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**SPRING GENERAL MEETING**

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Spring general meeting on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> at Brockville Memorial Arena, Brockville, Ontario. The theme for this meeting was “Being Courageous Community”.

**Session One  
Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2023****THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT SESSION ONE OF THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (61)**

Demanya Kofi Akoussah, Don Anderson, Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Melany Cassidy-Wise, Terrie Chedore, Brian Cornelius, Tiina Cote, Susan DeHaan, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Paul Dillman, Janet Evans, Lois Gaudet, Edith Dietlind Gardell, Lynne Gardiner, Myra Garvin, Ed Gratton, Daniel Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Alyson Huntly, Susan Hutton, Carolyn Insley, Natalie Istead, Ryan Kim, Earl Klotz, Jenni Leslie, Camille Lipsett, Lorrie Lowes, Christine Lawson, Zakaria Mandara, Erin McIntyre, Don McLean, Sheryl McLeod, Anne Montgomery, Micheline Montreuil, James Murray, John Noordhof, Catherine Oxenford-Grant, Blair Paterson, Katheryn Peate, Kathy Petrie, Debbie Poirier, Jen Power, Lillian Roberts, Allister Robichaud, Debbie Roi, Mary Rose, Eleanor J. Royal-Duczek, Catherine Russ, Arlyce Schiebout, David Sherwin, Laura Springate, Catherine Stewart, Don Stiles, Beverly J. Thompson Susan Toller, Neil Wallace, and Paul Whynacht.

**Lay (68)**

Jim Allen, Kurt Asmis, Kurt Asmis, Kim Baird, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Carolyn Bennett, Ted Brett, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, Debbie Burch, Janice Burroughs, Colleen Calvert, Harry Caroline, Bennett, Carolyn Clark, David Charles, Liz Church, Sandra Copeland, Christine Cross-Barkley, Catharina DeVries, Jacques Dicaire, Alvin Dobbie, Jane Enticknap, JoAnne Fletcher, Catherine Grant, James E. Grant, Elizabeth (Beth) Gutsell, Bronwen Harman, Nancy Hazen, Charlotte Hoy, Bruce Jackson, Marilyn Joseph, Elizabeth Kent, Christine Kilburn, Ray Lebeau, Kimberly Lavoie, Lois Leroux, Allan Lockwood, Sharon MacDonald, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Donald McLean, Karen McLean, Brenda McLeod, Brigitte Meunier-Grimes, Darlene Nicol, Andrea Nugent, Michael Ostrander, David Patterson, Margie Patterson, Will Patterson, Janice Peron, Shelley Rintoul, Carolyn Ruda, Paul Ryan Sales, Vicki Simzer, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, James Sonley, Linda Suddaby, Desna Sulway, Jim Watchorn, Paul Whiteley, Randall Whyte, Jack Wilson, Norma Wrightly, and Everard Zytveld.

**Candidates (2)**

Patricia Power and Susan Toller.

**Regional Council Staff (8)**

Dana Ducette, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (voting privileges), Anita Jansman, Joel Miller, Nikki Nel, Larry Richardson, Rev. Lillian Roberts (voting privileges), and Rev. Whitman Strong (voting privileges).

**Guests of the Regional Council (33)**

Kimberley Allen-McGill, Martin Bellerose, Hugh Bellam, John Benson, Sherry Blaedow, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, Lynda Blanchard, Rev. Howard Cain, United

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Church of Christ Representative, David Clemis, Daniel Comrie, Audrey Cormack, Christine Cross-Barkley, Tammy Fergusson, Janet Gaylord, Clinton Halladay, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kelso, Jim Kenny, Jessica Knoyle, David Lee, Wayne Lemke, Alicia Loria, Armelda Maves, Pat Mayberry, Lynn McCaw, Gail McCooye, Liz Nieman, Ruth Pentinga, Barbara Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, David Rockwell, Sue Smarkala and Wendy Snelgrove.

### **Regrets (1)**

Frank Emanuel, Candidate.

### **Quorum**

This meeting had quorum during session one.

### **Registration/Gathering**

Attendees were invited to arrive in-person and connect online prior to the meeting being called to order, for registration and a time of fellowship.

### **Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Paul Sales, Pat Mayberry, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Mike Beauchamp. Music included: MV 12 Come touch our hearts, Courageous Communities (written by Pat Mayberry), MV 122 This is the day that God has made (English, French, English), VU 375 Spirit of gentleness, MV 62 There is room for all (English, French, English), and MV 209 Go Make a Difference.

### **Call to Order**

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only sovereign head of the Church, and by the authority of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, I hereby declare this general meeting duly constituted and to be in session for conducting the business which will properly come before it.”

### **Welcome (instruction about washroom and food table)**

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, welcomed all to the meeting and went through some housekeeping items (access to Wi-Fi, washrooms, meal plan, introducing chaplains, scrutineers and stewards, parliamentarian, Executive Minister and recording secretary).

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister announced that the meeting had access to simultaneous equipment, simultaneous translators, and accessibility to translations on Zoom.

### **Acknowledging the Land**

Petra Heath led the land acknowledgement. She shared her joys of living in Brockville, in particular the river that runs along; and the history of the river and how traditionally the river was used to connect people and not divide - as it does today, serving as a border). Petra highlighted that the border is not the only divide between people today, and there still exists a large divide between First Nations Peoples and settlers. Petra shared her own inspirations to work towards truth and reconciliation and right relations.

Brockville is located in/on the Mohawk territory of the Haudenosaunee/Rotinonhsho'n:ni people and the unceded, traditional Algonquin territory of the Anishinaabe people. This is covered by the Crawford Purchase Treaty (1783).

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**Welcome from local dignitaries**

Mayor: Matt Wren, Mayor of Brockville, welcomed delegates to the town of Brockville and shared some of the history of Brockville. Brockville is the oldest municipality in the Province of Ontario. The Mayor also highlighted the Brock trail and invited all to visit it.

Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Minister at Wall Street United Church, welcomed all delegates on behalf of the United Churches in the area (both St. John's United Church and Wall Street United Church) – Kimberly shared some of the ministries taking shape at her church, and wished all to a good meeting

Terrie Chedore, Diaconal Minister, extended a welcome to this land from First Nations Peoples. Terri shared her personal history and her family's generational relationships with First Nations Peoples of this land. Terrie highlighted that systemic racism still exists and called all to work against this reality.

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett Cole, from the Wolf Clan of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, shared the Ojibwe Travelling song, which is considered an intertribal song; can be used and shared widely. Teresa also welcomed delegates to these lands.

**United Church of Christ**

Rev. Howard Cain was introduced, and brought greeting from the Church of Christ in the USA. Howard shared that the United Church of Christ is restructuring, and his representation will be bordering both the Eastern Ontario Outaouais and Nakonha:ka regional Councils. Howard announced that the United Church of Christ is also supporting the translation of the Bible in Mohawk project. The United Church of Christ is looking forward to continuing and strengthening relationship with The United Church of Canada.

**Omnibus Motion**

**2023-05-26-27\_001 OMNIBUS MOTION** (S. Hutton/K. McLean) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as circulated;
2. That the minutes of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Fall General Meeting (held on November 5<sup>th</sup>2022) be accepted as circulated, see **Appendix A**;
3. That the 2022 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council be received and accepted as circulated, see **Appendix B**;
4. That Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, through its Executive, appoint an Internal Independent Review Committee to review and produce the 2023 Financial Statements;
5. That nominations to fill the vacancy for Member at Large in the Executive open at 10 AM (close at 7 PM)  
\* Expression of Interest forms are available on the Regional Council website:  
<https://eoorc.ca/resources/opportunities-to-serve-nominations/>
6. That the Equity Support Person for this general meeting be Rev. Jenni Leslie and Michelle Robichaud
7. That the Scrutineers/Stewards for this meeting be: Ted Brett, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, Carolyn Bennett, Liz Church, Earl Klotz, Michelle Robichaud, Allister Rose;
8. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be: Rev. Don Stiles and Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath;
9. That the following people serve as Chaplain for this meeting: Rev. Catherine Oxenford Grant (on Friday) and Patricia Power (on Saturday);

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10. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – Holy Manners *The 2021 Manual, Appendix, 2.*

“We will

- keep God at the center of everything we do;
- each speak for ourselves;
- speak for a purpose;
- separate people from problems;
- allow for full and equitable participation;
- attend to others carefully without interruption;
- welcome the conflict of ideas;
- take a future orientation;
- demonstrate appreciation;
- honor the decisions of the body;
- commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- keep the discussion at the table;
- be mindful of our body language;
- check in about good use of time;
- allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- sincerely say what we really feel.”

*The Very Reverend Marion Parody introduced Holy Manners as a resource for the 38<sup>th</sup> General Council 2003. Holy Manners has been used as resource for the conduct of meetings by subsequent General Councils and their executives. It has been adapted here for use as a resource by all councils and church bodies.*

## **CARRIED**

### **The United Church Foundation**

Rev. Mary Royal Duzek, member on the Board of The United Church Foundation, introduced The United Church Foundation (<https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca/>) and highlighted some of its work. Mary highlighted that her church has investments managed through the foundation, and this has made dealing with church finances much easier. The foundation has recently launched a Facebook page and all were invited to visit it. Mary invited participants to meet with her throughout the meeting to ask questions.

### **Break**

A five-minute break was had by all.

### **Opening Worship**

The worship leaders were Nicole Beaudry, Rev. Dr. Kofi Akoussah. Both introduced themselves. At the beginning of the worship, the theme song was sung (“Courageous Communities” written by Pay Mayberry). Afterwards, Rev. Akoussah led with an opening prayer. Following the prayer, all sang him MV 21 “Open our Hearts” (Ouvre nos coeurs). The scripture readings were Joshua 6:9 and Isaiah 41:9, 10 and 14. Nicole Beaudry shared a reflection on the theme, ‘Courageous Community’ and highlighted the expression “Stay calm be brave wait for the signs”. Scriptures tells us, “Do not be afraid, I am with you” in the Exodus stories. Nicole expressed that the church is being called to change, and this requires it to be

strong and courageous, which know that God is always present, and providing help and encouragement. Rev. Akoussah shared a prayer following this reflection, in particular, petitioning for God's graces to help us on the Church on its journey towards change. Afterwards, hymn MV 90 "Don't be Afraid" was sung. An adapted prayer of Our Father (written by Rev Eric Hebert-Daly) was shared. A closing prayer was read in unison.

### **Covenant with Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister**

Here below is the liturgy that was used during the Covenanting with the Executive Minister

Rev. Whit String, Pastoral Relations Minister	<p><b>“Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand - shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven” – Matthew 5:16, The Message</b></p>	<p><i>" C'est ainsi que votre lumière doit briller devant les hommes, afin qu'ils voient le bien que vous faites et qu'ils louent votre Père qui est dans les cieux. » " - Matthieu 5:16, BFC</i></p>
Sue Hutton	<p>Members of the Regional Council, I present to you, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, who has been called to the position of EXECUTIVE MINISTER. We believe he is well qualified and has been prayerfully selected.</p> <p>A covenant is a promise we make with God and with one another, a promise to live God's Way.</p> <p>We are about to enter into a new covenant relationship with God, with you Eric, and with you the people of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.</p> <p>Eric, will you take up and continue your Christian ministry with Christ's people in this new relationship.</p>	<p><i>Membres du Conseil régional je vous présente Éric Hébert-Daly, Pasteur , qui a été appelé au poste de MINISTRE EXÉCUTIF. Nous pensons qu'il est bien qualifié et qu'il a été choisi dans la prière.</i></p> <p><i>Une alliance est une promesse que nous faisons avec Dieu, entre nous et les uns avec les autres, une promesse de vivre à la manière de Dieu.</i></p> <p><i>Nous sommes sur le point d'entrer dans une nouvelle relation d'alliance avec Dieu, avec toi Éric, et avec les gens du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est ontarien.</i></p> <p><i>Eric, accepteras-tu de prendre et de poursuivre ton ministère chrétien avec le peuple du Christ dans cette nouvelle relation ?</i></p>
Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly	I will, God being my helper	<i>Je le ferai, avec l'aide de Dieu.</i>
Sue Hutton	<p><b>(ask that the Rc open their mics) Do you, the members of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council promise to support this ministry which will be</b></p>	<p><i>(demander aux Cr d'ouvrir leurs micros) Vous, membres du Conseil régional de l'Outaouais et de l'Est ontarien, promettez-vous de soutenir ce ministère qui sera exercé</i></p>

