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**FALL GENERAL MEETING**

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Fall General Meeting on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Woodroffe United Church, Ottawa, Ontario. The theme for this meeting was “Being Courageous Community – A Time to Listen”.

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT SESSION ONE OF THE BUSINESS MEETING****Ministry Personnel (56)**

Brenda Bailey, Stephanie Bates, Elaine Beattie, Nancy Best, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Melany Cassidy-Wise, Brian Cornelius, Tiina Cote, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Grant Dillenbeck, Paul Dillman, Lynne Gardiner, Ed Gratton, Daniel Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Pastor Susan Hutton, Minhyuk Hwnag, Carolyn Insley, Natalie Instead, James Kenney, Ryan Kim, Earl Klotz, Camille Lipsett, Andrew Love, Christine Lowson, Laurie McKnight, Don McLean, Kevin Moratz, Schalk Naude, John Noordhof, Kathryn Peate, Kathy Petrie, Jennifer Power, Patricia Power, Shelley Roberts, Michelle Robichaud, Mary Royal Duczek, Christopher Ryan, Ian Smith, Catherine Stewart, Grant Stuckless, Kim Vidal, Neil Wallace, Paul Whynacht, Peter Woods, Don Anderson, Terrie Chedore, Brian Copeland, Susan DeHaan, Myra Garvin, Paul McLenaghan, Anne Montgomery, Will Patterson, Margie Patterson, and Arlyce Schiebout.

**Lay (72)**

Jim Allen, Kurt Asmis, Eileen Ball, Helen Barkley, Gayle Barks, Charles Barrett, John Benson, Denise Bonomo, Susan Brassington, Valerie Betty Briscoe, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, David Charles, Robert (Bob) Christy, Liz Church, Sandra Copeland, Christine Cross-Barkley, Catherine DeVries, Jennifer Gow, Catherine Grant, Elizabeth (Beth) Gutsell, Marilyn Hamilton, Andy Hamilton, Bronwen Harman, Judy Harms-Potter, Wayne Harris, Patricia Hassard, Patricia Hassard, Judith Nancy Hazen, Nancy Hazen, Alan Herbert, Charlotte Hoy, Bruce Jackson, Christine Kilburn, Ray Lebeau, Ray Lebeau, Jean Libbey, Guetta Linda, Allan Lockwood, Sharon MacDonald, Ernie MacMillan, Gail McCooye, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Donald McLean, Karen McLean, Brenda McLeod, Darlene Nicol, David Patterson, Kay Porteous, Barbara Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, Eleanor Rintoul, Catherine Ryan, Vicki Simzer, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, Wendy Snelgrove, James Sonley, Linda Stronski, Linda Suddaby, Cheryl Sullivan, Desna Sulway, Beth Sweetnam, Margaret Torrance, Hazel Ward-Moreau, James Watchorn, Paul Whiteley, Randy Whyte, melly wise, Norma Wrightly, and Everard Fzytveld.

**Candidates (1)**

Emmanuel Frank

**Youth (3)**

Kael Fowler, Alisa Insley, and Rousseau Whiteley.

**Regional Council Staff (8)**

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

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**Guests of the Regional Council (22)**

Hugh Bellum, Janice Burroughs, Carolyn Clark, David Clemis, Glen Cutler, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, David Dargie, Roxanne Delmage, Brenda Dorland, Jane Enticknap, Stephon Farrow, Peter Feldstein, Edith Gardell, Jamie Hill, Cathie Kelso, Wayne Lemke, Noah Liedtke, Alicia Loria, Lynn McCaw, Nancy Jean McPherson, Louise Sharp, and Sue Smarkala.

**Registration/Gathering**

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

**Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Katrina Jovic and members of the Woodroffe United Church choir members: Lyle Campbell, Tricia Curtis, Sue Smarkala and Joe Smarkala. Music included: MV 88 Over My Head, MV 122 This is the day that God has made, MV 138 My Love Colors Outside the Lines, MV 141 We Are All One People, MV 172 God Says.

