
SPRING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Spring annual general meeting on Friday, May 31st and Saturday June 1st at Trinity United Church, Ottawa, Ontario. The theme for this meeting was “Unique Public Witness – The Last 100 Years and the Next”.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING**Ministry Personnel (65)**

Kofi Akoussah, Don Anderson, Anthony Bailey, Brenda Bailey, Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Terrie Chedore, Steve Clifton, Brian Cornelius, Susan DeHaan, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Grant Dillenbeck, Paul Dillman, Frank Emmanuel, Daniel Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Alyson Huntly, Susan Hutton, Min Hwang, James Kenney, Earl Klotz, Jenni Leslie, Camille Lipsett, Lorrie Lowes, Alwin Maben, Ronnie Mango, Erin McIntyre, Laurie McKnight, Anne Montgomery, Micheline Montreuil, Kevin Moratz, James Murray, Schalk Naude, Dorothy Naylor, Janet Nield, Eric Pagé, Blair Paterson, Margie Patterson, Will Patterson, Kathryn Peate, Mike Perreault, Kathy Petrie, Patricia Power, Shelley Roberts, Michelle Robichaud, Mary Royal-Duczek, Christopher Ryan, Arlyce Schiebout, James Scott, Junior Smith, Laura Springate, Ian Smith, Catherine Stewart, Don Stiles, Grant Stuckless, Susan Toller, Carla Van Delen, Kim Vidal, Neil Wallace, Paul Whynacht, Peter Woods, Jen Power

Lay (73)

Jim Allen, Kurt Asmis, Kim Baird, Helen Barkley, Gayle Barks, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Susan Brassington, Ted Brett, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, Debbie Burch, Janice Burroughs, Colleen Calvert, David Charles, Bob Christy, Liz Church, Sandra Copeland, Jacques Dicaire, John Douglas, Alyce Dunnewold, Gerry Dust, Edith Gardell, Eunice Getz, Jennifer Gow, Beth Gutsell, Bronwen Harman, Wayne Harris, Caroline Harry, Nancy Hazen, Alan Hébert, Charlotte Hoy, Janet Humphrey-Shepherd, Bruce Jackson, Marilyn Joseph, Cathie Kelso, Christine Kilburn, Brenda King, Kimberly Lavoie, Lori-Ann Livingston, Sharon MacDonalad, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Donald McLean, Karen McLean, Brenda McLeod, Darlene Nicol, Andrea Nugent, Mike Ostrander, David Patterson, Janice Perron, Barbara Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, Eleanore Rintoul, David Rockwell, Cathy Ryan, Paul Sales, Peter Sauk, Sue Smarkala, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, James Sonley, Linda Stronski, Linda Suddaby, Desna Sulway, Diane Tappin, Margaret Torrence, Lee Torvi, Jim Watchorn, Paul Whiteley, Judy Willows, Jack Wilson, Everard Zytveld

Candidates (2)

Jamie Hill, Karen Percy

Regional Council Staff (8)

Éric Hébert-Daly (voting privileges) Anita Jansman, Natalie Matkovsky (voting privileges), Joel Miller, Tori Mullin, Nikki Nel, Caroline Penhale, Whit Strong (voting privileges)

Guests of the Regional Council (33)

Roxanne Akhtar, Alicia Aloria, Kimberley Allen-McGill, Ann Babin, Arla Bailey, Hugh Ballem, Sherry Blaedow, Howard Cain, David Clemis, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Roxanne Delmage, Brenda Dorland, Emeig Enrico, Tammy Fergusson, Ian Gibson, Marilyn Hamilton, Donna Hawkes, Helen Joseph, Jessica Knoyle, Sharron Ladouceur, David Lee, Patricia Mayberry, Lynn McCaw, Don McLean, George Neville,

Julee Pauling, Zara Rajakoba, Emmanuel Tehindrazanarivelo, Heather Torrance, Fiona Toth, Rousseau Whitley, Brian Willows, Norma Wrightly

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Session One **Friday, May 31st 2024** *“The first 100 years”*

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 (led by Pat Mayberry, vocals, and Paul Sales, on piano) included: ‘Holy, Holy Holy’; ‘All Creatures of Our God and King’; ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling’.

Opening Worship/Land Acknowledgement

Opening worship began with the singing of “The Church’s One Foundations’ adapted from the inaugural worship of The United Church of Canada, on June 10, 1925. Rev. Susan DeHaan led the land acknowledgement, recognizing that this annual general meeting took place on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation. This was followed by a Call and Response and The Lord’s Prayer. and opening worship. The Scripture reading included Psalm 100 (spoken response) and John 17:1, 2, 6, 17-23. Opening worship closed with a Prayer and the singing of hymn ‘O Spirit of the Living God’.

Words of Welcome from Trinity United Church

Helen Barkley, lay representative from Trinity United Church welcomed delegates to the meeting and provided housekeeping information (bathrooms, exits, etc.). Mike Flechka, Building-Use Coordinator, shared how Trinity United Church is going green. The whole building uses LED lights. There are two new energy efficient fridges. Electric water heater. 5 external heat pumps to replace boilers. Systems continue to operate at -30 C. Mike explained how a heat pump works. The five units cost \$120,000 (installation, duck work). The Church received funding through Faithfull Footprints, fundraising, grants offered by EOORC, and charitable offerings within the Church. In the winter, where the heat pumps were operational, 1 gas furnace was used. The next winter (after all installations are installed), the hope is no gas will be used. Hybrid system (oil and electric) saved \$1000 last winter. Mike invited anyone who is interested in “going green” to talk with him to learn more about the process.

Welcome from the President

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, and Chair, introduced the head table. Announced Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister is leaving for sabbatical the next day. Barbara Reynolds was thanked for Chairing the planning team and helping to make the meeting possible. Delegates were asked to provide input following the meeting, and include in their feedback, whether they preferred meeting in an arena or a church hall. Eric instructed attendees on how to use the simultaneous translation headsets.

Call to Order

The President called the meeting 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.”

Nominations (President-Elect, Member at Large of the Executive)

Bronwen Harmen shared that nomination is receiving expression of interests for President-Elect until noon. For the positions of Member at Large on the Executive, nomination will close at 3 PM. The link was shared for how to get access to the expression of interest forms online, and for those in person to visit Bronwen.