	<b>exercised on your behalf and to commend and support Eric within this Regional Council</b>	<i>en votre nom et de recommander et soutenir Éric au sein de cet conseil régional</i>
CrNRC	<b>We will, God being our helper.</b>	<i>Nous le ferons, avec l'aide de Dieu.</i>
Sue Hutton	Eric, we welcome you as you enter into this covenant with us and we look forward to the ministry which you will exercise among and with us.	<i>Éric, nous te souhaitons la bienvenue, alors que tu entres dans cette alliance avec nous. Nous attendons avec impatience le ministère que tu exerceras parmi nous et avec nous.</i>
	Closing Prayer	<i>Prière de clôture</i>
Hymn	Halle, Halle, Halle	<i>Halle, Halle, Halle</i>

**Memorials, Retirees, Milestones/Anniversaries**

Rev. Whit Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister, shared Memorials, Retirees and Milestones. See Report Book (2023) (**Appendix C**) for detailed information.

Memorials:

Rev. Norman Baines  
 Rev. Dr. Walter Oskar Wilhelm von Boetticher  
 Rev. William Keith Hudson Eddy  
 Rev. Irvine Johnston  
 Rev. Alexa Jasmine McDonald  
 Rev. George Mossman  
 Rev. B/Gen Stanley McColeman Parkhouse  
 Rev. Rawlier Quammie  
 Rev. J. Harry Seeley  
 Rev. David Glenn Timpson  
 Rev. Hugh A. A. Rose  
 Rev. James Warden  
 Rev. James ("Pat") Whyte  
 Rev. Lester Burry Wiseman

Following the memorial presentation, the following hymn was sung: VU 494 "Those Hearts That We Have Treasured".

Retirees

Rev. Peter Dahlin  
 Rev. Phyllis Dietrich  
 Rev. Grant Dillenbeck  
 Rev. Catherine Grant  
 Rev. Doug Kendall  
 Rev. Edward Murray

Milestones

Rev. Strong highlighted milestone for ministers with 40 years of service  
 John Coutts Ordained Minister - 65 years

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Edward Colwell Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 Eleanor Russ Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 Fred Milnes Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 Harry MacKay Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 James Warden Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 William Brown Ordained Minister - 60 years  
 Harry Oussoren Ordained Minister - 55 years  
 John Peters Ordained Minister - 55 years  
 Robert Risch Ordained Minister - 55 years  
 Cyril Dickson Ordained Minister - 45 years  
 Eric Barr Ordained Minister - 45 years  
 J. Howard Clark Ordained Minister - 45 years  
 Susan Butler-Jones Ordained Minister - 45 years  
 Gail Christy Ordained Minister - 40 years  
 Ian Smith Ordained Minister - 40 years  
 John Reynolds Ordained Minister - 40 years  
 Laurelle Callaghan Ordained Minister - 40 years  
 Laurie McKnight Ordained Minister - 40 years

### **Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada**

Rev. Blair shared a reflective response to God's call in Isaiah 58:12, and stressed what it means for the Church to be courageous communities. Michael pondered "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruin, and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." Michael encouraged all to move outside the walls of the Church, outside of comfort zones and concerns about church's needs, and to learn the struggles and needs of its neighbors in the community, and to respond by being authentic Christians, in our world, as an extension of God's love. Michael shared examples of Churches where this is happening, as examples and encouragements, for being courageous community

*(presentation was recorded; see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iixIvFOK2z0&t=223s>)*

### **Grace Before Lunch and Lunch**

Grace before lunch was led by Charlotte Hoy. A catered lunch was provided, attendees were given an hour to eat.

### **Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Paul Sales, Pat Mayberry, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Mike Beauchamp. Music included MV 45 You are holy (English, Zulu, English), VU 703 In the bulb there is a flower; We are a rainbow; and MV 88 Over my head.

### **"Setting Our Sights" presentation AND table group time**

Rev. Paul Dillman, Chair of task group "Setting our Sights" introduced members of the task group: Cindy Casey (Kanata United, Ottawa), Liz Church (Portland), David Clemis (Orleans United, Ottawa), Paul Dillman (Riverside United, Ottawa), Mary Ruth Endicott (McKay United, Ottawa), Kimberly Heath (Wall St. United, Brockville), Sharon MacDonald (Sharbot Lake) and Mary Royal-Duczek (Almonte).

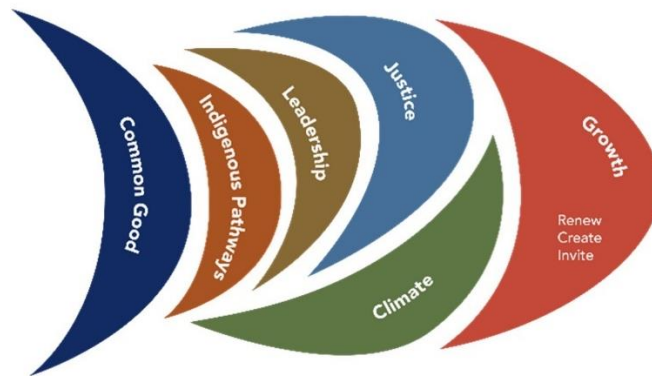
Rev. Paul Dillman shared background information for how the task group was formed in response to The United Church of Canada's Strategic Plan. Following which, those in attendance were asked, to respond to the following questions:

1. What are the gifts and possibilities of the Regional Council
2. What are the obstacles that affect our life and role as Regional Council?

