
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**March 20-21, 2026**

Theme “Love Knocks and Waits”

The Nakonha:ka Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Annual General Meeting on Friday evening, March 20 and Saturday morning, March 21. The theme for this meeting was “Love Knocks and Waits”.

Context is everything. How we do ministry, how we speak to people, how we organize ourselves. God doesn't stop speaking to us when our context changes. God is still knocking at the door and our ability to respond in a way that is contextual is key. In Quebec we face continued pressures to secularize. Conversation about the benefits of church are a challenge. What can we learn about our context and how does ministry stay relevant in our context today. As we formally review the work we've done over the last year and examine our structure, we will also be learning more about how the law is affecting our work and how we might respond to the needs of the world. We continue to learn how to answer when love knocks. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry Personnel (Ordained, Diaconal, Designated Lay) (37)**

Adedeji Sunday Akintayo, Andrew Lairenge, Angelika Piche, Barbara Bryce, Beryl Barraclough, Birgit Neuschild, Cathy Hamilton, Cynthia Reynolds, Dale Breikreutz, Darla Sloan, David Lefneski, Eric Hebert-Daly, Florence Bukam, Jean-Philippe Dube-Goupil, John Matheson, Kelley Molloy, Kent Chown, Linda Buchanan, Lisa Byer-de Wever, Marie-Claude Manga, Mark Hammond, Maureen Scott Kabwe, Mead Baldwin, Mher Khatchikian, Morgan Bell, Patricia Lisson, Pierre Goldberger, Read Sherman, Reginald Jennings, Christine Marie Gladu, Dr. Phyllis Smyth, Robert Patton, Rosemary Lambie, Samuel Vauvert Dansokho, Tami Spires, Douglas Throop, Virginia Wallace.

Lay Representative (Appointed by Community of Faith) (26)

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

Candidates for Ministry (3)

Erika Liang, Juyoung Lee, Peter Buhendwa.

First Third (under 35) (1)

Sarah Garceau.

Regional Council/ General Council Staff (5)

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

Guests (11)

Howard Cain, Beverly Clark, Darren Foka, Diane Stevenson-Cantin, Gerald H. Mc Intyre, Guy-Lin Beaudoin, Jean-Daniel O'Donnada, Paul Surprenant, Rosemary Warren, Royal Orr, Sarah Wicks-Potter.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Session One

Friday (evening)

March 20, 2026

Gathering Time

Participants were invited to connect to the meeting at 16:30 for a brief time of fellowship before the meeting began.

Gathering Music

Dorian DeLuca, provided music leadership, and shared musical accompaniment on the piano. Gathering music was piano instrumentals of an assortment of hymns: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” “Spirit of Gentleness” “Come Touch Our Hearts” “She Comes Sailing on the Wind” “Like a Healing Stream” “Let My Spirit Always Sing” “Gather Us In / Rassemble-Nous”

Special Instructions

Rev. Kent Chown, Zoom technical-support for this meeting, provided zoom meeting instructions, highlighting the simultaneous translation feature, muting and unmuting, raising and lowering hand, the use of chat, use of polls. Participants were reminded to identify using their full name, language, pronouns, X if non-voting, and A if animator for discussion group. Kent also highlighted where on the website appendices for this meeting could be found, in particular that dealing with the restructuring of the Executive.

Land Acknowledgment

Norman Robert Boie, President, led the land acknowledgement:

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

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

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

Opening Words, Welcome to New-Comers

Norman Robert Boie, President, welcomed all in attendance and invited newcomers to identify themselves: 1. Ruth Sandeu, Adjointe à la programmation des ministères en français, 2. Hanitra Randrianasolo (leading worship for this meeting).

Opening Worship

Hanitra Randrianasolo led worship: Began with an apostolic greeting, the reciting of Psalm 117, the singing of hymn “Comment ne pas te louer?”, reading Scripture: Revelation 3:20, a reflection on Scripture, and a closing prayer.

Call to Order

Norman Robert Boie, President, called the meeting to order at 19:03.

