
FALL GENERAL MEETING

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Fall General Meeting on Saturday, October 5th at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, Ottawa, Ontario. The theme for this meeting was "Courageous Community". A summary of this meeting was prepared by Rev. Natalie Matkovsky Communications Staff Lead: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Fall-Meeting-Summary-for-Congregations.pdf>.

Saturday, October 5th 2024

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT SESSION ONE OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

Ministry Personnel (46)

Kofi Akoussah, Don Anderson, Anthony Bailey, Edward Barbezat, Stephanie Bates, Elaine Beattie, Nancy Best, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Brian Cornelius, Susan DeHaan, Paul Dillman, Frank Emanuel, Ed Gratton, Dan Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Susan Hutton, Minhyuk Hwang, James Kenney, Jenni Leslie, Camille Lipsett, Lorrie Lowes, Alwin Maben, Zacharia Mandara, Erin McIntyre, Don McLean, Paul McLenaghan, Laurie McKnight, Anne Montgomery, Kevin Moratz, James Murray, Blair Paterson, Kathryn Peate, Marion Reilly, Michelle Robichaud, Shelley Roberts, Ian Smith, Laura Springate, Catherine Stewart, Don Stiles, Beth Sweetnam, Susan Toller, Kim Vidal, Carla Van Delen, Paul Whynacht.

Lay (56)

Jim Allen, Wayne Bando, Gayle Barks, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Susan Brassington, Ron Bulmer, Debbie Burch, Paul Bullock, Janice Burroughs, Colleen Calvert, Liz Church, Carolyn Clark, Sandra Copeland, Robert (Bob) Christy, Christine Cross-Barkley, Alyce Dunnewold, Gerry Dust, Marilyn Fortin, Edith Gardell, Catherine Grant, Beth Gutsell, Bronwen Harman, Wayne Harris, Nancy Hazen, Alan Herbert, Jamie Hill, Charlotte Hoy, Bruce Jackson, Marilyn Joseph, Christine Kilburn, Kimberly Lavoie, Jean Libbey, Sharon MacDonald, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Brenda McLeod, David Patterson, Janice Peron, Barbara Reynolds, David Rockwell, Catherine Ryan, Vicki Simzer, Sue Smarkala, Joe Smarkala, Barbara Smith, Wendy Snelgrove, Linda Suddaby, Margaret Torrence, Kathleen Turner, Hazel Ward-Moreau, James Watchorn, Paul Whiteley, Judy Willows, Jack Wilson.

Regional Council Staff (6)

Dana Ducette, Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly (voting privileges), Rev. Natalie Matkovsky (voting privileges), Joel Miller, Rev. Mary Royal Ducek (voting privileges), Rev. Whitman Strong (voting privileges).

Guests of the Regional Council (10)

Judith Bando, Craig Bater, Shawn Behnke, Sharon Buttrey, David Clemis, Audrey Cormack, Tawnya Painchaud, Sandra Smith, Brian Willows, Norma Wrightly.

Regrets (1)

Kurt Asmis

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

Danah-Lee Krieger, led music on piano, and members from the choir at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church led the singing: Moring Has Broken (VU 409); Oh, Let the Power Fall on Me (MV 13); Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary (MV 18); Seek Ye First (VU 356)

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

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared instructions for using simultaneous translation equipment.

Welcome

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President, thanked Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church for hosting the Regional Council for this general meeting. Susan also welcomed all the delegates to the meeting and thanked them for their being present to participate.

Welcome From Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church

John Cook, vice-chair of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church Council, welcomed delegates and shared some house-keeping details (exits, washrooms, etc.). John also shared some information about the ministry at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, and praised the work of Rev. James Murray, Danah-Lee Krieger, Music Director, and staff. It was highlighted that Trinity-St. Andrew's is an affirming congregation.

Land Acknowledgement and Opening Worship

Sue Hutton, DLM, Past-President, lit the Christ Candle, praying that Christ's light be a beacon of Grace shining into our own lives. Sue led the land acknowledgement, honoring Creator and ancestors that have walked and stewarded the lands in and around Renfrew, Ontario, for thousands of years. Liz Church opened Worship with Prayer. The Scripture read was 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Susan read "Clutter Free" from book entitled *Who Put These Cucumbers in My Garden?* by Pat Wilson. The hymn Rejoice in the Lord Always (VU249) was sung to close this time of worship.

Celebrating Being an Affirming Regional Council

Bronwen Harman, Chair of the Affirming Leadership Team, shared a photo-reel of events that took place in support of the LGBTQIA2+ community wherein members of the regional council participated. This presentation was closed with a Prayer for continued support of this affirming regional council as it carries on the work of being an affirming ministry.