Omnibus Motion

2024-05-06-31-01_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 4th 2023 be received and accepted as amended: *1. Additional information on page six re Golden Lake Camp and addition of an Appendix E, 2. Addition to attendance list of representative to EOORC, Brenda McLeod, Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church 3. Addition of retiree Rev. Janet Evans in the Report Book; see Appendix A;*
3. That the 2024 EOORC Report Book be received and accepted as circulate, see **Appendix B**;
4. That the 2023 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council be received and accepted as circulated, see **Appendix C¹**;
5. That the 2024 Financial Report be received and accepted as circulated, see **Appendix C²**;
6. That Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, through its Executive, appoint an Internal Independent Review Committee to review and produce the 2024 Financial Statements;
7. That nominations be opened at 10 AM for positions of President-Elect and Members at Large on the Executive, and be closed at noon);
8. That nominations be opened at 10 AM for positions of Members at Large on the Executive, and be closed at 3 PM;
9. That the Equity Support Person for this meeting be Rev. Michelle Robichaud;
10. That the Scrutineers/Stewards for this meeting be: Wayne Harris, Head Stewards; (Friday) Phyllis MacRae, Charles Barrett, Edith Gardell, Alyce Dunnewold; (Saturday) Rev. Ed Gratton, Rev. Kathryn Peate, Janice Peron;
11. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be: (Friday) Rev. Stephen Clifton, Rev. Don Stiles; (Saturday) Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Rev. Grant Dillenbeck;
12. That the following people serve as Chaplain for this meeting: (Friday) Rev. Kim Vidal; (Saturday) Rev. Lorrie Lowes;
13. That this meeting includes the behavioral covenant and virtual manners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Voice: We are called to be bold disciples,

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

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

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

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

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

Virtual Manner

Use the Chat feature of Zoom appropriately:

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

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

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

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

Greetings from The Moderator

(Video Presentation) The Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne extended greetings from the office of the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, expressed appreciation for the unique public witness of The United Church of Canada provided through Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, and acknowledged with gratitude the many invitations received to come to this regional council. Carmen highlighted that time was approaching to prepare for General Council 45 (starting online June 14, 2025 and continuing in person in Calgary August 7-11, 2025) and invited all to consider submitting their names to be Commissioners (with a special invitation extended to youth of the regional council).

Treasurer's Report

Rev. Brian Cornelius, Regional Council Treasurer, extended gratitude to the members of the Finance Leadership Team who reviewed the 2023 financial statements. The deficit was less than expected; it was \$13,000 instead of \$70,000. There are \$229,000 of unrestricted funds. The 2024 Budget: October presented a significant deficit of \$100,000. A working group was created to address the deficit and create a 50,000 deficit instead. A working budget was presented to the Executive (and accepted) and the deficit was reduced to \$16,000 - Less than 2% variance (well balanced budget). There have been some changes to income. Expenses have also been drawn back. Policy Adjustment: a proposal is underway to increase the percentage that can be drawn from investment funds. The regional council received appreciation for its support to Golden Lake Camp (Mission Support funding had ended). It is expected that overall Mission Support funding will not be cut again next year, but it is expected that there will be increase in requests because of the decrease to Mission Support funding in the previous year. EOORC has 8-10 communities of faith investing through the regional council. This started in 2022. The return in 2023 was 8.3 % Changes have come to how the treasurer does bank. Checks are no longer encouraged, and instead move to electronic banking. Travel expenses are being reimbursed through e-transfer. Delegates were encouraged to see Brian for immediate payment of travel expenses.

Break

A 30-minute break was had by all for refreshments, stretching and fellowship.

Did You Know? History in this RC

Susan Hutton, DLM Presented: Rev. Samuel Dwight Chown (11 April 1853 – 30 January 1933) was a Methodist minister (Sydenham Street Methodist Church, Kingston, ON) who led the Methodist Church of Canada into the United Church of Canada in 1925. To gain support of the Presbyterian Church joining into union, Rev. Chown withdrew his candidacy for Moderator in support of Rev. George C. Pidgeon, a Presbyterian Church leader, who would go on to become the first Moderator of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Chown went on to write “The Story of Church Union in Canada”. In 1975 an eight-cent stamp was created commemorating Rev. Samuel Dwight Chown for his role in forming The United Church of Canada.

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly Presented: Rev. Gisele Gilfillan, Wakefield United Church invited nurse Mindy, a psychiatric nurse from Montreal, to speak at a church event, and share her experience working with gogos (gogo is a term of respect for an elderly person) in south Africa that looked after their orphaned grandchildren. This initial visit prompted Nurse Mindy to organize a second visit where she would bring Rose, another women, from South Africa, and working directly with the gogos, to engage in conversation as part of the Beads of Hope campaign. Norma Geggie, member at Wakefield United Church, had a conversation with Rose, and proposed the idea of grandmothers in Wakefield being matched with gogos in South Africa. The Wakefield Grannies was formed, and eventually moved on to become a national and

international movement, and helped raise public awareness of the plight of children left orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

Wall Street United Church, Outreach and Social Action Committee

Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Minister at Wall Street United Church, shared that the Outreach and Social Action Committee at the church, worked with KAIROS to create a petition in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action, number 62.1 (calling upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to: 1. make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students). On May 17, 2016, the petition was tabled, and MPP thanked the Outreach and Social Action Committee at Wall Street United Church and KAIROS for their efforts in creating the petition. It was the first petition of its kind across the country to generate action on number 62.1.

History of Affirm United

Bronwen Harman shared some of the history of Affirm United: 1970s Lesbian and Gay Church members began to create support groups for one another. The United Churches began producing resources. In 1982, Gays and Lesbians created their formal identity within the church. 1984 formed friends of Affirm. In 1988 came the decision at general council that all people, no matter their sexual orientation are to be considered members and eligible for ordination and commissioning. 1991, Affirm established a congregational program. In 1998 Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly published *Daring to be United*. 2001 Affirm United agreed to add transgendered people. 2003 The Affirm Ministries program was created. 2006, Same sex marriage in the church, 2009, Church affirms participation and ministry of transgendered people. Ruth Wood (Kingston Presbytery) tells her story for GC 41 (2012). Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson becomes first openly gay Moderator (GC 41) and then Jordan Cantwell Moderators GC42 becomes first openly lesbian Moderator (first in any Mainline Christian denomination). 2019, March 14th first national PIE Day. In November 2023, EOORC celebrates becoming an Affirming regional council.

Roxanne Akthar shared her personal testimony about being accepted into The United Church and emphasized that outside the church there still exists much opposition to the gay community in the church. It is important that the church continues to fight against phobias that are still prevalent in Church and society. Roxanne shared how for her The United Church of Canada has been a place of welcome and acceptance. God loves and celebrates all people. To the LTGB community: the United Church of Canada is a place where "You are welcome and supported as a beloved child of God!"

