
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**FRIDAY OCTOBER 16, 2020**

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Annual General Meeting in two sessions, the first taking place on Friday, October 16th beginning at 12:30 pm., and the second on Saturday, October 17th beginning at 12:30 p.m. The theme for this meeting was “We Are in This Together”, in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. A Celebration of Ministry Service was held at Rideau Park United Church in Ottawa, Ontario, on Saturday October 3rd 2020 at 11 a.m.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry (62)**

Elaine Beattie, Nancy Best, Brenda Brenda, Jean Brown, Elizabeth Bryce, Erin Burns, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Terrie Chedore, Edward Colwell, Brian Copeland, Brian Cornelius, Tina Cote, Peter Dahlin, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Phyllis Dietrich, Grant Dillenbeck, Paul Dillman, Boyd Drake, Janet Evans, Heather Froats, Matt Gallinger, Lynne Gardiner, Myra Garvin, Ed Gratton, Daniel Hansen, Lynda Harrison, Daniel Hayward, Kimberly Heath, Éric Hébert-Daly, Gwen Hermann, Jessica Hetherington, Richard Hollingsworth, David Illman-White, Carolyn Insley, Roger Janes, James Kenney, Ryuyun Kim, Earl Klotz, Jenni Leslie, Christine Lawson, Erin McIntyre, Laurie McKnight, Charles Paul McLenaghan, Sheryl McLeod, Anne Montgomery, Kevin Moratz, James Murray, John Noordhof, Catherine, Oxenford-Grant, Kathryn Peate, Caroline Penhale, Kathleen Petrie, Christopher Ryan, Arlyce Schiebout, David Sherwin, Laura Springate, Don Stiles and John Young.

Lay (79)

Jim Allen, Kim Baird, Helen Barkley, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Lorne Bender, John Benson, Cam Bowes, Ted Brett, Paul Bullock, Janice Burroughs, Susan Butler Jones, David Charles, Robert (Bob) Christy, Bryan Cook, Sandra Copeland, Barbara Creelman, Susan DeHaan, Gayle Doxtater (Saturday, October 17th only), Alyce Dunnewold, Margaret Eddy, Philip Fay, JoAnne Fletcher, Dietlind Gardell, Catherine Grant, Elizabeth Gutsell, Bronwen Harman, Judith Harms-Potter, Wayne Harris, Patricia Hassard, Kirsty Hayward, Nancy Hazen, Charlotte Hoy, Karen Hunt, Susan Hutton, Bruce Jackson, Anita Jansman, Marilyn Joseph, Jacalyn Kearns, Yvonne Knight, Joanne Kosmack, David Lee, May LeHay (Saturday, October 17th only), Jean Libbey, Sharon MacDonald, Ernest MacMillan (Friday, October 16th only), Colin Marshall, Norma McCord, Helen McIntosh, Gary McKay, Karen McLean, Joel Miller, David Patterson, Evelyn Perkins, Janice Peron, Deborah Poirier, Kathleen Porteous, Alan Quirt, Geraldine Reid, Barbara Reynolds, Eleanor Rintoul, Michelle Robichaud, Carolyn Ruda, Catherine Ryan, Paul Sales, Sandra Sales, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, Junior Smith, Catherine Stewart, Linda Stronski, Nancy Thorton (Saturday, October 17th only), Lee Torvi, Lee Torvi, Karen Valley, Jack Wilson, Norma Wrightly and Everard Zytveld.

Regional Council Staff (12)

Anita Jansman, Jane Dawson, Dana Ducette, Rev. Trisha Elliott, Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Joel Miller, Rev. Whitman Strong, Karen Valley, Larry Richardson (Friday, October 16th only), Tim Hackborn and Rev Roger Jaynes.

Regional Council Youth (0)**Guests of the Regional Council (13)**

Kimberley Allen-McGill, Graham Campbell, Barbara DeJeet, Eunice Getz (Friday, October 16th only), Myrtle Johnston (Saturday, October 17th only), Helen Joseph, Ray Lebeau, Anton Lovink, Gail McCooye, Ruth Mooney, Susan Smarkala, Paul Whiteley and Paul Whynacht.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Meeting space opens

Attendees were invited to join the meeting ahead of schedule to connect with friends. The meeting began with gathering music: Hymn “We Are One” (VU401).

All music was performed by Kimberley Allan-McGill, with some performances being sung live and others pre-recorded.

Technical and Procedural Instructions

Gary McKay, member of the technical team, presented a slideshow instructing attendees on how to vote and interact during this virtual meeting.

Prelude

The following prelude hymn was performed “There is a balm in Gilead” (VU 612).

Acknowledging First Nations territory

Bronwen Harman, Regional Council President acknowledged First Nations territory: “For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We gather today in many places. Places that are on unceded Anishanabe land and on Haudensaunee traditional territory. We acknowledge their Stewardship through the ages and in the present”.

Welcome/President’s Remarks

Bronwen welcomed attendees to this annual general meeting, announcing that it would be the first time the Regional Council held a virtual annual meeting. It was noted that the decision was made in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and the need for social distancing.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order: “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the 1st Inaugural Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais 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.”

