

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

Julielynn Anderson, Elaine Burrows, Heather Donnelly, Sheila Gallant, Rose Hannah Gaskin, Catherine Gaw, Kent Gibbons, Audrey Lounder, Faith March-MacCuish, Cindy Ramsay, Jack Spencer, Martha Vickers, Nathan Wright.

Regrets**REGRETS**

Brett Anningson.

Welcome and Opening Prayer**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to Elaine Burrows, the new representative to Executive from United Church Women. The President opened the meeting with a Christmas reflection and prayer.

Quorum and Constitution of the Council**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL**

The President noted that a quorum was present and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for the business that shall properly come before it.

Acknowledging the Land**ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND**

The President, Audrey Lounder, acknowledged the territory on which we gather. May we live with peace and respect on this land as we strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this land.

Agenda**AGENDA**

MOTION: (Julielynn Anderson, Cindy Ramsay)

That the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Minutes**MINUTES**

MOTION: (Heather Donnelly/Jack Spencer)

That the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

CARRIED

Business Arising**BUSINESS ARISING**Anti-Racism Network**Anti-Racism Network**

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on the work to support the emerging anti-racism network, as a result of the letter received by Executive from Justice, Mission and Outreach. Adele Halliday has been hired by General Council to oversee some of this work nationally and introduce an action plan for the church. The Executive Minister shared the region's support for this work. It was proposed that the three Executives of the eastern regions take part in a workshop with Adele Halliday in February to further enable this work. The network is in very early stages of organization, but these are seen as very positive steps forward.

UCW Newsletter**UCW Newsletter**

The Executive Minister reported that General Council Office has confirmed that there will no longer be an info-pack. There is a new editor who will oversee an electronic newsletter. Elaine Burrows confirmed that work to obtain contact information for all the UCW chapters is ongoing.



CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

1. **Communication** – email from Marlene MacLeod regarding a perceived lack of communication from the region within the new structure, especially with respect to weekly announcements. The President reported that the region is in the process of separating the weekly announcements from Regional Council 15, and asked for discussion on posting pastoral relations information. It was felt that people are missing information that was provided by presbyteries in the old structure. The Executive Minister suggested that the three eastern regional executives could consider a communications workshop with Kate Rodd of the General Council Office. It was discussed that regional representatives are a key to communicating the work of the region. It was suggested that regional reporting be added to the agenda of each board/council meeting. Representatives are also to be reminded that all minutes are available on the regional website.

Communication

REPORTS

Reports

PRESIDENT

President

The President presented a report of recent activities. Work is ongoing to prepare a worship service for use by the congregations in the regions on December 27, 2020 as a break for clergy and pastoral charges. The President attended the Celebration of Ministry Service, which took place under COVID guidelines in Moncton, NB, where two ministers were admitted to the United Church.

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive Minister

The Executive Minister reported that the annual meetings of all three eastern regions have taken place, and that all the Records of Proceedings are now posted. Three Celebration of Ministry services have taken place. The regional town halls are continuing, with a tri-regional meeting planned for January to discuss congregational annual meetings. The Executive Minister continues to monitor the ever-changing restrictions and guidelines about the ability to gather, and is working in cooperation with public health authorities to get clarification when necessary. The Prime Minister, through the Canadian Council of Churches, held an all faith gathering where he expressed gratitude for all the work that the faith community brings to the country. The Executive Minister expressed gratitude to the committees for their work this year.

NOMINATIONS – Appendix A

Nominations

Rose Hannah Gaskin, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair highlighted that some terms of those serving committees will end in 2021. The chair asks that all these volunteers be approached to determine if they would be interested in serving a second term before a list of vacancies can be determined.

FINANCIAL & MISSION SERVICES – Appendix B

Financial and Mission Services

Nathan Wright, chair, present the report of the committee. The chair highlighted that some investments are coming due, so a fund has been created to hold these funds on an interim basis until investment decisions are made. An application process to access funds (other than Mission Support) is being developed, and the Executive are reminded that donations can be made to these funds. The committee will begin working on the 2022 budget in the new year in preparation for the annual meeting.

