

Our reserve funds have been invested into a prime-linked GIC. We had benefitted from relatively high interest rates, which allowed us to earn significant interest income in 2024. However, as the Bank of Canada lowered its key lending rate several times during 2025, interest income was considerably lower for the year.

Once again, I predict a challenging year financially. While staffing costs continue to rise due to inflation and step increases, funding from the General Council Office is flat and can be expected to decline going forward.

Many thanks to the members of the Finance, Property, and Investment Committees.

## Finance and Extension Board - Executive Summary

### **Executive Summary for 2025**

The Finance and Extension Board (the “F&E Board”) of the Conseil régional *Nakonha:ka* Regional Council is duly incorporated under the United Church of Canada Act. It remains the principal financing means for the development of communities of faith in the Region and has oversight of the investment portfolio being the principal provider of funding for mission support, sabbatical leave and bursary programs.

The F&E Board’s 2025 Annual Report will be released in April 2026. No significant issues are anticipated.

### **Investment Review**

The F&E Board manages the investment portfolios on behalf of the *Nakonha:ka* Region through Fiera Capital Management. The investment objectives are reviewed annually and Fiera Capital meets with the F&E Board on a regular basis to review results. The portfolio generates significant funding for Mission Support and Governance in the Region. Currently, \$15.4 million of unrestricted funds are invested in the Fiera Capital Balanced Ethical Fund for this purpose. The management fee is 0.3%. In addition, funds are held on a restricted basis for Kelley Trust, Erskine American and others. The total amount under management by Fiera capital on behalf of the F&E Board is currently \$24.0 million.

### **Property Review**

The Property Committee oversees and provides technical and project management assistance to those communities of faith seeking financial assistance for construction and maintenance projects involving their properties and buildings. As an incorporated body the F&E Board holds and/or sells church property on behalf of the *Nakonha:ka* Regional Council and give Regional approval where required.

The following projects were supported by the committee in 2025:

- Trinity United Church (Cookshire) - Sale of land and building
- Granby United Church – Sale of land and building
- Baldwin’s Mill United Church – Transfer of its Lake Lester cemetery
- Knowlton United Church (Knowlton-Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge) – Approval of the Plan of Distribution of its assets upon disbanding
- Mount Royal United Church – Sale of manse
- Franklin United Church – Sale of land and building; Transfer of land and building of Zion United Church
- Mount Bruno United Church
- Elizabeth United Church (Harrington Harbour Pastoral Charge) – Sale of manse
- Georgeville United Church – Sale of land and building
- Fulford United Church – Transfer of land and building for sale
- Morin Heights United Church – Loan for oil heating conversion to electricity
- Lennoxville United Church – Sale of manse
- Saint Columba House
- St. James United Church
- Westmount Park United Church
- Plymouth Trinity United Church

- St. Paul's United Church (Magog) – Preliminary assessment of building
- Oil furnace replacement grant – Financial assistance to Communities of Faith that will be participating in the oil tank conversion project

**Loans to Churches**

During the 2025 fiscal year, the F&E Board issued one loan to Morin Heights United Church (for oil conversion to electricity).

At year-end, the combined current loan balance is \$1,355,706 for outstanding loans to:

- a) Morin Heights United Church
- b) St. James United Church
- c) Stanbridge East United Church
- d) Union United Church

**Financial Assistance for Bursaries and Sabbaticals**

The Bursary Committee awarded 31 bursaries from the following: Hugh Duncan Bursary (12 awarded, \$2,080 each), I.F.E Bursary (14 awarded, \$550 each), and St. John's Hall Bursary (5 awarded, \$1,500 each).

In 2025, one application was received and approved for 2026 for the Sabbatical Leave Program.

**Financial Review**

The audited financial statements for 2025 will be included in the F&E Board's 2025 Annual Report. The Review Engagement process will be undertaken by the external accounting firm BCGO.

For 2026, the F&E Board has budgeted a total of \$756,836 in funding available to the F&E Board and the Region. This funding consists of \$609,000 to the Nakonha:ka Region which includes a grant of \$523,000 for mission support, \$35,000 for Mission & Ministry operations, \$20,000 for governance (office) expenses, and a supplemental grant of \$31,000 for strategic purposes. Funding of \$147,836 for the F&E Board includes \$34,736 for staff, \$73,100 for operations, accounting and investment fees, and \$40,000 in grants for sabbaticals for ministers and student bursaries.

**Strategy Discussions:**

As the Model Trust deed and the F&E Board's Bylaws offer wide latitude in terms of financing, acquiring, holding, administering and disposing of property for the Nakonha:ka Region, the F&E Board continues to have a key role in the strategic plan moving forward. Church property remains a high priority with many communities of faith struggling with high costs for property maintenance and operations and, in some cases, lack of personnel to deal with property matters. On an ongoing basis, if church buildings are sold, normally 10% of all proceeds are invested in the Regional Strategic Fund for which the Terms of Reference have been approved. The Fund is held in the investment portfolio of the F&E Board.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the F&E Board for their dedication and excellent work this past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Royal Orr, President, F&E Board

# Leadership Teams

## Nominations Leadership Team

During the past nine months, the work of the Nominations Leadership Team has focused on two things: the selection of an appropriate candidate for the position of President-elect and the restructuring of the Regional Council Executive. The former proved more difficult than expected. By February of this year, no one with both the willingness and the gifts and skills had been identified, despite an exhaustive search. We therefore approached the current President, Norman Robert Boie, to ask whether he would consider remaining in that role for another year, from June 2026 until June 2027. He has very graciously agreed to do so, subject to the approval of the Regional Council.

One of the benefits of this arrangement is that it will allow the Regional Council a time of transition, from the current structure of the Executive to the new structure that we are proposing. This proposal is the result of several years' worth of work undertaken by the Nominations Leadership Team beginning in February 2023, when the Regional Council tasked us to "reflect on the challenges of our current process in the annual creation of the Executive, to discuss ways to build a more responsive and nimble organizational structure, and discern a way forward that will include diverse voices" (from the Discussion Paper submitted to the meeting of the Executive, February 2024). At the meeting of Regional Council in November 2025, we made the following three general recommendations:

1. That the size of the executive body of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council be reduced;
2. That the members of said executive body be elected by and from among the members of the Regional Council;
3. That any officers, as such, of said executive body be elected by and from among its members for a term determined by the executive.

It was our view that these proposals would, first, streamline the nominations and election process and, second, better integrate the work of the various leadership teams with the mission and vision of the Regional Council as a whole. We further offered an example of how these recommendations might be implemented and what form the new executive body might take. Having received useful feedback from various corners of the Regional Council, we continued our deliberations in concert with current, former, and future leaders in order to develop a structure that would allow the Regional Council to fulfill its administrative obligations efficiently while remaining faithful to its Christian calling.

As regards the restructuring the Executive of the Nakonha:ka Regional Council, we, the members of the Nominations Leadership Team, hereby formally propose that the current Executive (comprising 19 voting members) be replaced by an executive body called a Council of Elders comprising 12 voting members ("elders").

Four of these voting members would be *ex officio*; that is, guaranteed a seat on the Council of Elders by virtue of another position held: the Executive Minister, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Finance and Extension Board, and the Chair of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team.

The terms of the Chair of Finance and Extension and the Chair of Pastoral Relations on the Council of Elders would be determined by their terms in their respective office. The Treasurer would be elected by the Regional Council for one three-year term with possibility of re-election. The Executive Minister would

be a member of the Council of Elders for their entire term of employment. Other staff of the Regional Council would be non-voting, corresponding members.

The remaining eight voting members would be members-at-large, elected to staggered three-year terms with the possibility of re-election once (a total of six consecutive years on the Council). They would then be obligated to stand down for three years before again being eligible for election to the Council. The Council would elect one of its members-at-large as Leading Elder for a for a two-year term, not eligible for re-election for four years. The four *ex officio* elders would not be eligible to serve as Leading Elder.

The responsibilities of the Leading Elder would be: to prepare the agendas for, and to chair meetings of, the Regional Council and the Council of Elders; to serve as primary spokesperson of the Regional Council; to attend meetings of the Planning Regional Gatherings Leadership Team; to participate in celebration of ministries and covenanting services, as well as other special services organized by the Regional Council; to provide an ecumenical presence at the services and events of partner organizations.

If an elder is elected Leading Elder in the first year of a three-year term, they would revert simply to being an elder in the third year. There would be one exception to the maximum term of six consecutive years: if an elder is elected Leading Elder in third year of a three-year term, they would automatically continue on the Council for a fourth year (to complete the two-year term as Leading Elder. They thus have the possibility of serving for seven consecutive years.

Each member-at-large would be appointed the liaison with one of the Regional Council leadership teams, viz., First Third Ministries, Granting and Enabling, Justice and Community Ministries, Nominations, Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Living into Right Relations, \*Planning Regional Gatherings, and La Table des ministères en français. The member-at-large elected Leading Elder would automatically be appointed the liaison for the Planning Regional Gatherings Leadership Team.

The elder who is the liaison for a given leadership team cannot be a voting member of said leadership team; however, this would not preclude voting membership on another leadership team. For example, John Smith is elected by the Regional Council to the Council of Elders. He is already a member of the First Third Ministries Leadership Team. He cannot serve at the liaison with First Third Ministries, so is appointed the liaison to Granting and Enabling, where he is not a voting member. He nevertheless continues in his position as a voting member of First Third Ministries.

The proposed changes, if approved by this meeting of the Regional Council, would take effect in June 2026 with the election of the first elders. Please direct any questions to Nathaniel McMaster, chair of the Nominations Leadership Team. To nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership role, please fill out the expression of interest form found on the Nominations page of the Regional Council website and forward it to the Rev. Tami Spires.

Submitted by the members of the Nominations Leadership Team:

Mr. Nathaniel T. McMaster, *chair*  
Mr. Juyoung Lee  
Ms. Erika Liang  
Rev. Scott Patton  
Rev. Tami Spires  
Dr. Esther Guillén, *staff liaison*

## Executive 2025-26

### Full voting Members:

President (2-year maximum)  
President-Elect (Elected in “off year” for one-year term)  
Past-President (one year)  
Treasurer (no term)  
Executive Minister

Norman Robert Boie (2026)  
to be determined  
vacant  
Paul Stanfield  
Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

### Representative of the following Leadership Teams (2 years):

Pastoral Relations  
Representative of La Table  
First Third Ministry  
Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle  
Justice and Community Ministries  
Granting and Enabling Leadership Team  
  
General Meeting Planning Leadership Team  
Finance and Extension Board  
Nominations

Rev. Christine Marie Gladu  
Rev. Pierre Goldberger  
Denis Ashby  
Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever  
Rev. Bailey Eastwood  
Rev. Mark Hammond & Rev. Barbara Bryce (rotating)  
Rev. Virginia Wallace  
Royal Orr  
Nathanial McMaster

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

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

### Corresponding Non-Voting Members

Pastoral Relations Minister  
Communications Staff Person  
Program Assistant to the Executive Minister  
Community of Faith Support Minister  
First Third Ministry  
Property, Finance and Administration Manager

Rev. Dan Hayward  
Aviyah Abrams  
Joel Miller  
Dr. Esther Guillén  
Shanna Bernier  
Brian Ruse

## Leadership Teams

Please visit: <https://nakonhakaucc.ca/about-us/governance-leadership/>

## First-Third Leadership Team

### Leadership Team Members:

- Chair - Rev. Joelle Leduc
- Rachel Lambie
- St. Martha's Rep - Sarah Wicks-Potter
- Executive Rep: Denis Ashby
- SCM rep: Bailey Eastwood
- Martha Randy
- Jennifer Carroll
- Billi-Jo Poirier-Bassenden
- Gary Tompkins
- Erika Liang
- Virginia Wallace
- Shanna Bernier - Program Support Minister for First-Third Ministry

**First-Third Ministry in the United Church serves the members of our communities who are in the first third of their lives: children, youth, and young adults.** Nakonha:ka Regional Council's First-Third Ministry team strives to support, sustain and create programs designed for people in this distinct phase of life. While working intergenerationally frequently enriches youth and young adult ministry, young people have specific needs which must be supported.

Our report is divided into broad topics and age ranges: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Young Adult Ministry, acknowledging that several events support different groups or are intergenerational. We are also highlighting the programs that provide support, training, and resources to leaders of children and youth, who are often volunteers in our communities of faith.

### Children's Ministry (0-12 years old)

#### *Messy Church Across Our Regional Council*

- Shanna continued to support Messy Church events in the St. Francis Cluster, with volunteers and participants from numerous communities across the region. We engaged in some survey and feedback gathering from the Messy Church community in 2025, which will help shape future events in the community.
- The West Island Cluster had a successful pilot Messy Church. The first one was held at Merging Waters in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue in May 2025 and a second one at Cedar Park in Pointe-Claire in October. Both were a joint venture of Merging Waters, Cedar Park, and Ste-Genevieve. In January, Roxboro joined the adventure and Summerlea provided one of the activities. The plan is to hold 3 Messy Church events again in 2026 and gradually extend participation and leadership to all the West Island and Beyond Cluster congregations.

#### *United Spirit Camp*

- United Spirit Camp was held at Camp D'action Biblique just outside Richmond QC again in 2025. We had 65 children attend and 14 youth serving as counsellors, along with a dozen adult staff members. We experienced some growing pains as camp "sold out" fast in the spring, leaving some churches with campers who would have liked to attend. We continue to reflect on ways that United Spirit Camp can offer an affordable week of thoughtful camping ministry to as many young people as we can.

### *Sunday School Share and Swap*

- In 2024, Joelle, Shanna and Martha identified a need for better access to Children's ministry resources and ideas. They engaged in creating seasonal sharing opportunities to foster that collaborative space, at first locally and then by joining our colleagues in East-Central Ontario RC's well-established ZOOM following, which was discovered mid-year. We joined ECORC during Advent planning and continue to share this work going forward.

### **Youth Ministry (12-17 years old)**

#### *Youth Forums*

- April 11th-13th, 2025 - Theme - Beyond the Board - We joyfully explored how games and play help us learn, grow, and navigate difficult moments. Hosted by Chalmers-Wesley United Church in Quebec City.
- November 7th-9th, 2025 - Theme - Human Migration, Understanding the Refugee Experience. Hosted by Riverside United Church, Rosemere, QC.

#### *United Spirit Camp*

- A group of wonderful youth offered leadership at United Spirit Camp as Counsellors and LT (Leadership Training) campers. We added several youth to the Camp Planning Committee to provide a more diverse perspective.

#### *Youth Groups*

- Local youth groups exist in different communities across our region, and Shanna cannot participate in all of them. It is worth noting that if a Youth Group ever wishes to invite Shanna to come and present a workshop, or promote Camp or Youth Forum, that would be her pleasure! In the St. Francis area, Shanna leads a local Youth Group with participants aged 10-15. This group continues to meet monthly on a Friday evening and play games and deepen their community.