Acknowledging the Retirement of Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey

Rev. Whit Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister, highlighted those ministry personnel who have recently retired (Rev. Anthony Bailey, Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Christopher Ryan) In particular, Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey because he had not been recognized at the most recent Celebration of Ministry Service as the others had. Whit shared a biographical sketch of Rev. Dr. Bailey, who was then invited to the podium to offer a small reflection on parts of his ministry and his transition into retirement.

Call to Order

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President, called the meeting to order at 9:47 am:

“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.”

Omnibus Motion

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly moved the following omnibus motion:

2024-10-05_001 OMNIBUS MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/C. Casey) 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 Spring Annual General Meeting (held on May 31-June 1, 2024) be received and accepted as circulated; see **Appendix A**;
3. That the EOORC 2024 Financial Report be received for information as circulate, see **Appendix B¹**;
4. That the EOORC 2024 Balance Sheet be received for information as circulated, see **Appendix B²**;
5. That the Equity Support Person for this meeting be Rev. Michelle Robichaud;
6. That the Scrutineers/Stewards for this meeting be: TBD;
7. That the parliamentarians for this meeting be Barabara Reynolds and Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath;
8. That the following people serve as Chaplain for this meeting: Rev. Kim Vidal;
9. 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

Financial Report

- See EOORC 2024 Financial Report as **Appendix B¹**
- See EOORC 2024 Balance Sheet as **Appendix B²**

Rev. Brian Cornelius, Regional Council Treasurer, in addition to the appendices mentioned above, shared the following report:

Treasurer's Report

Today, my report is brief but I also hope fulsome and provides you with all the important information that you need.

First, a report on 2024. In the documents made available for this meeting was a financial statement outlining expenses up to the end of September. As you scoured it carefully, you noted that at this juncture we have about a 100,000 surplus. This is for three major reasons.

- 1. The Region has not been at a full staffing complement for the first half of the year and staffing is the largest component of our budget*
- 2. We receive 100% of our investment revenue at the beginning of the year.*
- 3. Programming related to Setting Our Sights Strategic Plan will be happening in the Fall*

In doing year end projections, we will not maintain this surplus, but we will have a considerable surplus, somewhere between 50,000 to 70,000. While there are some small anomalies, everything is tracking as we expected and if anyone has specific questions I can and will answer them.

Second, we have circulated for your information the Balance Sheet. On the balance sheet you will see that we have about 8,000,000 dollars. Now before you get too excited, most of that 7,500,000 is money committed to investments. I draw your attention to three things

- 1. This year our investments to date have made about 8%. This is not bad and if congregations wish to invest through the Region this is a possibility.*
- 2. Camp Awesome, on this sheet, is in deficit of nearly 100,000. We were waiting for the Canada Summer Jobs Grant, which has now been received, and we are now in a 600 surplus and all of our obligations to Camp Awesome for 2024 have been met.*
- 3. With the anticipated surpluses from this year, we will have undesignated balances of about 220,000 for Governance and 150,000 for Mission and Ministry.*

Again, if anyone has any specific questions, I can and will answer them.

Thirdly, the 2025 budget. You do not have one before you. This is primarily for two reasons. Because there is still a lot to happen yet this year, our budget is usually based on past experience and so any numbers we put before you now would be based, somewhat on speculation and subject to change, especially as we continue to incorporate the strategic plan into the budget.

That being said, we have actually done extensive work to imagine the 2025 budget and our initial projections, which the Finance Committee reviewed, suggests a budget with about a 35,000 total deficit or less than our anticipated surplus for this year.

We are proposing that the 2025 budget be circulated electronically at the beginning of 2025 for full transparency, and that the Executive adopt the 2025 budget after creating time for any input from the whole court. At our Spring meeting, there will be a full accountability to you when we adopt the 2024 financial statements and confirm the 2025 budget.

Finally, we do have one motion, our Mission Support grants. The Finance Committee met and reviewed the applications for Mission Support with a budget determined by a guideline that 50% of Mission and Service Fund grant and 50% of the investment income from the Mission and Ministry Legacy Fund be the total budget for Mission Support. This is an increase of 3,000 based on the value of the Fund at the end of September.