Following the 20 mins discussion, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, introduced the Strategic Plan in further detail and its purpose. Eric proposed that the 'why' for the church's strategic plan is to focus work, priority setting, create measurable objectives, build on commitments, and be a statement of faith in the future.

The Process that led to creating a strategic plan was the following: General Council 43 – proposal; 2020-2022 Town Halls; adopted vision & call – April 2022; General Council Office plan adopted – November 2022 and invitation to rest of the church. The Executive of EOORC approved a process, created Setting Our Sights Working Group, is proposing a Existing Mission Statement & National Statement, is creating a side consultation process and listening phase.

Eric displayed and explained how the logo of the fish (see below) was being used by the Strategic Plan:



Following Eric's presentation, Rev. Paul Dillman, asked delegates to consider:

3. What do we dream that the church could be like in 10 years?

Paul shared some of the feedback he had received from the exercise and explained that throughout June, July and September the task group be holding consultation sessions to help further develops the Regional Councils strategic planning.

### **Break**

A 10 min break was had by all.

### **Gathering Music**



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Gathering music was led by Paul Sales, Pat Mayberry, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Mike Beauchamp. Music Included: MV 145 Like a healing stream, VU 569 You call us out and MV 138 My love colours outside the lines.

**Report Book (2023)**

- see as Report Book (2023) as **Appendix C**

**2023-05-26-27\_002 MOTION** (B. Paterson/L. Gardiner) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive the Report Book (2023) for information. **CARRIED**

**Governance Handbook (May 2023)**

- see as Report Book (2023) as **Appendix D**

**2023-05-26-27\_003 MOTION** (L. Gardiner/C. Casey) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive the updated Governance Handbook (May 2023) as circulated, see **Appendix D**;

\* updates also include removal of offensive language:

2023-04-13\_006 MOTION (L. Church/ C. Ryan) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive name Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Jim Allen, Rev. Cindy Casey, Liz Church, Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Sue Hutton, DLM, to go through the Governance Handbook to remove all offensive language. **CARRIED**

\*\* updates also include revisions/or addition of policies (changes are written in red in the updated version of Governance Handbook (May 2023))

2023-01-12\_012 MOTION (C. Casey/T. Demirdjian-Petro) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive create a policy that it will offer a \$300 per diem honorarium for the use of United Church buildings for Regional Council meetings. **CARRIED**

2023-03-09\_009 MOTION (J. Allen/L. Church) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive clarifies that liquid assets and property (real) assets be treated separately and the Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property apply to both. **CARRIED**

2023-05-11\_006 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/N. Hazen) that that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive receive and approve the recommendation from the Finance Leadership Team to adopt the following amendments to the Policy Regarding Proceeds from the Sale of Property for clarification, as well as update the change in the percentage available for use from investments. **CARRIED**

**CARRIED**

**Nominations**

**2023-05-26-27\_004 MOTION** (B. Harman/K. McLean) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the nominations list (May 2023) as circulated.

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**Nominations List**  
**(May 2023)****EOORC Executive**

(L) – Lay member; (MP) Ministry Personnel

1. President – Susan Hutton (MP) (2024)
2. Past-President – Bronwen Harman (L) (2024)
3. President-Elect – Susan DeHaan (MP) (2024)
4. Indigenous Community – Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole (MP) (2024)

**Members at large:**

5. Jim Allen (L) (2025)
6. Cathy Ryan (L) (2024)
7. Rev. Ryan Kim (MP) (2025)
8. Erin McIntyre (MP) (2026)
9. Rev. Cindy Casey (MP) (2024)
10. Liz Church (L) (2024)
11. Nancy Hazen (L) (2025)
12. Linda Suddaby (L) (2024)
13. Vacant (L/MP) (2026)

**Full member:** Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly (Regional Council Executive Minister)

**Corresponding Members:** Joel Miller (Assistant to RCEM and Secretary of Region), Anita Jansman (Communications and Administrative Assistant), Dana Ducette (Youth), Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett (Visioning, Clusters & Networks), Rev. Whit Strong (Pastoral Relations), Rev. Caroline Penhale (Office of Vocation), Rev. Lillian Roberts (Office of Vocation), Rev. Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Nikki Nel (Camp Awesome Director) and Larry Richardson (Archivist).

**Leadership Teams**

1. **Nominations:** Bronwen Harman (Chair), Susan DeHaan, Karen McLean, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, and Sue Hutton – as President (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Joel Miller) 3 vacancies (diversity in the Regions is missing)
2. **Pastoral Relations:** Wayne Harris (Chair), Ina Bromley, Charlotte Hoy, Sharon MacDonald, Jim Allen, Patsy Henry, Erin McIntyre, Linda Suddaby and Karen McLean (recording secretary) (Resource: Whit Strong) 2-4 vacancies – all MP
3. **Future Through Property Leadership Team** Phyllis MacRae (Chair), Ted Brett, Jim Allen (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly) 2-4 vacancies
4. **General Meetings/Educational Event Planning Leadership Team:** Barbara Reynolds (Chair), Sue Hutton, DLM, (President), Susan DeHaan (President-Elect), Bronwen Harman (Past-President), Pat Mayberry, Gary Mackay, David Patterson, Karen McLean 6-8 vacancies (diversity to include youth leadership)

