

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
 FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
 March 27, 2021 at 10:00am via video conference

Attendance**ATTENDANCE**

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

Welcome**WELCOME**

The President, Audrey Lounder, welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to Mark Glass, new Chair of the Property Committee, and to Pix Butt and Tony Burnett, members of the Affirm Committee who are in attendance as Equity Monitors.

Corresponding Member**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

MOTION: (Sheila Gallant/Nathan Wright)

That Pix Butt and Tony Burnett be made corresponding members of the March 27, 2021 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

Equity Monitor**EQUITY MONITORS**

The President introduced Pix Butt and Tony Burnett, who will be present at the Executive meeting as Equity Monitors. The roll of the Equity Monitors is to attend the Executive meetings as listeners, as is the current practice at meetings of the General Council Executive. It is the hope that two Executive members will then take on the role as Equity Monitors going forward. The equity monitors ask that the Executive keep the following questions before them at all times during the meeting:

1. Am I responding with my bias(es)?
2. Just because we've always done it this way, should we continue?
3. Who is missing around our table in this discussion? (Do we need to consult wider?)
4. Whose voices haven't been heard? Have I spoken too much?
5. Am I using correct pronouns for colleagues?
6. Am I making assumptions based on race, sexual orientation, gender, to name a few?

Opening Devotions**OPENING DEVOTIONS**

The President shared a video to animate Jesus' entry to Jerusalem, as told by Linnea Good, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Quorum 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, work and worship. May we live with peace, friendship, love and respect on this land as we strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this land.

Agenda**AGENDA**

MOTION: (Heather Donnelly/Sheila Gallant)

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTESMinutes**MOTION:** (Jack Spencer/Cindy Ramsay)

That the minutes of the December 12, 2020 and February 1, 2021 meetings of the Regional Council Executive be adopted.

CARRIED**BUSINESS ARISING**Business Arising**Anti-Racism Work in the Region**

The Executive Minister updated the Executive on this work. The Regional Council leadership participated in a workshop on February 18, 2021, with Adele Halliday, Anti-Racism and Equity Officer with the General Council Office. Other work on training and educational information is continuing with the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee. The Executive Minister also noted that the Affirm Committee hosted a workshop on being an Anti-Racist Church on March 15, 2021.

Anti-Racism Work**Communications Workshop**

The Executive Minister shared that the regional staff have participated in a communications workshop with Kate Rodd from the General Council Office. Kate Rodd has also agreed to hold an additional communications workshop for Executive.

Communications Workshop**CORRESPONDENCE**Correspondence

1. **Letter of Thanks** – letter from Mount Royal United Church with thanks for the December 27, 2020 service prepared for use by communities of faith.
2. **Broadview** - A new section is being offered to regions in the pages of Broadview, called the Regional Report. The Executive discussed the package of information received and the associated costs of the publication. The Executive agreed that this piece will be discussed as part of the planned communications workshop. The President asked that this item remain on the agenda as business arising.

Letter of ThanksBroadview**REPORTS**Reports**PRESIDENT**President

The President thanked the Executive for their support during this extended term in the role as President. Much of the work of late has been related to Covid-19 and supporting congregations in the pandemic. The President also thanked the Executive Minister for her support, and offered best wishes to the incoming President, Sheila Gallant. The President offered to write a letter to the provincial government with thanks for their leadership throughout the pandemic.

EXECUTIVE MINISTERExecutive Minister

The Executive Minister began her report by thanking the Executive and staff for their leadership and support. These are most unusual times, and the work during the pandemic has been a challenge, but we are not in this work alone, and we are upheld through the support of the church and each other.

The Executive Minister highlighted some pieces of work, including the resignation of the Justice, Mission, and Outreach Minister to the three regions, Laura Hunter. Laura offered 14 years to the region, and we wish her well in her new call. Committee work has been very busy, especially the work around budgeting for 2022, and planning for the annual meeting. The Executive Minister thanked all committees for their work in these challenging times. The Executive Minister also provided an update on the work of the General Council. The Manual 2021 is now available, and should be used as the resource for all work in the region. The Executive Minister also updated the Executive on the General Council anti-racism work. The Executive Minister shared the exciting news that the Anglican Church in Canada and Presbyterian Church in Canada are moving to share office space with the United Church of Canada.