The Committee reviewed carefully all the applications and the recommendations is before you with a comparison to the grants given in 2024. You will recall, we recommended to financing Golden Lake Camp last year, but in response to discussion by this court, that decision was reviewed and Golden Lake did receive funding through the Camp Bitobi Fund in 2024. For 2025, we are reinstating Golden Lake Camp. This addition means we needed to make some adjustments, but to help with the adjustments, we are proposing that we supplement the 2025

Mission Support grants to the Camps with 2,500 each from the Camp Bitobi Fund. The amounts designated for Camps are based on number of campers and number of camping weeks.

So Madame chair, I suggest that I respond to any questions first and then we have the motion put before the court.

Mission Support

2024-10-05_002 MOTION (C. Kilburn/B. Smarkala) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council approve the following recommendations from the Finance Leadership Team concerning Mission Support Grans for 2025:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Algonquin Chaplaincy	4,000	4,000
Camp Lau Ren	15,000	17,500
Carlington Chaplaincy	6,000	6,000
Centre 507	27,000	27,750
Golden Lake Camp	8,000	0
House of Lazarus	27,000	27,750
Ottawa West End Chaplaincy	0	1,500
Rideau Hill Camp	<u>14,000</u>	<u>13,500</u>
Total	101,000	98,000

CARRIED

Additional Information:

1. In making this recommendation, the Finance Committee is also recommending a supplement to Camp Lau Ren, Golden Lake Camp, and Rideau Hill Camp of 2,500 each from the Camp Bitobi Fund for a total of 7,500. Please note that in 2024, Golden Lake received a grant from the Camp Bitobi fund of 13,500.
2. In March of 2025, the Finance Committee will be reviewing the internal guidelines that Committee has used informally to formalize these guidelines into written form. The Committee will also be doing a budget analysis of each Mission Support Ministry as a part of this guideline review.

Nominations Reporting On General Council 45 Commissioners

Following a brief introduction on the process for voting on General Council 45 Commissioner, the following motion where acted upon:

2024-10-05_003 MOTION (B. Paterson/N. Hazen) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council reopen nominations. **CARRIED**

2024-10-05_004 MOTION (M. Robichaud/Ed Gratton) that Rev. Zacharia Mandara be considered as a General Council Commissioner and added to the ballot. **CARRIED**

Rev. Zacharia Mandara introduced himself to member of the court.

2024-10-05_000 MOTION (B. Harman/Sue Hutton) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council approve the following recommendation of the Nominations Leadership Team:

- a) To recommend Laurick Mvetrayé Nguwuo' Petuenju' and Rousseau Whiteley as youth Commissioners to General Council 45.

Sub-Amendment Motion:

2024-10-05_005 MOTION (P. Dillman/K. Vidal) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council replace the word **recommend** with **elect** in the preceding motion. **CARRIED**

2024-10-05_006 MOTION (B. Harman/Sue Hutton) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council elect as General Council 45 Commissioner:

- a) To recommend Laurick Mvetrayé Nguwuo' Petuenju' and Rousseau Whiteley as youth Commissioners to General Council 45. **CARRIED**

2024-10-05_007 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Susan Hutton) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council:

1. Name the following people to serve as Commissioners at General Council 45:

LAY (5)

Wayne Harris
David Patterson
Cathy Ryan
Sue Smarkala
Norma Wrightly

ORDER OF MINISTRY (6)

Cindy Casey
Dr. Kimberly Heath
Dr. Zacharia Mandara
Erin McIntyre
Michelle Robichaud
Kim Vidal

2. Name following people as alternates to serve as Commissioners at General Council 45 (considered in the order they have received votes)

LAY

Carol Prest
Gayle Barks
Jamie Hill

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Lorrie Lowes
Micheline Montreuil
Dr. Junior Smith
Don Anderson
Alwin Maben

CARRIED

2024-10-05_008 MOTION (Eric Hebert-Daly/Teresa Burnett Cole) That the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council destroy the ballots. **CARRIED**

Celebrating Beloved Community – A Presentation on Congregational Support and Visioning

Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek, Communities of Faith and Networks Support Minister, introduced herself, sharing that she began in her role as staff of the regional council in July 2024, that she will be working with congregations in visioning and renewal and that she brings with her seventeen years of congregational ministry. Mary invited all to participate in a 'breathe prayer' and then listen to John 20:11-14 (which is part of a resurrection story). Mary invited delegates to raise their hands when they heard a ministry that described their community of faith and used this exercise as an example of going beyond the Good Friday Story and beyond the story of smaller and less, and moving towards celebrating Beloved community. Mary invited all to begin focusing on: What is your Community of Faith really good at? What is God up to in your Community of Faith? What are your wildest dreams for your Community of Faith? For your ministry? Mary reminded that the Church (we) are not alone, and that God is with us and we have each other. Mary encouraged all to see the many Blessings that currently exist within the Church, and to give thanks. Mary ended her presentation with a Prayer.