Shared Ministry with El Salvador Community

Rev. Bill Smith, past Executive Secretary of Bay of Quinte Conference, shared that for the past 37 years, Emmanuel United Church has held a shared ministry (and global partnership) with Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel of El Salvador; and this has had profound impact on Bill's life. In 1987 a person from El Salvador walked through the doors of Emmanuel United Church (Bill was the Minister at the time) explaining that his church was called Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel in El Salvador. This person was invited to participate (and translation was provided), and the relationship began. At that time, Emmanuel was poised for change and Juan walked in looking for hospitality. The Salvadorian Community in Ottawa (100 Salvadorans) soon-after joined Emmanuel United Church. Emmanuel added Spanish to their bulletins and learned Spanish hymns. Eventually Emmanuel United Church sponsored two ministers from El Salvador, and an adapted worship and service was created. Families seeking hospitality had lost lots (people seeking refuge, after losing traditions, families, accreditations). Eventually, three folks from Emmanuel spent three

weeks in El Salvador during the war, needing to learn more of the reality in El Salvador. Death squads were still active after the war ended. To this day, members from Emmanuel United Church, and others from within EOORC (neighboring regional council) continues to pilgrimage to El Salvador.

Bill shared photos from most recent voyage. Small ministry groups are created for worship every day, reconvene each night to share experiences. There are walls protecting towns from various gangs, the walls are painted with colorful murals. There are lots of razor wire on the top of walls. Churches in El Salvadore created orphanage for children of parents killed in civil war 1979-1992. At that time there was lots of use of military force to suppress poor. Over 30,000 people were killed. Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador, became the voice of the people “even if they kill me my blood will rise up in the people” He was killed two days after saying these words. The Chapel where he was killed is also a monument. He was shot to death holding up the chalice. Many people worship in the crypt where Ramero was killed. Many people were tortured during the civil war. Roses are now planted where bodies were found. Museum, shows bible with bullet tearing through it. There is a wall with all the names of those who died (30,000).

The current president of El Salvador, elected on the promise of getting rid of gangs, has unfortunately placed many young men into jail (without fair trials). El Salvador is a place with lots of children, and there are lots of missions to help the children. There is a school Colegio Baustista Emmanuel. Curriculum is based upon encouraging peace. During the pilgrimage there is lots of worship. Travelers from the United Church join building projects of parts of the schools, fences (to protect children from gangs). The most recent trip focused on building cisterns to collect and distribute water.

Rev. Grant Stuckless shared a personal testimony of his experience, highlighting that the people in El Salvador are determined, faithful, and joyous people. El Salvador is a global partner of The United Church of Canada. The United Church will continue to share the in the load, carry the load together, will continue in partnership for as long as possible. The next trip will take place in two years.

Lunch

Barbara Renolds, Chair of the Planning Leadership Team, reminded all in attendance that there was a book displays and a book-exchange. Afterward, Barbara led a Grace, and a catered meal was served (prepaid with registration).

Gathering Music

Gathering music (led by Pat Mayberry and Shiela Rodgers, vocals, Donna Hawks, piano, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, percussion) included: ‘Be Thou my Vision’, ‘Thine is the Glory’, ‘Come Down, O Love Divine’, ‘Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven’.

Church History: 1925-1975

Susan Toller (was a candidate for Diaconal Ministry, Commissioned at the Celebration of Ministry service in the evening) began her presentation with a prayer and the singing of hymn ‘In Christ There is No East or West’. Susan shared some of the history that led to the formation of The United Church of Canada (UCC); the joining of the Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches in 1925. The UCC inherited nine residential schools when it formed. During the great depression, UCC congregations provided food for the hungry, the UCC stood against antisemitism, and began becoming more involved in national and international affairs. Lydia Emelie Gruchy became the first women to be ordained by the UCC in 1936. During the second world war, the UCC Statement of Faith in the 1940 reflected the world

of sin and appealed for man to turn to God for forgiveness, through Christ death and resurrection. At its 20th anniversary, the Moderator of the UCC, Jesse Arnup, launched a spiritual revival campaign “Crusade for Christ and His kingdom” and rededicated the churches entire ministry and membership to Christ. Following the war the UCC entered into its ‘golden age’ with expanding churches, new education curriculums, and efforts to reach French speak Protestants. During the 1960’s, church membership began to decline. The UCC turned its focus to disarmament and ending apartheid, ecumenism grew, and the church began to refocus its missionary work. The United Church Women was created. In 1968 the development of the New Creed, to replace the Basis of Union, used simpler language and shorter. The word ‘sin’ was replaced with the ‘call to seek justice and resist evil’. The 1970 hear the voices on the margins, women, indigenous groups, gays and lesbians, to challenge society to rethink its hierarchical structures. In 1969 the UCC ended its role with residential schools. Stan McKay became the first Indigenous Moderator; Wilbur Howard, the first Black Moderator. In 1975 the UCC celebrated its 50th anniversary, reemphasized the New Creed, and had a worship theme of “Come, welcome, Holy Spirit, breath new life in us and make many one in a unity of faith”. Following Susan’s presentation, all sang ‘Like a Healing Stream’.

Women in the Church

Rev. Takoui Demirdjian-Petro, past-president of EOORC, shared a chronological history of the women in ministry within the UCC. In 1936 Lydia Emelie Gruchy became the first women to be ordained by the UCC. 1953, a committee is created to study role of women in the United Church. In 1970 women Diaconal ministers can marry and retain full status. 1971, members of the Diaconal Order Full are made members of the court with full speaking and voting privilege. In 1978 the *Women’s Concerns* publication is created exploring issues from the Christian feminist perspectives. In 1980 the UCC elects its first female Moderator, The Right Rev. Lois Wilson, and then in 1986 its first lay women Moderator, The Right Anne Suire. In 1994, Virginia Coleman was elected as the first female General Secretary. 2011, Rev Takouhi Demirdjian-Petre becomes the first Armenian ordained minister of The United Church of Canada. Takouhi ended her presentation by encouraging all to let God’s story live through them, and “May our work continue to tumble down walls of division and build bridges of peace and love.”