Nominations

NOMINATIONS – Appendix A

Rose Hannah Gaskin presented the report of the committee. Two items are brought forward for consideration by the Executive.

Affirm
Committee

Affirm Committee

Rose Hannah Gaskin presented the terms of reference for the Affirm Committee. This document has been reviewed by the Affirm Committee and the Nominations Committee. The Executive asked about a template or committee resource that might be available to committees as outlined in item (d). This question will be brought to the Affirm Committee before a motion is brought to the Executive.

Election of
Commissioners
To GC44

Election of General Council Commissioners

The document outlining the election process for Commissioners to General Council 44 was presented. A description of the role of a commissioner to General Council has also been prepared by General Council Office and will be distributed.

MOTION: (Rose Hannah Gaskin/Sheila Gallant)

That the process for the election of General Council Commissioners for General Council 44 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Financial and
Mission
Services

FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES – Appendix B

Nathan Wright presented the report of the committee.

Budget 2022

Budget 2022

The draft budget has been prepared. This budget is based on estimates, given that we have just completed a pandemic year and that there are still many unknowns regarding “regular” operations. It was also noted that there has been a decrease in mission support grants to the region. Mission Support Grant recipients have been notified that grant amounts may therefore be reduced in the future.

MOTION: (Nathan Wright/Heather Donnelly)

That the Budget 2022 be accepted as presented and be brought to the annual meeting.

CARRIED

Regional
Planning
Committee

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Appendix C

Sheila Gallant presented the report of the Regional Planning Committee. The Committee brings forward two recommendations for consideration by the Executive.

MOTION: (Sheila Gallant/Nathan Wright)

That the Regional Council Executive agrees to purchase 250 (two hundred fifty) pewter ornaments from *Seagull Pewter* as gifts for jubilarians, retirees, and those leaving the region.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Sheila Gallant/Mark Glass)

That the Regional Council Executive agrees to purchase a personalized chalice and plate from *Kissed by Fire* for new ministers, as a gift from the region at the Celebration of Ministry Service.

CARRIED

The chair also noted that this is a very busy time for the committee. Annual meeting planning is well underway, with worship and liturgy currently being planned. The committee will meet again on April 21, 2021.

PROPERTY

Property

The Executive welcomed Mark Glass, new chair of the Property Committee. The Property Committee is a very busy committee, with many active files. A full report will be available for the next meeting of the Executive.

BREAK

Break

PASTORAL RELATIONS – Appendix D

Pastoral
Relations

Catherine Gaw presented the report of the committee. The committee continues to seek ways of being creative in order to support ministry personnel and faith communities throughout the pandemic. The chair highlighted work of the committee, including the work to compile a listing of those who are willing to offer pulpit supply, the impact of the pandemic on ministry personnel who are planning retirement, and the financial stress that faces many of our communities of faith.

Trinity-Clifton Pastoral Charge Review (Review File 2019-1004-01)

Trinity-Clifton
PC Review

The Executive Minister presented the report of the Commission, dated March 15, 2021. The report outlines recommendations for the interim minister, the Regional Minister and the Executive. The Executive Minister offered appreciation to the Commission for their work, especially during these pandemic times. The Executive Minister will follow up with the Commission with thanks for their work and a discussion regarding the communication process.

Review File
2019-1004-01

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Rose Hannah Gaskin)

That the report and recommendations from the Commission for the Trinity-Clifton Review be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Mandate

Mandate

MOTION: (Catherine Gaw/Sheila Gallant)

That the mandate of the Pastoral Relations Committee be accepted as amended, removing (a) *regular* from the section inspection of manses, and (b) the notification piece.

CARRIED

It was noted that the mandate also states that the Property Committee will be notified of properly authorized sales of manses. Mark Glass, Property Chair, will follow up with Pastoral Relations to discuss this communication process.

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE – Appendix E

Staff Support
Committee

Martha Vickers, representative to the Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee, presented the report of the committee. The pandemic has created some stress for staff, especially with regards to working from home, and continuing the work within the region without the ability to travel. A meeting is planned with all staff in April to hear directly about the challenges of working throughout the pandemic and what support may be offered.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH – Appendix F

Justice,
Mission and
Outreach

Kent Gibbons, chair, presented the report of the committee. Work continues on the anti-racism work and Guaranteed Livable Income network. The chair also presented information received from the Common Front for Social Justice. The communication outlines the reform proposed to the Family Income Security Act which currently results in the provincial government clawing back earnings of social assistance recipients.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Mark Glass)

That the Regional Council Executive endorse the proposed reforms to the Family Income Security Act, known as the wage exemption policy.