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5. *Church Extension: Directors*: Bert Cosman, David Debenham, Alan Gale, Charles Knight, Don Reynolds; *Members*: Catherine Grant, Judy Harms-Potter, Linda Suddaby, Ted Brett; *EOORC Appointments*: Brian Cornelius (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly)
  6. *Communications*: Lois Leroux, Lynne Gardiner, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro and David Patterson (Resource: Anita Jansman)
  7. *Finance*: Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Bruce Jackson, Joe Smarkala, Evered (Ev) Zytveld, Rev. Cindy Casey, Christine Kilburn, James Murray (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly)
  8. *Licensed Lay worship Leaders (LLWL)*: Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, Sharon MacDonald, Cathy Ryan, Norma Wrightly, Julee Pauling, Sharon Sanderson, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Terrie Chedore, Diaconal Minister, (Resource: Rev. Whit Strong)
  9. *Scrivens-Baillie*: Malcolm Collins (chair) Ryan Babcock, Ken Brownness, , Rev. Brian Cornelius, James Murray, Larry Richardson, and Ev Zytveld (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly)
  10. *Vision & Transformation*: Rev. Cindy Casey (Chair), Charles Barrett, Phyllis MacRae, Janice Peron, Deb Poirier, Christine Cross-Barkley, Rev. Melany Cassidy-Wise, and Rev. Sheryl McLeod (Staff Resource: Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett)
  11. *YAYA*: Rev. David Sherwin (Chair), Rev. Steve Clifton, Rev. Heather McLurg-Murphy, Cathy Ryan, Hazel Ward-Moreau, Janet Nield (DM), Margaret Eddy, Rev. Kevin Moratz, and Rev. Tiina Cote (Resource: Dana Ducette)
  12. *Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils*: Charles Barrett (Chair) (Resource: Rev. Peter Bartlett)
  13. *Stewardship*: Carolyn Ruda, Charlotte Hoy, Ray Lebeau, Nancy Hazen, Paul Sales and Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle and David Charles (Resource: Rev. Roger Janes)
  14. *Representative to The Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality*: Paul Whynacht
  15. *Affirming Leadership Team*: Linda Stronski, Cathy Ryan, Bronwen Harman, Kim Baird and Roxanne Akhtar (Resource: Peter Bartlett)
  16. *Representatives to Multi-Faith Housing*: Sue Smarkala and Rev. Dianne Cardin
  17. *Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry Leadership Team*: Sandra Copeland (Chair) Rev. Brian Copeland, Jane Burgess, Margaret Joyce, Doug Robinson, and Nancy Hazen.

\* Expression of Interest forms are available on the Regional Council website: <https://eoorc.ca/resources/opportunities-to-serve-nominations/>

## **CARRIED**

### **Then Let Us Sing!**

Paul Sales shared information about the new digital resource hymn book being created, and invited members to join him in the evening following supper to learn more.

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### **Message from Moderator (video)**

In her video presentation, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of Canada, called upon the Church to consider what 'Church' can look like in the future, while considering Deep Spirituality, Daring Justice and Bold Discipleship.

### **Office of Vocation**

Rev. Lillian Roberts, Vocational Minister responsible for Ministry Personnel Accountability (and on behalf of Rev Caroline Penhale, Vocational Minister Responsible for The Candidacy Pathway) informed on the role of the Office of Vocation (Lillian referred to the United Church website: <https://united-church.ca/leadership/supporting-ministry/office-vocation>).

Lillian also highlighted that there is already an awareness and dialogue of the uniqueness within the Indigenous Church, but ultimately it can't be said for sure how the OV will continue to interact.

### **Celebrating Candidates**

Susan Hutton, Chair of the meeting, introduced the following candidates who had begun their journeying into Ministry (Candidacy Pathways): Dr. Frank Emanuel, Claire Savage, Juda Kandalajt, Patricia Power, Julee Pauling, Susan Toller and Jamie Hill. The Regional Council recognized and celebrated these candidates, promising to be supportive and encouraging to them throughout the process.

### **Living Call Statement**

Bronwen Harmen, on behalf of the Affirm Leadership Team, provided background information and presented the following motion to the court:

**2023-05-26-27\_005** (T. Chedore/N. Hazen) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the Living Call Statement from the Affirm Leadership Team:

#### **Living Call Statement**

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council seeks to support and strengthen the ministries of its Communities of Faith as well as the ministry of all God's people, staff and lay leadership within those communities.

As we seek to carry out this ministry, we will be intentional about how we fully include all in Christ's love and service. This means that in our work as a Regional Council we will actively seek equity for, and participation from, the full diversity of God's Creation; seeking racial justice, identifying and undermining colonialism, celebrating all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, valuing linguistic and cultural diversity, seeking to include all who face challenges with their mental and physical health or social and economic circumstances.

We will carry out our ministry with people in all seasons of life as we honour our relationship with Indigenous Peoples and nurture ecological justice. We will work to effectively and respectfully communicate with one another so that no one is left behind. **CARRIED**

#### **Centering Prayer –**

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Grace United Church in Gananoque, shared a homily on learning to dance with God, even in the dark places. Here below is an extract of her prayer:

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Today, I want to reiterate the Truth of what Michael shared, Having Hope doesn't mean everything is honky dory, but having hope means that through the spirit of God we envision and see the end result of God's persistent, and provisional Love, no matter what our circumstances are.

God journeys with us and is closer to us than the breath we breathe....and calls us to offer that same hope we need to offer to others...with love, dignity, respect and freedom to all. As the very first Armenian Woman Ordained minister through the United Church of Canada on May 28, 2011, which also marked the 93 anniversary of Armenian independence day of 1918; I want to share a word from the Wisdom of my ancestors- in Armenian we say, always, lift others up, because as you lift others up you are lifted up with them automatically.

Church, We are discussing so many topics this weekend and I know one of the remits is about establishing National indigenous organization... I am not part of the committee of any sort, I am just a descendant of an Armenian Genocide survivor, who arrived in Canada in 1986, as a refugee....whenever I think of this remit, the Spirit keeps on whispering, let my people go... Beloved this Sunday is the birthday of the Church, Pentecost Sunday... however we all know that Jesus had already given the Spirit to his disciples, promised the paraclete long before Pentecost, however it was courage that made this living, fiery, Spirit evident on Pentecost. This afternoon I offer you these words as Centering prayer from an author, artist, and Poet, Jan Richardson...