Enabling Motions

2020-10-16-17_124 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/L. Gardiner) that the enabling motions as circulated be adopted. **Carried**

Scrutineers

2020-10-16-17_125 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/L. Gardiner) that members of the Tech Team serve as Scrutineers: Karen McLean, David Patterson, and Gary McKay. **Carried**

Parliamentarians

2020-10-16-17_126 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/L. Gardiner) that the parliamentarians for this meeting be: Don Stiles, Grant Dillenbeck and Kimberly Heath. **Carried**

Agenda

2020-10-16-17_127 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/L. Gardiner) that the agenda as circulated be adopted. **Carried**

Minutes from the General Meeting

2020-10-16-17_128 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/L. Gardiner) that the minutes of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council General Meeting of February 22nd 2020 be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

Opening Worship with Communion – Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

Attendees were reminded to have juice, bread and a candle ready. Incoming Regional Council President Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro led the worship service which was pre-recorded and presented in video format.

Racism within the United Church of Canada – Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole

A copy of Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole's Presentation is here below:

Anti-Racism Work in The United Church of Canada

Commissioners to General Council 43 and others will remember the final session of the last General Council in which racialized members went to the microphones to share their stories of racism within the United Church. What was clear from that session is that racism is a major issue in our church and in the world. This is ongoing work that all levels of the United Church will need to continue to be engaged in for the long term.

1. Assessing our Racial Justice Efforts

This racial justice work is not new in 2020. Rather, aspects of anti-racism work have been ongoing since the 1960s. One example is the current manifestation of the racial justice education sessions for ministry personnel. The education sessions have recently been expanded, with new components created and added.

2. Updated Harassment Policy

Following a couple of years of consultation, with direct involvement from racialized staff and advisors, revisions to the church's Harassment Policy were finalized and approved by the General Council Executive in August. The revised policy is now in effect, and information and training are being made available to help everyone become familiar with the scope and requirements of the revised policy.

3. New Anti-Racism and Equity Officer staff position

A new position dedicated to Anti-Racism work has been created in the General Council office. Reporting directly to the General Secretary, this individual will ensure that the various pieces of related work are coordinated, that information about the work is shared, and that learning opportunities are widely available.

4. Challenging anti-Black racism and engaging with the International Decade for People of African Descent

We are doing some of this work ecumenically: jointly with other denominations in Canada as well as with the United Church of Christ USA. Further work is being done with the Canadian Council of Churches. Resources are also available from the World Council of Churches in relation to the International Decade.

5. Coordinating the United Church's anti-racism work

Currently, the United Church has several different elected member and volunteer groups working on different aspects of the church's racial justice work at a national level. There is the GCE Anti-Racism Working Group, the White Privilege Working Group, the Indigenous Peoples Reference Group, and the Racialized Peoples Reference Group. In September these groups met jointly twice to discern next steps and to make sure such future work is coordinated.

6. Proposing that the United Church become an anti-racist denomination

When the recalled GC43 meeting happens later this month Commissioners will be asked to consider a proposal that The United Church of Canada might deepen its racial justice work by making a clear and unequivocal commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination. This proposal will give the General Council the opportunity to:

- a. Make a clear statement committing the church to becoming an anti-racist denomination.
- b. Empower the General Secretary, General Council to implement the necessary frameworks and strategic directions, including processes for involvement of the whole church, to continue to live into this commitment.

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- c. Request that the General Secretary, General Council to offer annual updates on the progress of the church's anti-racism commitments to the recalled General Council, and offer updated proposals as needed.

7. Framing what we mean by anti-racism

We can name ourselves an Anti-Racist denomination, but we cannot really become that unless our people understand what is meant by it, and how they are part of it. A new clear and plain language document called *Working Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Denomination* will be available shortly to all members of the church.

Regions, Communities of Faith, and other United Church groups will be encouraged to share responses to the question, "What are you doing in your part of the United Church to work towards the goal of becoming Anti-Racist?"

8. Developing a clear and comprehensive anti-racism strategy for the United Church

A strategy is one that clearly names what we want to accomplish, who will do what, and how we will get there. It will have clear goals, objectives, and initiatives. It might explore questions, such as: how will we know that we are making progress towards becoming an anti-racist denomination? What specifically will we need to attend to, as we work towards racial justice? Five years from now, what will the United Church look like and feel like, as part of its journey towards racial justice?

Canada and Racism

You might be wondering after hearing this whether the United Church is worse than the rest of Canada. We aren't, and it isn't, but the church is an accurate reflection of Canadian society. Here are just a few things to consider when thinking about racism in Canada:

- Racism has been built into the fabric of Canada from its earliest days. It is not simply an export from the United States.
- Nor are we simply "Canada the Good" and the final terminus of the underground railroad.
- Slavery was practiced by many Indigenous nations in what is now Canada.
- Slavery was also practiced by settlers in what is now Ontario until 1793 but didn't become illegal throughout the Commonwealth in 1834. Before then slave-owners who came to Canada brought their slaves with them and were welcome.
- The nineteenth and twentieth centuries were periods of high immigration and each new wave of immigrants were met with intolerance and suspicion beginning with the Irish, then the Chinese who were called the 'Yellow Peril', post-war waves from Eastern and Southern Europe were given racially pejorative names, and recent waves of Asian, African, and Caribbean immigrants have faced stiff racism.
- Think of the Idle No More and the deaths of Dudley George in Ipperwash, the deaths of Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay, or the murder of Colton Bouchie out West.
- Think of Black Lives Matters and the prominent death of Andrew Loku in Toronto, the shackling of six-year Symone by Peel Regional Police in response to a call from her school, or the death of Abdirahman Abdi in Ottawa in 2017.

