
**Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
Spring Annual General Meeting
June 14, 2025**

“A New Heaven and A New Earth: Towards 2035”

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of The United Church of Canada held its Spring Annual General Meeting on Saturday June 14th at the EY Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. On Sunday June 15th the regional council held a celebration service commemorating the centenary of The United Church of Canada and invited congregations to gather at the EY Centre.

THE FOLLOWING REGISTERED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE BUSINESS MEETING

Ministry Personnel (60)

Rev. Don Anderson, Brenda Bailey, Elaine Beattie, Nancy Best, Elizabeth Bryce, Teresa Burnett Cole, Dianne Cardin, Cindy Casey, Tiina Cote, Eric Hebert-Daly, Susan DeHaan, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Phyllis Dietrich, Paul Dillman, Brenda Dorland, Frank Emanuel, Lynne Gardiner, Myra Garvin, Ed Gratton, Daniel Hansen, Kimberly Heath, Dave Henderson, Cathy Hird, Susan Hutton, Minhyuk Hwang, James Kenney, Earl Klotz, Jenni Leslie, Andrew Love, Lorrie Love, Alwin Maben, Zakaria Mandara, Natalie Matkovsky, Laurie McKnight, Don McLean, Sheryl McLeod, Kevin Moratz, Schalk Naude, John Noordhof, Eric Pagé, Blair Paterson, Kathleen Petrie, Jennifer Power, Patricia Power, Michelle Robichaud, Shelley Roberts, Mary Royal Duczek, David Sherwin, Ian Smith, Laura Springate, Catherine Stewart, Don Stiles, Whitman Strong, Anthony Grant Stuckless, Susan Toller, Carla Van Delen, Kim Vidal, Paul Whynacht, Peter Woods, Sandra Yule.

Lay (66)

Jim Allen, Kurt Asmis, Coreen Atkins – Sheldrick, Eileen Ball, Charles Barrett, Nicole Beaudry, Susan Brassington, Ted Brett, Valerie Betty Briscoe, Linda Brumm, Paul Bullock, Ron Bulmer, Janice Burroughs, Colleen Calvert, David Charles, Liz Church, Sandra Copeland, Christine Cross-Barkley, John Douglas, Alyce Dunnewold, Gerald Dust, Eunice Getz, Jennifer Gow, Edith Gardell, Bronwen Harman, Judith Harms-Potter, Wayne Harris, Nancy Hazen, Alan Hebert, Frank Johnson, Catherine Kelso, Brenda King, Kimberly Lavoie, Ernie Sharon MacDonald, MacMillan, Phyllis MacRae, Norma McCord, Gary McKay, Karen McLean, Donald McLean, Brenda McLeod, David Patterson, Janice Peron, Alan Quirt, Barbara Reynolds, Paul Reynolds, Larry Richardon, David Rockwell, Cathy Ryan, Vicki Simzer, Joe Smarkala, Susan Smarkala, Barbara Smith, Wendy Snelgrove, James Sonley, Linda Stronski, Beth Sweetnam, Kathleen Turner, James Watchorn, Hazel Ward-Moreau, James Whiteley, Paul Whiteley, Randy Whyte, Jack Wilson, Norma Wrightly, Everard Zytveld.

Candidates (5)

Daniel Addai Fobi, Catherine Cavanagh, Jamie Hill, Joëlle Morgan, Julie Pauling.

Regional Council Staff (8)

Dana Ducette (candidate), Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly (voting member), Rev. Natalie Matkovsky (voting member), Joel Miller, Rev. Tori Mullin, Rev. Mary Royal Duczek (voting member), Whitman Strong (voting member), Loli Zahinda (summer student).

Guests of the Regional Council (14)

Barbara De Jeet, Carolle Dallas – Arbuckle, Erik Lo Forte, Ian, Gibson, Nick Gummesson, Jennifer Henry, Isabelle Martiliani, Cora Merchand, Max Moller, Nikki Nel, Keith Penny, Paul Sales, Sandra Smith, Terry-Anne Smith.

Quorum

This meeting had quorum.

Registration/Gathering

Attendees were invited to arrive at the EY Centre and connect online at 9:15 am for registration and time for fellowship.

Gathering Music

Rev. Peter Woods, Nick Gummesson and Leah Cogan led participants in the gathering music.

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

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly shared instructions on how to use simultaneous translation equipment. This meeting had simultaneous translation for both English and French.

Welcome and Housekeeping.

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President, welcomed all in attendance, shared housekeeping information and located where the Stewards Table was situated during the meeting.