### **Young Adult Ministry (18-35ish)**

*La rencontre nationale des jeunes francophones du Canada* had its second annual gathering: (December 2025 -Denis Ashby Attended)

It was a well attended event held at Five Oaks Retreat Centre. There was a literal bus load of folks from Sherbrooke, and Quite a few from the GTA and a smattering of people from in between most notably Ottawa and Montreal. The Moderator Rev. Dr Kimberly Health was there and delivered a very thought provoking sermon on honoring the past but not getting stuck in our ways. The Age range was very wide from 1- 80+ but a vast majority of the participants were high schoolers or Young Adults. The Main focus/theme of the weekend was the Upcoming World Cup in North America so the Main Activity was a 4 team Soccer Tournament featuring Canada, France, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I was placed on team DRC along with the moderator's daughter Petra, what we lacked in skill we more than made up for in enthusiasm. We lost every game badly but had a blast while doing it. In the end Canada won the Tournament after a spirited final against France. Another point where soccer was a key focus is a planned attendance to some world cup games with the goal of promoting the United Church at them, a type evangelism we in the UCC are sometimes uncomfortable with but I welcome as a way to make ourselves equally as visible to people as less welcoming churches. The food was amazing and the kitchen staff were super friendly and I really enjoyed our conversations. We also had a big outing to the Francophone United Church Congregation in Toronto for their Christmas Party/Talent Show. There was some amazing food and talented singers and dancers. The only downside to the weekend was that the

amount of travel meant we spent a lot of time on a bus. On the bright side the bus driver was a really cool person who was a joy to talk to. In summary this was a great event with thought provoking worship, great food, a lot of fun activities and wonderful people. I look forward to going back.

*Young Adult Retreat: Held September 12-14, 2025 at Camp D'action Biblique*

This event is a time of fellowship, learning, and spiritual practice.

During the event, Esther Guillen held a consultation with several participants to get their insights on what Young Adults, inside and outside the traditional church space, might like going forward. It was decided at this event that there was a need for a non-traditional third space, online, for Young Adults to gather and find spiritual communion. As a result, in 2026 we are hiring a Young Adult Online Ministry Position, to create this online space once a month.

**St. Martha's Chapel Update** by Sarah Wicks-Potter (Director & Chaplain)

From January 2025 through December 2025, St. Martha's Chapel hosted 274 people through Wednesday Night Bible studies and holiday dinners. Our average attendance for these events is 6.84 participants. We could not have done this work without the generosity, support and compassion of Conseil Regional Nakonhaka Regional Council, the First-Third Ministry team and its members and the wider support of the United Church of Canada; whether through space rentals, grants, mentorship, and general camaraderie and support, the Region is part of what makes St. Martha's Chapel successful. We continue to struggle with persistent financial support, which makes the ongoing support of the Region even more crucial. We are continuing our work in 2026 with Wednesday night activities every week and worship services at the Cathedral once a month, as well as investigating and praying about new ways to be more involved in the life of the United Church of Canada.

For more information, please visit [www.stemarthe.ca](http://www.stemarthe.ca) or email [sarah@stemarthe.ca](mailto:sarah@stemarthe.ca)

**National Church Involvement:**

In 2025 Nakonhaka Regional Council sent several children, youth and young adults to the 45th gathering of the General Council of the United Church, which took place in Calgary, Alberta and online. The youth who attended spent extra time at GC "Youth Forum" learning about the governance of our church and how proposals and business are managed. The youth were given time to address the whole church, and members of the leadership team, including our own Ben Ryan helped draft two different proposals to further the priorities of young people in the United Church of Canada.

## Licensed Lay Worship Leaders

The time for preparing a summary of our work for the Annual Report seems to roll around very quickly, and I find it hard to believe that we are now almost halfway through February. Groundhog Day has come and gone, and Lent will soon be upon us.

The Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWLs) Leadership Team meets regularly on Zoom. Our role is to provide ongoing support to the LLWLs, and to organize twice-yearly enrichment days for the LLWLs in all areas of our region. The Nakonhaka Regional Council Executive has now made these enrichment days compulsory for re-licensing. If enrichment days are missed, it is up to the LLWL to find some alternate source of learning event and then inform the Leadership Team.

At this time, the Nakonha:ka Region has 14 LLWLs, most living in the Quebec-Sherbrooke (QS) or the Montreal areas, but some living in the remote regions of Métis in the Gaspé or Chevery on the Lower North Shore. The Leadership Team consists of Charlotte Griffith (chair), Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, Shirley Knutson, and Allan Marshall from the QS area, Valerie Nickson (secretary), Norman Haslam, and Rev. Virginia Wallace (as of May 2025) from the Montreal area, and Brenda Lee Strickland from Chevery. Rev. Janet Bisset, also from the Montreal area, has joined the team as one of the supervisors of the LLWLs in training. Other than Lee Ann, Virginia, and Janet, the rest of the team are LLWLs or retired LLWLs.

On April 26, 2025, a Zoom workshop was held with Rev. Dr. Andy O'Neill providing the morning leadership. Andy is published in the field of liturgy, ministry studies and theology, and joined AST as assistant professor of pastoral theology in 2021. The theme for the morning was **Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord – discovering the Holy Spirit through the Psalms.**

Psalms are both songs and prayers that sing of the human experience of God's faithfulness to us in the midst of our joy and our sorrow. In this workshop, we considered the biblical psalms and explored how to write our own psalms of lament and praise, a challenging but rewarding task. Those who wished to do so shared their psalm with the group. The afternoon session was a check-in time, a time to express concerns or ask questions and a time for updating everyone on the fall retreat plans.

On October 3, 4 and 5, a three-day retreat was held at the beautiful Manoir d'Youville in Chateauguay and was organized by a planning team including Valerie Nickson and Rev. Virginia Wallace. Day one was a time for clergy only. Day two was for the clergy and LLWLs to share time together. Day 3 was specifically for the LLWLs. Rev. Ron Coughlin shared his Biblical story telling skills with us on Saturday morning and we were each challenged to share from memory just a few verses from Luke. We spent time outside on a beautiful fall afternoon. We experienced a peaceful Taizé service on Saturday evening. And on Sunday, we were pleased to have leadership from Dr. Esther Guillén, who shared her expertise on the Gospel of Matthew. This retreat was well attended by the LLWLs, who all very much appreciated the weekend, and was in lieu of the usual fall enrichment day.

On Saturday April 16, we plan to have our spring enrichment day in hybrid fashion, at St. Paul's United Church in Magog and on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Dr. Esther Guillén will provide the leadership for the morning session. The fall enrichment day date has not yet been set, nor has the guest speaker. There will not be a retreat this fall.

Re-licensing of the LLWLs is done every two years, and it is required that each LLWL be interviewed and approved by an interviewing team to continue. All of the LLWLs wishing to continue will be interviewed in October of 2026 in preparation for a covenanting service between the Region and the LLWLs at the Regional Council meeting in November.

As well, a support team for students studying to become LLWL's has been formed. It is made up of members of the LLWL Leadership Team Shirley Knutson, Valerie Nickson, Norman Haslam, Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, and Rev. Janet Bisset. The support team continues to follow three students in various stages of readiness. We are currently investigating an alternative to a totally online course, as well as offering ways the current course could better respond to our needs.

As we carry on in 2026, as LLWLs, and as Christians, with all the unrest and fear that surrounds us in Canada and around the world, may Henri Nouwen's wisdom inspire us.

“When I trust deeply that today God is truly with me and holds me safe in a divine embrace, guiding every one of my steps, I can let go of my anxious need to know how tomorrow will look, or what will happen next month or next year. I can be fully where I am and pay attention to the many signs of God’s love within and around me.”

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte Griffith, Chair of the LLWL Leadership Team

## Living In Right Relations Leadership Circle

### Overview of 2025

Who are we as LIRRLC? This is the question we are journeying with this year. Our current visioning statement reads: “We are a group of like-minded peoples who are committed to raising awareness around Indigenous issues through education, co-learning and building relationships.” What does that mean for us today and how can the LIRRLC lean into this and more intentionally express this in our region.

### Highlights.

- We were blessed to gather in person on July 19, on the land at Kahnawa:ke United Church. Hosted by Robert & Alma’s beautiful hospitality, we shared stories and history as well as our dreams for the future.
- We continue to work on updating our Database with relevant and current information that is being used by both secular organizations and the church. We are hoping the new LIRRLC website will be launched in the spring of 2026 which will allow easier navigation for the database of resources.
- We received an invitation from a church in Lloydminster, AB to come visit them and tell them more about our R & K initiative (Respect & Kanoronhkwa’tshera). “How can they begin the process of unlearning,” they asked. We led a decolonial worship service to 250 in person and 300 online and a workshop following the service of 120 people.
- We continue to offer Kairos Blanket Exercises in both communities of faith and secular organizations and school.
- In 2025 The Rosemary Lambie Grant contributed to the Blessing Bag project and to Montreal City Mission/Camp Cosmos’ Indigenous Reconciliation Project.
- LIRRLC continues to offer a monthly newsletter with upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and reflections on right relationship and reconciliation.
- LIRRLC represented our region at the National TRC gathering on Sept 30 for the National Truth and Reconciliation March.





- Good News for 2026! Harvey Satewas Gabriel has completed an Audio version of the entire Mohawk Bible – and will be releasing it gradually via a website.
- The LLIRRLC continues to gather donations for the Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohti:àke . All communities of faith in the region are welcome to support this critical organization.

We continue to offer **Workshops Available to Help Deepen Our Understanding and Engagement**

The LIRR Leadership Circle offers a number of workshops to help us engage important issues on the path of reconciliation and healing, in order to better understand our sisters and brothers in the Indigenous Communities with whom we share this land. Two of these workshops are currently available in French and English and soon the rest of these workshops will be available in both languages.

They include:

- The Kairos Blanket Exercise** (available in French & English)
- Settler Mentality** (available in English)
- Land Acknowledgement**, Parts 1 & 2 (available in French & English)
- Indian Act** (available in English)
- Doctrine of Discovery** (available in English)

For more information on the workshops, please contact: [rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com](mailto:rightrelationsnakonhaka@gmail.com)

**Members of the Living in Right Relations Leadership Circle**

Robert Patton – Elder	Lisa Byer-de Wever	Read Sherman
Pierre Goldberger – Elder	Jan Jorgensen	Salinda Hess
Maureen Scott Kabwe	Linda Buchanan	Rosemary Lambie
Samuel Dansokho– Elder	Susan Gabriel – Elder	Gabrielle Lamouche
Martha Nell Thompson – Elder	Cameron Gray	Attila Gyorgy
Tami Spires	Beryl Barraclough	

Written by Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever & Rev. Read Sherman

## General Meetings Planning Team

**March 28-29 (online meeting) - Theme Daring Justice in Humility**

Presentations offered during this meeting explored the theme *Daring Justice in Humility* through such presentations including: Re-examining Colonialism and Resurrection of Affirming Council process.

- We began the Friday night at 6:30 pm with the Ohenton Kariwatekwon / Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer, Welcoming to Traditional Lands of First Peoples Acknowledging the Land.
- The main item for this evening was receiving the Strategic Plan Interim Report and time spent in Small Group Discussions on the report.
- We returned on Saturday morning at 9:00 am where we received the following information Report Book (2024) President’s Report Executive Minister Report Updates to Governance Handbook Restructuring Executive (update).

- There were 2 presentations: The United Church of Canada Foundation / Mission & Service – Sarah Charters, CFRE, Executive Officer, Philanthropy, The United Church of Canada, President, United Church of Canada Foundation and Upholding Sacred Obligations: Final Report Of The Special Interlocutor For Missing And Disappeared Children And Unmarked Burials – Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator
- There was information given about Resonance 2025 - Seeking Connections in a Secular World and the 100th Anniversary of the United Church
- There was also time allotted for small group discussions.

### **June 7 - 1pm to 5pm – Theme Toward 2035**

This was a hybrid meeting with the in-person portion held at Palais des Congrès de Montréal, following the Resonance 2025 conference. In light of church data spanning 1992 to 2023 and projections toward 2035, the regional council embraced the opportunity to join the “whole church effort.” United by a common mission, the council is eager to work alongside all expressions of the church to implement. There were breakout rooms with time for discussion. Before closing the meeting there was about 45 minutes spent on Business including: Nominations, Recognition of Teams and the Executive.

### **May 31 – The Celebration of Ministries Service**

Celebration of Ministries is an occasion to recognise new ministry personnel through ordination, commissioning and admission. The service also acknowledges ministerial retirements and significant ministry achievements while honouring deceased ministers who have died in the past year.

Wanting to highlight the Celebration of Ministries service in this our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, it was decided to hold this event outside of the regular business meeting. Six candidates were celebrated at Wesley United Church in Montreal on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Ordained to Sacrament, Word and Pastoral Care: Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, Bailey Eastwood, Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, and Virginia Wallace

Commissioned: Lisa Byer-De\_Wever

Admitted to the UCC: Rev. Florence Buam

This was a wonderful celebration and a joyous occasion followed by a lovely potluck meal provided by the members of Wesley United Church.

### **November 15 – Theme 100 years: Rooted in Faith, Eyes to the Future**

Normally the Fall meeting is held online only but this year it was decided to hold a hybrid meeting so we could have a special in-person 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service in the afternoon. The morning’s activities included a report by several participants who attended GC45, information on the Affirm Process, an inspiring talk by Keynote Speaker Morgan Bell, Montreal Dio’s Director of United Church Studies, along with some general business items. Esther Guillen and Rev. Lisa Byer de Weaver provided a very powerful display, *Here from the Beginning: honouring the rich history of our Church through the vibrant lens of Black Voices*, that was available to all present to enjoy during the health/lunch breaks.

There were a few technical glitches with the registration process, and we are looking into ways to improve it. Avi Abrams handled the issues supremely and she was able to get attendance sorted out. We ended up with about 60 in person and 42 online, throughout the day. We very much appreciated the space provided at St. Paul’s UC in Magog and their hospitality in particular the work put in by congregant Russel Dezan who ensured we had a pleasant lunch/snack time experience. Read Sherman organized a very

inspirational afternoon 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service with Rev. Samuel Dansanko who offered a unique sermon.

As this was my first time as chair of the Regional Planning Committee, taking over from past chair Val Nickson, I want to thank the members of the committee for their support and input getting this event organized and implemented. It takes a team and what a great team we have! I especially appreciate the guidance (and it continues) from Val Nickson, moving forward planning Regional Meetings (Gatherings) which are vital to the community connections for our vast region.

Submitted by Val Nickson (March, May, June) and Rev. Virginia Wallace (November)

## La Table

### French Ministries

The year 2025, the last year of the 2022-2025 strategic plan and the Centennial of The United Church of Canada (UCC), marked the beginning of a springtime for French-speaking Protestantism in the UCC.

For the first time in 100 years, French-speaking Protestantism began an upward trend. Forty-five French-speaking parishes joined the Union in 1925. There were 11 parishes in 1940 and, in 2025, 10 parishes and 4 officially recognized communities. This does not include the various faith communities across Canada that have expressed a desire to join the UCC.

We recognize that growth is very real and tangible in French Ministries of the UCC.

#### Some Highlights

- Secretary General Rev. Michael Blair's visit to the French Ministries in Sherbrooke
- Meeting with Moderator Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne (cross-country check-in)
- The first national meeting of Francophone women of the UCC at Manoir d'Youville (about 30 participants)
- The retreat for clergy and lay leaders of French ministries at the Ignatian Spirituality Center in Montreal (Villa Saint-Martin)
- Centenary celebrations, including in Gower, Newfoundland
- General Council 45
- Family Bible camp in Richmond (87 participants)
- The second national meeting of the UCC Francophone youth, Soccer and Faith, at Five Oaks (85 participants)
- Meeting with recently installed Moderator Rev. Dr. Kimberley Heath (Epiphany)
- "Towards 2035" workshop for Francophones in Montreal
- Priorities and structure (Board of Directors and Executive Committee) of French Ministries (also known as *La Table*)
- Activities related to African Heritage Month 2026.