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Appendix C

Regional Planning Committee

Sheila Gallant, chair, reported on the work of the committee. The chair reported that the committee is looking for a theme in order to begin planning for worship. It has not yet been determined if the meeting will take place in person or virtually. The Executive Minister informed the Executive that Regional Council 15 made the decision on December 7, 2020 to meet virtually on May 27-30, 2021.

Annual Meeting
2021

The President also offered that it may be some time before we know about restrictions on the ability to gather and the availability of the vaccine. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Nathan Wright/Rose Hannah Gaskin)

That the business portion of the annual meeting take place virtually in 2021.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Catherine Gaw/Heather Donnelly)

That June 3-5, 2021 be reserved as the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council annual meeting dates.

CARRIED

Pastoral
Relations

PASTORAL RELATIONS – Appendix D

Catherine Gaw presented the report of the Pastoral Relations committee. The chair highlighted the actions of committee including work to develop a checklist for pastoral care and oversight, as part of the requirements laid out for pastoral charges in the manual. The chair also noted an error in the report; that Ian Manson should be under New Appointments.

Faith and
Education
Formation

FAITH AND EDUCATION FORMATION – Appendix E

Cindy Ramsay, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair reported that two successful webinars took place in the fall. The committee also reported that the final wording of the mandate has been completed and that this work has also been approved by the nominations committee.

MOTION: (Cindy Ramsay/Jack Spencer)

That the mandate of Faith and Education Formation be updated as follows:
To encourage faith development and spiritual growth in individuals and communities of faith; and to support special ministries in our region including, but not limited to, camping, youth ministries, Tatamagouche Center.

CARRIED

Staff Support
Committee

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE – Appendix F

Martha Vickers presented the report of the Staff Support Committee. The staff committee have recently met, and continue their work to support the Executive Minister and her work with the staff of the three regions. The staff committee have agreed to meet 4 (four) times per year in order to provide the Executive Minister with more timely support when necessary.

Justice, Mission
and Outreach

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH – Appendix G

Kent Gibbons, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair highlighted the recent work of the committee, included in the appendix.

Archives and
Records

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Julielynn Anderson, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair highlighted two upcoming workshops being offered by the committee in January. Sarah Wallace, Archivist, and Julielynn Anderson, chair, will lead the workshops.

Incorporated
Ministries

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES – Appendix H

Jack Spencer, chair, presented the report of the committee. The chair reported that the by-laws work on Abbey St. Andrews has received administrative approval from General Council.

Nine (9) visits to the various incorporated ministries in the region have been completed. The chair also thanked Tracey Rose, regional council office staff, for her support work to the committee.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

United Church Women

Elaine Burrows presented the report from United Church Women (UCW). Many UCW groups have not met during the pandemic, while some others have been quite creative in their meetings. There is, however, great concern that the pandemic will have an impact on the funds raised for the mission and service fund. An anniversary celebration is planned for 2022, but there is still much uncertainty about the ability to meet in person.

MOTION: (Cindy Ramsay/Martha Vickers)

That the reports of the region be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

UNITED PROPERTY RESOURCE CORPORATION

United Property Resource Corporation

The Executive Minister reported that this new group was formed by the General Council Office as a support to congregations who may be looking to develop property or find new uses for their property. This is a collaborative process designed to build equitable, inclusive, and sustainable properties. Safe, stable, and affordable housing is also part of the mandate, which can be very helpful to projects in the region. Information on the corporation has been sent to the property committee for consideration and distribution to the region.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Mission and Service

The Executive Minister reported to the Executive that a certificate was received from General Council thanking Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters for donations of \$1,094,480 (one million and ninety-four thousand, four hundred and eighty) to the Mission and Service Fund.

RACIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP

Racial Justice Workshop

MOTION: (Catherine Gaw/Jack Spencer)

That Financial and Mission Services be asked to assess if funding is available to the Executive in the event that Racial Justice training be required of Regional Council Executive members.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Having no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

BENEDICTION

Benediction

The Executive Minister closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive is scheduled on March 27, 2021 at 10:00am.