Land Acknowledgement

Norma Wrightly led the land acknowledgement, highlighting that this meeting gathered on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin people. Norma reminded all to thank the First People of this land for their stewardship, which still sustains life to this day.

Opening Worship

Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara, Rev. Dr. Joëlle Morgan led the opening worship with a Call to Worship and Opening Prayer based on Psalm 86. This was followed by the Prayer of Confession, the Words of Assurance and the gathering hymn “Called by Earth and Sky” (MV 135).

Call to Order

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President, called the meeting to order at 9:44 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 annual 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:

2025-06-14_001 OMNIBUS MOTION (E. Hebert-Daly/S. Hutton) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council move the following:

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1. That the agenda be adopted as circulated;
 2. That the minutes of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Fall General Meeting (held on October 5th, 2024) be received and approved as circulated – see **Appendix A**;
 3. That the *2025 EOORC Report Book* be received and approved as circulate – see **Appendix B**;
 4. That the *EOORC Governance Handbook June 2025* and the *Reference Document Updates to the EOORC Governance Handbook June 2025* be received as circulate – see **Appendices C¹** and **C²**;
 5. That the Equity Support Person for this meeting be Liz Church;
 6. That the Scrutineers/Stewards for this meeting be: Wayne Harris, Head Stewards; and team (Kimberly Lavoie, Alan Herbert, Patricia Power, Larry Richardson, Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Ron Bulmer, Phyllis MacRae, Paul Bullock, Liz Church, Julie Pauling, Carla Van Delen, Ted Brett, Susan Hutton and Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle);
 7. That the parliamentarian for this meeting be: Rev. Don Stiles;
 8. That the following people serve as Chaplain for this meeting: Rev. Lorrie Lowes;
 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

Greetings from the Moderator

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada shared personal greetings to members of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, and highlighted details surrounding the upcoming 45th General Council being held in Calgary, Alberta, the centennial anniversary of The United Church of Canada, and visions of hope for the future of the Church.

Reports

a) **President**

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President, directed attendees to her report.

- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 4

b) **Executive Minister**

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister, directed attendees to his report, as well as the Strategic Plan Interim report. Eric also made that announcement that Rev. Whit Strong, Pastoral Relations Minister would be retiring at the end of the year.

- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 5 (Executive Minister's Report)
- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 7 (Strategic Plan Interim Report)

Finance

Rev. Brian Cornelius, Regional Council Treasurer highlighted details in his report the following motions were presented.

- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 20

2025-06-14_002 MOTION (Brian Cornelius/Teresa Burnett-Cole) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive the Financial Report for information. **CARRIED**

2025-06-14_003 MOTION (Brian Cornelius/Charles Barrett) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council formally receive and accept the 2024 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council **CARRIED** – see *2024 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council* as **Appendix D¹**

2025-06-14_004 MOTION (Brian Cornelius/Teresa Burnett-Cole) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council direct its Executive to appoint an Internal Independent Review Committee to review and produce the 2025 Financial Statements for circulation. **CARRIED**

2025-06-14_005 MOTION (Brian Cornelius/Shelly Roberts) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council confirm the 2025 budget of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council which was approved by the Executive. **CARRIED** – see *2025 budget of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council* as **Appendix D²**

Future Through Property Presentation: How Communities of Faith Can Manage Their Property

Phyllis MacRae, Chair of the Future Through Property Leadership Team (FTP), directed attendees to her report. Phyllis also shared a presentation on a guide prepared by the FTP called *Managing Our Property: A Brief Guide for the Management of Property in the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region of the United Church of Canada* which was made available as part of the preparation documents for this meeting. <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MANAGING-OUR-PROPERTY-May-19-15.1-edition.pdf>

- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 26

Scripture Reading (John 21:1-9) / Prayer of Illumination

Norma Wrightly led a Prayer of Illumination, and the following people read John 21:1-9 in their respective interpretations and/or languages:

First Nations New Testament – Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Swahili – Rev. Dr. Mandara

Filipino – Rev. Kim Vidal

Akan – Rev. Daniel Addai Fobi

French – Dr. Joëlle Morgan

Towards 2035 (Part I)

Rev. Jennifer Henry, Organizational Development and Strategy, explained that *Toward 2035* is conversation about the current state of the church, with the hope of stirring imaginations and animate the collective will around a vision and strategy for a better future for the church. This conversation looks at the trajectory of the church between 1993 and 2023, and projects its likely trajectory in 2035. It considers trends in membership, giving, Sunday worship attendance, Sunday school attendance, number of pastoral charges, Ministry Personnel, Pastoral Charges served by Ministry Personnel, and sustainability of both denominational and congregational finances. 2035 projections suggest a greater degree of vulnerability. Despite this vulnerability, Jennifer emphasized that the Church continues to be called to perceive God working in the present age and to collaborate in this work bringing God's Love into the world.