Breakout Group questions

Questions:

1. What is the earliest experience you had of experiencing racial difference?
2. Where do you see racism in your community or congregation or within yourself?

Break

A break was held, and all were called back to the meeting with music – hymn "There's A River of Life" (MV160) and some drumming.

Greetings from the General Council – Rev John Young, Executive Minister, Theological Leadership (15:00)

Rev. John Young, General Council Executive Minister, was introduced and highlighted some items in the General Council Report (see **appendix A**, Report Book, p.14 for John's bio; and for General Council report see p. 52 ff).

Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel – Rev. Rosemary Lambie (see **Appendix B**) – Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister, introduced Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel and answered questions from the floor.

2020-10-16-17_129 MOTION (R. Lambie/T. Demirdjian-Petro) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council in favor of Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel. **Carried**

Report Book (see **appendix A**, Report Book)

2020-10-16-17_130 MOTION (K. McLean/G. McKay) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council General receive the Annual General Meeting Report Book (October 16, 2020) as circulated. **Carried**

Governance Handbook

Scrivens/Baillie Leadership Team

2020-10-16-17_131 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/D. Stiles) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council provisionally adopt the Terms of Reference of the Scrivens/Baillie Leadership Team as written in the Governance Handbook, with the understanding that the completed Terms of Reference will be presented at the next general meeting. **Carried**

License to Administer the Sacraments Policy

2020-10-16-17_XYZ MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/G. McKay) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council adopt the License to Administer the Sacraments Policy as circulated.

2020-06-11_088 MOTION (C. Ryan/L. Suddaby) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive approves the Policy regarding a Licence to administer the Sacraments. **Carried**

2020-10-16-17_132 MOTION (R. Hollingsworth /W. Harris) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council postpone the discussion and decision of the motion above to next full meeting. **Carried**

Nominations List

2020-10-16-17_133 MOTION (S. Hutton/K. McLean) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council General receive the Nominations List as circulated. **Carried**

Nominations

(As of October 13th 2020)

EOORC Executive

(1 year) Past-President – Bronwen Harman (L) (1.5 years)

(1 year) President – Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro (OM) (1.5 years) – *Also Presiding Officer Manual Section C.2.12b*

(1 year) President-Elect – as of October 2020 – *Vacant until May 2021*

(1 year) Indigenous Community – Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole (1 year)

(3 years) 9 other members at large – Jim Allen (L) (May 2022), Linda Stronski (L) (May 2022), John Noordhof (OM) (May 2022), Cathy Ryan (L) (May 2022), Carolyn Ruda (L) (May 2022), Ryan Kim (OM) (May 2022), Lynne Gardiner (OM) (May 2023) 2 positions vacant – to keep balance; looking for 2 Ordered.

Full member: Rosemary Lambie (Regional Executive Minister)

Corresponding Members: Joel Miller (Assistant to REM and Secretary of Region), Anita Jansman (Communications and Administrative Assistant), Dana Ducette (Youth), Jane Dawson (Clusters and Networks), Whit Strong (Pastoral Relations), Karen Valley (Office of Vocation), Brian Cornelius (Treasurer)

Leadership Teams

1. *Church Extension:* **Directors:** Bert Cosman, Graham Campbell, David Debenham, Alan Gale, Daniel King, Charles Knight, Mike Nyenhuis, Don Reynolds; **Members:** Catherine Grant, Judy Harms-Potter, Linda

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- Suddaby, Ted Brett; EOORC Appointments: Brian Cornelius, and Carla Van Delen (Resource: Rosemary Lambie)
2. *Communications*: JoAnne Fletcher, Gary McKay and David Patterson (Resource: Anita Jansman)
 3. *Finance*: Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Bruce Jackson, Margaret Scott, Joe Smarkala, Evered (Ev) Zytveld, Cindy Casey, Jane de Snaijer and Jessica Hetherington (Resource: Rosemary Lambie)
 4. *Licensed Lay worship Leaders (LLWL)*: Georgina Fitzgerald, Eric Lukacs, Sharon MacDonald, Margaret Martin, Cathy Ryan, Norma Wrightly, Elaine Beattie, and Terrie Chedore (DM) (Resource: Whit Strong)
 5. *Nominations*: Sue Hutton (Chair), Kimberly Heath, Susan DeHaan, Carla Van Delan , Karen McLean, and Bronwen Harman – as President (Resource: Rosemary Lambie, Joel Miller)
 6. *Pastoral Relations*: Ina Bromley, Ed Gratton, Wayne Harris, Charlotte Hoy, Sharon MacDonald, Erin McIntyre, Janet Nield, Linda Suddaby, Jim Allen, Karen McLean (recording secretary) (Resource: Whit Strong)
 7. *Property and Finance*: Don Reynolds (Chair) Ted Brett, Judy Harms-Potter, Linda Suddaby (Resource: Rosemary Lambie)
 8. *Scrivens-Baillie*: Michael Harris (Chair) Ryan Babcock, Ken Brownness, Malcolm Colliins, Brian Cornelius, James Murray, Larry Richardson, and Ev Zytveld (Resource: Rosemary Lambie)
 9. *Vision & Transformation*: Cindy Casey (Chair), Jim Allen, Charles Barrett, Lynn Boothroyd, , JoAnne Fletcher, Bronwen Harman, Phyllis MacRae, Janice Peron, Deb Poirier, Eleanor Smith, and Bob Williams, vacancy (Resource: Jane Dawson)
 10. *YAYA*: David Sherwin (Chair), Steve Clifton, Heather McLurg-Murphy, Cathy Ryan, Hazel Ward-Moreau, Janet Nield, Margaret Eddy, and Tiina Cote (Resource: Dana Ducette)
 11. *Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils*: Charles Barrett (Chair) (Resource: Jane Dawson)