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

Minute for Equity

Rev. Dan Hayward informed that he and Shanna Bernier were the Equity Support Team for this meeting and provided their contact information. He also invited all to consider the following criteria for making a meeting more equitable:

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

Chaplain

It was announced that Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho was designated as chaplain for this meeting, and his contact information was provided.

Omnibus Motion

2026-03-20-21_001 MOTION (Éric Hébert-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 November 15, 2025, 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 2026 review engagement;
4. That the Regional Council appoint BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L. to conduct the Finance & Extension Board's 2026 review engagement;
5. That the Regional Council receive for information grants distributions awarded in March of 2026 as reported by the Granting & Enabling Leadership Team (see **Appendix B**);
6. That the cut off time for receiving emerging issues for addition to the agenda be 20:45;
7. That candidates who are not in an appointment and those present as invited guests be named as corresponding members of the Court;
8. That the following people serve as Scrutineers: Rev. Kent Chown, Norm Haslam;
9. That the following person serves as Parliamentarian: Rev. Rosemary Lambie;
10. That the following person serve as Chaplain: Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho
11. That the following people serve as the Equity Support Team: Rev. Dan Hayward, Shanna Bernier;
12. That this meeting include the behavioral covenant (to be shared in unison):

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

In the 2025 Manual (see page 204), the expression Holy Manners is translated as rules of conduct based on respect and benevolence.

Virtual Manner

Use the Chat feature of Zoom appropriately:

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

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

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

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

CARRIED

Additional Parliamentarian

2026-03-20-21_002 MOTION (R. Lambie/T. Spires) to make Fred Braman an additional parliamentarian.

CARRIED

Breakout Rooms (Introductions and Fellowship)

Participants were placed into breakout rooms for personal introductions and a brief time of fellowship.

Emerging Issues

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly announced that time on the agenda for Saturday has been set aside for emerging issues; and invited any with recommendations of topics to be sent to him before 20:45.

2025 Report Book

- See *Report Book (2025)* as **Appendix C**
- a) **President's Report** – Norman Robert Boie highlighted parts of his report (see page 3-5 in the report book).
- b) **Executive Minister Report** – Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly highlighted parts of his report (see page 5-6 in the report book). Éric also shared that the regional council (in collaboration with East Central Ontario and Eastern Ontario Outaouais regional councils) would be offering two workshops; *The Things We Tell Ourselves* (for lay persons) and *The Things I Didn't Learn in Seminary* (for clergy persons).

2026-03-20-21_003 MOTION (V. Nickson/G. Gouw) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council receive and approve the Report Book (2025) as circulated. **CARRIED**

Norman Robert Boie thanked all who submitted reports for inclusion in the *Report Book (2025)*.

Governance Handbook Updates

- See *Governance Handbook (March 2026)* as **Appendix D¹**
- a) **Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property**
 - See *Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property* as **Appendix D²**
- b) **Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (LP)**
 - See *Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (Limited Partnership)* as **Appendix D³**

Royal Orr, President, Finance & Extension Board, answered questions to provide clarifications surrounding the *Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (Limited Partnership)*.

The intention had been to receive for information the updates made to the governance handbook at this time on the agenda, but it was felt that more discussion was needed for clarification around the *Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property*.

*Suggested to revisit how oversight of communities of faith is carried out by the regional council.

Nominations Leadership Team Report – Executive Restructuring

- See *Nominations Leadership Team Report* in Report Book **Appendix C**
- Nathaniel MacMaster, Chair of the Nomination Leadership Team, highlighted parts of the leadership team's report (see page 17-19 in the report book).

Breakout Rooms

Delegates were placed into breakout rooms to discuss the proposal for restructuring the Executive and bring comments and questions back to the plenary which would be addressed prior to voting.