May this blessing comfort and challenge you to be courageous individuals and communities, despite your fears...

if you feel comfortable enough, you are invited to close your eyes and repeat in your heart,

Come Spirit come...

Come Spirit come...

Come Spirit come...

This Grace That Scorches Us  
A Blessing for Pentecost Day

Here's one thing  
you must understand  
about this blessing:  
it is not  
for you alone.

It is stubborn  
about this.  
Do not even try  
to lay hold of it  
if you are by yourself,  
thinking you can carry it  
on your own.

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To bear this blessing,  
you must first take yourself  
to a place where everyone  
does not look like you  
or think like you,  
a place where they do not  
believe precisely as you believe,  
where their thoughts  
and ideas and gestures  
are not exact echoes  
of your own.

Bring your sorrow.  
Bring your grief.  
Bring your fear.  
Bring your weariness,  
your pain,  
your disgust at how broken  
the world is,  
how fractured,  
how fragmented  
by its fighting,  
its wars,  
its hungers,  
its penchant for power,  
its ceaseless repetition  
of the history it refuses  
to rise above.

I will not tell you  
this blessing will fix all that.

But in the place  
where you have gathered,  
wait.  
Watch.  
Listen.  
Lay aside your inability  
to be surprised,  
your resistance to what you  
do not understand.  
See then whether this blessing  
turns to flame on your tongue,  
sets you to speaking  
what you cannot fathom

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or opens your ear  
to a language  
beyond your imagining  
that comes as a knowing  
in your bones,  
a clarity  
in your heart  
that tells you

this is the reason  
we were made:  
for this ache  
that finally opens us,

for this struggle,  
this grace  
that scorches us  
toward one another  
and into  
the blazing day.

Jan Richardson

from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

<https://www.janrichardson.com/books>

**(Educational) Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization**

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole shared her presentation about Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization (video presentation online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6hqJTB7-SM&t=44s>). The presentation provided the motivation for this remit, and the possible outcome. Teresa emphasized that a pastoral charge that does not vote, it will be recorded as a no vote. Therefore, it is important that every pastoral charge votes.

2023-05-26-27\_000 NOTICE OF MOTION (/) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council\*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

\* *The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.*

\*\* *The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".*

Rev. David shared a *point of order*, that this time on the agenda was for questions only, not for speaking for or against the motions.

After a time for questions, the Chair called the motion to a vote:

2023-05-26-27\_000 MOTION (T. Demirdjian-Petro/E. McIntyre) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council\*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*; and
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

\* *The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.*

\*\* *The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".*

\* It will be determined at the meeting if a vote will occur the following day (Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>), or if the vote will be moved to the fall general meeting.

\*\*Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

<https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/remit-1-establishing-autonomous-national-indigenous-organization>

After more table group time was agreed to, and after discussion and deliberation, it was articulated that calling the question went against the agenda, which was agreed to at the beginning of the meeting. Therefore, the following motion to table the aforementioned motion was put forward :

**2023-05-26-27\_006 MOTION** (D. Sherwin/W. Strong) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council postpone definitely the motion above to tomorrow at 11:30 AM. **CARRIED**

### **Grace Before Supper and Supper**

Norma Wrightly led the Grace before supper.

### **Then Let Us Sing!**

After supper, delegates were invited to participate in a hymn sing with Paul Sales, while learning more about the project *Then Let Us Sing!* (Digital hymn resource from The United Church of Canada being created in time for 2025, The United Church of Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary).



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**Session Two**  
**Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2023****THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT SESSION TWO OF THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (62)**

Demanya Kofi Akoussah, Don Anderson, Brenda Bailey, Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Melany Cassidy-Wise, Terrie Chedore, Brian Cornelius, Tiina Cote, Susan DeHaan, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Paul Dillman, Janet Evans, Edith Dietlind Gardell, Lynne Gardiner, Myra Garvin, Ed Gratton, Daniel Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Alyson Huntly, Susan Hutton, Carolyn Insley, Natalie Istead, Ryan Kim, Earl Klotz, Jenni Leslie, Camille Lipsett, Lorrie Lowes, Christine Lawson, Zakaria Mandara, Erin McIntyre, Don McLean, Sheryl McLeod, Anne Montgomery, Micheline Montreuil, James Murray, John Noordhof, Catherine Oxenford-Grant, Eric Pagé Blair Paterson, Katheryn Peate, Kathy Petrie, Debbie Poirier, Jen Power, Lillian Roberts, Allister Robichaud, Debbie Roi, Mary Rose, Eleanor J. Royal-Duczek, Catherine Russ, Arlyce Schiebout, David Sherwin, Laura Springate, Catherine Stewart, Don Stiles, Beverly J. Thompson Susan Toller, Neil Wallace, and Paul Whynacht.

**Lay (73)**

Jim Allen, Kurt Asmis, Kurt Asmis, Kim Baird, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Carolyn Bennett, Ted Brett, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, Debbie Burch, Janice Burroughs, Colleen Calvert, Harry Caroline, Bennett Carolyn, David Charles, Liz Church, Sandra Copeland, Christine Cross-Barkley, Catharina DeVries, Jacques Dicaire, Alvin Dobbie, Jane Enticknap, JoAnne Fletcher, Catherine Grant, James E. Grant, Elizabeth (Beth) Gutsell, Bronwen Harman, Nancy Hazen, Charlotte Hoy, Bruce Jackson, Marilyn Joseph, Elizabeth Kent, Christine Kilburn, Ray Lebeau, Kimberly Lavoie, Lois Leroux, Allan Lockwood, Sharon MacDonald, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Donald McLean, Karen McLean, Brenda McLeod, Brigitte Meunier-Grimes, Darlene Nicol, Andrea Nugent, Michael Ostrander, David Patterson, Margie Patterson, Will Patterson, Janice Peron, Ken Pritchard, Monique Pritchard, Marion Reilley, Shelley Rintoul, Carolyn Ruda, Paul Ryan Sales, Vicki Simzer, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, James Sonley, Linda Suddaby, Desna Sulway, Hazel Ward-Moreau, Jim Watchorn, Paul Whiteley, Randall Whyte, Jack Wilson, Denise Wood, Norma Wrightly, and Everard Zytveld.