Veterans Housing Project

Sue Smarkala introduced the Veterans Housing Project and played a video presentation. Following the presentation the following motion and background information was presented:

2020-10-16-17_134 MOTION (Sue Smarkala/Dianne Cardin)

WHEREAS the Ottawa Presbytery raised \$123,000 for Multifaith Housing Initiative's previous build of The Haven in Barrhaven;

WHEREAS the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council approved regional fundraising for Multifaith Housing Initiative's new build: Veterans' House (VH) at the EOORC meeting in February 2020;

BE IT APPROVED that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council set the goal for Veterans' House fundraising at \$150,000, with the intention to achieve this goal by June 30, 2021. All Veterans Housing Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council donations since February 2020 will be included in this total. **Carried**

Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawls that would be handed out through the Veterans Housing Project were ceremoniously blessed with the laying on of hands by the Regional Council attendees.

Finance Report

Rev. Brian Cornelius, Regional Council Treasurer, presents the 2019 financial statement, the 2021 budget, and answers questions from the floor (for written report see **appendix A**, p. 70 ff.).

- a) **2019 Financial Statements** (see **appendix A**, p. 72 ff.)
2020-10-16-17_135 MOTION (B. Cornelius/R. Lambie) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council approve the 2019 Financial Statements. **Carried**

2020-10-16-17_136 MOTION (B. Cornelius/R. Lambie) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive appoint an Internal Independent Review Committee to review and produce the 2020 Financial Statements. **Carried**

- b) **2021 Budget** (see **appendix A**, p. 89 ff.)
2020-10-16-17_137 MOTION (B. Cornelius/R. Lambie) that the proposed 2021 budget for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council be adopted, acknowledging that adjustments will be made to the transfer amounts based on the value of the Investment Funds as of December 31, 2020. **Carried**

President's closing remarks

Bronwen Harman thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded them to join again the following day.

YAYA Closing Worship

A prerecorded closing worship video was presented which was led by Alisa Insley, Mason Smith, Alex Price, Brynn Fortier and Petra Heath, which was followed by the singing of hymn "Peace Be with You" (MV215).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020**Meeting space opens**

Attendees were invited to join the meeting ahead of schedule to connect with friends. The meeting began with gathering music and a prelude "We Give Our Thanks to God" (MV 187) – sung in French/English, and "When You Call For Me" (MV96) – sung in English/French

Technical and Procedural Instructions

Gary McKay presented a slideshow to familiarize attendees on how to vote and interact during this Zoom meeting.

Covid -19 Times: Moderated by Rev. Lynne Gardiner

A copy of Rev. Lynne Gardiner's Presentation is here below:

Statement of Purpose:

We are gathered together today for a different kind of worship service, a service of lament. We have many texts that are considered 'laments' in our Bible – it was a common type of literature and worship. Lament is defined as: to express sorrow, mourning, or regret aloud; to regret strongly

We have much to lament at this time. We have seen Covid-19 bring loss and change that we never imagined would be something that we had to deal with in our lifetime. This loss and change has happened to all of us, and continues to happen to all of us. Our responses to Covid-19 are different, but this situation is the same. For that reason, for the 'sameness' of this situation, we are now coping with loss and change, and grief; together; communally and corporately.

And for that reason, we lament communally and corporately. We are hoping that this worship, and this time and your break-out rooms together will give you the opportunity to express your own loss and grief to God and to each other, and to bring healing from God and for each other.

Call to Worship:

Listen to the words of our scripture, and may they bring comfort to you.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11: 28, 29)

Opening Prayer:

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
As we come before you with the wholeness of grief and praise,
Comfort us.
Help us to hear your voice.
Sustain us with your hope.
The Hope of your Presence in our world.
O God of Mercy,
Free us.
From all that keeps us from you.
Relieve us of anxiety and grief.
Fill us with your hope.
The Hope of your Peace.
O God who is Present,
Help us,
When we are too sad to pray.
Grant us your trust in all times;
The hope of your trust

in times of grief and loss, times of praise and thanksgiving
In our living and in our dying.
Knowing that you are with us always.
Even when we can't understand,
When your Love seems absent,
O God, come closer to us.
God who knows what it is to be forsaken
God who is also risen
God who is also Redeemer.
Amen

Scripture: Psalm 88

1 Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
2 May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

3 I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.
4 I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.
5 I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.

6 You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.
7 Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
8 You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape;
9 my eyes are dim with grief.

I call to you, Lord, every day;
 I spread out my hands to you.
 10 Do you show your wonders to the dead?
 Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
 11 Is your love declared in the grave,
 your faithfulness in Destruction?
 12 Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
 or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

13 But I cry to you for help, Lord;
 in the morning my prayer comes before you.
 14 Why, Lord, do you reject me
 and hide your face from me?