Music Response

Rev. Peter Woods and Nick Gummeson shared a musical response following the *Towards 2035* presentation.

Small Group Discussion (Towards 2035 continued)

Jennifer invited attendees to focus on the following questions in small groups over the lunch hour:

1. Is there anything about the data that surprised you?
2. Where do you see God doing a new thing?

Grace Before Lunch

Norma Wrightly offered Grace before lunch.

Lunch Break

The meeting paused for lunch and attendees were served a catered lunch.

Gathering Music

Rev. Peter Woods and Nick Gummeson led gathering music, calling attendees back to the meeting.

Mission & Service (M&S)

Erik Lo Forte, Vice President, Grants & Communications, The Untied Church Foundation, explained how Mission and Service funds the Ministry and Mission of The United Church of Canada in particular:

- In Canada, each of the 16 regions received \$180,000 in 2025
- As of March, 114 programs across Canada funded
- In 2023, 75% of the funds stayed in Canada
- In 2024, 84% of the funds stayed in Canada
- Globally, M&S are working with 68 organizations in 23 countries
- They provide food, medical aid, emergency aid, shelter, climate change relief and so much more

In 2024 EOORC raised \$1,059,120 in support of Mission and Service.

The United Church of Canada Foundation

Erik Lo Forte, Vice President, Grants & Communications, explained that The United Church of Canada Foundation was established in 2002 by the Executive of the General Council provide services (grants) to United Church members and all courts of the church (<https://unitedchurchfoundation.ca/>). The foundations currently hold the following assets under management:

- 105.7 M with Fiera Capital
- 6.7 M with Genus Capital
- 421 endowments
- 114 other long-term funds

Nominations

Sue Hutton, DLM, Chair of the Nomination Leadership Team directed attendees to her report, invited all to consider filling in an expression of interest form to serve in varying capacities within the regional council, and presented the following motion:

- See *2025 EOORC Report Book*, **Appendix B**, p. 26

2025-06-14_006 MOTION (Sue Hutton/Norma Wrightly) that the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council receive and approve the recommendation from the Nominations Leadership Team to name the following people to 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. Cathy Ryan (L) (2026) second term
6. Rev. Erin McIntyre (MP) (2026) first term
7. Liz Church (L) (2027) second term
8. Nancy Hazen (L) (2025) second term
9. Sue Smarkala (L) (2027) First term
10. David Debenham (L) (2028) First term
11. Frank Emanuel (Candidate) (2028) First term
12. Julee Pauling (Candidate) (2028) First term
13. Rousseau Whiteley (Youth) (2028) 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 Assistant), Dana Ducette (Youth), vacant (Visioning, Clusters & Networks), Rev. Whit Strong (Pastoral Relations), Rev. Caroline Penhale (Office of Vocation, Candidacy Pathways), Rev. Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Nikki Nel (Camp Awesome Director), and Rev. Mary Royal-Duczec (Community of Faith & Network Support).

CARRIED

**For information*

Leadership Teams

1. **Nominations:** Sue Hutton, DLM, (Chair), Jim Allen, Rev. Susan DeHaan – as President, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Bronwen Harman, Karen McLean, Rev. Michelle Robichaud, Paul Whiteley (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, Joel Miller) 2 vacancies (diversity in the Regions is missing)
2. **Pastoral Relations Commission:** Wayne Harris (Chair), Jim Allen, Rev. Elaine Beattie, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, Rev. Patsy Henry, Karen McLean (recording secretary), Micheline Montreuil, D.M., Rev. Blair Paterson, Rev. Michelle Robichaud, Rev. Don Stiles, and (Resource: Rev. Whit Strong)