**Simultaneous Equipment, Simultaneous Translators, And Accessibility to Simultaneous Translations on Zoom**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, shared story of time in previous work, when impassioned speeches were given in French, and unilingual English people did not wear their simultaneous headsets. He encouraged all to make use of their headsets, to respect presentations given throughout the day.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, lit the Christ Candle.

**Call to Order**

Sue Hutton, DLM, Chair:

“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 to Woodroffe United Church and Land Acknowledgement**

Ray Cuthbert, Chair of Council, welcomed all to Woodroffe United Church, and acknowledged that this meeting gathers on is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe People. Ray highlighted that Woodroffe is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ray concluded his welcome by wishing delegates a thoughtful and productive meeting.

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

Susan Hutton, DLM, President reminded participants to vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization. Additional information can be retrieved from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council website: <https://generalcouncil44.ca/news/remit-1-results-numbers>

**Welcome from the President**

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, welcomed all to the meeting and explained that the theme for this meeting is “Courageous Communities – A Time for Listening”. Modelled after the general council business

practice, this meeting was intended to listen to the Spirit of the Regional Council. Sue reminded all of the upcoming educational event occurring on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sue thanked the many volunteers who helped plan for this meeting, and the many who are fulfilling a role on the day of the meeting. The table displays and book exchange were also announced.

### **Omnibus Motion**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly

**2023-11-04\_001 OMNIBUS MOTION** (Eric Hebert-Daly/Susan DeHaan) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council move the following:

1. That the agenda be adopted as circulated acknowledging that the times listed are not intended to be orders of the day, but a general guide within a fifteen-minute window;
2. That the minutes of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Spring General Meeting (May 26-27, 2023) be accepted as circulated, see **Appendix A**;
3. That the Equity Support Person for this general meeting be Rev. Michelle Robichaud;
4. That the Scrutineers/Stewards for this meeting be: Wayne Harris (Head Steward), Norma Wrightly, Rev. Grant Stuckless, Rev, Carolyn Insley, Helen Barkley (morning portion), Alan Hebert (afternoon portion);
5. That the Parliamentarians for this meeting be: Rev. Grant Dillenbeck and Barbara Reynolds;
6. That the following person serve as Chaplain for this meeting: Rev. Jennifer (Jen) Power;
7. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant – Holy Manners

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

*In the 2023 Manual (see page 192), the expression Holy Manners is translated as rules of conduct based on respect and benevolence.*

## **CARRIED**

### **Opening Worship**

- Liz Church's reflection is available on the EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Liz-Church-Reflection-for-Nov.-4-2023-The-Essence-of-the-Creator.pdf>

Rev. Cindy Casey and Liz Church led the opening worship, which began with the singing of VU 595, We Are Pilgrims (Servant Song), followed by Cindy reading of Scripture Ephesians, 3:16-21 (NRSV), and then singing of hymn MV 10, Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom. This was followed by a reflection offered by Liz Church entitled "The Essence of the Creator". Liz encouraged all to work together, growing God's Church, and to be assured that God is at work within us. God made us a resilient people and has equipped us with everything we need. Liz encouraged all to be prepared to be amazed, and to look to the future with unfaltering faith, discovering afresh each's gifts and to be bold to share them with others. Following Liz's reflection, Cindy reread Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-21 (FNV), which was followed by the singing of the closing hymn VU582, There's a Spirit in the Air.

### **Recognition of Staff Retirements**

#### **a) Larry Richardson**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared that Larry Richardson, Archivist and long-time staff member of the former Montreal & Ottawa Conference (18 years in total), is retiring. Larry approached the podium and shared some words about his journey, and his appreciation shown to him over the many years.

#### **b) Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett,**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared that Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett, Minister for Visioning with Communities of Faith, Clusters and Social Justice and Outreach Networks, is retiring. Peter had been in his role for just under 2 years, but in that team, had worked with over 40 communities of faith as regional support.

### **Setting Our Sights (SOS) – Strategic Plan**

- See *SOS Final Report* as **Appendix B**; full presentation is available on EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SOS-Presentation.pdf>

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**a) Presentation**

Rev. Paul Dillman and Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek presented the Regional Council's Strategic Plan (Appendix B), by acknowledging the members of the Setting Our Sights Working Group, highlighting the phases of the work, in particular the consultation process, and highlighted the strategic directives and the activity streams associated to each.