15 From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;
 I have borne your terrors and am in despair.
 16 Your wrath has swept over me;
 your terrors have destroyed me.
 17 All day long they surround me like a flood;
 they have completely engulfed me.
 18 You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
 darkness is my closest friend.

Prayer of Lament: For those who have lost their lives due and during the time of to Covid-19

O God, we pray for all of families and loved ones who have lost someone due to Covid-19, and during the time of Covid-19. Loss and grief look so much different when we can't be together offering words of remembrance and solace. We say their names out loud: recalling their faces and their lives with love:
 (In this silence, speak the names of the people who have died)

O God, hear our prayers.

Prayer of Lament: For the changes to congregational worship due to Covid-19

O God, we pray for all of our communities of faith that have seen such massive changes in how we gather for corporate worship. We miss singing together, speaking responsively, seeing all of peoples' faces, touching hands and giving hugs. We long for a return to potlucks and family-style dinners, to special events and worship services where our shoulders touch each other. We pray for the communities of faith that have needed to close their doors for good; and those that are barely keeping things going. We pray for ourselves in the loss and the change, knowing that this is a grief that is so different, so unspeakable. We speak our own losses out loud, recalling the time, the situations and the people with love:
 (In this silence, speak out loud the losses your community of faith has experienced).

O God, hear our prayers.

Prayer of Lament: For the changes to our communities due to Covid-19

O God, we pray for the communities where we live. For the businesses that have not been able to survive the lock down and have had to close their doors. For the businesses that have had to lay-off much loved and needed staff in order to stay open. For parents who are struggling with how to ensure that their children are taught safely. For the teachers and the staff who are trying to keep children safe. For front-line workers who put their lives in jeopardy every time they report to work. For those who are unemployed and laid off. For those who deal with substance abuse and domestic violence. For all of these issues and others that are unnamed, we pray, knowing that this is a grief that is so different, so unspeakable. We speak these losses out loud, recalling the time, the situations and the people with love:
 (In this silence, speak out loud the losses your community has experienced).

O God hear our prayers.
 AMEN

Musical Lament: VU 948 "O God Hear My Prayer"

Scripture: Psalm 13

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"

and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the Lord's praise,

for he has been good to me.

Closing Prayer:

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

We have come before you with the wholeness of grief and praise,

You comforted.

We heard your voice.

We have been sustained with your hope.

The Hope of your Presence in our world.

O God of Mercy,

You have freed us,

From all that keeps us from you.

You have relieved us of anxiety and grief, and

filled us with your hope.

The Hope of your Peace.

O God who is Present,

You have helped us,

Even though we were too sad to pray.

You have granted us your trust in all times; times of grief and loss, times of praise and thanksgiving

In our living and in our dying.

Knowing that you are with us always.

Even when we couldn't understand,

When your Love seemed absent,

O God, you are closer to us.

Our God who knows what it is to be forsaken

Our God who is also risen

Our God who is also Redeemer.

Amen

Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU 288

Breakout Rooms Questions

1. What is something that you have learned to do during this time of COVID?
2. What is your source of inspiration?

Resources- 2 minute pre-recorded from Finance, Vision and Transformation and Pastoral Relations

Representative from Finance (Rev. Brian Cornelius) Vision and Transformation (Rev. Cindy Casey) and Pastoral Relations (Wayne Harrison and Rev. Whit Strong) gave small presentations highlighting some of the resources available to help Communities of Faith continue their ministry throughout the pandemic.

Break

A break was held, and all were called back to the meeting with drumming “Heartbeat”.

Stewardship

Rev. Roger Janes, Philanthropy introduced himself and shared a video presentation on Mission and Service and the Philanthropy Unit. Roger thanked all for supporting the Mission and Service and invited all to contact him with questions and to be used as a resource. For more on Roger’s job description and contact information see **appendix A**, p. 4.

Anti Racism Policy in our own context (14:25) – Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole

A copy of Teresa’s Presentation is here below:

Racism in Canada – Not Just an Urban Problem

Yesterday I updated the Court on the work of the United Church concerning Anti-Racism and gave a brief introduction to the problem of racism in Canada. Participants then had an opportunity to share their own experiences of coming to see racial prejudice.

Race is a tricky issue. Much of what we think of it is biologically based...however, this simply isn’t true. The notion of separate races was born in the Middle Ages from European imagination. Scientific studies have proven that the features used to determine racial differences like skin colour, facial structure, hair texture, and body stature don’t have a strong basis in genetics. Barbara Fields, a respected historian, once said that anyone who still chooses to believe in race based on the physical attributes of a person, despite zero plausible evidence and widespread disclaimers from geneticists and biologists, are akin to the people who believe in the Easter Bunny, the tooth fairy, and Santa Claus.

Moreover, race shifts depending on where one is located. For example, in India, Indians are considered white, yet when they come to Canada, they are Black. Race is better understood as a unique social phenomenon where systems of meaning act as the link between personal traits and physical features. That is, we categorize others depending on how they look and assign worth depending on what we’ve learned about people who are different than we are. Nobody is born a racist, yet we all grow up in a racist environment. In particular, those of us who are white-skinned have grow up with varying degrees of privilege based on nothing more than how we present physically.