United Church Women (UCW)

Carol Dallas Arbuckle, National Treasurer of the UCW, shared some of the history of the UCW. In 1956, the 17th General Council initiated the commission on the work of Women in the Church. Approval was given to this organization The United Church Women (UCW) at the General Council meeting held in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1960. UCW officially came into being on January 1, 1962 integrating the Woman’s Missionary Society and the Woman’s Association. The Woman’s Missionary Society was a world mission – oriented service and study group supporting almost 100 active missionaries around the world. The Woman’s Association focused on work in the local church and community. UCW Purpose was born: To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. The UCW is part of the Church in Mission Unit of The United Church of Canada. Every five years a new special project is chosen. 2022-27 is the Healing Fund. As of May 8th, UCW has raised \$32,169. In 2003 a national united church woman (NUCW) was called. The Agatha Kaasa Bursary Fund was established (for women’s work in the church); currently it supports many ministries. The restructuring of The United Church of Canada forced UCW into massive changes, and these changes limited communications between the new levels of the court with the UCW. But the work of UCW has continued (and continues) in full force.

1988 Decision on Sexual Orientation Within the Church

Rev. Dr. Alyson Huntly expanded on the year of 1988 within the UCC. Prior to that time, those who came out, or was outed as homosexuals were forced to stop candidacy work. 1800 Petitions were brought to the general council, with 94 % opposing ordination and commissioning of homosexuals. Marion Best led a sessional committee doing work of trying to find a consensus. Eventually the motion was presented declaring that all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members of the United Church, and all members are eligible to be considered for ordered ministry. This decision did not force Communities of Faith to follow suit in their governance, but it obliged them to understand that the Church will recognize unlimited membership and membership have no limitations on candidacy. Many congregations were not willing to accept this new decision but wanted to remain united. Pink Lemonade: at the 1988 General Council meeting, *affirm* group members were not allowed to participate in the conversation, so they served ice cold pink lemonade. Interactions that took place while lemonade was being served changed an observer's view who previously was fixed on being against homosexuals in the church. This General Council became a demonstration of the movement on the Spirit in the Church. The Spirit moves as it wills, and the UCC at this general council meeting displayed faithfulness and courage in following of the Spirit in 1988. The United Church was "on full public display" and the headlines at the time shone a spotlight on the church, whether it wanted it or not. Eventually, this act of bold discipleship, following the leading of the Spirit, helped the UCC become a vibrant and visible sign of God's passionate love for all, regardless of, sexual orientation... regardless of anything. All are beloved by God. This became a moment where the UCC proclaimed (and continues to) the news of Jesus Love, Hope and Promise of new life, here and now. Alyson ended her presentation by sharing a story about Rev. Sylvia Dunston (first out lesbian UCC Minister in 1981), and the hymns she had written (13 hymns of 40 written are in Voices United). At the end of her presentation, Alyson invited all to sing some verses written by Sylvia Dunston.

Residential Schools, Apologies and continued work

Rev. Dr. Jamie Scott shared how Scripture (Mathew 5:23-24) guided his work general council staff person for residential schools for 12 years: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Jamie shared how when growing up, he (and commonly most other settlers) was shielded from learning about the *Indian Act*, the residential school system, and the *Doctrine of Discovery*, and their impacts. *The Indian Act* moved First Peoples from 'trading partners' to 'wards of the state'. This led to the forced assimilation and indoctrination of indigenous children in residential schools. Residential schools began in the late nineteenth century (Methodist and Presbyterian mission schools). In total there were 135 residential schools in Canada operated by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches (UCC ran 13) - in 2008 the Canadian government issued a public apology. 150,000 children were sent to these schools; having no choice, and parents were jailed if they tried to prevent. Many children experienced the schools as incarceration. Children were taught to be ashamed of their language, culture and traditions. In 1969 the government of Canada ended the UCC role in residential schools. At the 1984 General Council the UCC began to remember its role in residential schools, and a demand for an apology grew. In 1986, the Moderator Robert Smith, in the UCC's first apology, acknowledged the imposing of Christian tradition on First Peoples but there was no reference to schools in apology. In the 1990's lawsuits began against Church and government. In 1998 the UCC was ordered to pay a compensation. The accountability process began, and the traumas or the residential schools were shared. Rev. Bill Phips, Moderator, issued a second apology, and confessed to the UCC complicity in residential schools, and being part of a systemic attempt to eradicate a People. Generations will be affected by the harm that has been over a hundred years in the

making. How do we appropriately live the UCC apology? By accepting the final report, tabled by Senator Murray Sinclair, *94 Calls to Action*. “The UCC has been presented a mountain, it has been shown the path, and it is for the UCC to climb it.” The United Church is/has taking steps: The Healing Fund, adopted 6 right relations principles at 2003 General Council, settled abuse claims, UCC was full parties to Truth and Reconciliation Commission process, submitted all documents related to residential schools to TRC, Developed the Children Remembered website, Funded mobile counsellors, created Right Relations Network, repudiated Doctrine of discover, revised the UCC Crest, strengthened First Peoples autonomy within the church, created *Calls to the Church*. There is still a long climb ahead. Structural injustice and racism are still prevalent. The things that corrupt and destroy life do not have the last word. The Spirit is sacredly connecting all of us to overcome.

Eric thanked and recognized members of the Right Relation Network for their campaign-charge to ensure that all of the Communities of Faith within the Regional Council voted on Remit 1.

Small Group discussions

30 minutes was allotted to small group discussion time, to ponder the following questions:

1. What did we learn over our 100 years,
2. what is it that can be important for us into the future?

Nominations Update

Bronwen Harmen, Chair of the Nominations Leadership Team provided an update regarding nominations. One person had put their name forward for position of President-Elect, and there remained two vacancies on the Executive. Bronwen shared the Nominations List

Leadership Teams

1. *Nominations*: Bronwen Harman (Chair), Rev. Michelle Robichaud, Karen McLean, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Sue Hutton, DLM, Rev. Susan DeHaan – as President (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Joel Miller) 2 vacancies (diversity in the Regions is missing)
2. *Pastoral Relations*: Wayne Harris (Chair), Ina Bromley, Charlotte Hoy, Sharon MacDonald, Jim Allen, Rev. Patsy Henry, Rev. Erin McIntyre, Linda Suddaby, Micheline Montreuil, D.M., Rev. Blair Paterson and Karen McLean (recording secretary) (Resource: Rev. Whit Strong) 2-4 vacancies – all MP
3. *Future Through Property Leadership Team* Phyllis MacRae (Chair), Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Ted Brett, Jim Allen (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly) 2-4 vacancies preferably from seaway valley and upper valley
4. *General Meetings/Educational Event Planning Leadership Team*: vacant (Chair), Sue Hutton, DLM, (Past-President), Rev. Susan DeHaan (President), (Past-President), Pat Mayberry, Gary McKay, David Patterson, Karen McLean - 6-8 vacancies (diversity to include youth leadership)
5. *Church Extension*: Directors: Mike Velichka, David Debenham, Alan Gale, Don Reynolds; Members: Catherine Grant, Judy Harms-Potter, Linda Suddaby, Ted Brett, Kevin Moratz; EOORC Appointments: Brian Cornelius (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly)
6. *Communications*: Lois Leroux, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro and David Patterson (Resource: Rev. Natalie Matkovsky)
7. *Finance*: Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Bruce Jackson, Joe Smarkala, Evered (Ev) Zytveld, Rev. Cindy Casey, Christine Kilburn, (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly) - 1 vacancy