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3. **Future Through Property Team:** Phyllis MacRae (Chair), Jim Allen, Charles Barrett, Ted Brett, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Joe Smarkala, Rev. Andrew Love, Sue Smarkala (Resource: Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek) 2-4 vacancies preferably from Seaway Valley and Upper Valley
 4. **General Meetings/Educational Event Planning Team:** vacant (Chair), Gary McKay (Interim Chair), Rev. Susan DeHaan (President), Sue Hutton, DLM, (Past-President), Pat Mayberry, Karen McLean, David Patterson, - 6-8 vacancies (diversity to include youth leadership)
 5. **Church Extension Council:** Directors: David Debenham, Alan Gale, Don Reynolds, Mike Velichka; Members: Ted Brett, Catherine Grant, Judy Harms-Potter, Kevin Moratz, Linda Suddaby; EOORC Appointments: Brian Cornelius (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly)
 6. **Communications:** Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Lois Leroux, John McDougall, and David Patterson (Resource: Rev. Natalie Matkovsky)
 7. **Finance:** Brian Cornelius (Treasurer), Rev. Cindy Casey, Bruce Jackson, Christine Kilburn, Joe Smarkala, Evered (Ev) Zytveld (Resource: Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly) - 1 vacancy
 8. **Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL):** Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, Terrie Chedore, DM, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, Sharon MacDonald, Julee Pauling, Cathy Ryan, Sharon Sanderson, and Paul Whiteley (Resource: Rev. Whit Strong) – 3 vacancies, 1 more LLWL and 2 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. Michelle Robichaud (Chair), Charles Barrett, Rev. Cindy Casey, Rev. Melany Cassidy-Wise, Christine Cross-Barkley, Phyllis MacRae, Rev. Sheryl McLeod, Janice Peron, Deb Poirier, and Rev. Laura Springate (Staff Resource: Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek)
 11. **YAYA:** Rev. Tiina Côté, Cathy Ryan, Hazel Ward-Moreau, Janet Currie-Kelk (Resource: Dana Ducette)
 12. **Equity Leadership Team:** Rev. Michelle Robichaud – 4 vacancies
 13. **Social Justice Network of Ontario Regional Councils:** Charles Barrett (Chair) (Resource: vacant)
 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:** vacant (Chair), Linda Stronski, Cathy Ryan, Bronwen Harman, Kim Baird, Rev. Michelle Robichaud, Rev. Ed Gratton and Roxanne Akhtar (Resource: Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek)
 17. **Representatives to Multi-Faith Housing:** Sue Smarkala

18. **Spiritual Care Hospital Ministry Leadership Team:** Sandra Copeland (Chair), Jane Burgess, Doug Collins, Rev. Brian Copeland, Jeremy Geelen, Richard Johnston, and Margaret Joyce.
19. **Ministry Personnel Support Leadership Team:** Terrie Chedore DM, Rev Paul Dillman, Rev Lynne Gardiner, Rev Jenni Leslie, Rev Zacharia Mandara (Resource: Rev. Whitman Strong)
20. **100th Anniversary Service Planning Leadership Team:** Rev. Alwin Maben, David Patterson, Paul Whiteley, Liz Church, Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro, Rev. Cindy Casey, Cathy Ryan, Rev. Erin McIntyre, Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek
21. **Racial Justice:** Joëlle Morgan (Can.), Paul Whiteley (Resource: vacant)
22. **Keeping in Touch Team Leadership Team:** Alan Herbert, Paul Whiteley, Julee Pauling, Laurie McKnight, Grant Gilliland, Cathy Ryan, Shelley Roberts, Michelle Robichaud, Larry Richardson and Joëlle Morgan (Can)

Towards 2035 (Part II)

Rev. Jennifer Henry, Organizational Development and Strategy, shared that despite a greater degree of vulnerability, it is the hope that The United Church of Canada in 2035 will be: “inspired, resilient communities of disciples, rural, and urban, coast to coast, francophone, indigenous, and intercultural, more closely reflecting the diversity of Canada”. Components like, connection, flexibility, innovation and urgency, can support communities of faith; enable local & geographic discernment; engage in cooperative and collaborative experiments; support intercultural; and support first third. Jennifer highlighted that the next steps for the Church will be 1. Conversation to stir imagination 2. Galvanizing Church data as a tool for strategy 3. Developing a framework for diversity baseline 4. Complete a cross-country property inventory.

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly highlighted the regional council’s next steps:

1. **Congregational Leadership Engagement**
 - Gathering of lay leadership in the fall, 2 events, October 1st and 4th (TBC)
 - All sharing information in morning, ministry personnel and lay leaders in separate groups in the afternoon.
 - Equipping people to engage in the material and have local discussion.
 - Fall Training – “The Things we Tell Ourselves” and “What they didn’t teach us in Seminary”
2. **Executive Mandate Adjustment**
 - Adjusting the agenda of the Executive for more discernment time
 - Identifying new commission powers for Leadership Teams
 - Consensus Package for efficient ‘ordinary’ business
3. **Vision Keepers**
 - Sub-group of Executive
 - Absorbs the mapped data for our region, adds local layer
 - Data-informed advisory team, filter for decision-making

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- Reviewing the strategic plan, revising

Theological Reflection

Both Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara and Dr. Rev. Joëlle Morgan offered theological reflections in response to the information that was shared in the *Towards 2035* presentation.