CARRIED

The chair also highlighted the recent crisis regarding homelessness in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Archives and Records

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

Julielynn Anderson presented the report of the committee. The committee has recently successfully hosted two workshops with good attendance. The committee has also received requests for additional workshops.

Incorporated Ministries

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES – Appendix G

Jack Spencer presented the report of the committee.

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Nathan Wright)

That the revised by-laws of Prince Place Miramichi be accepted and forwarded to General Council for administrative approval.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Jack Spencer/Cindy Ramsay)

That the Camp Abegweit by-laws be approved as revised and be forwarded to General Council for administrative approval.

CARRIED

The chair thanked Tracey Rose and Faith March-MacCuish for their support in completing this work.

United Church Women

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN – Appendix H

Elaine Burrows presented the report of the United Church Women. The UCW are hopeful that travel restrictions will be relaxed and that an in-person celebration of the 60th anniversary will be possible in July 2022.

Faith and Education Formation

FAITH AND EDUCATION FORMATION – Appendix I

(Catherine Stuart joined the meeting)

Corresponding Member

CORRESPONDING MEMBER

MOTION: (Cindy Ramsay/Sheila Gallant)

That Catherine Stuart be a corresponding member to the March 27, 2021 meeting of the Executive.

CARRIED

Cindy Ramsay presented the report of the committee, included in the appendix. The chair also brought forward one item for consideration.

MOTION: (Cindy Ramsay/Mark Glass)

That the Regional Council Executive agree to set up a focus group to discuss and dream the future for intermediates and youth forum at regional council.

CARRIED

Catherine Stuart spoke to the pandemic fatigue with the planning committees and participants for these events, and the fact that the youth gatherings were traditionally based on in person events. The committee are now looking at this year as an opportunity to re-set and dream and envision for an energized way forward. The committee will bring names for the group and a more detailed process to the next meeting of the Executive.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Order of the Day

MOTION: (Cindy Ramsay/Sheila Gallant)

That the end of day for the meeting be extended by 30 (thirty) minutes.

CARRIED

(Jack Spencer left the meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

UKULELE CHURCH

Ukulele Church

Catherine Stuart introduced the Executive to Ukulele Church, a new ministry initiative for children. She thanked the Executive for the opportunity to help spread this news and information. The initiative has received funding from Embracing the Spirit. More information is available on the regional website through the Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults. The President thanked Catherine Stuart for the presentation. The Executive Minister noted that Catherine started her work in the regions during this pandemic and offered appreciation for this work.

(Catherine Stuart left the meeting)

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Refugee Sponsorship

The Executive Minister presented information funds for the sponsorship of a refugee family through the refugee sponsorship group from the former Miramichi Presbytery. The Executive Minister has worked with the Financial Officer from the General Council regarding how this committee could best function in compliance in the new regional structure.

MOTION: (Rose Hannah Gaskin/Mark Glass)

That the Refugee Sponsorship group be accepted as a committee of the region, reporting to the Executive Minister, with funds to be distributed through the Regional Council Office.

CARRIED

The Executive deferred discussion as to how this group will fit in the regional council structure for future reporting and accountability; possibly through Justice, Mission and Outreach.

HOW WE MEET

How We Meet

The Executive Minister asked the Executive to consider forming a small committee to work with the Regional Planning Committee to develop some proposals around whether the region will continue to work on planning annual meetings separate from Regional Council 15, or together (as with the former Maritime Conference), and the frequency of the meetings. This matter will be brought forward to the next meeting of the Executive.

(Heather Donnelley assumed the chair)

GUARANTEED LIVING INCOME NETWORK

Guaranteed Living Income Network

The President asked the Executive for clarification on her representation while serving on the New Brunswick network of the Guaranteed Living Income Network. It was confirmed that one must assume that you are in the role of President at all times during your term.

(Audrey Louder reassumed the chair)

Equity Monitors

EQUITY MONITORS

Tony Burnett and Pix Butt thanked the Executive for allowing their participation at this meeting. The monitors did note that the Executive membership included more women, more members from New Brunswick and more clergy than lay. It is noted that there should be more representation from youth as well as indigenous representation. The Executive are also encouraged to use pronouns in their naming.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the President declared that the meeting adjourn.