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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) – 3 vacancies, 1 more LLWL and 2 non Lay non-LLWL
 9. *Scrivens-Baillie*: Malcolm Collins (chair) Ryan Babcock, Ken Brownness, Rev. Brian Cornelius, Larry Richardson, and Ev Zytveld (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly) - 2 vacancies
 10. *Vision & Transformation*: Rev. Cindy Casey (Chair), Charles Barrett, Phyllis MacRae, Janice Peron, Deb Poirier, Christine Cross-Barkley, Rev. Melany Cassidy-Wise, Rev. Michelle Robichaud and Rev. Sheryl McLeod (Staff Resource:-)
 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. *Equity Leadership Team*: Rev. Michelle Robichaud – 4 vacancies
 13. *Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils*: Charles Barrett (Chair) (Resource:-)
 14. *Stewardship*: Carolyn Ruda, Charlotte Hoy, Ray Lebeau, Nancy Hazen, Paul Sales and Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle and David Charles (Resource: Rev. Roger Janes)
 15. *Representative to The Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality*: Paul Whynacht
 16. *Affirming Leadership Team*: Linda Stronski, Cathy Ryan, Bronwen Harman, Kim Baird, Rev. Michelle Robichaud and Roxanne Akhtar (Resource: -)
 17. *Representatives to Multi-Faith Housing*: Sue Smarkala
 18. *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://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qLUYz3gmEUCTEhXw9xV1dHSA6ou6zAhAsw6OK8tGLT1UMDISMTVZMk1DQ0M2UURLU0NJTFVVRIRJOS4u>

Executive

2024-05-06-31-01_002 (B. Harman/S. DeHaan) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team to name the following people serve on the Executive:

EOORC Executive

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

1. President –Susan DeHaan (MP) (2026)
2. Past-President – Sue Hutton (MP) (2026)
3. President-Elect – Rev. Cindy Casey (MP)
4. Indigenous Community Representation – Rev. Nancy Best (MP)
Members at large:
5. Jim Allen (L) (2025) second term
6. Cathy Ryan (L) (2026) second term
7. Rev. Ryan Kim (MP) (2025) first term
8. Rev. Erin McIntyre (MP) (2026) first term
9. Micheline Montreuil, Diaconal Minister (MP) (2027)
10. Liz Church (L) (2027) second term
11. Nancy Hazen (L) (2025) first term
12. Sue Smarkala (L) (2027) First term

13. Gayle Barks(L) (2026) first term

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

Corresponding Members: Joel Miller (Assistant to RCEM and Secretary of Region), Rev. Natalie Matkovsky (Communications, Administrative Assistant, Archivist), Dana Ducette (Youth), Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek (Visioning, Clusters & Networks), Rev. Whit Strong (Pastoral Relations), Rev. Caroline Penhale (Office of Vocation, Candidacy Pathways), Rev. Brian Cornelius (Treasurer) and Nikki Nel (Camp Awesome Director).

CARRIED

Nominations (Pastoral Relations Commission)

2024-05-06-31-01_003 (Teresa Burnett-Cole/Paul Sales) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team to name Rev. Don Stiles to the Pastoral Relations Commission. **CARRIED**

Closing Worship inspired from Music in Voices United (from 1980 to 2000)

Closing worship began with a call and response, and the singing of hymn 'Psalm 100 - Make a Joyful Noise' by Lydia Good. Paul highlighted many of denominational shaping realities of the time between the 80's-2000: Sexual Orientation, effects of residential schools, inclusive language, project-ministry, integration of children in the life of the church, authority and interpretation of scripture, bearing faithful witness, among others. Paul encouraged all to consider the lyrics of hymns written at that time, and to identify their inspirations, and to see how writers reflected a church journeying together as the whole people of god, listening to one-another's experiences, and evolving as a church allowing for inclusion in all of its diversity. Paul shared the story of Gordon Light's hymn 'Draw the Circle Wide' and how Gordon's inspiration came while wrestling with the inclusion of gays into the church. Paul goes on to name many of the prolific writers of that time (and some of the present), giving thanks, and identifying them as the poetic souls that have helped shaped our theology. This time of worship closed with the singing of 'Draw the Circle Wide', a prayer litany and the singing of hymn 'Bless Now, O God, the Journey'.

Reminders

Eric reminded attendees to keep their simultaneous translation headsets; that the Celebration of Ministry service will take place at 7 PM, rehearsal beginning at 6 PM.

Dinner

Barbara Reynolds shared details for food service, and led Grace before dinner.

Celebration of Ministry

The Celebration of Ministry Service was held in the Sanctuary at Trinity United Church, situated in Ottawa, Ontario, beginning at 7 PM. The officiants and candidates entered the sanctuary to the processional hymn 'Called by Earth and Sky' (MV135). The service opened with words of welcome from President Sue Hutton, DLM, and which also included a summary of what was to take place during the service. This was followed by greetings from the United Church of Christ brought through Rev. Howard Cain, and then a welcoming by Rev. Junior Smith, Minister of Trinity United Church (Host congregation), who also provided a small reflection on discipleship. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, welcomed all in attendance, extended an invitation to all to worship in ways they are

comfortable, and highlighted some unique aspects contained in the bulletin. The Call to worship included a land recognition, which highlighted that that this celebration of ministries was being held on the traditional territory e Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation. Then, the Christ Candle was lit, followed by the Prayer of Approach, and the signing of the hymn ‘Spirit, Open My Heart’ (MV 79). The Scripture reading was Luke 4: 14-21 and verses were read aloud by each of the candidates. Rev. Anthony Bailey shared a reflection entitled “The Urgency of Today” which was followed by the singing of ‘My Lord What a Morning’ (VU708).