#### Diversity and Richness of French Ministry Communities

Communities such as Saint Paul in Namur, Saint-Marc in Ottawa, Saint-Jean in Montreal, and Belle-Rivière in Mirabel, which were founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, continue to maintain their presence. They are the pioneers.

Some communities, such as Sainte-Adèle, Plymouth-Trinity, Trinity Danville, Accueil, and the Francophone Community of Mont-Royal, have sprung up from English-speaking communities. They have developed as Francophone or bilingual and intercultural communities.

The Sainte-Claire community, which meets and celebrates its services exclusively online, was born out of the COVID-19 context. It has created a new model for being and praying together.

Other communities such as Saint-Pierre et Pinguet, the *Mission Protestante de Toronto* (MPFT), and the *Mission Protestante de Montréal* (MPFM)—formerly Longueuil—reach out and serve beyond their geographical location.

The MPFT and MPFM are mainly the result of recent migration from Africa. The same is true for Saint-Marc, which is in full bloom. They bring together several nationalities and reach out across Canada and beyond its borders. Trinity Danville French Ministries, founded two years ago, has become a hub for local and regional activities and gatherings, with strong participation from young people.

The example of Plymouth-Trinity, a pilot project of the French Ministries initiated by the late Pastor Oboo Malekesa, which uses three languages—English, French, and Swahili—during the liturgy, in its interculturality and plurality of nationalities of origin, is a textbook case. Their commitment to society, ecumenism, and interfaith dialogue attracts young people and intergenerational families.

There are also communities grouped by language that use French as their language of communication, such as French-Swahili speakers. Highly organized and established communities in Canada have come together (Vancouver, Lethbridge, Winnipeg, Ottawa, among others), while others have joined The United Church of Canada through French-language ministries. Each of these communities is a crossroads for several communities.

Other communities, such as Evangelical groups, collaborate on an ad hoc basis, such as during the Family Bible Camp. We are also in conversation with several communities of migrant origin on issues that are dear to the United Church, such as social justice, peace, homelessness, refugees, discrimination, diversity, and inclusion.

### **National activities and meetings**

Activities such as “Soccer and Faith” and new ministries for youth and women are emerging and taking shape at both the local and national levels.

We should also mention the Ulverton Bikers (UCC); the space for listening and sharing about well-being and mental health for asylum seekers and recent migrants; social cohesion; intercultural days for refugees; and many other initiatives supported by French Ministry (MiF).

Radio Nord-Ouest de l’Alberta brings together Francophone communities around the Peace River, forging links and raising awareness of the United Church. The associations *Femmes solidaires* and *Jeunesse émergente d’Edmonton*, Alberta work closely with the MiF to serve new Albertans.

**Training and leadership**

*L’Institut Protestant de théologie de l’Église Unie* (IPTEUC) at DIO equips our pastoral leaders, lay people, and local communities.

The IPTEUC works closely with national (e.g., Emmanuel College, Laval, Saint Paul, and others) and international (e.g., the faculties of theology in Geneva-Lausanne, Brussels, Paris-Montpellier, Yaoundé, Al-Mowafaqa Rabat) theological and pastoral training centers.

In addition to the courses required by the UCC, such as Racial Justice and Professional Boundaries, IPTEUC organizes colloquiums, symposiums, conferences, and workshops. It contributes to retreats, events, and other training sessions. Publications in French are among IPTEUC's achievements one year after its creation.

**Within structures**

We have seen significant progress in the use of French and bilingualism within the EUC's national structures, with around 250,000 words translated for General Council 45 alone.

Increasingly people from recent migrant backgrounds are participating in UCC structures at local, regional, and national levels.

The collaboration of the MiFs within the ODS with the Communications Unit, the Growth Unit, and the Research and Development Unit creates synergy with the General Council and the entire UCC.

Finally, at *La Tables*, MiF for the first time in years, all positions on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee have been filled.

For the year 2026, please find attached what we hope to accomplish.

*“He who sows is not the same as he who reaps... But it is God who causes the growth” John 4:37 and 1 Cor 3:7.*

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Responsable (Ministries in French)

**Activities and expected results from January to June 2026**

Activities	Expected Results
Month of African Ancestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 opening worship service</li> <li>- 1 closing worship service</li> <li>- 4 conferences and debates</li> <li>- Working in ecumenical partnership</li> <li>- Involvement of young people and women</li> <li>- Raising awareness among people of African descent about their place and responsibilities in the Church and society</li> <li>- Awareness and anti-racism</li> </ul>

Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Preparation for the national meeting planned for the summer</li> <li>-Retreat for immigrant and refugee women</li> <li>-Local activities</li> </ul>
Well-being and mental health	Breaking the taboo surrounding mental health
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Preparations for the national meeting planned for the summer with UCC in St. Catherine</li> <li>-Outings and barbecues</li> <li>-Local activities</li> </ul>
Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheduling of Table activities</li> <li>- MiF Table's Towards 2035 projection</li> <li>- Hybrid participation of approximately 40 people</li> <li>- New board and executive members</li> <li>- Presentation of the United Church of Canada's vision (Towards 2035)</li> <li>- 1 celebratory worship service</li> <li>- Presentation of MIF activities and priorities</li> <li>- Restructuring of the Table</li> <li>- Clarification of the role and place of the Table within the MIF and The United Church of Canada</li> </ul>
Summer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of summer activities by the CdF</li> <li>-Spanish-speaking temporary migrant workers</li> </ul>
French Ministries Leadership Retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Review and assessment of MIFs</li> <li>-Three-year plan (2026, 2027, and 2028)</li> <li>-Strengthening team spirit</li> </ul>
Retreat for Clergy and Lay Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Renewal for leaders and pastors</li> <li>- Getting to know each other better and learning more about today's United Church</li> <li>- Challenges and opportunities Direction 2035</li> <li>- Strengthening ties between leaders and pastors</li> </ul>
Board and executive retreat/training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training for board and executive members</li> <li>- Role and position of the board and executive</li> <li>- Strengthening ties between members</li> </ul>
Bringing emerging Communities of Faith (CoFs) closer to the regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-3 CoFs in 3 regions</li> <li>- Better understanding between emerging CoFs and their regions of location</li> </ul>
<i>L'Institut Protestant de théologie de l'Église Unie (IPTEUC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Preparation for courses on professional boundaries and racial justice</li> <li>-2 courses</li> <li>-Related activities (colloquiums, symposiums, conferences, publications, visits to CoFs)</li> <li>- Strengthening ties with the Faculties of Theology in Brussels, Paris, Montpellier, Strasbourg, Lausanne, Geneva, Rabat, and Yaoundé</li> <li>- Strengthening ties with UCC training centers and centers in Canada</li> </ul>
Rencontres de ressourcement biblique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Préparation et sensibilisation pour un évènement en présentiel, 2 jours</li> </ul>

Ministries in French (MiF) Team and <i>La Responsable</i>	Travel
Growth, partnership	-Three new communities and three leaders associated with MiFs recruited -Continue conversations and collaborations with migrant and diverse CoFs
Pastoral Visits	3 Cofs
Soccer and Faith ministry	-Recurring local activities -Preparation for a national meeting

## Other Networks

### Québec Regional United Church Women (UCW)

The Québec Regional UCW did not have a Regional event in 2025, however the UCW’s 83rd Summer Event was co-organized by the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region and Quebec Regional UCW. The event was held at the Ramada Inn located in Cornwall, Ontario where members from both regions gathered for a weekend in August 2025. It included worship, fellowship, music, and workshops, underscoring cross-regional collaboration within the UCW network.

As you may know the NUCW support a different project from every 5 year Anniversary the current project is The Healing Fund Bursary to Support Indigenous Women, Children, and Families. United Church Women (UCW) will fund programming designed by our Healing Fund partners for Indigenous women and children whose primary focus is healing the family through culture and language while meeting individual supports within the program. Through the Healing Fund application process, for the next five years, this priority group has been added, designed to specifically support women and children via this UCW special bursary program. The Healing Fund acknowledges the UCW for their generous blessing and funding to ensure Indigenous women and children receive adequate support and encouragement through culture and language programming. For further inquiries and information on this new priority group, please reach out to our Healing Fund Coordinator at [healing@united-church.ca](mailto:healing@united-church.ca)

The NUCW held their annual meeting in person at Queen of Apostles in Mississauga from September 15 to 19, 2025. Janice Knowles and I represented our Region at this meeting. The business of the NUCW was conducted during this time. The theme of the week’s meeting was “LEAD NOT ONLY BY WORD, BUT BY ACTION” and some of the highlights of the meeting are mentioned below:

During the time at the meeting Amy Crawford who has provided Bible Study at many of our national meetings was granted a honorary lifetime membership pin and certificate.

There were 2 guest speakers for this meeting Moderator The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath and Rev. Michael Blair

Rev. Michael Blair spoke about ‘What is happening in the life of the church and that we are still in the season of celebrating 100 years of the life and ministry of the church, and we have a lot to celebrate. General Council and regional councils are also looking at numbers and have projected out to 2035.

Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath – Spoke on connection and how we have connections to our family; our close friends and we have online connections. Online connections have been disconnecting us. We have lost the village, the in between space. The village is the grocery store, the bank, the church. Our village spaces are disappearing. In the village we learn kindness, respect, tolerance and we get to know people who are different from us.

The church can be and needs to be the village. We need to connect and find ways to genuinely connect with one another. Let us continue to be the church.

The work of the NUCW and the Regional UCW continues and is a very important part of the church so please continue to follow us on local and National levels and contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Nickson (President)

## Outreach

### Saint Columba House

#### **Program Highlights:**

On December 18, 2025, MSC hosted a traditional Christmas dinner serving 80 at-risk community members, supported by volunteers, Board members, and staff. All attendees received gifts, and for many, this was their only Christmas celebration. All MSC programs also held Christmas parties, with gifts for children and youth generously donated by the SPVM and Staples.

The Meals on Wheels pilot, offering five-day hot meal delivery with social support phone calls, successfully completed three months. Plans are underway to expand to daily hot meal delivery for all recipients in 2026.

The 2025 Year-End Appeal raised \$63,000 for food security programs—a 40% increase over 2024. MSC closed the year with \$985,000 in revenue and strengthened its financial stability through multi-year funding from the City of Montreal, Mission Inclusion, and Heritage Canada. Additional gains included renewed and new private foundation funding totaling \$50,000 for 2026, and expanded corporate support, with continued growth planned for 2026.

#### **Other priorities are:**

- 1) **A strategic planning initiative** looking toward a new 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, has commenced. Program reviews have been completed for four programs with a balance of two to be completed.
- 2) Based on discussions with F&E in early 2025 about the future of Saint Columba House, we forwarded **a plan in December 2025 for major repairs and maintenance related to our building**. Having indicated that we would need a 3-year runway period to determine our future, we agreed to develop a schedule of repairs and related costs for that period. To do this, we consulted architectural, structural, and electro-mechanical engineering experts to assess the building's safety and prioritize repairs.

The engineering experts confirmed that the building is safe. At the same time, they listed outstanding maintenance issues that would need to be addressed in the next three years and beyond. MSCH acknowledges that the projected costs for the longer term are substantial, and that the onus is on us to prioritize repairs and identify funding sources to address them.

In the short term, the 2026 budget approved by the Board of MSCH takes into account the costs for addressing deficiencies that have potential public health consequences. We further anticipate that needed repairs to the roof will exceed \$100,000 and that we will need to find the funds to undertake this project. In the meantime, we are carrying out a detailed review of our programs to be completed in 2026 that will help clarify how and from what location MSCH may best deliver its many services going forward. We have requested a virtual meeting with representatives of the F&E Board in mid-January 2026 to review and discuss the findings of the reports and are waiting to hear back for a date.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Clark, Executive Director

## Montreal City Mission

### **MCM – 2025 Highlights**

2025 was a year of significant growth and deepening impact for Montreal City Mission. Building on the momentum of the previous year, our Just Solutions (JS) Legal Clinic continued to expand its reach, providing legal information and support to migrants with precarious immigration status while strengthening collaborations with, faith, community and academic partners.

A major milestone was the **launch of MCM’s Quebec City satellite in October 2025**, marking the first permanent expansion of our services beyond Montreal in our 115-year history. The launch event brought together more than 80 guests from diverse sectors, including grass-roots organizations, faith communities, legal professionals, and academic partners.

The Quebec City satellite now employs **full-time lawyer Me Élisabeth Collin-Paré** and **part-time Community Liaison Rev. Darla Sloan**. Together, they are providing legal services to migrants with precarious immigration status, while building bridges with ecumenical and interfaith partners in the region. This new presence represents an important step toward expanding access to justice and strengthening faith-rooted engagement and the UCC presence across Quebec.

In Montreal, our **Maa’n Interfaith Program** continued to foster meaningful relationships across cultures and faith traditions. A particularly encouraging development this year was the establishment of a new partnership with **Église St-Jean**, which now hosts the **MCM Pollinators Sewing Circle**. Plans are also underway to explore how MCM’s social enterprise catering collective — **Women Weaving Their Dreams / Vers un souffle nouveau** — could also be accommodated at Église St-Jean. Providing a home for the collective there would offer women participants a stable base from which to continue building skills, earning income, and strengthening social connections while contributing to the broader community.

The **Maa’n program** continued to nurture spaces of encounter and dialogue during a time when global tensions and local social pressures often make such conversations difficult. Through community gatherings such as our monthly **Solidarity Dialogues**, educational activities, and collaborative initiatives with partners from diverse faith traditions such as our annual **Good Neighbour Gathering** that drew

together 96 guests last November, Maa'n continues to embody MCM's commitment to bridge-building and shared action.

Another joyful expression of community-building is **Camp Cosmos**, which entered its second year at the Selwyn House campus in 2025. The new setting provided a welcoming and well-equipped environment for approximately **75 children**, including children with disabilities and newly arrived refugee children. As was the case in recent years with Syrian and Ukrainian families, **Camp Cosmos also welcomed several families newly arrived from Gaza**, offering children a space of safety, friendship, and play during a time of profound upheaval.

Across all of our programs, MCM remains committed to supporting migrants, strengthening communities, and creating spaces where justice, belonging, and spiritual reflection can flourish together.

In the midst of today's complex political and social climate, Montreal City Mission continues to live out the United Church's vision of **Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, and Deep Spirituality**. Guided by faith and the Gospel's call to love our neighbour, we seek to accompany the vulnerable, build bridges across difference, and work toward a more just and compassionate society.

We give thanks for the dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make this work possible. With humility and hope, we move forward together — trusting that the Spirit continues to guide our efforts as we seek to help shape communities marked by justice, dignity, and grace.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Paula Kline, Director

## Colleges

### The United Church Studies Program at Montreal Diocesan Theological College

God's world is good. God's world is hurting. God's world needs leaders. United Church Studies at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College ("Dio") exists to participate in God's nurture and formation of deep, bold, and daring leaders for Christian ministry in the United Church for the sake of the world God so loves.