Discussion from Breakout Rooms & Vote

Following discussion and added points of clarification, the following motions were presented:

2026-03-20-21_004 MOTION (Pierre Goldberger/ Doug Throop) that the Nakhonha:ka Regional Council amend the proposal to say that the leading elder be elected for a period of two years by the entire regional council from the elected members of the council of elders. The term of leading elder be revisited in five years. **CARRIED**

2026-03-20-21_005 MOTION (Nathaniel McMaster/Cynthia Reynolds) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council concur with the recommendation of the Nominations Leadership Team approve the restructuring of the Executive as follows:

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 would take effect in June 2026. **CARRIED**

Evening Benediction

Nathaniel McMaster closed this session of the meeting with a benediction, and the following hymn was sung: “Go Now In Peace”.

Session Two

Saturday (Morning)

March 21, 2026

Gathering Time

Attendees gathered online at 8:45 for the morning session.

Gathering Music

Dorian DeLuca provided music leadership, and shared musical accompaniment on the piano. Gathering music was piano instrumentals of an assortment of hymns: “Touch the Earth Lightly” “Bathe Me in Your Light” “Oh, Let Us Breathe” “Are These Not Empty Words?” “Though I May Speak” “We Are All One People” “We Will Go Out with the Hope of Resurrection”

Special Instructions

Rev. Kent Chown, Zoom technical-support for this meeting, provided a brief refresher on how to use Zoom functions as he did on session one.

Welcome to Session Two

Norman Robert Boie welcomed participants to session two of this meeting and invited those attending for the first time to introduce themselves: 1. Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator.

Morning Worship

Hanitra Randrianasolo led this morning’s worship: Began with an apostolic greeting, the reciting of Psalm 100, the singing of hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” (sung in Malagasy), Scripture reading: 1 John 4:8, a reflection on Scripture, and a closing hymn “Saint, Saint, Saint”.

First Peoples Teaching

Rev. Lisa Byer-de Wever highlighted the history of Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada (in particular its relationship with the wider church community and the apologies it received in 1986 and 1998; for in depth information please visit: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>), and also drew people’s attention to the invitation from the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle – a group of Indigenous leaders from across The United Church of Canada – to the *Calls of the Church* (for in depth information please visit: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/calls-church>).

Breakout Rooms (Introductions and Fellowship)

Participants were placed into breakout rooms for personal introductions and a brief time of fellowship.

Justice Disciples Teaser

Juyoung Lee, member of the Justice Disciples (Justice and Community Ministry Leadership Team) invited participants to attend the June 6th regional council general meeting, where the Justice Disciples have set time aside to hear from Communities of Faith to learn about justice issues they are currently facing, and to offer fun interactive activities on justice, compassion and community.

Governance Handbook Updates (Continuation)

- See *Governance Handbook (March 2026)* as **Appendix D¹**
- c) **Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property**
 - See *Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property* as **Appendix D²**
- d) **Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (LP)**
 - See *Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (Limited Partnership)* as **Appendix D³**

The *Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property* was removed from the updated governance handbook, and said policy would be revisited at the June 6 general meeting (It was felt that more learning was needed, and therefore, workshops were to be offered in the coming weeks to help explain the policy in more detail).

2026-03-20-21_006 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Peter Bisset) that the Nakonha:ka Regional Council receive for information the updated Governance Handbook (March 2026). **CARRIED**

Bill 9 – An Act respecting the Reinforcement of Laicity in Québec

M^c Tomas Vazquez (attorney) provided the legislative and historical context for Bill C 9, highlighting 1. Bill 62 (adopted in 2017), 2. Bill 21 (adopted in 2019) and 3. Bill 94 (adopted in 2025) and the Pelchat-Rousseau Report. M^c Vasquez went on to describe in more detail Bill 9, highlighting key aspects: 1. Extended Symbol Ban – Daycares, CEGEPs, universities, subsidized private schools 2. Religious Practice Ban – Parliamentary, judicial & higher-ed institutions; university prayer rooms 3. Outdoor Prayer Permits – a new municipal permitting regime for collective religious practice in public spaces 4. Dietary Neutrality – Public institutions may not offer exclusively faith-based meals 5. School Funding Phase-Out – 3-year withdrawal of subsidies from religious private schools and 6. Lower Accommodation Bar – Standard reduced from 'undue hardship' to 'more than minimal hardship'. On March 23, 2026 The Supreme Court of Canada held hearings challenging Bill 9, but it eventually passed into law on April 2, 2026.