Appendix A

NOMINATIONS

Report to Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Executive
November, 2020

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee has met monthly the fall and we have continued to work towards filling vacancies as they arise. It is very helpful if Committees have suggestions of suitable individuals to contact, although we do pay close attention to having a representative mix of people from various parts of the Region on our Committees.

We have received all offers to serve that came to us via the AGM registration forms and have responded with thanks to all offers.

It continues to be important that congregations elect representatives to the Regional Council, and that we are made aware of these individuals. We will need to focus on tightening up this process in the new year.

Soon it will be time to begin the work of finding new members to replace those individuals whose term end in 2021.

I continue to be grateful for the hard work of those on the Nominations Committee. Our next meeting is on January 12th, 2021.

In Shared Ministry,

Rose-Hannah Gaskin

Appendix B**FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES****Financial and Mission Services Committee
Report for December, 2020 Executive Meeting**

The Financial and Mission Services Committee met on November 24th via Zoom to consider a number of matters that came before it.

- 1) Distribution of funds received from Investment Certificates in the name of Miramichi Presbytery
 - a. Motion was passed to hold all Presbytery Funds, once they mature, in an internal restricted account
 - b. Once all funds have been received (by end of June 2021), decisions will be made on how those funds will be used
- 2) Process to apply for FSLDW funds
 - a. Region 15 is in the midst of developing an application process to access funds held by the Regional Council (separate from mission support grants). Once their process is finalized, our committee will review their work and likely adopt a similar process to access FSLDW funds since most of the funds are comparable between the two regions.
 - b. We need also to advertise the different funds available and highlight that donations can be made to them. More work on this item will be done as we prepare for our next meeting so we can move forward on this item.
- 3) Next committee meeting will be March 10, 2021 to prepare the 2022 budget recommendation for Executive approval prior to the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Wright
Chair, Financial and Mission Services Committee

Appendix C

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

Annual Planning Committee

The Committee has not met this fall. I contacted Region 15 in October but they had not chosen a chair for its Planning Committee. If we are able to meet together, it will be a joint effort between the two Regions.

Given the current COVID-19 situation, I was in contact with Rev. Faith and the Planning Committee will meet in early January to commence planning for a 2021 virtual spring meeting. I contacted our Planning Committee last week and asked them to think of a theme for 2021 so that we can bring a recommendation to the Executive.

If anyone has any suggestions for a theme, I would gladly accept all suggestions. Once chosen the theme would give us a starting point for worship and musical selections. I hope that our worship team will remain as they did a fantastic job for our fall meeting gathering.

Sheila Gallant
(Acting) Chair

Appendix D**PASTORAL RELATIONS**

Report of the Pastoral Relations Committee
Executive of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
December 10, 2020

The PR Committee has met the second Tuesday of each month. In addition a small working group met on December 1, 2020 to continue the conversation around how the ministry of 'pastoral oversight' might be fulfilled.

The concern around 'oversight' has been on the agenda for several months. It has become obvious that the pastoral relations committee does not have the capacity to engage in what many may remember as a triennial visit. But the Manual is clear that faith communities are to forward annual self-assessments to the Regional Council. With the assistance of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council the working group is looking at that 'check list' of fiduciary responsibilities. We anticipate a revised document to reflect our priorities while meeting the requirements of the Manual G.1.2.2. In addition, we are framing a more visionary/mission planning process (similar to the conversation café) to encourage faith communities in identifying God's mission in their part of the realm. We have two test sites who have agreed to work with us: Mount Royal, Moncton and Faith Memorial, Florenceville, NB. We would welcome an Island test site as well. We have set an ambitious goal of February 28, 2021 to have the process tested.

For the information of the Executive, we have had on-going conversation around the review of the Trinity-Clifton Pastoral Charge, Charlottetown PEI. The assigned work of the Commission has been all but halted due to the pandemic. The Regional Council Minister remains the primary contact with the governance body on the pastoral charge.

Our 'to do' list includes: United Fresh Start with Region 15; Part time ministry document; Sunday supply document; Regional Council Funding for SME; and the oversight piece. We also are planning a time to discuss our proposed mandate updates.