As Dio prepares students for ministries of leadership, our own leadership has changed. In October 2025, Patricia Evans (former Chair of the United Theological College) was elected President of the College and Chair of Dio's Board. The end of the 2024 academic year saw the retirement of the Rev'd Dr. Alyson Huntley, Director of United Church Studies at Dio and longtime Director of Pastoral Studies at the United Theological College. The Rev'd Dr. Huntley's legacy at the Montreal School of Theology and the UCC is deep, and our thanks for her dedicated service abides. We are particularly grateful to the Rev'd Dr. Patricia Lisson for selflessly shepherding UCC Studies at Dio during the 2024-2025 academic year. The Rev'd Dr. Lisson served with openness, generosity, and a marked commitment to student success. Following an open search, in July 2025 the Rev'd Morgan Bell joined the faculty at Dio and the Montreal School of Theology as Director of United Church Studies on a five-year contract (July 2025-June 2030). The Rev'd Bell comes to Dio from congregational ministry in downtown Toronto and is completing a PhD in systematic/historical theology at the University of Toronto.

In December 2025, Dio's Board of Governors approved a new strategic plan for the school to guide its work until 2030. This plan, the first since Dio integrated the work of the United Theological College, casts a bold vision for its future. The plan outlines three foci: ensuring sustainability and collaboration, offering innovative programs of study, and deepening the college's ecumenical identity. Further information is available here: <https://montrealdio.ca/board-of-governors-approves-new-strategic-plan-for-montreal-dio/>

Dio is not alone in casting a bold vision for the future of theological education. In December 2025, it was also announced that Dio would collaborate with eight United Church theological colleges in a \$10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to reimagine theological education across The United Church of Canada. This 5-year initiative will see the theological schools and the denomination working together to strengthen ministry formation and support the UCC's strategic goals around growth and leadership. The grant's implementation team, led by Dio's Principal (the Rev'd Dr. Jesse Zink), has initiated a series of consultative processes and is in the process of engaging project management staff to direct the grant's work. Further information is available here: <https://vst.edu/the-vancouver-school-of-theology-receives-major-grant-from-lilly-endowment-to-establish-the-re-imagine-theological-education-project/>.

While it looks to the future, United Church Studies remains centred on supporting our UCC-affiliated students at various stages in their degree and diploma programs at McGill University and the Montreal School of Theology. We currently have students enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology, the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts, the Diploma in Ministry, and Studies for Testamur. Central to our education is the role of the field placement, and we are grateful to congregations and supervisors who work with students to integrate theory and practice in the service of holistic ministry formation.

The 2025-2026 academic year saw record enrolment in United Church credit courses from occasional students including candidates seeking admission to the United Church's Order of Ministry as well as staff and leadership from regional councils. Dio is deeply grateful to its sessional instructors (the Rev'd Cathy Hamilton and the Rev'd Dr. Elisabeth Jones) for their dedication to the training and formation of United Church students. Dio also offers a suite of Open Enrolment courses, open to any and all interested in ongoing theological and spiritual education.

United Church Studies at Dio continues to develop its close working relationship with the United Church's Ministries in French. Dr. Martin Bellerose, Director of French Formation for the UCC, delivers quality continuing education opportunities in French for lay people, LLWLs, and those preparing for ordered ministries. Clara Maranzano, Dio's French Language Instructor, works with students to improve their French-language abilities and administers the Certificate in Bilingual Ministry program which will run again this April. Montreal Dio is committed to meaningfully strengthening its French-language educational opportunities and to discerning its ongoing contribution to the formation of francophone ministry leadership.

All our work at Dio—our prayer, our study, our administration—is rooted in the resurrection hope that Jesus Christ is living and present among us, building on our past and bringing about our future. God is not done with the world, and God is not done with the Church. Firm in that conviction, United Church Studies at Dio is not done with the work of comprehensive ministry formation and excellence in theological education. We will work gratefully with the Nakonha:ka Regional Council as together we witness to the God who is making all things new.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Morgan Bell, Director of United Church Studies

## Strategic Plan

### Strategic Plan Final Report (March 2026)

#### Grading:

A = Completely on track, met all measurables

B = Mostly on track, met most measurables

C = Partly on track, some measurables met

D = Little progress

E = No progress

#### Activity Stream 1: Build and Strengthen Relationships Between Regional Council and Communities of Faith

Activity: Establish teams to build relationships and provide support to each community of faith. Based on Jesus sending out disciples two by two (Luke 9: 1-6), teams will visit to share food, worship, listen and learn about the ministries and challenges of the community. The teams will be equipped to accompany the communities, enabling honest discussion and sharing news of best practices. The regional council may also provide support for a graceful decline if that is the situation.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Meeting with 32 of 98 preaching places by end of October 2024, review of toolkit and process in November.

Result: Meals completed, scheduled or requested with 10 preaching places. Reception was positive to this initiative. Debrief is planned for November. Written reports were prepared for each visit.

Analysis: B-, met measurables in the visits made, but requests for meetings have not been forthcoming as anticipated. Imagined that there would be a high number pre-Summer, but most have come in this fall so far.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): Act on the debrief results in November. Share learnings with relevant leadership teams and staff. We may need to solicit visits going forward.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** The program served to bolster relationships in the Region and expand the regional network. When CoF support minister (Esther Guillén) was hired in January 2025 there was some overlap / duplication of visit invitations, and some CoF's declined visits because Esther had been there recently. Activity stream should be included in next strategic plan and include regional themed events and personal invitations rather than visits in CoF's.

#### Activity Stream 2: Create a Rural Forum

Activity: Connect rural communities of faith in a network for mutual support and support of rural issues.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Rural communities are connected with one another.

Result: Rural communities were highlighted at the March Regional Council meeting with presentations about the joys and challenges of rural communities. We joined the UC Rural Ministry Network as a Regional Council in Spring 2024. The link to the UCRMN is shared in our newsletters too.

Analysis: C-, there have not been sufficient meetings with congregations for this project to meet its projected goal by January 2025, and many of the requested meetings are not in the rural parts of our region.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): Rural Network nationally has moved to ChurchX, has ability to do sub-groups, this may be a useful resource for this. Tap rural communities to participate in the first Activity Stream.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** ChurchX Rural Network has stepped in to fill this gap, rural CoF's looking for this kind of connection should be directed there. Activity stream should not be included in next strategic plan.

Activity Stream 3: Create at least 7 new communities of faith

Activity: Communities of faith may be co-located with existing ministries or independently situated, and at least two will be specifically justice-based ministries around themes such as ecological care or LGBTQ refugees. There are also opportunities with diasporic communities searching for belonging, student communities and "young retirees" around the province. There will be a particular focus on French-language ministry. The Regional Council will provide support with start-up and help to build bridges to the broader church.

Measurable Outcome Projected: 7 new communities of faith by December 2025

Result: One community of faith has been established (Longueuil), two others are in early stages of discussion (Sherbrooke, Drummondville). We completed a round of focus group research amongst potential audiences who are not currently church goers.

Analysis: B, Growth potential is particularly strong in newcomer communities and that is reflected in the first group of new communities that are currently in the process of creation. At our current pace, 5 communities of faith created by the end of December 2025 may be more reasonable as a goal.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): New staff position should include support to this work. It might be best to find some 'accompaniers' for new ministries rather than create a team or group for this purpose.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Church plants and new ministries in the RC are going strong. MPFM has covenanted with their minister, Rev. Florence Bukam. Franco-Swahili plant at Plymouth-Trinity has decided to merge into the existing CoF and is gradually taking on responsibilities there. St Martha's continues to provide ministry to young adults in downtown Montréal. Beaconsfield and Riverside continue to grow their refugee support ministries. Activity stream should be included on next strategic plan and focus should be on nurturing existing plants and growth ministries.

#### Activity Stream 4: Implement a Targeted Communications Plan

Activity: Tell people the Good News of Christ, as interpreted by the United Church in language that connects with their expressed needs, using both “earned media” (media coverage: reporting on UCC ministry in the Nakonha:ka region) and paid advertising.

Measurable Outcomes Projected: Research completed, media training offered, public witness event coupled with our Spring RC meeting, 15 media hits secured by end of year, advertising campaign prepared in early 2025.

Result: Research completed, media training completed. We are struggling to achieve a public witness event. 17 media hits so far this year. Established a RC working group on external communications. There is now a monthly touch-base with RC staff and GCO staff on communications.

Analysis: B+, Some story hooks (Blue Christmas, current events, etc.) still to come, work ongoing.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): Still work to be done to coordinate across the Regional Council and communities of faith, awareness of what is happening across the region.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Stream should continue with clearly identified communication goals. Internal and external communications should be strengthened if continued to next strategic plan.

#### Activity Stream 5: Expand the Regional Justice Network

Activity: Identify and equip “justice disciples” across the region who will be point people for advocacy resources and who witness to local efforts and effects.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Network structured and recruited by fall, first network action by end of 2025.

Result: Volunteers for this have not come forward.

Analysis: D-, The call for this work has not been answered, which makes it clear that it is not a priority at this time.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): It is proposed that this activity stream be shelved. Focus on other aspects of this plan might be better at this time.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Justice leadership team has been reinvigorated in 2025 and will lead a workshop at the June 2026 RC gathering and host a regional justice network event in Fall 2026. Activity stream should be on next strategic plan, but with scaled-down manageable goals.

#### Activity Stream 6: Develop options for stabilizing multi-year core funding of UCC community-based ministries

Activity: A formal proposal will be created based on discussion between Regional Council and its Executive, and Finance & Extension, to explore options.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Proposal completed in time for fall funding decisions.

Result: We have passed a motion to offer stabilized funding for five years to Saint Columba House and Montreal City Mission.

Analysis: A, These two UCC ministries were quickly identified and our objective was accomplished, but we may want to consider other UCC ministries that should be considered in the future.

Recommendation Going Forward: In 2025, consider other UCC ministries that may benefit from stabilized funding.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Stabilized multi-year funding model has worked very well for UCC mission ministries in the Region. As we weren't able to address the recommendation for 2025 this activity stream should continue into the next strategic plan and include a systematic review of funding opportunities.

Activity Stream 7: Equip lay and ordered leaders to create spaces of intersection encouraging hope between communities of faith and local communities

Activity: Identify discipleship resources by summer 2024, fall ministry retreat, learning event at fall Regional Council meeting.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Resources assembled, people trained.

Result: These resources are still in the gathering process (nationally), the Fall ministry retreat is taking place, and there will be learning events in the Fall meeting (and done some in the Spring meeting as well, it was the main theme).

Analysis: B, we hosted the events we planned to do. Materials are being gathered.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): We may want to consider changing the title of this activity stream so that it is clearer... possibly Discipleship and Evangelism.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** RC and staff continued to provide educational opportunities for lay and ordered leaders. With the focus on collaborative ministry throughout the denomination this activity stream could pivot to support such initiatives in the next strategic plan.

Activity Stream 8: Invigorate Worship

Activity: Refresh worship by creating showcases in which participants share creative worship elements taking into consideration different learning styles.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Hold a worship showcase in the Spring with 75 participants from at least 20 communities of faith, and host a Then Let Us Sing workshop in the Fall.

Result: Worship Showcase was held, with over 25 congregations participating, including a few congregations that have not participated in events recently. 40 people attended. It was a very well received event and highly rated. The Then Let Us Sing event was postponed by the national organizers to 2025.

Analysis: A, understanding that the Then Let Us Sing event was not in our control.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): The worship showcase may be considered a regular annual event given the enthusiasm around it. We are hoping to see the LSQ videos for the Then Let Us Sing event in 2025.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** RC was unable to host a Then Let Us Sing event in 2025. Goals of this activity stream could be blended with Stream 1 if RC can host another Worship Showcase as regional event. Goals should be present in next strategic plan, either within another stream or independently.

#### Activity Stream 9: Strengthening First-Third Ministries

Activity: Support the further development of the Leadership Team of First-Third Ministries within the Regional Council.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Comprehensive Plan for First-Third Ministries adopted at Spring General Meeting.

Result: Plan was adopted by Executive.

Analysis: A, plan was adopted as promised and now needs to be integrated into our broader plan.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): The plan adopted should be the basis for goals going forward.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Additional program support for young adult ministries put in place in early 2026. Activity stream should be in next strategic plan and specific, measurable goals should be identified. Within the tri-region (Nakonha:ka, EOORC, and ECORC) we continue to review our First Third ministry comprehensively. Results of this review will inform aspects of the next strategic plan.

#### Activity Stream 10: Strengthen Environment Network

Activity: In light of the number of people available for Environmental activism within our own population, we would seek to expand the current Environment Network with representation from numerous communities of faith and ministries with an intentional effort to include communities of faith in rural and smaller contexts who are feeling the direct effects of climate change in their farming and fishing communities.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Environment Network recruited and functioning by summer.

Result: Recruitment was attempted at multiple times in the early part of the year, with little success. We are providing resources on these issues in our newsletter regularly.

Analysis: D, Volunteerism for this is preventing it from moving forward and the Green Faith Montreal group has a lot of our people in it.

Recommendation Going Forward: That this activity stream be discontinued and focus be placed on a new Activity Stream 11.

Activity Stream 11: Facilitate Involvement of UCC churches in climate emergency response such as floods or ice storms

Activity: Communities of faith have buildings and expertise that can be of help in sheltering those affected by climate emergencies.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Research completed in Spring, plan developed by October 2024.

Result: After researching this process, the Executive deemed it too onerous for communities of faith and withdrew this activity stream from the plan.

Analysis: C-, There are possibly more effective ways for us to be directly contributing to the fight against climate change without trying to replace municipal and provincial emergency services.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): Consider a replacement activity stream that is focused on getting rid of all oil tanks and furnaces in all of our church buildings. This would not only reduce our carbon footprint as a denomination, but would also avoid liabilities from future oil spills. This could be done in conjunction with Faithful Footprints funding.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Oil tank and furnace replacement project continues through Finance & Extension and Faithful Footprints. F&E volunteers continue to work with congregations on sustainable environmental practices for buildings. This activity stream should be adjusted to reflect the ongoing work of our property commission.

Activity Stream 12: Revise the structure of the Regional Council Executive

Activity: Executive will be asked to explore alternate models to respond to the need for diverse voices, a succession plan, and the hope for a lighter, more nimble and responsive structure while ensuring the necessary skill set.

Measurable Outcome Projected: A new Executive structure

Result: A report was presented at the Executive in the winter, was sent for revision, discussion at the Spring meeting and further work is ongoing.

Analysis: B, process was delayed a little as we adjust for feedback.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): That this be completed by the March AGM.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** Nominations have developed a structural change proposal to be presented at the March 2026 AGM. This activity stream should be focused on implementation of any approved plan going forward.

Activity Stream 13: Align financial decisions with Activity Streams of the Strategic Plan

Activity: In order to appropriately resource these activity streams, the budget and granting processes will be reviewed to align financial decisions with strategic initiatives and distribute the abundance more vigorously.

Measurable Outcome Projected: Amended budget, review completed of GELT funding.

Result: Created a working group to look at budget and has met a few times to finalize things for the 2025 budget. The decisions around the budget were largely around staffing, and money from the Strategic Fund may help compensate for a budget deficit and focus on the priorities we set out. GELT funding review remains to be done.

Analysis: A-, since we are still working on the GELT funding alignment. Learning session is planned prior to the next RC meeting.

Recommendation Going Forward (2024-2025): Adopt the budget, complete GELT review.

**Final Report and Recommendation:** GELT review and analysis completed and will be presented to GELT in March 2026. Activity stream goals should continue, consider blending with Stream 6.