Benediction

BENEDICTION

The President, Audrey Louder, closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive will be at the call of the President to deal with any necessary business for the Annual Meeting.

Audrey Louder
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

Appendix A

NOMINATIONS

Report to the Executive of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters
From the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met in January, February, and March, 2021. We have made one appointment to Pastoral Relations, another to Finance & Mission Services and found a new Chairperson for the Property Committee (Mark Glass). To date, all the Committees are at full membership level.

We are reviewing the new needs that have come from the Committees for the terms that end as of the May 2021 Annual Meeting. We have a list of people who indicated at our last AGM that they are willing to serve and that is consulted every time we have a vacancy. This is an important assist when looking for new members. I would ask Executive members to encourage potential applicants they may be aware of to indicate their willingness to serve.

We seek to find the best fit for every vacancy, keeping in mind an optimal and representative mix of members of the Region. In part, this means considering variables such as gender, ordered/lay and area of the Region. The Nominations Committee is a committed group and I am happy to say there is no turn over this year. That said, we do rely on a broader base of knowledge and so we encourage and welcome your suggestions.

In Shared Ministry,

Rose-Hannah Gaskin, Chairperson

Appendix B**FINANCIAL AND MISSION SERVICES**

Financial and Mission Services Committee
Report for March 2021 Executive Meeting

The Financial and Mission Services Committee met on March 15th via Zoom to consider a number of matters that came before it.

- 1) Approved a request from Nashwaak Pastoral Charge for emergency ministry personnel financial support in the amount of \$2500.
- 2) Approved funding request from UCW 60th Anniversary to support 2022 event in the amount of \$718.05
- 3) Approved the following 2020 year-end motions:
 - Bank Interest of \$4,774.37 (interest from term deposit) be transferred to the Learning Grants;
 - Archives Rent of \$930 be transferred to Archives Deferred Revenue;
 - Archives Donations of \$50 be transferred to Archives Deferred Revenue;
 - Rental Income of \$137.50 be transferred to Building Maintenance Deferred Revenue;
 - Office Donations of \$352.70 be transferred to building maintenance;
 - Investment Certificate (General) Interest of \$920 be transferred to learning grants; and
 - Mission Support balance of \$94,319.82 be transferred to Mission and Support Grants Held.
- 4) Approved recommended draft 2022 budget for consideration by Executive (attached)

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Wright
Chair, Financial and Mission Services Committee

Appendix C

REGIONAL MEETING PLANNING

ANNUAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Annual Planning Committee has met twice in 2021. We have our music leaders in place and suggestions for music placement on the agenda were considered. An agenda was reviewed with a view to where items requiring presentation might be placed. This is only in the discussion phase as we look at which committees might require agenda time, those that might be presented in writing in one procedural motion, and where to place either a complete break or add a music break or both. All committees will be presenting during a webinar prior to the annual meeting dates. Ideas for the worship times were also considered. There will be a Service of Remembrance Service and a Celebration of Ministry this year.

Two items need Executive approval in order for us to move forward.

The first item we considered was a presentation to our Retirees/Jubilarians and perhaps a way to recognize Ministers who have left our Region to continue their ministries within another Regional Council. We reviewed a number of options and pricing before settling on the following.

We are recommending to the Executive for consideration ordering from Seagull Pewter 250 ornaments with a satin finish and the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council crest. A hundred and fifty would be engraved with "*Thank you for your Ministry* ♥" and 100 with no engraving. The minimum order number starts at 250 at a cost of \$10/item and each come mounted in a burgundy gift box with acetate lid. It was suggested we might offer for sale some of the 100 not engraved and/or the Regional Council could present them to each Ecumenical representative at our Annual Meetings.

The second item we are recommending the Executive consider is presenting a gift of a chalice and plate to each individual being celebrated at the Celebration of Ministry service. We had looked at three local Maritime businesses that create their own pottery and the cost involved before deciding on a chalice and plate set in the Northern Lights Pattern created at Kissed By Fire in Sackville, NB, at \$70/set tax included.

Thanks to Jennifer Whittemore for her work collecting the information and prices from the businesses. It was appreciated.

Our next meeting is April 21st.