Break

A 10 min health Break was had by all.

Celebrating Beloved Community – A Presentation on Congregational Support and Visioning (continued)

Small Group Discussions

1. What is your Community of Faith really good at?
2. What is God up to in your Community of Faith?
3. What are your wildest dreams for your Community of Faith?
4. For your ministry?

Responses were collected by Mary afterwards.

Fertile Soil – Neighbourhood Profiles

Sharon Buttrey, GIS Strategist for The United Church of Canada, working in with the Research & Development (Data) Team, provided information about the Fertile Soil Project, which utilizes demographic information and church statistics to identify possible avenues for growth in specific communities within the geographical area of the regional council. This is a resource that is made available to all communities of faith to help them explore where their ministries may be needed most to respond to the needs of their surrounding communities. Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator, introduced themselves and explained that their work focuses on strengthening invitation to the United Church, renewing

communities of faith and helping to create new ministries. Tori can help Communities of Faith use the data that is furnished through the Fertile Soil Project, and they provided some examples for how data has already been used. See handout *Handout for Growth Presentation: Neighbourhood Profile Exercises* and recording of full presentation on regional council website. <https://coorc.ca/fall-meeting-2024/>

Small Group Discussion

1. How would you describe your neighbours and neighbourhood
2. What does the neighbourhood profile confirm about your story?
3. What surprised you?

Grace Before Lunch

Diane Cardin offered Grace before Lunch.

Lunch Break

Lunch was provided by members of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church.

Gathering Music

Danah-Lee Krieger, led music on piano, and members from the choir at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church led the singing: Open Our Hearts (MV 21); O Beautiful Gaia (MV 41); Spirit of Life (VU 381); As the Deer Pants for the Water (VU766) – Psalm 42

Thanks, and Gratitude for Lunch Preparers and Servers

The court took time to recognize and applaud members of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church for preparing and serving the meal at lunch.

General Council/General Council Executive Report

Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, Member of the General Council Executive, shared that the theme for General Council 45, which was set by the Moderator, will be Dreams and Visions. A budget of up to 2 million dollars has been approved for General Council 45. The General Council office continues to operate under the direction of The United Church of Canada's Call and Vision: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. Teresa provided some details about how this has been lived out, with particular attention on the conflict between Israel and Palestine and the Indigenous Church (amongst many other foci that were outlined during the presentation). Teresa reminded the court of the General Council Executives' decision to decouple cost of living increases from the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)

Sue Smarkala and Rev. Kim Vidal, provided background information about Multifaith Housing Initiative, shared news about affordable housing developments (i.e., Dream Lebreton Flats, the Anchor), shared that Multifaith Housing Initiative and Gloucester Housing Corp. have amalgamated, and informed on ways to offer support (joining mailings list, follow social media, membership, donate, volunteer time).

To learn more, visit <https://www.multifaithhousing.ca/>

Proposals to General Council 45

Rev. Eric Hebert- Daly shared the process for how proposals get forwarded to General Council, and what is the task of the regional council.

a) Proposal: Accessibility of Church Decision Making – see as Appendix C¹

2024-10-05_009 MOTION (Liz Church/Blair Patterson) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council recommend to General Council 45, with concurrence, the following proposal: *Accessibility of Church Decision Making*. (3 opposed) 1 abstain **CARRIED**

b) Proposal: Gospel – see as Appendix C²

2024-10-05_010 MOTION (Don Anderson/Phyllis MacRae) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council recommend to General Council 45, with concurrence, the following proposal: *Gospel*. **DEFEATED**

2024-10-05_011 MOTION (David Patterson/Wayne Harris) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council recommend to General Council 45, without concurrence the following proposal: *Gospel*. (41 NO/ 51 YES) **CARRIED**

Closing Worship

Liz Church and Sue Hutton, DLM, Past-President led the closing worship, leading with a commissioning and closing prayer. The closing hymn was Don't Be Afraid (MV 90).

Adjournment

The President declares that all of the business having come before this meeting of the regional council has duly concluded at 3:10 PM.

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly,
Executive Minister

Joel Miller,
Recording Secretary**Appendices**

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

Appendix A	Minutes of Spring Annual General Meeting held on May 31-June1, 2024
Appendix B ¹	EOORC 2024 Financial Report
Appendix B ²	EOORC 2024 Balance Sheet
Appendix C ¹	Proposal: Accessibility of Church Decision Making
Appendix C ²	Proposal: Gospel