## In Memoriam



### **Rev. Dorothy Louise Cunningham**

Dorothy passed away February 14, 2025 at the age of 94 in Mississauga, Ontario. She was ordained a minister of The United Church of Canada on June 2, 1971 (possibly one of the first female ministers in Montreal) and settled in the Longueuil-St. Hubert-Lafleche Pastoral Charge from 1971 to 1979. She then served at Trinity United Church, Montreal (1979-1992) and the Shawbridge and Morin Heights Pastoral Charge (1992-1994). Dorothy served the Montreal Presbytery at various times and in different capacities: Chairperson of M.P.E., Chairperson of Education and Students, and Montreal and Ottawa Conference, and was the Montreal and Ottawa representative to the General Council of the United Church of Canada (1990-1994).



**Rev. Dr. John A. Finlayson**

John had a long career in ministry serving pastoral charges in Ontario, Newfoundland, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In later years, he served as a military chaplain in Shearwater, Nova Scotia, and Petawawa, Ontario. He completed United Nations military missions to Turkey and Eritrea, Africa.



**Rev. Iain T. M. Macdonald**

Iain died on May 14, 2025 in Halifax. As a child, he was evacuated from wartime Edinburgh to an island on the west coast of Scotland. Iain received a BA from University of Alberta and an MDiv from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and did graduate work at St. John's College, Oxford University. Iain and Lois married in Kingston, Ontario in 1978. After his ordination as a United Church minister in 1980, Iain served congregations in Ontario and Nova Scotia. In a recent tribute, one congregation member referred to his thought-provoking sermons that were the highlight of that person's week. He was an incredibly loving father to daughters Christina and Margaret, and loved all children and welcomed their vocal contributions to his services. Another congregation member recalled how Iain would deliver a sermon without notes while walking up and down the church aisle, on one occasion with a crying baby, not his own, in his arms.



**Rev. Ronnie Mabini Magno**

Ronnie died on May 17, 2025, in Gatineau, Quebec. Rev. Ronnie emigrated from the Philippines to Canada with his family in 2018, initially settling in Montreal before moving to Gatineau. He then accepted a call to serve the community at Grace St. Andrew's United Church in Arnprior. He is survived by his wife Shirly, three children (Dietrich, Albrecht, and Fiorenza), and his father Romeo, and is remembered fondly by his colleagues and friends in Montreal.



**Rev. Maurice Nerny**

Maurice passed away peacefully in Verdun, Quebec at the age of 93 with his partner Cathy Hasibeder at his side. Maurice graduated with his divinity degree from McGill University and was ordained as minister with The United Church of Canada. He was dedicated to his ministry and making a positive impact on the lives of people around him. Maurice is remembered as a fun-loving and uniquely humorous man.



**Rev. Kenneth Arthur Thompson**

Kenneth was instrumental in the planning and development of the Carleton Kirk Complex in West Saint John, New Brunswick. He was not only an ordained minister after studying at the Montreal Presbytery, but also a long-time active member of the Kiwanis Club in Saint John and London, Ontario, serving as Lieutenant Governor of the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District for Kiwanis. He was also the local president and then provincial president of the Victorian Order of Nurses.



**Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Whent**

Thomas was ordained by the Maritime Conference of The United Church of Canada in 1965, Tommey served the church in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia before coming to Westmount United Church. In his 70s he received his Doctorate in Ministry.

## Retirees



**Rev. Kent Chown**

Ordained in 1985, Kent’s career in ministry has taken him from internships in Northern British Columbia and Jamaica to serving throughout Quebec in interim, called and appointed positions, including the Lower North Shore, Kanesatake, the Island of Montreal, Lacolle-Clarenceville, Hemmingford, and finally 12 years in Hudson. Among his skills are being able to speak Cantonese as well as English and French, as he studied in Hong Kong, managing building projects, supervising ministry students, and knowledge of technology. He has become the “go to” technical wizard for the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s online and in-person meetings.



**Rev. Steve Gillam**

Ordained in 1986, Steve has become known for his passionate preaching, captivating storytelling, and deeply meaningful worship. He was the longtime minister at Dorval-Strathmore from 1999 to 2022, and then, following the merger with St. John’s, Lakeshore-Trinity for the next three years. Steve is renowned for his flair for the dramatic (and comedic), having honed his skills in theatre. In addition to using this talent in worship leadership, he has written and directed for the stage.



**Rev. Janette Jorgensen**

Jan was ordained by the United Church of Christ’s New York State Conference in 1994 and had her ministry credentials recognized by The United Church of Canada in 2021 under our Mutual Recognition Agreement, part of the Full Communion agreement between the two denominations. She has been pleased to see a relationship growing between the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council and the North Country Association of the United Church of Christ. Jan has served at Westmount Park and most recently in team ministry at Kahnawake. She is known for her deep commitment to, and work for, justice and to living into right relations with Indigenous peoples, as shown in her work in committees of the Regional Council.



**Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones**

After graduating from the Vancouver School of Theology, Elisabeth was ordained to further study in 1998, was adjunct professor of Church history and field education at VST, and then earned a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching from Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN, USA. She became Director of Studies and Field Education at United Theological College in Montreal, making an impact on students who would go on to careers in ministry (and on the ministers she taught the Ministry of Supervision). After seven years at UTC, Elisabeth took her gifts to Cedar Park as minister from 2011 to 2025, where she has been known for her preaching and for her innovation and artistry in crafting worship.



**Rev. David Lambie**

Dave was ordained in 1990 and was settled in Brownsburg-Cushing-Grenville (now Argenteuil). He was called to the New Vision Pastoral Zone in 2001 and has remained in the former Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery ever since, most recently in Waterloo and then Creek-Waterloo for 17 years. He has not hesitated to give his time and energy to the work of other courts of the Church, as Presbytery chair and secretary, the first chair of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, and Conference Interview Board secretary for over 20 years. The Regional Council has relied on him as supervisor or liaison for several congregations in the Eastern Townships at the same time. Dave is a longtime member of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s Pastoral Relations Leadership Team and is currently the secretary.

## Newly Celebrated Ministry Personnel



### **Reverend Adedeji Sunday Akintayo (Ordained)**

I am Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, a faithful servant of God whose experience as a refugee shaped his calling to intercultural ministry in the United Church of Canada. With deep compassion and dedication, he founded refugee support ministries in Nakonha:Ka Regional Council, extending God's love to those in need. Adedeji is having a heart for people; he lives out his mission with humility and love. Educated in Nigeria, Europe, and Canada (including theological training), he blends wisdom and faith in his journey. Adedeji and his beloved partner, Bola, are blessed with four children. His life echoes Colossians 3:23–24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord... It is

the Lord Christ you are serving." A true example of faith in action.



### **Reverend Florance Bukam (Admitted)**

I'm Florence Bukam, Cameroonian and pastor of the Église Évangélique du Cameroun (EEC). Married, mother and grandmother of several grandchildren.

Ordained in 2006 at the 50th Synod of Banganté, my ministerial experience until 2014 convinced me of my limitations and challenges.

My training in contemporary religious studies, specializing in clinical psycho-spiritual care at the University of Sherbrooke, provided me with much-needed care tools. At the same time, a gateway in 2014 to the United Church of Canada, an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory church.

The absence of a French-speaking parish for Protestant newcomers of African origin became a reality. My enthusiasm for French-language ministry was obvious. This May 31 is the apotheosis. Now Ministry Personnel of The United Church of Canada, via the Mission protestante Francophone de Longueuil (MPFL), like Gideon, I'm moving forward with the strength I have.

I know one thing: the Lord has sent me (Judges 6:14).



### **Lisa Byer-de Wever, Diaconal Minister (Commissioned)**

Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, I am a graduate of the Centre for Christian Studies in Diaconal Ministry. As someone who has navigated the many worlds of color, culture, gender and language my whole life, I am passionate for creating space for dialogue, learning and deep listening where everyone has the opportunity to share their authentic self.

I am widowed and a mother of 3, I identify as having mixed West Indian and Indigenous heritage. I have served as the minister for Kahnawake United Church on, as the Executive Director to Saint Columba House, and more recently Merging Waters United Church in the West Island of Montreal. I co-chair our Region's Right Relations circle and have been a social justice activist for as long as I can remember.

In a world where siloed narratives and resistance to the “other” is the norm, I believe we have the opportunity and responsibility to not only foster coexistence but co-resistance. Not only because our faith invites us to do so but our humanity compels us to.



**Reverend Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil (Ordained)**

I like to call myself a “juggler” or a “jack of all trades”. I value a multidisciplinary approach in my ministry. A special educator by training, I enrolled at Laval University in 2012 to earn my Bachelor’s degree in literature and philosophy. I am passionate about the arts of all kinds as well as aesthetic philosophy. I completed my in-ministry Year at Montreal Diocesan Theological College in 2022 and then obtained my Master’s in Theology in 2023. I’m committed to a bold, artistic approach to faith, informed by the social sciences and the sciences of literature.

I’m fascinated by the Scriptures while being a writer in my spare time... and a full-time geek. I dream of a self-aware Church fully committed to humanity and the rest of creation.



**Reverend Bailey Eastwood (Ordained)**

I am thrilled to be embarking on this next stage of my ministry journey, and filled with gratitude for all of the people and communities that brought me here. My journey started with camping and YAYA ministries in the United Church and beyond, leading to my discernment of a call to ministry when I was working at my summer camp in Muskoka. My call and my ministry are informed by my identity as a queer and nonbinary person as well as someone living with invisible disability; my background in life sciences; a deep love of the natural world; and a passion for truly inclusive communities. After Ordination, I will continue to work as the National Coordinator of the Student Christian Movement, helping to foster ecumenical, justice-centred faith communities and programs for young adults..



**Reverend Virginia Wallace (Ordained)**

I am Virginia Wallace, newly graduated from the Atlantic School of Theology – Summer Distance Program where I earned my Master of Divinity degree. Motherhood was my first vocation and passion, and I feel that all the skills I honed and lessons I learned as a mom, translates well into my vocation in ministry. I was not raised in the church but found my faith later in life after the birth of my first child and it has continually grown and strengthened ever since. My faith gives purpose to my life and the work I do for the church. Our New Creed states that This is God’s World, we are not alone, and with my family, friends, colleagues and church supporting my journey, I wholeheartedly believe that I arrived here today, with all of you and Jesus walking alongside me.

This is an exciting time to be the Church, and I look forward to being DEEP, BOLD and DARING in my role as an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Canada.

## Anniversaries

(Up to December 31, 2025)

Name	Type	Years
Raphaël Pérusse	Ordained Minister	5
Linda Buchanan	Ordained Minister	10
Dale Breitzkreutz	Ordained Minister	15
Angelika Piché	Ordained Minister	20
Rosa Elena Donoso-Cruz	Ordained Minister	20
Stéphane Vermette	Ordained Minister	20
Darla Sloan	Ordained Minister	25
David Lefneski	Ordained Minister	25
Birgit Neuschild	Ordained Minister	30
Georgia Copland	Ordained Minister	30
Janet Bisset	Ordained Minister	30
Wayne Beamer	Ordained Minister	30
David Fines	Ordained Minister	35
Steven Gillam	Ordained Minister	40
Franklyn Giffen	Ordained Minister	45
R. Douglas Throop	Ordained Minister	45
Pierre Goldberger	Ordained Minister	50
Robert Thompson	Ordained Minister	50
John Matheson	Ordained Minister	55

### Summary of Actions by Executive and Regional Council (2025)

January 16, 2025

**2025-01-16\_001 MOTION** (C-M Gladu/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Rev. Marie-Claude Manga as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_002 MOTION** (V. Nickson/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of November 21, 2024 as circulated.

**2025-01-16\_003 MOTION** (R. Sherman/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive into its Minutes the email poll of December 13, 2024:

*2024-12-13\_001 MOTION (E. Liang/D. Ashby) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to approve the appointment of Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, candidate supply, to Église Unie Sainte-Claire, through the Trinity-Anjou Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), from January 1 to June 30, 2025. CARRIED*

**CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_004 MOTION** (P. Bisset/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition of correspondence f and reference document *2025-01-09\_Présentation des événements RATTMAQ*
2. Addition of correspondence g and h
3. Addition of motions under section 1 (Pastoral Relations)
4. Affirming process for the regional council

**CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_005 MOTION** (CM Gladu/R. Sherman) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the reappointment of Rev. Beryl Barraclough to the Summerlea pastoral charge, part-time (14 hours/week), January 1 to June 30, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_006 MOTION** (CM Gladu/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that, having evaluated whether the Student Christian Movement of Canada is a ministry setting in which a valid exercise of Christian ministry can be exercised, the Student Christian Movement of Canada be recognized as a ministry of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, based on The Manual B.8. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_007 MOTION** (A. Akintayo/M-C Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that, having received confirmation from the Office of Vocation of the readiness of Bailey Eastwood for ordination, and having confirmed employment with the Student Christian Movement of Canada as a recognized ministry, that Bailey Eastwood be ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care at a Celebration of Ministry service in 2025. **carried**

**2025-01-16\_008 MOTION** (R. Sherman/R. Lambie) 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 for Designated Lay Ministry, to Supervised Ministry Education in the Laurentian Area Ministry, full-time (40 hours/week), be extended from March 1 to May 31, 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_009 MOTION** (P. Bisset/R. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council hold its Celebration of Ministry Service on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_010 MOTION** (V. Nickson/ A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the General Meeting Planning Team to hold the spring general meeting in congruence with the Resonance Conference on Thursday through Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at the Palais des congrès (Montreal) and that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council general meeting plenary session take place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (1 PM – 5 PM) at the Palais des congrès (Montreal). Recognized ministries within the regional council will have the opportunity to showcase their initiatives on the Friday afternoon during the Conference. **CARRIED**

**2025-01-16\_011 MOTION** (D. Ashby/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive, through chosen representatives, open a dialogue with Jason Noble to discuss Temporary Foreign Workers Initiative. **CARRIED**

February 20, 2025

**2025-02-20\_001 MOTION** (V. Nickson/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Rev. Rosemary Lambie as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_002 MOTION** (P. Bisset/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of January 16, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_003 MOTION** (L. Byer-de Wever/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

- Addition to address April meeting date

**CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_004 MOTION** (C M Gladu/R. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the request of the Cedar Park pastoral charge to change the terms of call of Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones from 40 to 30 hours/week, from February 1 to June 30, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_005 MOTION** (P. Bisset/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Finance and Extension Board to approve the funding request for \$500 in support of the Black History Exhibition, to be funded from Contingency. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_006 MOTION** (D. Ashby/L. Byer de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive recognize the following people as General Council 45 youth forum participants from Nakonha:ka Regional Council:

- Celestine Alimasi - Plymouth-Trinity United Church (Commissioner)
- Daryl Foka Foka – Mission Protestant Francophone de Longueuil
- Henock Jean Kapmouo Tsafack - Mission Protestant Francophone de Longueuil
- Danaka Bassenden – Riverside United Church (name possibly being removed due to schedule conflicts – will remain as part of this list as an alternate)
- Trevor Adam – Riverside United Church
- Benjamin Ryan (Leadership Animator)

**CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_007 MOTION** (P. Bisset/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive engage services offered through the National Program at the General Council office to supervise Nakonha:ka Regional Council's incorporated ministries (listed below) at an annual cost of \$600 per incorporated ministry; funding will be taken from the general contingency fund:

- Finance & Ext Bd of conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
- Montreal City Mission
- St. Columba House
- United Spirit Camp (unincorporated; but regional council is still responsible)

## **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_008 MOTION** (B. Bryce/C-M Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive authorize the Executive Minister to write a letter of support on behalf of the regional council supporting The Montreal School of Theology (MST) proposed project and application to the Lilly Foundation for a grant of ten million dollars. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_009 MOTION** (V. Nickson/C M Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Executive agree to postpone the Strategic Plan Activity Stream regarding the restructuring of the Executive until late 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-02-20\_010 MOTION** (B. Bryce/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive names Valerie Nickson as the official representative of Nakonha:ka Regional Council to sit on the Board of Directors of Saint-Columba House (incorporated ministry of the regional council). **CARRIED**

March 20, 2025

**2025-03-20\_001 MOTION** (B. Bryce/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Peter Bisset as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_002 MOTION** (P. Bisset/A. Akintayo) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of February 20, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_003 MOTION** (V. Nickson/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_004 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) Whereas the current conjuncture presents a potential viable route to create an exciting new orientation of the ministry of the United Church of Canada in downtown Montréal;

Whereas with the potential for site development at both the St. James and St-Jean building for renovation and/or repurposing in the near term, it has become urgent to work on a way forward for the ministries involved in those buildings and combining that with a substantial presence for the Regional Council and Kindred Works in central Montréal;

RESOLVED that, on recommendation of the Finance and Extension Board (“F&E”), the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council (“Regional Council”) agree to the Action Plan to begin a consensus refinement and implementation of the Downtown Montréal Ministry of the United Church of Canada as detailed in the document entitled “Montreal Downtown Ministry Strategy v6” and outlined below:

1. The initial phase would involve consensus building with only 5 institutional participants – a) the Regional Council for its offices and programs, b) St. James United Church, c) Église unie St-Jean, d) Camino de Emaus, and e) Montreal City Mission. In view of their need to vacate their premises, if Saint Columba House wishes it could also be included.
2. F&E would hire a consultant to undertake a consensus building with the participants to establish their short and longer term needs and any refinements/changes useful at this time.