**b) Discussion in Breakout Groups**

1. Share initial reactions to the strategic plan.
2. What excites you?
3. What questions or concerns do you have?
4. Where do you see yourself becoming involved in the various activity streams?

**2023-11-04\_002 MOTION** (Paul Dillman/Mary Royal-Duczek) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council adopt the "Setting Our Sights" report as the strategic plan for work of the regional council for the years 2024 and 2025. **CARRIED**

**2023-11-04\_003 MOTION** (Kim Vidal/Bob Christy) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council amend the motion below 'to direct continuing work of the strategic plan to the Executive'.

**2023-11-04\_004 MOTION** (Paul Dillman/Dave Clemis) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council disband the Setting Our Sights Working Group, and that continuing work of the strategic plan be directed to the Executive. **CARRIED**

Rev. Melany Cassidy-Wise expressed interest in volunteering to help the implementation of the activity streams. Anyone else interested was instructed to follow-up with President or Executive Minister.

**Grace Before Lunch**

Susan DeHaan, President-Elect, shared a Grace before Lunch.

**Lunch Break**

Attendees were given an hour and 25 minutes to eat lunch. This meeting was 'Bing your own lunch'.

**AFTERNOON SESSION****Gathering Music**

Gathering music was led by Katrina Jovic and members of the Woodroffe United Church choir members: Lyle Campbell, Tricia Curtis, Sue Smarkala and Joe Smarkala. Music included: Wind Upon the Waters (Marty Haugen), MV 127 I Saw the Rich Ones; MV144 Like a Healing Stream; MV126 Are you a Shepherd?; MV169 When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides.

**(1:30 PM) General Council/General Council Executive Report**

- See *General Council Executive Summary, September 22 – 23, 2023* as **Appendix C**

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout, Member of the General Council Executive, shared the General Council Executive Summary, September 22 – 23, 2023 (Appendix C). Arlyce also shared information about the Lloyd Hope Bequest, which is at \$9 million, is the second largest ever received by The United Church

of Canada. An equivalent amount was bequeathed to Fallowfield United Church, close to where Mr. Hope lived. The General Council Executive followed the the policy of allocating 50 percent of the bequest to the Foundation and 50 percent to supporting reconciliation efforts and Strategic Plan initiatives.

### **Financial Report & Proposed 2024 Budget**

- Full presentation by Treasure is available on EOORC website <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Presentation-By-Treasurer.pdf>
- See *Financial Report* as **Appendix D<sup>1</sup>**
- See *Financial Report (extended version)* and *2024 Budget* – to be circulated immediately prior to presentation as **Appendix D<sup>2</sup>**

Rev. Brain Cornelius, Regional Council Treasurer, shared a financial report (Appendix D<sup>1</sup>) and an extended version of the financial report which included the 2024 budget (Appendix D<sup>2</sup>). Some of Brian's talking points included:

- The Finance Committee will present a proposed 2024 budget following the discussion and decisions adopted through Setting Our Sights.
- The Finance Committee has been grappling with the implications of the General Council Executive decision to reduce the Mission and Service Fund grant by 25% or \$80,000. This reduction is in addition to the anticipated deficit of \$40,000 to \$50,000 in 2023.
- These deficit figures present a considerable financial challenge to the Regional Council and will have an impact on EOORC Mission Support grants since these grants are exclusively funded through Mission and Service Fund.

**2023-11-04\_005 MOTION** (Brian Cornelius/Christine Kilburn) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council adopt in principle the proposed Budget framework. **CARRIED**

Following Brian Presentation, questions and discussion were had. Below are some of points captured:

- EOORC United Church Women (UCW) may have funding available to Golden Lake Camp
- Part of The Evangelical United Brethren joining with The United Church of Canada was the continued support of their church camps (see **Appendix E** - as source of verbal submission to financial report/budget cuts)
- The Fertile Soil Project costs is covered by the General Council Office.
- There is room within the proposed budget for the activity streams proposed by the Strategic Plan
- \$60,000 decrease was a decision of the general council and it is an equitable decision for all regional councils and global partners.
- In 2025-26, the Regional Council will aim for a balanced budget.