The Licensed Lay Worship Leaders group are getting their feet under them for which we are very grateful.

And the usual work continues. A list of the actions since October is attached. We were pleased to hear that Aaron Billard (Moncton) and Kate Jones (Saint John) are joining us as members. Just as a reminder: I will be stepping down as Chair at the rise of the Regional Council annual meeting or no later than June 30, 2021.

As a committee we shared signs of peace and hope around us. Even in the pandemic, as faith communities wrestle with their particular reality, they continue to proclaim the Word made Flesh.

Blessings

Catherine Gaw, Chair Pastoral Relations Committee

Appendix D - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

**Actions by FSLDW Pastoral Relations Committee
Oct 16, 2010 to Dec 11, 2020**

Calls:

Richard Bowley to Quispamsis United effective Jan 1, 2021

New Appointments:

Holly Hagerman (Candidate for Ministry) to Blackville Pastoral Charge Sept 1 2020 to August 31, 2022

Audrey Lounder to Silver Falls United effective Jan 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Reappointments:

Peter Short to Wilmot United (Fredericton) January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

Ellen Beairsto to Wilmot United (Fredericton) January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

Elizabeth Stevenson to Harmony United (Saint John) January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

Ian Manson to Harmony United (Saint John) January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

LLWLs

Ellen Locke-Doiron licensed for one year effective Nov 10, 2021 (location restriction)

Change of Pastoral Relations Requests:

Charlene Macguire Macknight St Andrew's United Miramichi for the purposes of retirement
June 30, 2021

Community Profiles:

Harmony United (Saint John) approved for Search

Sacramental Privilege

Holly Hagerman for Blackville Pastoral Charge

Appendix E**FAITH AND EDUCATION FORMATION**

Faith and Education Formation Committee – report to Executive – December 12, 2020

The Faith and Education Formation Committee met via a Zoom meeting on November 10. We have started a resource pool to assist communities of faith in the region with knowing what and who is available for various areas of Christian life and we plan on sharing more on this in the new year.

We have held 2 discussion webinars – October 29 and November 23 – with individuals working with Sunday Schools and youth groups in both our region and region 15 to share ideas, particularly for Advent, and to give support to each other. We plan on continuing this in the new year as well.

We discussed the wording of the mandate of our committee and the following was approved to send to the Nominations committee:

Mandate: To encourage faith development and spiritual growth in individuals and communities of faith; and to support special ministries in our region including, but not limited to, camping, youth ministries, Tatamagouche Center.

The Nominations committee has responded that they are in agreement with this wording. This will now need to be changed in the Governance document.

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Ramsay
Chair, Faith and Education Formation Committee

Appendix F**STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

December 12, 2020

Tri-Region (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW), 15, First Dawn Eastern Edge
Staff Support Committee Meeting, Eastern Region UCC

Report to Regional Executive(s)

Members: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister
Rev. Paula Gale (First Dawn Eastern Edge)
Jim Evans (First Dawn Eastern Edge – new member)
Rev. Derek Elsworth (Region 15)
Rev. Lesley Hamilton (Region 15)
Martha Vickers (FSLDW)
Rev. Debbie Aitken (FSLDW)

Resigned: Rev. Paul Vardy (First Dawn Eastern Edge).

The Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee for the Eastern Region of The United Church of Canada met virtually via Zoom platform December 1, 2020. This was the first meeting of the committee since the COVID-19 Pandemic declaration in March 2020.