**Candidates (2)**

Patricia Power and Susan Toller.

**Regional Council Staff (8)**

Dana Ducette, Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (voting privileges), Anita Jansman, Joel Miller, Nikki Nel, Larry Richardson, Rev. Lillian Roberts (voting privileges), and Rev. Whitman Strong (voting privileges).

**Guests of the Regional Council (29)**

Kimberley Allen-McGill, Ann Babin, Martin Bellerose, Hugh Bellam, John Benson, Sherry Blaedow, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, Lynda Blanchard, Rev. Howard Cain, United Church of Christ Representative, David Clemis, Tammy Fergusson, Janet Gaylord, Clinton Halladay, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kelso, Jessica Knoyle, Wayne Lemke, Alicia Loria, Armelda Maves, Pat Mayberry, Lynn McCaw, Jacques Mouliom, Liz Nieman, Ruth Pentinga, David Rockwell, Sue Smarkala,.

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**Guests of the Regional Council (42)**

Roxanne Akhtar, Kimberley Allen-McGill, Martin Bellerose, Hugh Bellam, John Benson, Sherry Blaedow, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, Lynda Blanchard, Rev. Howard Cain, United Church of Christ Representative, David Clemis, Daniel Comrie, Audrey Cormack, Christine Cross-Barkley, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Brenda Dorland, John Douglas, Tammy Fergusson, Janet Gaylord, Clinton Halladay, Karen Hunt, Cathy Kelso, Jim Kenny, Jessica Knoyle, David Lee, Wayne Lemke, Alicia Loria, Armelda Maves, Pat Mayberry, Lynn McCaw, Gail McCooye, Liz Nieman, Ruth Pentinga, Barbara Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, David Rockwell, Louise Sharp, Sue Smarkala, Wendy Snelgrove, Linda Stronski, Amanda Sutherland Heather J. Thompson, and Margaret Torrance.

**Regrets (1)**

Frank Emanuel, Candidate

**Quorum**

This meeting had quorum during session one.

**Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Paul Sales, Pat Mayberry, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole and Mike Beauchamp. Music included; Courageous Communities (written by Pat Mayberry), VU 268 Bring many names, MV 145 Draw the circle wide and MV 156 Dance with the spirit.

**Additional Memorials and retirement (to be included a supplements to the Report Book following the meeting)**

Rev. Whit Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister, shared that Debbie Poirier, DLM had also retired and should have been included amongst the list of those retiring this year, and that Rev. Dr. Richard (Rick) Magie had died (1945-2022), and should have been included amongst the list of memorials this year.

**Worship**

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro and Liz Church led the morning worship, first with Takouhi highlighted the work that had been done by the planning team to prepare for this meeting. Members of the planning team were acknowledged with applause and appreciation. Takouhi invited any who were interested to participate in the planning of our next general meeting to reach out the Regional Council President (Sue Hutton, DLM).

Worship was filled with music, interspersed with small reflections, a Prayer of Illumination, Scripture reading (Isaiah 58:1-12), and a closing prayer. Music during worship included: MV 14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered, MV 135 Called by Earth & Sky (vv 1 & 4 English; 2 & 3 French), MV 171 Christ has no body now but yours, MV 96 – “And When You Call for Me” (English, French, English), MV 104 – “Know that God is Good”, (English, Swahili, French, Luganda, English).

**Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada**

Rev. Blair shared a second reflection, a follow-up to his presentation the previous day. This presentation; identified certain characteristics of what courageous community looks like, and how they are intentional, clear about their identity, and rooted in deep spirituality. A recording of Rev. Blair’s presentation can be found on the Regional Council website: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKFdg\\_pHTRc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKFdg_pHTRc) . Michael presents 6 practices of courageous communities: 1. Committed to Prayer; 2. Curators of hospitality; 3. Engaging imaginations; 4. Celebrate extravagance; 5. Thriving at risk taking; and 6. Ignite Leadership.

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### **Music**

Mike Beauchamp, Rowena, Pat Mayberry and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole led in the singing of hymn MV 138 My love colours outside the lines, hymn VU 509 Here I am Lord, and hymn MV 79, Spirit, Open my heart.

### **Nomination to the Executive**

Bronwen Harman shared that the Nomination team met the evening prior to consider and application, and then she shared the following motion:

**2023-05-26-27\_007 MOTION** (B. Harman/R. White) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team to appoint Gayle Barks to the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Executive (term ending 2026).  
**CARRIED**

### **Covenanting with LLWL, Executive, Leadership Teams, Regional Council**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly and Sue Hutton, DLM, led the Covenanting liturgy for each of the following groups: Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Executive, Leadership Team and the Regional Council. Each group was asked to participate in reading vows to carryout its work, and hear the promise of the Regional Council to offer support as each carried out its duties. This covenanting portion on the agenda was closed with prayer.

### **Affirm Presentation**

Linda Stronski, Chair, introduced members of the Affirm Leadership Team. This was followed by Roxanne Akbar sharing a personal story and witness of being part of the LGBTQ2S+ community, and then discovering The United Church of Canada. Roxanne is now a member of The United Church of Canada and continues to work with the Affirm Leadership Team at educating and creating safer spaces for members of the LGBTQ2S+ community. Following Roxanne's testimony, Linda Stronski shared the following motion:

**2023-05-26-27\_008** (L. Stronski/C. Ryan) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council approve becoming an Affirming Ministry by joining Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble **CARRIED**

It was specified that a positive decision also includes the cost for an annual membership fee of \$1,000.00 a year.