I grew up in a small farming community in southwestern Ontario. The community’s demographics were almost 100% white, yet there was still racism in the community. The village was made up of largely Dutch and Portuguese, first and second generation immigrants. The Dutch, in general, looked down on the Portuguese, and the small percentage of villagers of British Isles background looked down on the Dutch. There was still a pecking order as there is in any community.

I remember as a 19-year-old driving by the Hasidic School in London and thinking, “There are Jews in London?” Of course, there were, that was my own internalized understanding of who lived in our region that propelled my observation. I think to think I’m pretty “woke”, as the young people say, and I am aware of my own internalized racism. Yet I remember after moving to Ottawa driving down Bank Street and seeing a sign for Islamic Clothing. It took me by surprise and my first thought was, “Of course! They have to buy their clothes somewhere!” Did such a thought make me a terrible person? Of course not...this is the kind of every day racism that is part and parcel of the Canadian context.

For the next 40 minutes we’re going to have you in breakout groups. You will be in two different groups for 20 minutes apiece. Here are two questions to consider:

Two Breakout Groups Questions

Questions:

1. What steps could you take in your congregation or community to begin to address racism?
2. What commitment would you be prepared to make about learning and combating racism in your own context?

Office of Vocations

Karen Valley, Minister for the Office of Vocations, shared a video: “Vocational Life of Ministry Personnel Roles and Responsibilities”. Afterwards, Karen welcomed questions from the floor. For more on Karen’s job description and contact information see **appendix A**, p. 4.

Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Ontario and Quebec, Indigenous Ministries and Justice

Tim Hackborn, Community Capacity Development Coordinator for Ontario and Quebec, Indigenous Ministries and Justice introduced himself and shared details of his role with the Regional Council. For more on Tim’s job description and contact information see **appendix A**, p. 4.

Highlights from Celebration of Ministry

Bronwen Harmen shared a PowerPoint of photos taken during the celebration of ministry service. Details of the Celebration of Ministry Service beginning on page 17 of these minutes. Bronwen highlighted that due to Covid-19, the service was limited in size to meet Provincial Health Unit guidelines.

Black River-St. Lawrence Association – United Church of Christ

Greetings from Rev. Howard Cain; Howard is a great friend of the EOORC as ecumenical officer of the Black River-St. Lawrence Association of our full communion partner the United Church of Christ. Howard's association covers the North Country of New York State and has United Church of Christ congregations in places like Massena, Watertown, Louisville, Malone and Ogdensburg NY.

Ministry and Personnel

Rev. Whit Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister read the names Ministry Personnel who had retired or who died in the past year. A prayer was offered following the list retirees and memorials.

Retirees – In addition to names being read, it was highlighted that bios for retirees could be found in the report book (see **appendix A**, p.14 ff.)

- Rev. Catherine Gutjahr
- Rev. Gwen Hermann
- Rev. Shelley Roberts
- Rev. Laurie McKnight

Memorials– In addition to names being read, it was highlighted that additional memorial information could be found in the report book (see **appendix A**, p. 20 ff.)

- Rev. Isabel Black
- Rev. Dr Alan Bennett
- Rev. Dr. Joseph (Joe) Burke
- Rev. Stewart Froese
- Rev. Dr. Allan McDowell
- Rev. Walter (Paddy) Sellars

Closing Motions

2020-10-16-17_138 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/K. McLean) that following the rise of the General Meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Executive until the next General Meeting. **Carried**

2020-10-16-17_139 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/K. McLean) that the meeting be adjourned after the closing worship, and that the President declares this general meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council duly concluded. **Carried**

Closing Worship

Call to Worship

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

All: It is like precious oil on the head. (Psalm 133 verse one)

Prayer

We come to this moment with full hearts. We seek hope, courage and inspiration for the road ahead. Like the travellers on the Road to Emmaus may we walk with your wisdom to guide us and as we stop for the night recognize the source and know that you are always before us, behind us, above us, and below us ready to inspire the hope and courage that we need. Amen

Hymn: We Are A Rainbow by David Kai

Scripture

from Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down.....It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion.

From Luke 24

On the day of resurrection two of Jesus followers were walking seven miles to Emmaus. As they talked and tried to make sense of all that had happened someone joined them on the road and they shared their story with him. He shared wisdom with them. It was not until he shared bread with them blessed it and broke it that they recognized him.

Reflection

Holy Places- *Bronwen Harman*

Installation of Incoming-President/ Installation du Présidente

Executive Minister / *Ministre exécutive:*

We present to you, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro whom this Regional Council has elected to preside over its life and work until such time as her successor comes to office, that she may be installed in the office of president. *Nous vous présentons Pasteure Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro qui a été élue par ce Conseil régional afin qu'elle puisse présider sur la vie et le travail de celui-ci, et ce, jusqu'à ce que son successeur entre en fonction. Nous demandons à ce qu'elle soit officiellement installée à la présidence.*

Past-President / *Présidente-ancienne:*

Takouhi you are here at the call of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada. Are you ready to answer this call?

Takouhi, vous êtes ici après avoir été appelé par le Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est de l'Ontario de l'Église Unie du Canada. Êtes-vous disposé à répondre à cet appel?

Incoming-President / *Nouveau Présidente:*

I am ready and willing.

Oui, je suis prêt.