### **Listening to Our Youth and Young Adults: Camp Awesome**

- Full presentation is available on EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Liz-Church-Reflection-for-Nov.-4-2023-The-Essence-of-the-Creator.pdf>

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Dana Ducette, Minister, Youth and Young Adults; Nikki Nel, Director, Camp Awesome, shared a stylized presentation of a pop quiz, designed at asking questions and providing answers about Camp Awesome <https://camp-awesome.ca/> (Camp Awesome is summer programming offered throughout the Regional Council to youth and young adults during July and August).

### **Listening to the Needs of the World: Multifaith Housing Initiative**

- Full presentation is available on EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/1415-Multifaith-Housing-Initiative.pdf>

Sue Smarkala, President of Multifaith Housing Initiative, shared details about what Multifaith Housing Initiative is, about Veteran's House Canada, about affordable housing developments, and how people can help support all initiatives.

### **Break**

A 30-minute break was had by all, at which time guests for the Regional Council's Affirm Celebration arrived, and cupcakes and apple were juice served to all.

### **Closing Worship Combined with the Regional Council's Affirming Celebration**

- Message from The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator is available on EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Message-from-the-Moderator-Nov-2023.pdf>
- Copy of Affirm Certificate is available on EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/EOORC-Affirm-certificate.pdf>
- Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, Affirm celebration reflection is available on the EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-11-04-Affirm-Celebration-Reflection.pdf>

The Regional Council Affirming Celebrational and Closing Worship were led by the Affirming Leadership Team: Linda Stronski, Chair, Cathy Ryan, Bronwen Harman, Kim Baird, Rev. Michelle Robichaud and Roxanne Akhtar.

Rev. Paul Dillman, Minister at Riverside United Church, an affirming congregation for the past 5 years, presented the regional council with a rainbowed colored candle, in recognition of the regional council becoming and affirming regional council. Following this, Sue Hutton, DLM, President read a letter from The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne to the regional council, also congratulating the regional council on becoming affirming.

Bronwen Harman, led the call to worship, which was an adaptation from Scripture, 1 John 3:18. This was followed by the singing of hymn We Are a Rainbow. Cathy Ryan read Scripture James 1:22-25, which was followed by Bronwen Harman providing details about the Affirm Action Plan:

1. Work with Dana and youth and young adults have a great float, banner, and DJ at the 2024 Capital Pride Parade and continue our presence in the parade in the future.
2. Offer support to Communities of Faith who are wanting to become Affirming ministries, in person and with resources posted on our website
3. Annual recognition of our Affirming Ministry Anniversary.

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4. Offer a workshop as part of our annual online educational event and at least once through the year have our own event.
  5. Grow our Affirm Leadership Team and our Equity Team.
  6. Support the work of leadership teams who have or develop goals for their own work eg. Vision and Transformation, Righting Relations, YAYA
  7. Annual support for AUSE in the form of membership fees and support for a representative to attend the Annual Conference and AGM when it is in our area.
  8. Use of AUSE signage on correspondence, printed material, projections, and outdoor signage for office and meetings.

Accountability will be to regional council leadership teams, the Executive, the Meeting Planning Leadership Team , EOORC and AUSE

This was followed by a Prayer led by Roxanne Akhtar and the sharing of a personal story from Calvin Neufield. Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro brought greetings on behalf of Affirm United and presented the regional council with its affirm certificate, which was followed by the singing of Halle, Halle, Halle. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive minister, shared a reflection which was followed by a closing prayer led by Linda Stronski. This time of celebration and worship was concluded with the singing of hymn MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide.

### **Closing Blessing**

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, ended the meeting with a closing Blessing.

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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-fall-meeting/>

- Appendix A Minutes of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Spring General Meeting (May 26-27, 2023)
- Appendix B Setting Our Sights (SOS) Final Report – Strategic Plan
- Appendix C General Council Executive Summary, September 22 – 23, 2023
- Appendix D<sup>1</sup> Financial Report
- Appendix D<sup>2</sup> Financial Report (extended version) and 2024 Budget
- Appendix E Page from The United Church of Canada Archives re Golden Lake Camp