Sheila Gallant
(Acting) Chair
Annual Planning Committee
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council

Appendix D

PASTORAL RELATIONS

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Pastoral Relations report to the Executive
March 27, 2021

Greetings from the members of your pastoral relations committee, and peace.

Our ministries continue to be shaped and mended by three realities: the steady presence of the spirit, the steady marching of days and the unsteadiness of an ongoing pandemic. Each of these is represented in the work of the pastoral relations committee.

The wearing relentlessness of the pandemic impacts us all. The ministry personnel facing the second Holy Week without the possibility of unlimited in-person gatherings takes a toll. Yet many are finding new ways, creative ways to reach out. For that we offer thanks. The church year moves us to the contemplation of the fullness of love. For that we offer thanks. And the faithfulness of hundreds of members of communities of faith across our region is a gift of the spirit for which we are ever mindful and deeply thankful.

Within this framework the pastoral relations committee continues to seek ways of being creative in the midst of this new reality. Some of that is reflected in the efforts to develop and test a self-assessment for faith communities. Four communities now have the draft material before them and we anticipate their reply. Once received, the committee will need to make whatever adjustments have been recommended and determine how best to circulate the updated version among the region. That distribution may take place in the early autumn.

Several initiatives are being unfolded in order to assist ministry personnel and faith communities. Ministry personnel (and others) are being invited to reflect their ideas around how to fulfill that portion of our mandate: "Encouraging and supporting Ministry Personnel toward health, joy, and excellence in ministry practice". Input has been sought on the weekly announcements. We hope to email each ministry personnel following Holy Week and Easter period to generate more replies. Once received the committee will review and recommend further action.

Another effort is to compile a listing of those ministry personnel, in good standing, who are willing to offer pulpit supply. We recognize the need for ministry personnel to be able to have a rest and hope that such a list might assist faith communities in contacting someone to cover pulpit work.

One of the impacts of the pandemic is on those who are requesting a change in pastoral relations for the purposes of retirement. For these folk, it is a difficult time to find an appropriate way to say farewell. The absence of ongoing worship and opportunities to say goodbye is challenging. We have agreed to extend dates until further notice in order to encourage a healthy and meaningful leave taking.

One initiative we have encouraged in a partnership with the Atlantic regions to support ministry personnel in participating in a program from The Prayer Bench, The Soul of the Preacher. We have been able to offer, in concert with our Atlantic region friends, a 25% discount on the registration fee for up to 30 participants. We sincerely hope that the offer is taken up and that our ministry personnel receive both renewal for their souls and an affirmation from the Regions!

We are aware of the added financial stress being experienced by many faith communities at this time. And we acknowledge that the challenge of gathering by Zoom is making overly stressed people react in uncharacteristic fashion. Our prayer is for patience.

You will find a listing of the calls and appointments to all faith communities in an attachment. We remain aware of the increasing numbers of part-time positions.

Appendix D - continued

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

We have always forwarded for your approval, the revised mandate of the committee. We thank Hugh Ellis and Barbara Prowse for the time they devoted to this revision. And to Jennifer Whittemore who made sure the links were 'live'. This mandate will be posted on the website.

Our report cannot be complete without a word of gratitude to the Regional Minister, Kendall Harrison for all his work. We appreciate his efforts and the efforts of the staff and liaisons who work to sort through the myriad of details always before us. And to the faithful who have explored new ways of being church during these strange times and we give thanks for the gift of the Holy who gathers us together in a new and different way.

Blessings be,

Catherine Gaw

Appendix E**STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

February 16, 2021 at 9am last meeting (virtual)
Tri-Region (Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW), 15, First Dawn Eastern Edge (FDEE) Staff Support Committee Meeting, Eastern Region UCC
Regional Executive Report: 03/2021

Members Present: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, Jim Evans (First Dawn Eastern Edge), Rev. Derek Elsworth (15), Martha Vickers (FSLDW), Rev. Debbie Aitken (FSLDW)

Regrets: Rev. Lesley Hamilton (15), Rev. Paula Gale (First Dawn Eastern Edge).