Discussion with M^c Tomas Vazquez

Participants were given time to discuss Bill 9 with each other and M^c Vazquez.

Health Break

A 10 min health break paused the meeting.

Gathering Music

Dorian DeLuca, provided music leadership, and shared musical accompaniment on the piano. Gathering music was a piano instrumental of hymn: “Our Tears Falling Down Like Rain”

Finding Faith Survey

Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, held an interactive survey posing the following question:

- Why are you part of a community of faith?
- What does faith mean to you?
- Which of the following best describe faith to you?
- Do you agree/disagree with the following statements: ...
- Why did you develop “Faith”?
- How do you practice your “Faith”?

Tori shared the following quote: “Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going but going anyway. A journey without maps. Faith is not being sure where you're going but, going anyway. A journey

without maps. - Frederick Buechner. Tori explained that faith has made their life richer and they would like to share this with others who may be looking for something more, in a way that is empathetic, respectful and authentic.

Sharing one's faith takes practice and Tori focused on ways which might help to facilitate this sharing; 1. by learning who your neighbors are and their current attitudes toward the church, faith and spirituality (i.e., using data from Callosum Study) 2. Understanding the benefits that faith provides when facing challenges and adversity (i.e., providing comfort, a sense of purpose, wellbeing) 3. Understanding existing barriers (i.e., strength of belief, bad things, happening, feeling out of place or uncomfortable). Tori shared their personal story and explained how faith has played a role in their life.

Breakout Rooms

Participants were placed into breakout rooms and asked to discuss the following questions:

1. Is there a difference between what a newcomer might be seeking and the reasons why I chose to go to church?
2. How can I communicate to my neighbour what belonging to a community of faith has done for me?
3. What are the spiritual practices that shape my life, and how might I share these with others?
4. Name one action or activity you could animate in this Spring that could make a connection between the hope you have found in Jesus and his church, and the hardships your neighbours may be experiencing.

Discussion with Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator

Participants were given time to discuss with Tori and each other, to share feedback from group discussions during breakout rooms, and to ask questions.

Closing Words

Norman Robert Boie thanked all those who made this meeting possible, from the planning team to presenters, and also thanked all for taking the time to participate in the meeting.

Save the Dates! Nakhonka Upcoming Regional Council Events

- i. June 6, 2026 – Montreal, QC (Cedar Park United Church)
- ii. November 20-21, 2026 – Online Fall Meeting
- iii. To be confirmed (Mid March 2027) – Online AGM
- iv. May 29, 2027 – Morin Heights, QC
- v. November 20, 2027 – Online Fall Meeting

Equity Report

Shanna Bernier, Equity Support, shared that no equity concerns were raised during the meeting, and invited those who may have an equity concern (but have not had time to share it yet) to be in contact with her or Rev. Dan Hayward.

Closing Prayer

Norman Robert Boie, President, shared a closing prayer.

Closing Hymn

Dorian DeLuca and Hanitra Randrianasolo led the closing hymn: "Go Now in Peace"

Conclusion

The Chair declares that all the business having come before this Annual General Meeting has been duly completed, and that the meeting is concluded at 12:33 pm.

Norman Robert Boie, President,
Chair

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

-Appendices-

Appendices available on the Regional Council website (under *Documents*):

<https://nakonhakaucc.ca/event/online-agm-march-2026/>

Appendix A	Minutes of November 15, 2025 (Fall General Meeting)
Appendix B	Grants Distributions Awarded in March of 2026
Appendix C	Report Book (2025)
Appendix D ¹	Governance Handbook (March 2026)
Appendix D ²	Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property
Appendix D ³	Policy for Church Property Transfer to a Regionally Held Vehicle (Limited Partnership)