3. Kindred Works shall become involved at the appropriate time to define space needs and opportunities and possibly become itself a participant.
4. Once a general consensus is reached, F&E will hire a Project Manager to design and implement the space needs of the participants in close liaison with Kindred Works. In addition, the Project Manager will define schedules, manage temporary relocations or moves and liaise with participants engaged with the plan.
5. It is underlined that this Action Plan does not envisage a merging or combining of any of the ministries but a continuing of these ministries within a single framework to allow for the connexional spirit that so characterizes the United Church of Canada and in keeping with our promise for Deep Spirituality -Daring Justice -Bold Discipleship at this time in downtown Montréal.

**CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_005 MOTION** (B. Bryce/V. Nickson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive for information the following grant distributions for 2024-25:

**1. Kelley Fund Grants**

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

**2. Erskine & American – Mountainside Fund Grants (grants once a year)**

- Auberge Madeleine: Hébergement et support pour femmes âgées en situation d'itinérance: \$15,000
- Beaconsfield UC: Refugee Support & Integration Program: \$35,000
- Beaconsfield UC: Peer Support Program – Refugees: \$8,000
- Camp Cosmos: Amazing Kids at Camp Expansion: \$15,000
- Camp Cosmos: Culture & Nature Program: \$12,500
- Cedar Park UC: Community Connections: \$7,000
- Montreal City Mission: Power Within: \$15,000
- Mount Royal United Church: Communauté francophone: \$9,000
- Riverside UC: Riverside Intercultural Ministry: \$30,000
- Saint Columba House: Read to Succeed: \$11,000
- Saint Lambert UC: Sanctuary Alive: \$12,000
- St. Martha's Chapel: Ecumenical Weekly Young Adult Bible Study: \$15,000
- West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: Youth Based Programming & Outreach: \$35,000

**3. Good Samaritan Fund Grants**

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

4. **Rosemary Lambie Fund Grant**
  - Camp Cosmos: Amazing Kids at Camp Expansion: \$5,000
5. **Granting & Enabling Strategic Fund Grant**
  - Mission Protestante Francophone de Longueuil: Continuation de ministre de paroisse: \$15,000
6. **Trois-Rivieres French Ministry Fund Grant**
  - Danville-Asbestos Trinity UC: French Ministry: \$7,000
7. **Bhal-Jun Fund Grants**
  - Saint Columba House: \$10,000
  - Montreal City Mission: Resonance – Where Faith & Secularity Meet: \$15,000

**CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_006 MOTION** (B. Bryce/V. Nickson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive amend the Strategic Funds terms of reference as follows: to increase the annual disbursement limit to \$100,000 with full discretion to Granting & Enabling Leadership Team (GELT) for the size of any individual grant within that overall limit. **CARRIED**

**2025-03-20\_007 MOTION TO AMEND** (P. Bisset/E. Liang) to add to the sentence “This amount will be reviewed annually” to motion 2025-03-20\_006. **DEFEATED**

[Regional Council Annual General Meeting - March 28-29, 2025](#)

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

1. That the agenda be adopted as distributed;
2. That the minutes of November 1-2, 2024, Fall General Meeting be approved as circulated (see **Appendix A**);
3. That the Regional Council appoint BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. to conduct the Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s 2025 review engagement;
4. That the Regional Council appoint BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. to conduct the Finance & Extension Board’s 2025 review engagement;
5. That the Regional Council receive for information the following grant distributions for 2024-25:
8. **Kelley Fund Grants**
  - Saint Lambert UC: Chimers Handbell Choir: \$1,500
  - Beaconsfield UC: PAGTATANIM Conference: \$6,900
  - Shawbridge United Church: Come for Breakfast: \$1,050
9. **Erskine & American – Mountainside Fund Grants**
  - Auberge Madeleine: Hébergement et support pour femmes âgées en situation d’itinérance: \$15,000
  - Beaconsfield UC: Refugee Support & Integration Program: \$35,000
  - Beaconsfield UC: Peer Support Program – Refugees: \$8,000
  - Camp Cosmos: Amazing Kids at Camp Expansion: \$15,000
  - Camp Cosmos: Culture & Nature Program: \$12,500

- Cedar Park UC: Community Connections: \$7,000
- Montreal City Mission: Power Within: \$15,000
- Mount Royal United Church: Communauté francophone: \$9,000
- Riverside UC: Riverside Intercultural Ministry: \$30,000
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- Saint Lambert UC: Sanctuary Alive: \$12,000
- St. Martha's Chapel: Ecumenical Weekly Young Adult Bible Study: \$15,000
- West Island LGBTQ2+ Centre: Youth Based Programming & Outreach: \$35,000

**10. Good Samaritan Fund Grants**

- Riverside UC: Out to Lunch Program: \$25,000
- Riverside UC: Riverside Cares: \$45,000
- Quebec Community Health Foundation: Patient Navigator Project: \$35,000
- Richmond-Melbourne UC: Seniors' Spiritual Awareness Program: \$35,000
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- Danville-Asbestos Trinity UC: English Conversation & Tea: \$9,000

**11. Rosemary Lambie Fund Grant**

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

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

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

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

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

**14. Bhal-Jun Fund Grants**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

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

#### Virtual Manner

Use the Chat feature of Zoom appropriately:

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

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

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

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

#### **CARRIED**

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

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

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

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

**2024-03-15-16\_006 MOTION** (L Buchanan/Jennifer Mountain) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council extend its directive to the Nomination Leadership Team to study and prayerfully reflect on the Regional Council's terms of reference of its Executive, and report back its recommendations at the annual general meeting in March 2025. **CARRIED**

April 23, 2025

**2025-04-23\_001 MOTION** (L. Byer-de Wever/V. Nickson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Rev. Pierre Goldberger as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_002 MOTION** (P. Bisset/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of March 20, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_003 MOTION** (V. Nickson/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition of sharing time

**CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_004 MOTION** (P. Bisset/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive make Rev. Lee Ann Hogle and Charlotte Griffith corresponding members for the purposes of speaking to the relicensing of a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL). **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_005 MOTION** (V. Nickson/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive and approve the recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team and the License Lay Worship Leadership Team to re-license Tessa-Anne Griffin as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) effective April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to November 30<sup>th</sup> 2026. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_006 MOTION** (R. Lambie/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive and approve the recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to disband Delson Pastoral Charge effective May 25<sup>th</sup> 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_007 MOTION** (R. Lambie/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive and approve the recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to disband Knowlton Mountain Valley Pastoral Charge effective June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_008 MOTION** (V. Nickson/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive closes its X-account, and communicate its decision and recommend to Communities of faith within the regional council to also close their X accounts, should they have one. **CARRIED**

**2025-04-23\_009 MOTION** (V. Nickson/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve to hold the Fall General Meeting and Centennial Celebration at St. Paul's United Church, Magog, QC on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. **CARRIED**

May 15, 2025

**2024-05-16\_001 MOTION** (L. Buchanan/S. V. Dansokho) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended: Addition: 1. See Correspondence j, and Report from Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Leadership Team (*see under section 11*); 2. Correspondence k; 3. Proposed response-letter to Susan Ferguson (*under new business*); 4. reporting from La Table des Minstere en Francais (*see under section 12*); Correspondence m. 5. Talk about Gaza walk. 6. Funding of Emerging Ministries (*following Finance Section*). **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_001 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Denis Ashby as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_002 MOTION** (R. Lambie/V. Nickson) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of April 23, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_003 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Additions of correspondence *d*, and reference document *2025-05-06 Saint James Working Group*
2. Addition of correspondence *c*
3. Addition of Section 5 *Community & Justice Leadership Team*
4. Addition under section 2 of discussion around *Saint James Working Group*
5. Addition under New business. of discussion around correspondence *c*
6. Addition under section 7 of discussion around *Resonance Conference*.

**CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_004 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/P. Bisset) RESOLVED that,

1. the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional appointment of Florence Bukam, ordained minister, as Minister for Worship and Pastoral Care, half time (20 hours/week) (the funds to be provided by the General Council Office), June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026, be approved. This is a Regional Council staff position serving the Mission Protestant Francophone du Longueuil (MPFL).
2. the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that a Ministry and Personnel Circle be established to support Florence, comprised of two representatives from the Regional Council, two representatives from MPFL, and one representative from MPFL chosen by Florence.
3. Rev. Darla Sloan be the Covenanting Mentor for MPFL.

4. MPFL work with Darla, Esther Guillén, La Table des ministères en français, and other representatives of the Regional Council as needed, to develop culturally and contextually appropriate governance and accountability structures within MPFL, so that MPFL can covenant with the Regional Council during Advent 2025.
5. once MPFL has covenanted with the Regional Council, one Regional Council representative on the M&P Circle step down, and that that person be replaced by an additional representative from MPFL.

**CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_005 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional call of Lisa Byer-de Wever, pending commissioning on May 31, 2025, to the Merging Waters pastoral charge, full-time (40 hours/week), beginning June 1, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED (L. Byer-de Wever abstains)**

**2025-05-15\_006 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/M.-C. Manga) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional appointment of Jean-Philippe Dubé-Goupil, pending ordination on May 31, 2025, to Église Sainte-Claire, through the Trinity-Anjou pastoral charge, part-time (20 hours/week), from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, be approved. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_007 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/P. Goldberger) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional appointment of Maureen Scott Kabwe, pending commissioning on May 25, 2025, to the Kahnawake pastoral charge, part-time (10 hours/week), from June 1, 2025, to November 30, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_008 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/B. Bryce) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional call of Virginia Wallace, pending ordination on May 31, 2025, to the Mount Bruno pastoral charge, part-time (30 hours/week), beginning June 1, 2025, be approved. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_009 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/P. Bisset) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receive and approve the recommendation from the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team to disband Italian Church of the Redeemer Pastoral Charge, effective May 1, 2025.

**2025-05-15\_010 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive receives information the extract of minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board held on May 8, 2025. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_011 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that, on recommendation of the Finance and Extension Board, Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council approves the 2024 Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council financial statements. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_012 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that, on recommendation of the Finance and Extension Board, Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approves the 2024 Finance and Extension Board financial statements. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_013 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, on the recommendation of its Finance and Extension Board, upon disbanding of the Italian Church of the Redeemer, concurs in the request effective on the date of disbanding to approve the following Plan of Distribution of its remaining assets and the establishment of the Italian Church of the Redeemer Fund, the whole with grateful thanks for the Congregation's life and work in furtherance of the ministry of the United Church of Canada and in particular, gives thanks to its current members and officers for their handling of this concluding chapter of its ministry:

- a. \$ 69,878.92 to the Mission and Service Fund (topping up the sharing in the sale of the Church Building to 10% in view of the subsequent decision to disband),
- b. \$20,000 to Trinity United Church (Montreal) for their general operating budget
- c. \$21,566 – United Church Women (National Office)
- d. \$5000 – Halte Femmes Montréal-nord
- e. \$5000 – Fondation des aveugles du Québec
- f. The remainder (about \$1 million) for the establishment of a Restricted Fund "Italian Church of the Redeemer Fund" with the Finance and Extension Board with the Terms of Reference annexed to this motion under the direction of the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team. – Esther Guillan shared more background information on what the fund is to be used for.

**CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_014 MOTION** (P. Bisset/P. Stanfield) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, on the recommendation of its Finance and Extension Board, concurs in the request of the Trustees of Franklin United Church for first instance permission to market its two real estate properties a) Franklin United Church at 1675 Route 202, Franklin, QC J0S 1E0 being lot 5,621,027 of the Cadastre du Québec and b) Zion United Church at 39 Covey Hill Road, Havelock, QC J0S 2C0 being lot 5,620,737 of the Cadastre du Québec, with any final sale on the terms to be approved by the Finance and Extension Board of this Regional Council and any net proceeds shall be retained in accordance with the policy of the Regional Council depending on a final decision of the Regional Council for the disbanding or amalgamation of the pastoral charge with other United Church communities of faith. **CARRIED (B. Bryce abstains)**

**2025-05-15\_015 MOTION** (B. Bryce/R. Lambie) RESOLVED that Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council approves the nomination of the following individuals to the Finance & Extension Board from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2027:

- a. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo
- b. Peter Bisset
- c. Norman Robert Boie
- d. Fred Braman
- e. Stephan Elkas
- f. Jim Fyles
- g. Michael Grier
- h. Jim Moffat
- i. Royal Orr
- j. Frederick Sheffer
- k. Paul Stanfield

**CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_016 MOTION** (P. Bisset/R. Lambie) RESOLVED that Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council ratify the appointment of the slate of officers of the Finance and Extension Board for 2025 – 2026 as follows:

- President, Royal Orr
- Vice-President, Fred Braman
- Treasurer, Paul Stanfield
- Secretary, Caroline Leamon

**CARRIED (C. M. Gladu Abstains)**

**2025-05-15\_017 MOTION** (R. Lambie/A. Akintayo) RESOLVED that Conseil regional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive is committed to the future of ministry at Saint James but cannot accept a working group membership that includes staff or family members of staff in an effort to be consistent with the polity of the United Church of Canada. **CARRIED**

**2025-05-15\_017 MOTION** (C. M. Gladu/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept and implement the proposal *Way Forward for Towards 2035*. **CARRIED**

#### Regional Council General Meeting – June 6-7, 2025

**2025-06-7\_001 OMNIBUS MOTION** (E. Hébert-Daly/V. Nickson) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council move the following:

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

24. That the following people serve as the Equity Support Team: Erika Lueng and Rev. Dan Hayward;  
25. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant:

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

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

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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**

**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**

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

Full voting Members:

President (2-year maximum)	Norman Robert Boie (2026)
President-Elect (Elected in “off year” for one-year term)	to be determined
Past-President (one year)	vacant
Treasurer (no term)	Paul Stanfield
Executive Minister	Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

Representative of the following Leadership Teams (2 years):

Pastoral Relations	Rev. Christine Marie Gladu
Representative of La Table	Rev. Pierre Goldberger
First Third Ministry	to be determined
Living into Right Relations Leadership Circle	Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever
Justice and Community Ministries	Rev. Bailey Eastwood
Granting and Enabling Leadership Team	Rev. Mark Hammond & Rev. Barbara Bryce (rotating)
General Meeting Planning Leadership Team	Rev. Virginia Wallace
Finance and Extension Board	Royal Orr
Nominations	Nathanial McMaster

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

6. Marie-Claude Manga, pasteure (2026)
7. Erika (Qian) Lueng (2026)
8. Rev. Adedeji Sunday Akintayo (2027)
9. Rev. Rosemary Lambie (2027)
10. Florence Bukam, pasteure (2027)

Corresponding Non-Voting Members

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

June 19, 2025

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

\*\*\*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.*

1.