### **(Educational) Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization**

It was agreed by consensus that, because the meeting was ahead of schedule, the court could begin discussing Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization at 11:10 AM instead of 11:30 AM. At this time, Rev. Takouhi-Demirdjian-Petro presented the following (Except) – which was also provided to table groups:

#### **Remit process**

Both Regional Councils AND the governing bodies (councils or boards) of pastoral charges vote on remits.

A majority must be obtained for each group (Regional Councils and Pastoral Charges).

A vote by members of the Regional Council does not indicate a congregation's support. These are two different things.

Failure to vote by the end of March 2024 is the equivalent of a 'no' vote. The 'yes' votes must exceed 50% of pastoral charges and 50% of regional councils.

Only 'yes' and 'no' can be recorded for this vote. No abstentions can be noted.

### **Why vote now?**

By voting now, the Regional Council encourages congregations to begin their processes as soon as possible. In some cases, there may be need for educational time and discussion.

### **Does this mean the indigenous church wants to separate?**

The motion is clear – an autonomous indigenous church would be established WITHIN the United Church of Canada.

### **We want to see the structure before we vote!**

In an effort to decolonize our thinking and to live into being courageous community, we are making an intentional decision to not dictate or control the model that the indigenous church adopts that would suit its culture and its needs. That is why this remit is structured the way that it is, and why we do not have specific answers about the structure.

### **What will this cost?**

The budgetary envelope for the indigenous church (while small relative to the wider church) has existed for years and would continue to exist in largely the same format.

### **Microphones opened for debate**

The microphones opened for debate, following which the question was called:

**2023-05-26-27\_009 MOTION** (T. Demirdjian-Petro/E. McIntyre) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council agree to amend the Basis of Union to reflect:

1. That The United Church of Canada will be organized as follows: (1) a three-council structure, consisting of communities of faith, regional councils and a Denominational Council\*; and (2) an autonomous National Indigenous Organization; and
2. That once the new autonomous National Indigenous Organization is established within The United Church of Canada, it will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and, therefore will not be subject to the remit process under section 7.4.1 of the Basis of Union\*\*;
3. The changes required for the establishment of the autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

**CARRIED (94 in favour, 1 opposed)**

\* *The "Denominational Council" and the "General Council" are often used interchangeably.*

\*\* *The detailed proposed changes to the Basis of Union are listed in a chart on page 5 of the Study*

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*Guide, under the section heading "Frequently Asked Questions".*

### **Announcements Before Lunch**

- Samia O'Day and Wall Street United Church band/choir will be leading gathering music after lunch (and holding a little concert prior to the meeting start time).
- Norma McCord highlighted that a webinar is being offered on *Refugee Sponsorship* in the coming week.

### **Grace Before Lunch and Lunch**

Sue Hutton led grace before lunch. Blessing was found in a old bible:

"Bless this food upon our dishes, as you blessed the loaves and fishes; like the sugar in our tea, may our spirits be stirred by Thee."

### **Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Samia O'Day

### **Setting Our Sights (Continuing of Yesterday's Presentation)**

Rev. Kimberly Heath, member of the Setting Our Sights working group highlighted that the church is entering Pentecost (tomorrow), and reminded all of the retreating following the resurrection of Jesus. Believers waited and prayed for 50 days until the power of the Holy Spirit washed over them. Like in the narratives found in scripture, Kimberly invited Communities of Faith to continue praying, particularly during times when it may be called to wait for a moment, and then respond to the Spirit. Kimberly also shared some of the feedback received from table group discussions held on the previous day. Following this, the Kimberly asked that table group discussions for this day consider the following question:

4. What do we need to do over the next three years to make the 10-year dream reality.

### **Mohawk Bible Translation presentation**

Sue Hutton shared a letter of gratitude received from the Living Into Right Relations Leadership Circle, Nakonha:ka Regional Council, for donation made by the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, to help cover the cost of translating the Bible into Mohawk. This project has been undertaken by Elder, Harvey Gabriel, Mohawk from Kanasatake (and member at Kanasatake United Church). For more information about the project: <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/elder-from-kanasatake-spent-decades-translating-bible-into-mohawk/>; <https://biblesociety.ca/2023-impact-report-mohawk-bible/>; <https://biblesociety.ca/legacy-of-mohawk-bible-celebrated/>.

### **Closing Worship**

Closing worship was led by Liz Church and members of the Youth and Young Adults program (YAYA). It included reflections on what had taken place over the two-day period of the meeting, heard words of wisdom like, "Courage is the commitment to begin without any guarantee of success" – Johan Wolfgang Von Goethe; and heard Scripture (Joshua 1:19). Worship also included a video presentation from the children of Église St-Marc, in which the children shared short skits, singing and dancing. Liz emphasized what she felt were some comments made by Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, that "the Church is called to be God's presence in the world" and that "you can only work at the speed of trust". Lis also shared some expression/sayings with members of YAYA, allowing each of them to provide their own interpretations for what was being said. Hymns sung during closing worship included: Courageous

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Communities (By Pat Mayberry), MV 90 Don't be afraid (French and English), MV 154 Deep in our hearts, VU 400 Lord listen to your children praying (English and French), and MV209 Go Make a Difference.

**Closing Motions**

**2023-05-26-27\_010 MOTION** (S. McLeod/M. Montreuil) that following the rise of this spring general meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, all powers of the Regional Council be granted to the Executive until the fall general meeting (date and location to be determined). **CARRIED**

**2023-05-26-27\_011 MOTION** (N. Hazen/M. Garvin) that the meeting be adjourned and that the President declares this spring general meeting of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council duly concluded. **CARRIED**

\*Announcements were looped on screen during meals and break

- Multi-faith Housing
- Ottawa School of Theology
- Healing Pathways

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Sue Hutton, Chair

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Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly,  
Executive Minister

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Joel Miller,  
Recording Secretary

**Appendices**

\*All appendices are available on the EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/2023-eoorc-agm/>

Appendix A Minutes of Fall General Meeting held on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Appendix B 2022 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council  
Appendix C Report Book (2023)  
Appendix D Governance Handbook (2023)