The Celebration and Thanksgiving in Memoriam was led by Rev. Whit Strong, the Pastoral Relations Minister, remembering members of the Order of Ministry of the Regional Council who had died throughout the most recent church calendar year – Rev. Douglas Blair, Rev. George Earnest Clifford, Rev. Barry Goodwin, Rev. Linda Harrison, Rev. J.B. Anderson McKee, Rev. Donald Alexander McKenzie, Rev. James Young-Key Min, Rev. Elizabeth Praamsma, Rev. David Spivey, Rev. Robert P. (Bob) Williams, and Rev. E. Lois Wilson (see *Appendix A*, Report Book for obituaries). The memoriam was followed by the singing of hymn ‘I’ll Fly Away’ and was lead with the guitar musical accompaniment of David Henderson. Rev Whit Strong also led the celebration of the ministries of those retiring highlighting the following members of the Order of Minister– Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, Rev. Christine Gross, Rev. Andrew Jensen, Rev. Christopher Ryan and Rev. Sandra Yule (see *Appendix A*, Report Book for biography). This part of the service ended with a concluding Prayer, and then in the singing of hymn ‘Deep in Our Hearts’ (MV154). Several ministers were highlighted for celebrating significant anniversaries in ministry and their names were read aloud (see *Appendix A*, Report Book for a complete list of ministry personnel celebrating anniversaries in ministry). Changing Ministries were also honored, and congregations who had recently closed or amalgamated were recognized: Balderson United Church amalgamation with St. Andrew’s Lanark United Church, sale of Balderson United Church; amalgamation of Burnstown and St. Andrew’s United in White Lakes; amalgamation of Bishops Mills and Oxford Mills United Churches; amalgamation of North Gower and Carsonby United Churches; closing of Knox-Edwards, Merrickville and Pendleton United Churches. The hymn ‘O God Our Help in Ages Past (VU 806)’ was sung following these recognitions. Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly led the offering, which followed with the singing of ‘For the Fruits of All Creation’ (VU 227) and Prayer.

A Celebration of New Ministries began with the reciting of “Our Affirmation of Faith”. The candidates were presented by Rev, Caroline Penhale, Office of Vocation Minister for the Regional Council. Each of the candidates declared their vows and were presented with a bible and certificate. Family and friends presented each with a stole. The Regional Council presented Chalices and Patens to each of the candidates. Following the affirmation of the candidates, those in attendance responded with Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958). The hymn ‘I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (VU 509) closed this portion of the service.

David Henderson	Recognized as a Designated Lay Minister of the United Church of Canada
Susan DeHaan	Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada
Susan Toller	Commissioned to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada
Patricia Power	Ordained to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care of the United Church of Canada

The liturgy of Holy Communion (adapted from a version prepared by the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, 43rd Moderator, of the United Church of Canada) and was led by Rev. Caroline Penhale and Rev. Steve Clifton, member of the candidacy board. It began with a Call and Response, the sharing of the Elements, the Prayer after Communion, and the signing of hymn ‘Come Touch Our Hearts (Come Touch and Bless) (MV 12)’. The Executive Minister shared a closing benediction which was followed by the recessional hymn ‘Will Your Anchor Hold’ (VU 675).

Session Two
Friday, May 31st 2024
“The next 100 years”

Gathering Music

Gathering music (led by Danah-Lee Krieger, vocals on piano, Paul Sales, vocals) included: ‘Seek Ye First’; ‘As the Deer’; ‘Jésus, je voudrais te chanter’, ‘Spirit of Life’, ‘He will save’.

Welcome Back!

Sue Hutton, DLM, President, welcomed all back to this second session of the meeting. After a few housekeeping announcements (reminder to return nametags and headsets at the end of meeting), the meeting moved into opening worship.

Opening Worship

After the Christ Candle was lit, Nicole Beaudry (representative from Bells Corners United Church) led worship with a Call and Response, an Opening Prayer, and a responsive reading of Scripture (Psalm 78:1-7 as told by James Tayler). Nicole shared reflection entitled “Hier, aujourd’hui et demain / Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow” and highlighted what people, poets and writers have said about the ‘past’, the ‘present’ and the ‘future’, and how these three tenses are part of us as we journey in our life and in our church journeys. When we look back through the past 25 years of the UCC, we see so many different words that describe the life of the church throughout this quarter century:

Anti-racism - Aboriginal peoples- Aboriginal Ministries Circle - Apology- A Song of Faith - Beads of Hope- Bringing the Children Home - Call and Vision - Candidacy Pathway - Carmen Lansdowne - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) -Climate Change - Community of Faith - Comprehensive Review Task Group- COVID-19- David Giuliano - Equity Officer - First Virtual meeting of General Council - Electronic meetings- Full Communion Agreement - Gary Patterson - Gathering worship.ca - Guaranteed Livable Income - Hybrid - Inclusive language- Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement - Iridesce - Jordan Cantwell - Land Acknowledgement - LGBTQ+ - La Table des Ministères en français - Mardi Tindal - Marion Pardy - Michael Blair - Middle East - More Voices- National Indigenous Organization - New United Church Crest - Nora Sanders - Nos Voix Unies - Office of Vocation - Pandemic- Peter Short- Postponement of General Council 44 - Racial justice - Reconciliation - Regional Councils - Responsable des MeF - Richard Bott- Sandy–Saulteaux Spiritual Centre - Same-sex Marriage - Self-determining Indigenous Church - Strategic Plan - The United Church of Canada Foundation - Then Let Us Sing -Three-Council Model - Truth and Reconciliation Commission- United For Peace Campaign - Unsettling Goods - Vaccins -Virtual- YouTube Channel – Zoom.

But some descriptions remain missing from this timeline: The active life of Franco-Protestants and resources within the UCC. Words like: La Table, Consistoire Laurentien, Aujourd’hui Credo, and more.

By the 1900's there were 100 francophone ministries with 70 ministers, and these missions joined in solidarity the union of 1925. Nicole invited all to visit <https://egliseunie.ca/> to learn more. Do not forget the past, be grateful for the present (while seizing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ) and know that the future belongs to the church with the widest doors. Nicole called all to stand and recite The New Creed. Opening worship ended with the singing of a hymn composed by Lambert (as composer from Quebec) entitled 'Un nouveau paradis' and a closing benediction.