**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**

**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**

September 18, 2025

**2025-09-18\_001 MOTION** (D. Ashby/C-M Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Nathaniel McMaster as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-09-18\_002 MOTION** (F. Bukam/R. Lambie) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of June 19, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-09-18\_003 MOTION** (N. McMaster/M. Hammond) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition under Section 13 of report from *Affirm United*
2. Addition under Section 14 of *Collective 2026 (Rendezvous)*

**CARRIED**

**2025-09-18\_004 MOTION** (R. Orr/C-M Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive:

- a) receive into its minutes the results of email poll held on June 29, 2025:

*2025-06-29\_001 MOTION (E. Liang/F. Bukam) Based on the discussion held by the Executive on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in response to the correspondence regarding the composition of the proposed Working Group for financial health at St. James United Church in Montreal, be it resolved that the following motion be adopted by Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive:*

1. *That a Commission of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council be struck to assume all responsibilities and decisions on behalf of St. James United Church.*
2. *That the Commission work with the existing board of the St. James United Church congregation, Jean Lagueux, and Me Pierre Paquin to obtain all necessary financial, historical and legal information, as well as the ministry plans for the congregation.*
3. *That a financial assessment, budget and financing be determined by the Commission and that implementation of that plan be carried out within a year of its establishment in consultation with the congregation.*
4. *That borrowed funds be negotiated by the Commission with the F&E Board to sustain the ministry and bridge it to the completion of the redevelopment plan (projected in 5-7 years), with the understanding that repayment would come from the revenue of the development.*
5. *That the Commission would work with the other bodies of the church to ensure continued worship, community ministry and all other aspects of the ministry life of the congregation.*
6. *That the voting membership of the Commission be comprised of Wade Eide, Rosemary Lambie, Luc Lefebvre, Paul Stanfield and Guy-Lin Beaudoin.*
7. *That the Commission formally takes on its responsibilities on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. CARRIED*

- b) receive into its minutes the results of email poll held on July 31, 2025:

*2025-07-31\_001 MOTION (R. Orr/F. Bukam) RESOLVED that Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, on the recommendation of its Finance and Extension Board, concurs in the request of the Congregation and Trustees of Arundel United Church to amend the church hub agreement to grant an option to purchase in favour of Centre Arundel Centre on a strictly as-is, where-is basis their land and building located at 17 rue du Village,*

*Arundel, QC (Lot 6 214 609 of the Cadastre du Québec) for the sum of \$160,000 plus inflation protection on the terms agreed with the Finance and Extension Board, subject to the Regional Council Policy on Net Proceeds of Sale, and any two Trustees are authorized to sign any documents required to carry out this decision. It is noted that the any Deed of Sale will preserve the continued right of Arundel United Church to use the property for church purposes. CARRIED*

- c) acknowledge the following Voluntary Associate Ministers (retired ministry personnel not appointed, or engaged in ministry not recognized as ‘community of faith’) for July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Community of Faith</u>
Rev. Wendy	Evans	Cedar Park United Church
Pasteur Gérald	Doré	Charge pastorale Saint-Pierre et Pinguet
Pasteur Denis	Fortin	Charge pastorale Saint-Pierre et Pinguet
Rev. Frank	Giffen	Lakeshore-Trinity United Church
Pasteur Pierre	Goldberger	Église unie Saint-Jean
Rev. Cathy	Hamilton	Cedar Park United Church
Rev. Bill	Jay	Montreal West United Church
Pasteur Pierre-Paul	Lafond	Église unie Saint-Jean
Rev. David	Lambie	Cowansville Area Pastoral Charge
Rev. Rosemary	Lambie	Mid-Laurentian United Church
Rev. David	Lefneski	Granby United Church
Rev. Patricia	Lisson	St. James United Church
Rev. Scott	Patton	Lennoxville United Church
Pasteure Darla	Sloan	Église unie Sainte-Claire

- d) receives information the email poll of July 9, 2025, the email poll of July 24, 2025, the email poll of July 30, 2025, the email poll of August 2, 2025, the email poll of August 27, 2025, and the extract of minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board held on September 11, 2025.
- e) accepts the Sabbatical Leave Committee of the Finance and Extension Board’s recommendation to approve the request for Sabbatical Leave 2026 of Rev. Arlen Bonnar, Minister of the faith community of St. James United Church, for a time of reflection, renewal and new perspectives for ministry. The sabbatical leave is granted for a period of three months (January, February and March 2026) as outlined in Rev. Bonnar's proposal and does not include the regular time of vacation. Up to \$15,000 in funding is available for the sabbatical, which will cover all of Rev. Bonnar's contingency replacement costs and some eligible personal costs as well.
- f) approve the recommendation of the Licensed Lay Worship Leaders’ Leadership Team to re-license Shirley Knutson as an LLWL, with the stipulation that she is semi-retired and has very limited availability.

**CARRIED**

October 16, 2025

**2025-10-16\_001 MOTION** (M.-C. Manga/L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Rev. Christine Marie Gladu as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-10-16\_002 MOTION** (B. Eastwood/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of September 18, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-10-16\_003 MOTION** (L. Byer-de Wever/B. Eastwood) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-10-16\_004 MOTION** (R. Orr/C.M. Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive:

- a) concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the reappointment of Rev. M. Wartan Katchikian, ordained minister, to the Rennie’s Pastoral Charge, part-time (20 hours/week), October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026, be approved;
- b) concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that the provisional appointment of Kelley Molloy, pending recognition as a Designated Lay Minister on October 26, 2025, to the Laurentian Area Ministry through the Harrington Pastoral Charge, full-time (40 hours/week), October 26, 2025, to June 30, 2026, be approved;
- c) receives for information the extract of minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board held on October 9, 2025;
- d) concur with the recommendation of the Finance and Extension Board to mandate the Granting and Enabling Leadership Team to require Communities of Faith applying for grants to be in good standing (having annual statistics report up to date, having submitted their annual reports, having their national assessments paid, and being up to date on loan payments, if applicable).

**CARRIED**

**2025-10-16\_005 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Finance & Extension Board to adopt the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council’s 2026 budget as presented. **CARRIED**

**2025-10-16\_006 MOTION** (P. Stanfield/R. Orr.) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive concur with the recommendation of the Finance & Extension Board to ratify the Finance and Extension Board 2026 budget as submitted. **CARRIED**

### Regional Council General Meeting – November 15, 2025

**2025-11-15\_001 MOTION** (Eric Hebert-Daly/Virginia Wallace) that the Nakonha: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 11 AM;
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:

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**

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

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

**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**

November 20, 2025

**2025-11-20\_001 MOTION** (C-M Gladu/D. Ashby) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive name Rev. Pierre Goldberger as Equity Support person for this meeting. **CARRIED**

**2025-11-20\_002 MOTION** (R. Lambie/C-M Gladu) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive approve the Minutes of October 16, 2025 as circulated. **CARRIED**

**2025-11-20\_003 MOTION** (P. Goldberger/N. McMaster) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive accept the agenda as amended:

1. Addition of *Maison Saint Columba Report November 2025* under new business

**CARRIED**

**2025-11-20\_004 MOTION** (R. Lambie/B. Eastwood) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive:

- a) concur with the recommendation of the Pastoral Relations Leadership Team that, having received a request from the Laurentian Area Ministry Council under the Regional Council's Policy on Sacraments Licensing, a licence to administer the sacraments be granted to Kelley Molloy, Designated Lay Minister, for the length of her appointment and within the bounds of the regional council, effective immediately;
- b) receives for information the extract of minutes from the meeting of the Finance & Extension Board held on November 13, 2025.
- c) take the following action(s):
  - i. Saint Columba House/Maison Saint-Columba

Pursuant to the Incorporated Ministries Policy of The United Church of Canada approve the Saint Columba House/Maison Saint-Columba 2025-2026 Board of Directors

- Jean-François Duquesne
- Valerie Epps Nickson
- Christine Kenney
- Thomas Kent
- Luc Lefebvre
- Maylanne Maybee

ii. Signing Authority for Executive Minister

Pauthorize Executive Minister, Éric Hébert-Daly, to have signing authority on incorporated ministries and release documents on behalf of the Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

**2025-11-20\_005 MOTION** (B. Eastwood/ L. Byer-de Wever) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive amend the proposed motion (2025-11-15\_006 MOTION) to include “That, in any communications around having signed on to this statement, we reaffirm and state that we are opposed to antisemitism and antisemitic violence in all its forms, and that opposing the actions of the current Israeli government does not mean that we do not support the Jewish people around the world.” **CARRIED**

**2025-11-20\_006 MOTION** (B. Eastwood/N. McMaster) that the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council Executive authorize the Executive Minister to sign on behalf of the regional council the pact for an Anti-Apartheid and Anti-Genocide Montreal at outlined below:

We call on the City of Montreal to:

- Cut its institutional ties with the Israeli government and its cities.
- Divest municipal contracts and pension funds from the state of Israel, its institutions, its companies, and international companies that contribute to the perpetuation of ongoing Israeli apartheid and genocide.
- Boycott Israeli sports, academic, and cultural representatives.
- Provide sanctuary: Montreal must provide a safe and dignified welcome to Palestinian refugees and guarantee their access to care and social services.
- Call on the Canadian government to impose a full and immediate embargo on Israel, and end all military trade with Israel via the US loophole.
- Call on the Canadian government to expand the TRV visa program for Canadians seeking to reunite with family members in Gaza and remove onerous verification requirements from the application process.

That, in any communications around having signed on to this statement, we reaffirm and state that we are opposed to antisemitism and antisemitic violence in all its forms, and that opposing the actions of the current Israeli government does not mean that we do not support the Jewish people around the world.

**CARRIED**

# The Rules of Debate and Order

## 1. Presiding Officer

The function of the Presiding Officer is to preside, with all that that implies. The Presiding Officer should not attempt to control the decision of the Court, but may express opinions on any matter before the Court. If the Presiding Officer wishes to introduce a motion or to present a report, the Presiding Officer shall ask another member to preside, and while out of the Chair shall be an ordinary member of the Court and must not assume the chair until the matter is disposed of. The Presiding Officer does not vote except in the event of a tie.

## 2. Questions of Privilege and Order

(a) A point of order may be raised while a matter is pending or while another member has the floor. When a point of order is raised it must be dealt with by the Presiding Officer without debate. If a member has the floor when a point of order is raised by another member, that member must yield the floor until the Presiding Officer has made a ruling.

(b) Any member of the Court may appeal from a ruling of the Chair, but only at the time when the ruling is made. But where a ruling is a precedent the general question of its correctness may be brought up later when there is no business pending, but cannot then affect the business transacted under the ruling.

(c) When an appeal from a ruling is made, the Presiding Officer should state the point at issue, and may give reasons for the ruling. The Secretary shall then put the question in the following form: "Is the ruling of the Moderator (or such other title by which the Presiding Officer is known) sustained?" If the vote is a tie, the Presiding Officer is sustained. The Secretary shall declare the result.

## 3. Orders of the Day

(a) When an agenda has been adopted that does not specify the time for its items, such items are considered without time limit, unless the Court decides otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting.

(b) When an agenda has been adopted that specifies the time for particular items, such time shall be strictly adhered to, unless the Court decides otherwise by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting.(2010)

## 4. Order of Priority on Motions

(a) To close.(2010)

(b) To fix the time to adjourn.

(c) To adjourn.

(d) To take an immediate vote (two-thirds (2/3) vote required).

(e) To limit or extend limits of debate (two-thirds (2/3) vote required).

(f) To postpone definitely.

(g) To commit or refer.

- (h) To amend.
- (i) To postpone indefinitely.
- (j) To deal with main motions.

## **5. Procedures on Motion**

- (a) A member of the Court proposes a motion.
- (b) It is seconded. If there is no seconder, the motion fails.
- (c) When the motion is duly moved and seconded, the Presiding Officer states the motion and declares it open for discussion. If the mover has not already done so, the mover has the right to introduce the discussion.
- (d) A motion is out of order when it conflicts with a resolution previously passed at the same session unless it is a motion to reconsider.
- (e) Without the permission of the Court, no member may speak more than once on any motion or on any amendment thereto.
- (f) The mover of a motion has the right of reply before any vote is taken thereon or on any amendment thereto. Even when the Court has directed that an immediate vote be taken on a motion, the mover still has the right of reply.
- (g) When a motion has two (2) or more clearly defined parts or points of issue, and any two (2) members request that it be divided, a separate vote must be taken on each part.
- (h) Any motion may be withdrawn but only with the consent of its mover and seconder.
- (i) After a motion is under consideration a question of order cannot be raised against it unless the motion is ultra vires.

## **6. Procedure on Amendments**

- (a) Any member except the mover or the seconder of the motion may move a relevant amendment thereto.
- (b) An amendment must be seconded, and if there is no seconder it fails.
- (c) A motion is amended by striking out certain words or clauses, adding certain words or clauses, or striking out all after the word "Resolved" (or the word "that"), and inserting another motion that will dispose of the matter. An amendment that merely negatives a motion before the Court is out of order.
- (d) There may be an amendment to the amendment, provided it has been duly seconded.
- (e) There is no limit to the number of amendments, but at any one time there can be before the Court only the motion, the amendment, and the amendment to the amendment.
- (f) When an amendment is disposed of, other relevant amendments may be proposed.
- (g) The discussion is always on the immediately pending question, and it must be voted on first. When a motion, an amendment, and an amendment to the amendment are before the Court, the two first named are "pending questions" and the last is the "immediately pending question." When the immediately pending question is disposed of, the one above it then becomes the immediately pending question, until the whole matter is disposed of.

**(h)** When an amendment carries, it is not thereby adopted as the finding of the Court, but only changes the proposition under discussion.

**(i)** When a motion, an amendment, and an amendment to the amendment are before a Court, three (3) separate votes including “for” and “against” must be taken. The first determines whether the amendment shall be amended, the second determines whether the motion shall be amended, and the third determines whether the motion, in whatever form it is then before the Court, shall be adopted or rejected.