Past-President / *Présidente-ancienne:*

Dear Friends in Christ, do you believe that Takouhi, by the grace of God, is worthy to be installed as our President?

Chers amis dans le Christ, croyez-vous que Takouhi, par la grâce de Dieu, est digne d'être installée à la présidence du Conseil régional?

All: We believe she is worthy. Glory be to God.

Tous: Nous croyons qu'elle est digne. Gloire à Dieu

Past-President / Présidente-ancienne:

May the God who has given us the will to do these things give us the power and grace to perform them.

Puisse Dieu, qui nous a accordé la volonté de faire ces choses, nous accorder également le pouvoir et la grâce afin de les accomplir

All: Amen

Tous : Amen

Promise of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council /
L'engagement du Conseil régional

(Bronwen Harman, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Rosemary Lambie)

(To the members of the Regional Council / Aux membres du Conseil régional)

Past-President / Présidente-ancienne:

Will you, the members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, support and encourage Takouhi with your prayer and work?

Membres du Conseil régional, soutiendrez-vous et encouragerez-vous Takouhi par vos prières et votre travail?

Members: We will.

Membres : Oui, nous le ferons.

Past-President / Présidente-ancienne:

Let us pray...

Gracious God, Whose spirit has ever blessed the church,

With varieties of gifts for the work of ministry,

We thank you that you have blessed us

With gifts that enrich our life together

And strengthen our witness and service in the world.

Especially we thank you for the particular gifts that your servant, Takouhi, brings to the office of President of the Regional Council.

By your grace, enable her to exercise this ministry with wisdom and humour, courage and compassion, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Prions...

Dieu miséricordieux, ton Esprit ne cesse de bénir ton Église avec de divers talents afin de combler le travail de ton ministère.

Nous te remercions de nous avoir comblés de tes dons qui enrichissent nos vies et fortifient notre témoignage et notre service à travers le monde.

Notamment, nous te remercions pour les talents particuliers qu'apporte ta servante, Takouhi, au poste de Présidente du Conseil régional.

Par ta grâce, donne-t-elle d'exercer son ministère avec sagesse et humour, courage et compassion, pour la gloire de ton nom, nous te le demandons par Jésus Christ, notre Sauveur.

Laying on of Hands / Imposition des mains

(Bronwen Harman, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Rosemary Lambie)

(Together with those appointed, lay on hands and pray / Avec ceux nommés, pose sur les mains et prie)

Past-President / Présidente-ancienne:

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon your servant, Takouhi, that she may minister faithfully in the office of Incoming-President of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.

Envoie, ô Dieu, ton Esprit Saint sur ta servante, Takouhi, afin qu'elle agisse fidèlement dans son ministère à titre de Nouveau Présidente du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est de l'Ontario.

All: Amen

Tous: Amen

Presentation of Symbols / Présentation des symboles

(Bronwen Harman, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Rosemary Lambie, Whit Strong, Joel Miller)

Past-President / Présidente-ancienne:

Receive this stole and prayer shawl. Exercise your ministry as President of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada.

Prenez cette étole et châle de prière. Pratiquer votre ministère en tant que Présidente du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est de l'Ontario de l'église Unie du Canada.

Executive Minister/ Ministre exécutive:

Receive this gavel. Guide us with a firm but gentle hand.

Recevez ce maillet. Guidez-nous avec une main ferme, mais tout en douceur.

Pastoral Relations Ministers / Responsable des relations pastorales:

Receive this Talking Stick. Encourage us to speak and listening respectfully.

Recevez ce bâton de parole. Encouragez-nous à communiquer et écouter dans le respect

Program Assistant to the Executive Minister / Adjoint de programme à la ministre exécutive:

Receive this Manual. Know the wisdom and foundations of our past will guide you.

Recevez ce Manuel. Sachez que la sagesse et les fondements de notre passé vous guideront.

Past-President/ Présidente-ancienne:

May the God who has given us the will to do these things give us the power and grace to perform them.

Puisse Dieu, qui nous a accordé la volonté de faire ces choses, nous accorder également le pouvoir et la grâce afin de les accomplir.

People: Amen

Tous: Amen

Greet Your New President!/ Accueillez votre nouveau Présidente!

SUNG ACCLAMATION ♪ Halle, Halle (VU 958) CHANT D'ACCLAMATION ♪ Halle, Halle (VU 958)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Covenanting with Regional Council Executive/
Alliance avec l'exécutif du conseil régional**

(Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro)

(address members of the Regional Council Executive / *s'adresser aux membres du Conseil régional*)

President /Présidente:

Friends, do you believe you are called to exercise your spiritual gifts, to serve this Regional Council, and The United Church of Canada, as a member of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive?

Chers amis, croyez-vous que vous êtes appelés à exercer vos dons spirituels, à servir ce conseil Régional et l'Église Unie du Canada comme membres de l'exécutif du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est ontarien?

Executive Members: We do

Membres de l'exécutif: Oui

President /Présidente:

Will you faithfully perform the duties of your office within the polity of The United Church of Canada?

Allez-vous assumer avec foi les responsabilités qui vous sont demandées par l'Église Unie du Canada

Executive Members: We will

Membres de l'exécutif: Oui

**Covenanting with Leadership Teams /
Alliance avec les membres des Équipe de direction**

President /Présidente:

Friends, Do you believe you are called to exercise your spiritual gifts, to serve this Regional Council, and The United Church of Canada, as Leadership Teams of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council?