Small Group Table Discussion (Towards 2035 continued)

1. How might your community contribute to moving forward this vision?
2. What do you need?

Interlude (Musical)

Rev. Peter Woods and Nick Gummeson

Recognitions and Covenanting Service

Rev. Eric Hebert-Daly, Executive Minister called upon attendees to recognize with thanks the service of outgoing Executive members: Jim Allen, Gayle Barks, Rev. Ryan Kim and Rev. Micheline Montreuil. This was followed by the singing of hymn “Dance with the Spirit” (MV 150). Afterwards, Eric led a covenanting service with members on the regional council’s Executive, 45th General Council Commissioners, Youth Delegates and members on Leadership Teams. This was followed by the singing of hymns “Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary” and “I Have Called You by Your Name (MV 161). The covenanting service ended with a closing Prayer.

Announcing the Centennial Celebration

Rev. Cindy Casey, President-Elect, announced that there were an expected 1400 congregants registered to attend the centennial celebration on Saturday and asked for volunteers to help during the service (greeters, collect offering, serving communion).

Heath Break

A 15 mins pause was held for movement and refreshments.

Interlude (Musical)

Rev. Peter Woods, Nick Gummeson, José García and Kyle Jordan

First Third Ministry Round Table

(Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator Dana Ducette, Minister Youth and Young Adults, Nikki Nel, Coordinator of Children, Youth and Intergenerational Minister at First United in Westboro, and Kim Barter, Executive Director of Centre 33). Rev. Tori Mullin highlighted that the regional council has created the *First Thirds Ministry Round Table* to strengthen invitation and build relationship with communities of faith within the regional council who are providing first thirds ministry (i.e., on campuses, throughout communities, in camps) – ‘firth thirds’ refer to people aged 35 years and under. Tori introduced each of the panelist (Dana, Nikki, Kim and Tori) who went on demonstrate how round tables held throughout the regional council are meant to allow for open discussions about varying topics facing youth ministry.

Small Group Discussion (First Thirds Ministry Round Table)

Tori invited attendees to focus on the following question in small groups:

1. Think about a child who is important in your life and how you can their needs spiritually event more than you do now.

General Council Report

Rev. Jennifer Henry, Organizational Development and Strategy, highlighted that The United Church of Canada in 2021 recognized a call to: Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice (see: <https://united-church.ca/call-vision>). This call has been a guiding principle for the General Council Strategic Plan. The strategic objectives are: 1. Growth – Strengthen Invitation 2. Invigorate Leadership 3. Journeying Indigenous Pathways 4. Embolden Justice 5. Nurturing the Common Good 6. Deepen Climate Integrity. Jennifer invited all to peruse the Strategic Plan Accountability Report on The United Church of Canada website: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-vision/2025-strategic-plan-annual-report>).

Closing

Rev. Peter Woods, Nick Gummeson, José García and Kyle Jordan led the closing hymn: “I Have Called You By Your Name” (MV 161). Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole taught, led and accompanied by drum the Ojibwe Travelling Song, which is sung as a parting song, to send people on their way – either on a journey, or when they walk on.

Equity Support Person’s Report

Liz Church shared the equity report and highlighted how well equity concerns were met (or not met) for this meeting.

Sending Forth

Rev. Susan DeHaan, President thanked all for attending, thanked all who helped make this meeting possible, and then shared a closing Benediction.

Adjournment

The President declares that all the business having come before this annual general meeting of the regional council has duly concluded at 4:36 PM.

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council’s Centennial Celebration

The regional council’s Centennial Celebration of The United Church of Canada can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57q9_Wxf9p8

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/2025-eoorc-agm/>

- Appendix A Minutes of Fall General Meeting held on October 5th, 2024
- Appendix B 2025 EOORC Report Book
- Appendix C¹ EOORC Governance Handbook June 2025
- Appendix C² Reference Document Updates to the EOORC Governance Handbook June 2025
- Appendix D¹ 2024 Financial Statement for Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council
- Appendix D² 2025 budget of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council