Following the opening worship Eric introduced Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Djacoba Tehindrazanarivelo, the new *Responsable de La Table des ministères en français*

Stewardship

Rev. Roger Janes, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff, shared a video presentation highlighting the role of stewardship throughout the Regional Council. As the Community of Faith Stewardship Staff person Roger provides communities of faith with resources, support, and coaching, in the areas of: Community of Faith Stewardship, Mission and Service, and Planned Giving. Roger highlighted a couple of resources available to congregations: The Stewardship Programs online, through CHURCHX, and the Community of Faith Stewardship webpage (www.united-church.ca/stewardship). Roger introduced his colleague Lindsay Vautour, who is the Donor Engagement Stewardship Associate; her email is - lvautour@united-church.ca, and thanked the Regional Stewardship Committee under the leadership of Carolyn Ruda. Roger invited any one interested in learning more about Stewardship to contact him : Phone: 1-800-268-3781 Ext. 2072 / Email: RJanes@united-church.ca.

Greetings from the General Council Office and the Office of the Moderator and General Secretary

Rev. Lori-Ann Livingston, Press and Public Relations Lead for the UCC, shared some background information about her role, which includes pitching stories to the media, writing media releases, liaising with media, and improving the transparency of the General Council Office and the General Council Executive. Lori highlighted some significant retirements happening at the General Council office: Shirley Welch, administrative assistant for governance, is retiring after 40 years; Patti Talbot, team lead and regional coordinator in the global partnership program, retires after almost 30 years; and Erik Mathieson, executive officer, finance, retires after 15 years. Lori highlighted the Moderator's (The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne) *Flourishing* national tour. Lori also shared some of the events leading up to the centennial celebration of The United Church of Canada. The Communications unit has launched a Centennial newsletter, which will have archival stories, photos, upcoming Centennial events, etc. There are also Centennial-themed worship resources on united-church.ca, and there will be a whole outreach campaign, including fundraising, over the next year or two. Lastly, Lori announced that the national offices of The United Church of Canada, The Anglican Church of Canada, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada will all move under one roof at 300 Bloor St. in Toronto.

Following Lori's presentation, the question was raised about the Total Compensation Plan. It was explained that this is a national process being looked after by the General Council and that the Regional Council is not part of this process (a nomination's process extended invitations to ordered and lay members within the UCC interested in being part of focus groups in June). A report should be available in September.

Invitation to become a General Council 45 Commissioner

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdown, Moderator of the United Church of Canada invited member to begin discerning if they would like to let their name stand as a Commissioner to General Council 45.

General Council 45 starts online June 14, 2025 and continues in person in Calgary August 7-11, 2025. More information is available at <https://generalcouncil44.ca/council/preparing-gc45>.

Reigniting Evangelism: A Contemporary Approach to Building Faith and Trust

Rev. Evan Swance-Smith shared a reflection on what it means to respond to the Call in the Bible to Spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love our neighbors by inviting them into our faith stories and sharing the way God's love has touched our lives. Evangelism carries some negative connotations, because it has been known to create exclusion and division (fundamentalism), instead of being welcoming to all. Evangelism is not about filling pews (Evangelical mega churches have over a 95% turnover rate within two years!), it is about using resources (and understanding them) and discerning how to be Church in the world. Research has shown that compared to 2015, in 2023 new ministers are feeling less confident about their calling. What are the implications of this and what can be done to foster more confidence? Data also shows that the demographics are shifting. What are the implications of this and how can the UCC position itself to be a spiritual home for upcoming generations who are not well versed in Scripture? Or, how is the UCC to respond to the younger generations where more than 40% don't believe in God - or trust the traditional way in which the way the Gospel is shared – the UCC is historically known a predominantly 'white' church (Evan suggested to read *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallace)? Evangelism in this contemporary way (understanding changing demographics, discerning what the data is saying, making use of existing resources, meeting generations where they are at, building faith and trust, and seizing those opportunities to share Love), will unleash the Holy Spirit so that God's Love flows more abundantly throughout the world.

Workshops

Delegates were invited to attend one of 2 workshops being offered: 1. *Music Workshop* led by Rev. Peter Woods and 2. *10 tips for Growth* led by Rev. Michel Anderson.

10 tips for Growth

Rev. Michel Anderson shared 10 growth tips, organized under three themes: *Vision*, *Structure*, and *Culture*. *Vision*: 1. You need a vision for growth. 2. Vision is best articulated by a lead or solo minister, not committees. 3. Vision is sustained by systems. *Structure*: 4. Let mission and ministry drive money, not the other way around. 4. Make decisions and take action quickly. 6. High on people, high on performance. *Culture*. 7. Practice radical hospitality. 8. Have a missional orientation, not a membership orientation. 9 A high risk appetite and high change agility. 10. It's all about Jesus.

Gathering Music

Gathering music (led by Danah-Lee Krieger, vocals, Paul Sales, vocals and piano, Pat Mayberry, vocal and guitar, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, percussion, Rev. Peter Woods, soprano saxophone): 'Open Our Hearts', 'This is the Day', 'Over My Head'

Four Attitudes of Evangelism

Rev. Tory Mullin, Growth Animator. The importance of sharing the Good News with others. 1 Peter 3:15b "Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you". But how? Some Considerations: 1. Evangelism requires consent. 2. We earn the right to share. 3. Evangelism requires words. The First Attitude: 1. *Open* "My heart is open to encountering Christ in others, both familiar and strangers". 2. *Curious* "I care about those around me and listen to them deeply". 3. *Prayerful* "I invite God to lead my thoughts and actions so that I may love others well". 4 *Bold* "When invited, I risk sharing my story of transformation with others". Tori shared some ordinary moments of evangelism:

Sharing our God stories in church – Open Mic Sundays at Wesley United; Offering to pray for someone; Making a statement against injustice as a faith community.

Small Group Discussion

Following Tori's presentation, the following questions were considered for small group discussions:

Open

Question: Reflect on a time you encountered Christ in someone else.

Activity: Share with your family or a good friend where you saw God this week.

Curious

Question: Reflect on a conversation you had with someone where you felt like they were genuinely interested in you as a person, what made you feel this way?

Consider: Make conversation this week with someone at church you don't normally speak to. What did you learn about them?

Prayerful

Activity: Write yourself a short prayer to say when you meet someone during your day. Consider writing it on a post-it you can carry with you, or on your phone.

Bold

Activity: Write down your story of transformation, consider including these prompts: • God was there for me when.... • My faith has changed me in these ways... • To me, Jesus is... • My Good News is... • I believe because...

Lunch

Immediately following small group discussions, session two paused for lunch.