## **7. Procedure on Voting**

**(a)** A vote is generally taken viva voce or by a show of hands. The Presiding Officer may ask for a standing vote. Upon motion duly passed, the vote shall be taken by ballot. In all actions of Church Courts regarding membership in the Order of Ministry requiring voting procedure, the vote shall be taken by ballot unless waived by unanimous consent; that is, on motion to waive, no dissenting vote is cast. See also sections C.5.7 and D.4.4 of the bylaws.

**(b)** In the event of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

**(c)** An affirmative vote on a motion does not validate any motion that is ultra vires of the Court, or that contravenes a decision of a higher Court.

**(d)** In the conduct of United Church business, voting by proxy or by mail-in ballot is not permitted. Voting by telephone or by email is permitted only when it occurs during a meeting that is held in a manner that allows all of the persons participating to communicate with one another simultaneously and instantaneously.(2010)

## **8. Procedure on Motion to Reconsider**

**(a)** A motion to reconsider may be made at any time when the floor is vacant; but the actual reconsideration has only the same priority as the motion to be reconsidered.

**(b)** A motion to reconsider must be moved by a member who voted with the majority. Any member may second.

**(c)** If a motion to reconsider is dealt with at the same meeting in which the original motion was adopted, it will fail unless two-thirds (2/3) of those voting are in favour thereof. If a motion to reconsider is dealt with at a subsequent meeting of the Court, a majority of those voting determines the question.

**(d)** When any motion to reconsider has been duly seconded, all action on the original motion is suspended until the motion to reconsider has been disposed of. No motion to reconsider can be entertained by the Court where action has already been taken under the original motion.

**(e)** A motion cannot be reconsidered twice unless materially changed on the first reconsideration. If a motion to reconsider has been lost, it cannot be repeated.

**(f)** A motion to reconsider is debatable only when the motion to be reconsidered is debatable. It cannot be amended, postponed indefinitely, or committed.

## **9. Motion to Refer**

A motion to refer is debatable, but only as to the wisdom and manner of the proposed referral. It requires only a majority of those voting.

## **10. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely**

A motion to postpone indefinitely, when in order, must be put without debate. If the motion is lost, it cannot be repeated or reconsidered. If carried, the motion along with all amendments is removed from debate. At any time it may be brought back before the Court by motion duly seconded and carried. In such case the question is before the Court in exactly the position it held at the time it was removed from debate. A motion to postpone indefinitely can have no conditions attached to it. If a time is specified, it immediately ceases to be a motion to postpone indefinitely and becomes a motion to postpone definitely and is debatable.(2007)

## **11. Motion to Take an Immediate Vote**

If a motion to take an immediate vote (for which a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required) is carried, the vote shall be taken immediately. The mover of the main motion, however, shall have the right to reply before the vote is taken. If such a motion fails, debate on the main motion shall continue. A motion to take an immediate vote is not debatable.

## **12. Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn is intended to suspend a meeting until another time. A motion to adjourn is in order only if there is already an agreed-upon time and place for resuming the meeting, or if the motion specifies a time and place for resuming the meeting. A motion to adjourn requires a seconder. Only the conditions attached to the motion to adjourn, such as time and place for resuming the meeting, are debatable; the wisdom of adjourning is not debatable.(2010)

## **13. Closing a Meeting (2010)**

**(a)** A motion to close is intended to terminate a meeting. A new meeting may commence, at a future time, by previous agreement or by call. There can be no conditions attached to a motion to close. A motion to close requires a seconder. A motion to close is not debatable.(2010)

**(b)** When all the business and purposes of a meeting have been attended to and the Presiding Officer is satisfied that there is no further business before the Court, the Presiding Officer may declare that the meeting is closed, without the need for a motion to close.(2010)

## **14. Committee of the Whole**

**(a)** Any Court, for greater freedom of discussion, may, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, move into a Committee of the Whole. Any such motion is neither debatable nor amendable, except only as to the scope of the subject to be discussed. The motion is not in order if there is a pending motion to adjourn the meeting or to postpone discussion on the subject.(2007)

**(b)** The first act of the Committee of the Whole is to appoint a chairperson and a secretary. A separate minute of the proceedings is taken.(2007)

**(c)** The ordinary limitations of debate do not prevail in the Committee of the Whole. The chairperson restates the matter(s) to be considered. Discussion is then opened and is conducted informally. Motions need not be seconded. Unless the resolution creating the Committee of the Whole imposes restrictions, there are no restrictions, within reason, on the number of times a member may speak or on the length of speeches, except that priority is given to a member who has not yet spoken.(2007)

**(d)** When the deliberations of the Committee of the Whole are concluded, the Committee will dispose of a motion that the Committee rise and report; this motion does not require seconding and is neither debatable nor amendable. When this motion is passed, a report is prepared and submitted to the chairperson of the main meeting, who reconvenes the main meeting.(2007)

**(e)** A Committee of the Whole can neither adjourn nor terminate; it only can report back to the main meeting. It can, of course, recess briefly to prepare its report.(2007)

## 15. General

**(a)** When a member utters language that another member considers offensive, the latter may require that the words be taken down. The speaker is then allowed to proceed. When the speaker yields the floor, the words complained of may be considered and dealt with. Such words may not be privileged.

**(b)** Members of any Court should at all times therein conduct themselves with dignity, fairness, and understanding. The prime concern should be the good order and welfare of the church.

**(c)** In any point not covered in The Manual, the parliamentary rules accepted in Canada (Bourinot) shall be followed.

## Enabling Motions

### 1. Regional Council Roll:

That the Ministerial Roll of the Regional Council and the non-Ministerial Roll of the Regional Council thus constituted be now taken as read.

### 2. Other Delegates:

That anyone who has a role to play at the General Meeting of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council ( e.g. members of the Regional Council Executive, Chairs of Leadership Teams and who has not been appointed as a delegate by her/his Community of Faith, be a full delegate with all the privileges of other delegates, and that the youth and young adult representatives from each Community of Faith be full delegates.

### 3. Corresponding Members:

That the students serving this Regional Council; the candidates for Ordination and Admission, those present as invited guests of this Regional Council, resource persons, all who have registered

for the Youth and Young Adult Event and other guests recognized by this court, be invited to sit as corresponding members of the Court.

4. Minimum Number of Members at Meetings:

That the minimum number of members for any session of this Regional Council is present (C.4.3, The Manual 2019).

5. Agenda:

That the agenda as printed and circulated, the reports, and the daily Agenda, be adopted as the Agenda for this meeting, subject to such changes as may be determined by the Business Leadership Team and approved by this Court.

6. Procedures for Reports:

That the following procedure with respect to reports being presented at the Regional Council be adopted.

- a. Reports and any attendant recommendations be dealt with in the allotted time.
- b. If action has not been completed in the allotted time, then the Regional Council may:
  - i. Request that additional time on the Agenda be arranged by the Business Leadership Team
  - ii. Refer the report with its recommendation(s) to the appropriate body or bodies concerned, along with power to issue
  - iii. Refer the report with its recommendation(s) to the Executive of the Regional Council for such action as the Executive deems appropriate.

7. Meeting of the Executive:

That the Executive (which is empowered to act on behalf of the Regional Council between the meetings of the Court) be empowered to meet, if necessary, during the sessions of this Regional Council meeting and report those matters which require the approval of this Court.

8. Inclusive Language:

It is recommended that every attempt be made to use inclusive (non-sexist) language in all worship, reports, petitions and discussions in this Court.

9. Business Leadership Team:

That the *Business Leadership Team* be: Chair of the Executive, Executive Minister, Chair of Planning and the coordinator of proposals

10. Scrutineers:

That the *Scrutineers* be appointed from the membership of the Court.

11. Courtesies:

That the *Courtesies Leadership Team* be appointed from the membership of the Court.

12. Election of the President:

That the following be the procedure for the nomination of persons to the office of President, when necessary:

1. That written nominations be supported by two signatures and be presented to either the Chair of the Regional Council Executive, or the Executive Minister.
2. That the opportunity be given for nominations from the floor, with the consent of the nominee having been previously secured.
3. That the election be by ballot, with a clear majority necessary for election.

13. Advisory Leadership Team:

That a Leadership Team comprised of all past Presidents of Synode Montreal & Ottawa Conference present will assist the Chair of the Regional Council Executive in dealing with matters arising on the floor of the Regional Council not already on the Agenda which may require special consideration.

14. Financial Policy to address requests for unbudgeted expenses:

**Policy Regarding Financial Appeals at Annual Meetings**

POLICY NAME: Policy regarding Financial Appeals at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council	Date Approved: February 28, 2019
	Review date:
Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to clarify limits of the budget process. <i>The Manual C.2.5.</i>	

**Preamble**

This document outlines the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council's policy and best practices regarding requests for funding outside of the approved annual budget at the annual meeting.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council to affirm and uphold the use and function of the Business Committee for matters coming to the floor of the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council.

It is the policy of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council that any motion committing the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council to the expenditure of non-budgeted sums of money be required to have a budget attached;

It is the policy of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council that any motion committing the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council to non-budgeted expenditures which are presented during the Annual Meeting be automatically referred to the Executive who may request input from the Property and Finance Team first before making the decision;

It is the policy of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council that in the interests of fairness and justice, requests for funding of projects or groups not covered in the existing Financial budgets be subject to conditions and criteria similar to those that are currently expected of requests for Mission Support, and other funds available within the Regional Council.

## Nakonha:ka Regional Council Staff

### **Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly**

#### **Executive Minister**

Tel: (343) 655-2906

Fax: 514-634-2489

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Éric's focus is to provide leadership, counsel and support for the governance and oversight of the administration of the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, for East Central Ontario Regional Council, and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. He supervises staff, and engages the regional council in the priorities and decisions of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. General Council deployed staff of the Office of Vocation, the Community Capacity Development Officer and the Philanthropy Unit will work in parallel relationships with all three regional councils. He communicates and interprets the decisions and perspectives of the regional councils and the Executives to the General Council, other regional councils and communities of faith, and fulfills the duties outlined in The Manual (2022) Section C.3.4.

### **Joel Miller**

#### **Program Assistant to the Executive Minister**

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Joel's staff responsibilities include daily, high level, ongoing administrative support to the Executive Minister, recording secretary for the Executives and Annual General Meetings of each of the three Regional Councils; prepares report books for general meetings, manages wedding licences in Ontario and Quebec: new and temporary applications, transfers from other Regional Councils, annual updates as required provincially, responds to phone, email and in-person enquiries by providing information and referring enquiries to colleagues as appropriate.

### **Rev. Dan Hayward**

#### **Pastoral Relations Minister**

Tel: (514) 819-2925

Fax: 514-634- 2489

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Dan's staff responsibilities are to assist the Nakonha:ka Regional Council to serve, support and provide oversight, and pastoral relations support to the Communities of Faith, and for encouraging and supporting Ministry Personnel toward health, joy and excellence in ministry practice.

### **Brian Ruse**

#### **Finance and Office Administrator**

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Fax: 514-634- 2489

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Brian's primary responsibilities are to provide management and accounting support for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council finances, providing administrative support to the Finance and Property Leadership Group, to the Finance and Extension Board, to Mission Support and Bursary Committees, for Trust and Funds, and for the issuance of Finance and Extension Board Sabbatical and Bursary Grants.

**Dr. Esther Guillén**

**Community of Faith Support Minister**

Tel: (514) 819-3036

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Dr. Guillén is the Community of Faith Support Minister for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council. In this role she supports churches and other communities of faith to best live out their goals. She assists in building the capacity of communities to engage in ministry, visioning, strategic planning, and regional policy support. Esther comes to this role with a lifetime of experience in the UCC, and a passion for ecumenism. She has a PhD, MA, and BA, all in the history of Christianity, and has spent most of the last 13 years thinking about the Gospel of Matthew (she would be very happy to talk to you about the Magi). You can reach Dr. Guillén by email or by phone Sunday through Thursday.

**Shanna Bernier**

**Program Support Minister for Youth and Young Adults**

Fax: 514-634- 2489

Email: [sbernier@united-church.ca](mailto:sbernier@united-church.ca)

Shanna's primary responsibilities are to support and run existing programs in Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council, such as Youth Forum, Camps and wider church YAYA gatherings; planning new programming, providing education and training opportunities to volunteers, and connecting and networking the different youth ministries in our region.

**Aviyah Abrams**

**Communications and Administrative Support (half-time)**

Tel: (514) 819-3007

Fax: 514-634- 2489

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Aviyah's role as a communications/social media specialist for Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council is to expand community engagement and connections, particularly (but not exclusively) through use of the website, various social media platforms and publications. This includes both internal and external communications. This part-time role also includes some administrative support (updating community of faith, leadership teams, cluster and network lists; emails, website, and newsletters, annual meeting preparation.) Aviyah is generally available by email or by phone between 7:00 am and 1:00 pm.

**Sara DeMelo-Zare**

**Archivist (part-time)**

Email: [sdemelozare@united-church.ca](mailto:sdemelozare@united-church.ca)

Responsibilities include preserving, organizing, and maintaining the church's historical records. This also includes providing access and reference services to researchers, members of the congregation, and the public. As an archivist, it is also her responsibility to develop and implement policies and procedures for the management and preservation of the church's archival materials, ensuring physical preservation with external institutions, and collaborating with other staff members, church leaders, and community organizations to promote the use and understanding of the church's history and archival collections.

**Rev. Tori Mullin**

**Growth Animator for EOORC/ECORC/CrNRC**

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Tori (they/ielle) is the Growth Animator for Eastern Ontario Outaouais, Nakonha:ka, and East Central Ontario regional councils. Their work focuses on strengthening invitation to the United Church, renewing communities of faith and helping to create new ministries.

**Rev. Caroline Penhale Lukacs**

**Minister for the Office of Vocation**

Email: [cpenhale@united-church.ca](mailto:cpenhale@united-church.ca)

Caroline is the Vocational Minister responsible for Quebec and East Ontario. She serves as staff support to the Quebec and East Ontario Candidacy Board, accompanies applicants and candidates along the Candidacy Pathway, and serves as a Vocational Minister to clergy serving in the Nakonha:ka, East Central Ontario and Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regions. Caroline is bilingual (French and English) and comes to this work after serving as a campus minister, life coach, vocational counsellor and mental health advocate and program developer. She has also served as a congregational minister, most recently at the Orleans United Church, Ottawa..

**Stewardship & Gifts Office**

[More Information](#)

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**Tim Hackborn**

**Minister for the Indigenous of Vocation**

Email: [thackborn@united-church.ca](mailto:thackborn@united-church.ca)

Tim's focus is the Indigenous Spiritual Formation and the oversight and discipline of ministry personnel for the Indigenous Church within all of the Regional Councils.

**Martha Pedoniquotte**

**Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Ontario and Quebec**

Tel: 519-373-4205

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Martha is focused in working with the First Nations Communities of East Central Ontario Regional Council, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council and Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council.

## Our Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone,  
We live in God's world.  
We believe in God :  
    who has created and is creating,  
    who has come in Jesus,  
        the Word made flesh,  
        to reconcile and make new  
    who works in us and others  
        by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church  
    to celebrate God's presence  
to live with respect in Creation  
    to love and serve others,  
    to seek justice and resist evil,  
    to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
        our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
    God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.