- Update from Faith re how staff are doing since the pandemic began in March.
 - a. Coping but are weary. When the pandemic was declared, work quickly shifted from the office to home setting, requiring staff to adapt to a new way of continuing work virtually. Increased workload for all: the support staff have extra bulletins, memos, and weekly online newsletters to prepare and distribute. New events such as Town Halls have been embraced as another means of connecting with many across our regions. The regional ministers in particular have markedly heavy workloads with many 1:1 issues. Weekly online newsletters Vacations were able to be taken by staff over the past number of months. Plans are underway for a different but meaningful Christmas celebration with staff this year.
 - b. Special celebration of ministry services were organized (3) and held in person. Respecting the COVID-19 restrictions, new clergy were welcomed into the Eastern Region of The United Church of Canada. Staff support to make these happen was acknowledged.
 - c. Annual General Meetings were held virtually in all 3 regions this fall. Faith commended the team work of the support staff which was vital to each meeting's success.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – reviewed by Faith.
 - a. 360 review process got staff. Faith continues this process.
 - b. Meetings with staff continue every 8 weeks (virtually) with Faith. This allows an opportunity to inquire re “hot spots” and a “check-in” as to how they are doing.
 - c. Communication tools – Faith reported that an extra gathering has been organized this month for staff to learn, and re-learn, tools which will facilitate clearer communication between all staff.
 - d. A discussion was held regarding obtaining feedback from the staff who work across the 3 Regions, and how they are doing in their respective roles (now in year 2 of the new organizational structure).
 - e. The possibility of another Zoom virtual meeting with staff was discussed. The one held 12/2019 was very insightful to issues being experienced in the first year of the new structure.
 - f. 4 meetings/year will be organized for the Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee. Following discussion, it was felt the committee would then be able to provide Faith with more timely support when necessary, and as well facilitate a more regular “check-in” should support be required. This would then link more clearly with our Terms of Reference.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha Vickers
Region FSLDW Reporting Member
Tri-Region (14, 15, 16) Staff Support Committee, United Church of Canada*

Appendix G**JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH****Justice, Mission & Outreach Report**
December 2020

We have a number of working groups. I am just going to update you with highlights of developments that have occurred since our last executive meeting.

The Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee met by Zoom on Friday, November 13.

The following highlights are from the **Just Peace Working Group**:

- A Parliamentary petition was sent dealing with treatment of Palestinian children by Israeli military.
- Resources for a workshop on Just Peace can be found at <https://friendsofsabeel.ca/encounter-the-holy-land> Sermon resources can also be found on that website.

From the **Refugees Working Group**:

No new refugee sponsorships since COVID. One family was supposed to arrive in March, but did not arrive until 8 months later. There continue to be more delays. In Canada, the majority of refugees are from Syria. Other countries of origin are Eritrea, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. In 2019, 30,000 refugees came to Canada. The total since 2016 is 46,700.

Other Business:

We passed a motion to support funding for educational gatherings in the Shelburne area regarding the Indigenous fishery. We approved an amount of \$2,900.00.

We discussed how our committee is adjusting to the new structures in the church. It was noted that it has been difficult to communicate about justice issues at the congregational level. We don't have the same networks we used to have. We used to communicate more through presbytery meetings. Our committee will be requesting time on the agenda of our regional council annual meeting to highlight justice issues.

Submitted by:

Kent Gibbons
Chair

Appendix H

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

**Incorporated Ministries Committee
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Report to the December 12, 2020 Executive Meeting**

Your Incorporated Ministries Committee has had one Zoom meeting since the Executive last met. At that time we approved the updated bylaws of the Abbey - St. Andrews Incorporated Ministry which offers well-designed apartments and townhouse-style rental units located in the heart of Saint John, NB. These bylaws were then forwarded to the General Council where they received final administrative approval in early November. We can report that 7 of our 15 Incorporated Ministries have now updated their bylaws to comply with the new structure of the United Church and several others are working on updating theirs. This process has not only led to the bylaws reflecting the new structure of the church but has also led to a review and updating of many other clauses that were outdated.

Our visits to our various Incorporated Ministries' Boards and/or Annual Meetings continue with two more being completed since the last meeting of the Executive bringing to 9 the number of visits conducted since last year.

We continue to gather the required reporting documents from each ministry and are pleased with the progress being made in this area considering that many Ministries were unable to hold Annual Meetings because of the global pandemic so getting reports prepared and approved has not been easy for them.

A special thank you to Tracey Rose our Staff contact person for Incorporated Ministries for the work she is doing in keeping our reporting files up to date.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Spencer
Chair Incorporated Ministries Committee