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)

EOORC has been a member of MHI since 2015. MHI provides many 1 – 4 bedroom apartments that are safe, supportive, affordable, and attractive. Housing comes with wrap around services and support. MHI Capital Campaigns: In 2017, \$103,000 was raised for The Haven. From 2020 - 2021, \$380,000 was raised for Veterans' House. Rent Subsidy Campaign: Since 2002, EOORC has been involved in Tulipathon to raise funds for rent subsidies. United Churches have been involved in MHI providing shelter for the homeless and those in need of a place to call home since 2002. The next build to support the 12,000 men, women and children on the social housing registry in Ottawa will be at LeBreton flats. Dream LeBreton will be comprised of 601 apartments: 133 will be owned and operated by MHI; 30 will be designated for Indigenous individuals or families (MHI has a goal of \$1.6 million to offset these unit costs). Bell's Corners United began fundraising in 2024. Their Lenten Project raised \$10,380. Congregations are being asked to create their own campaigns over the next 2 years to help meet our goal. All amounts raised will help us reach our objectives. Congregational funds raised will be tracked on the MHI website. The proposal is that EOORC fundraise to support these units. Currently there are 23 United Church members. Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett Cole has created an Indigenous worship service. The service was recorded at Glebe St. James on April 7, 2024. Rev. Burnett Cole has given copyright permission for the prayers and hymn, songs and sermon from the service. This video can be used to help raise awareness of MHI and encourage support for providing affordable housing to Indigenous people.

2024-05-06-31-01_004 (Dianne Cardin/Sue Smarkala) WHEREAS Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council is a member of Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), along with 23 congregations, and

WHEREAS the United Churches in our Regional Council have supported Capital Campaigns for The Haven and Veterans' House, and

WHEREAS affordable housing is a critical and essential need in many communities including Ottawa, and

WHEREAS the United Church is committed to strengthening our Right Relationships with Indigenous people;

RESOLVED that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, endorses the approval of the EOORC Executive that congregations be allowed to raise funds for the Dream LeBreton Capital Campaign with a goal of \$150,000.

CARRIED

Ottawa School of Theology (OSTS)

Norma Wrightly. "Connecting people on a path of faith and learning." That is the motto of the Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality and has been the ethos of the school since 1963. The objective was to help develop a laity who were theologically and spirituality alert. "Connecting people on a path of faith and learning" has been the school's focus: past, present and for future visioning. Our course lineup, I think, is a good example of exactly that.

The fall line-up includes:

- An introduction to the Baha'i Faith with Jóhanna Jochumsdóttir.
- "Just Wars": A brief history of a lure and a trap with Rev. Maxime Allard.
- "From the Heart: Indigenous Spirituality, Culture and Identity." Indigenous speakers from different communities in Canada will share their knowledge—speakers will include Carole Brazeau, Prof. Richard Budgell, Mary Fontaine, and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole.

The second part of the Fall Term features...

- "Introduction to the Gospel of John" with Jason Lamatia.
- "Why Advent? Christmas is almost here" with Rev. Martin Malina.
- "Cultural Hermeneutics with Reformation Artists" presented by Pastor Andy Breubacher-Kaethler.

Most courses are now offered by ZOOM and the winter semester will be entirely offered that way. The denominational representatives to the school are: Anglican: Canon Hilary Murray; Presbyterian: Rev. Christopher Clarke, who is also our current Dean; Roman Catholic: Dr. Scott Ventureyra; and from the United Church's Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, the Rev. Paul Whynacht. OSTS looks both forward and is also proud of its rich history. Several memorable lectures are documented in the book *Triumph of Hope*, published in 2013, as part of the school's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality seeks your support by posting flyers and brochures on church bulletin boards, putting an announcement in your bulletins and newsletters, adding website links

and promote the courses within your communities of faith, with your teams and committees.

Worship Showcase

Meditation (Soul Space) – Lynn Fischer: Soul Space provides holistic care for the spirits of street health, harm reduction, community and social service workers in Ottawa. For more information visit: <https://www.soulpaceottawa.ca/about-us>

Godly Play – Lindsay Hamilton: Godly Play incorporates the Montessori method which is a type of educational method that involves children's natural interests and activities rather than formal teaching methods. Godly Play makes meaning through story, wonder, and play. Nurturing spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children.

Music and Meditation (Rev. Peter Woods on saxophone, Chris Pond on piano and violoncello, Rev. Dr Teresa Burnett-Cole on percussion) – Using music (and poetry) as a means of bringing people into the present moment.

Movement Choir/Liturgical Dance (Wendy Morrell, Parkdale United Church) – Slow, dreamlike movement style to spiritual and social issues.

Labyrinth – A "typical" labyrinth experience involves preparing oneself at the threshold, following the single path to the center, spending time in the center, following the same pathway out the threshold, and then responding to the experience.

Recognitions

Bronwen Harman, Past-President, and Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, Indigenous Community Representative, and Linda Suddaby were recognized (and presented with gifts) for their roles in serving on the regional council Executive. Their terms now come to an end, and their contributions and leadership over a span of six-years have been a blessing to this regional council. Following a short liturgical service recognizing these individuals, the following hymn was sung: 'We Have This Ministry'.

Covenanting with Members of the Newly Formed Executive

Eric led covenanting service of the newly formed Executive: "When we covenant with one another, we make a solemn promise to each other. When we take on the multitude of roles, we do so with a clear understanding of upholding one another, rather than tearing down. The covenant we commit to sustains all those who are a party to it... because it is in relationship that we bring about the Kingdom of God."

Welcoming the New President of the Regional Council

Rev. Susan DeHaan was greeted and celebrated as she takes on the role of Regional Council President. Susan was presented with the Regional Council stole, a gavel, a copy of *The Manual* and a talking stick. Following, members of the Regional Council extended appreciation and thanks to Sue Hutton, DLM, who moves into the role of Past-President. The Regional Council had been blessed by Sue's leadership in her role as President throughout the past two years.

Closing Benediction

Sue Hutton, DLM, led the closing benediction, shared a brief recap of this annual general meeting, led in the reciting of The Lord's Prayer, and the singing of a closing hymn 'A Hundredth Hymn'.

Prayers for Eric on His Pilgrimage Walking the Camino

Intercessory Prayer was offered for Eric (and the laying on of hands), as he set off on a two month pilgrimage walking the Camino (which began immediately following the meeting).

Sue Hutton, DLM, President,
Chair

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly,
Executive Minister

Joel Miller,
Recording Secretary

Appendices

*All appendices are available on the EOORC website: <https://eoorc.ca/spring-annual-meeting-2024/>

Appendix A Minutes of Fall General Meeting held on November 4th 2023

Appendix B Report Book (2024)

Appendix C¹ 2023 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Appendix C² 2024 Financial Report

Re Amended General Meeting Minutes (November 4, 2023)

Appendix E Appendix E -Archives re Golden Lake Camp