Chers amis, croyez-vous que vous êtes appelés à exercer vos dons spirituels, à servir ce Conseil régional et l'Église Unie du Canada comme membres des Équipes de direction?

Response: We do

Réponse : Oui

President /Présidente:

Will you faithfully perform the duties of your office within the polity of The United Church of Canada?

Allez-vous assumer avec foi les responsabilités qui vous sont demandées par l'Église Unie du Canada?

Response: We will

Réponse : Oui

Promises of the Regional Council / L'engagement du Conseil régional

President /Présidente:

Will the members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. Will you, the members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, support and encourage the Chairs and members of the Executive, and of Leadership Teams?

Membres du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est de l'Ontario. Les membres du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est de l'Ontario, soutiendrez-vous et encouragerez-vous les Président-e et membres des Équipe de direction?

Members: We will

Membres: Oui**President /Présidente:**

Let us pray - God of Love, we thank you for the many gifts offered in your service by these leaders among us. We ask for your blessings, that we will always seek your guidance and counsel, knowing that in serving others, they will find life and wholeness.

Prions - Dieu d'amour, nous te remercions pour les nombreux dons de nos dirigeants, ici parmi nous. Nous te demandons de nous bénir afin que nous recherchions toujours ta direction et tes conseils, sachant que le service des autres apporte la vie et la plénitude.

Members: Amen**Membres : Amen**

Closing Hymn O God Our Help in Ages Past (VU 806)

Closing Remarks and Benediction

Newly appointed Regional Council President Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro provided closing remarks and Benedictions in a pre-recorded video presentation. Part of the closing benediction was a musical video of Sevak Avanesyan, cellist playing in a historic Holy Saviour Cathedral which had been shelled just a week before amid the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, or Artsakh, region. Hundreds have been killed and tens of thousands displaced. Takouhi called for continued prayers amid turmoil. The closing hymn was “The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee” (VU 985)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020**Celebration of Ministry (11:00)**

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Rideau Park United Church, situated in Ottawa, Ontario, at 11 a.m. The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary singing the processional hymn “Called by Earth and Sky” (MV 135). The service opened with words of welcome by The Regional Council President, Bronwen Harman and host Minister, Rev. Steve Clifton. Bronwen led the Call to Worship and lighting the Christ Candle, and Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister led the Prayer of Approach. This was followed by the singing of the hymn “I Have Called You By Your Name” (MV 161). The Scripture readings were Ezekiel 37: 1-10 and Matthew 25: 35- 40, and were read by candidate for Commissioning Lorrie Lowes and candidate for Ordination Éric Hébert-Daly. The sermon, “I’m Here”, was preached by Nicole Beaudry. This was followed by the singing of hymn “I the Lord of Sea and Sky” (VU 509). The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. Whit Strong, the Pastoral Relations Minister, in prayer for members of the Order of Ministry of Conference who had died throughout the most recent church calendar year – Rev. Dr. Alan Bennett, Rev. Isabel Black, Rev. Joseph (Joe) Burke, Rev. Stewart Froese, Rev. Dr. Allan McDowell and Rev. Walter (Paddy) Sellars. (Appendix A, Report Book pg. 20-22). The memoriam was followed by the singing of hymn “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (VU 563). A celebration of the ministries of those retiring was led by Rev. Rosemary Lambie, Executive Minister for members of the Order of Minister who were retiring – Catherine Gutjahr, Diaconal Minister, Rev. Gwen Hermann, Rev. Laurie McKnight and Rev. Shelley Roberts. (Appendix A, Report Book pg. 14-17). This part of the service concluded in Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn “We have this Ministry” (VU 510).

The Celebration of New Ministries, was led by Bronwen Harman and Rev. Rosemary Lambie, and began with the reciting of “Our Affirmation of Faith”. The candidates were presented by Karen Valley, Office of Vocation Minister for the Regional Council. The taking of the vows and laying on of hands on the Commissioned and Ordained were followed by the presentation of a Bible, chalice, paten, basin and pitcher. The Commissioned and Ordained were presented with stoles. Those in attendance responded with “Halle, Halle, Halle” (VU 958).

Lorrie Lowes.
Éric Hébert-Daly

Commissioned to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Ordained to the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada

Due to Covid 19, there wasn't a service of Communion, instead there was the blessing of water and a reaffirmation of baptismal vows, the liturgy written and prepared by Pacific Mountain Regional Council. This was followed by the singing of hymn "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" (MV 161). Bronwen Harman provided the closing benediction which was followed by the recessional hymn "My Love Colours Outside the Lines (MV 138). The new members of the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada and the officiants were led out of the Sanctuary.

Bronwen Harman
Chair

Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Executive Minister

Joel Miller
Recording Secretary

Appendices:

Appendix A Annual General Meeting Report Book (October 16, 2020)
Appendix B Amendment to the Basis of Union's Article 10.0 on
Ministry Personnel

Appendix A

Annual General Meeting Report Book (October 16, 2020)

*Circulated ahead of meeting and available on Regional Council website

Appendix B

Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel

Background:

The 43rd General Council 2019:

- (i) approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

The Question:

Does the Regional Council agree that:

- (a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:

10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.