Format: Zoom virtual meeting

1. Update from Faith since last meeting of December 12, 2020.
 - a. Staff continue to cope, some better than others. The continual colour phase changes of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions as been wearisome. In/out of office changes reflect the ever-changing pandemic landscape.
 - i. The St. John's office has again moved to home settings due to the recent COVID outbreak since Feb. 10.
 - ii. The Sackville office – postponed opening the building to the public as originally planned for Jan. 14 due to an outbreak in that region. Presently staff members are staggering who is in the office while the remainder work from home.
 - iii. Mixed staff reviews regarding working from home.
 1. Regional ministers are challenged to use the virtual Zoom platform to manage crises at times. Face to face meetings have been held, following pandemic protocol, depending upon the pandemic stage/phase.
 2. The inability to travel to the regions to accomplish work has been overcome many times by staff creatively using the virtual platforms to connect to clergy in various regions.
 - iv. The reality of family responsibilities now being felt eg. Home schooling, illnesses
 - b. Faith completed 1:1 staff meetings in January. Next step: Staff 360 reviews.
 - c. Faith spoke of her role as a member of the Executive Ministers group at General Council. Monthly meetings are held. Michael Blair now provides oversight; an opportunity to meet 1:1 seen as a positive change - provides an opportunity to share individual, unique concerns.
 - d. A brief discussion ensued re congregations in general, strengths as well as struggles for many.
 - i. It was again acknowledged that the pandemic has been particularly difficult with the constantly changing colour phase restrictions for faith venues. Faith was applauded by the committee members for her timely diligent support to the regions on these matters.
 - ii. There is a sense of anxiety/angst amongst some clergy re-entering 2nd year of not meeting in person, and what this may potentially mean in terms of attendance when congregations will once again be able to gather in person.
 - e. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee annual budget: \$1500/yr. = \$500 x 3 regions.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Appendix F

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee

The Justice, Mission & Outreach Committees of Regional Council 15 and the Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council met by Zoom on March 23.

One of the main reports we heard was from the Ecological Justice Working Group. They are planning to have an event on Earth Day, April 22 at 11:30 a.m. called "Creation, Climate, and You". It is meant to be a faithful climate conversation. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, email either Laura Hunter or Emma Seamone. This working group is also doing educational work promoting the Faithful Footprints program of the United Church; they have raised concerns about small molecular nuclear reactors, and environmental racism. They would like to encourage people to sign the petition re Bill C-230 on environmental racism. You can also learn about this topic by listening to a podcast made by Laura Hunter. She interviewed Dr. Ingrid Waldron on this topic. Her podcast is called "Making Hope Visible".

Another thing that has been happening is work being done by the Anti-Racism network. That network met by Zoom about ten days ago. They are planning to do some book studies and/or movie studies.

There is a Guaranteed Liveable Income network in the province of New Brunswick. They have met several times by Zoom, and will eventually connect with the national network.

The Atlantic Seminar will meet online from June 13-16. The topic is "Falling in Love with Earth."

Submitted by

Kent Gibbons
Chair

Appendix G

INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

Incorporated Ministries Committee
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
Report to the March 27, 2021 Executive Meeting

The Incorporated Ministries Committee met by Zoom on March 11, 2021 and heard reports from our members regarding the ministries they are overseeing on our behalf.

The committee feels we have been successful in establishing positive contact with most of our ministries by having individual members named as our initial contact person with particular ministries. Several Incorporated Ministries have approached us for help and support in helping to get their governance matters in order.

We have requested all of our incorporated ministries to make sure our Executive Minister is listed as an ex-officio member of their Board and she is now receiving minutes and other correspondence from most of them.

This is the time of year when we seek to gather the required annual reports and other documentation. We are pleased that most of the reports are being received and anticipate others to arrive as soon as Annual Meetings can be held. Our staff support person Tracey Rose tracks the reports as they are received and files them in each Ministry's file. We express our thanks to her for doing this task.

We continue to work on having the By-laws of each ministry updated to reflect the new United Church structure. Seven of our Incorporated Ministries have completed and a couple of others are actively working on theirs. I'm happy to report that two of our ministries, Prince Place (a housing ministry in Newcastle, NB) and Camp Abegweit (in PEI) have recently submitted drafts of their revised bylaws. At the time of our meeting the Prince Place Bylaws had been approved by their Board and their Membership and a motion was passed at our meeting "that we forward the updated by-laws for Prince Place (Miramichi) Inc. to the Regional Council Executive with a recommendation for approval."

A few minor revisions to the proposed Camp Abegweit Bylaws had been suggested by our General Council Staff Person, Bev Oag and the Camp Abegweit Board had not been able to meet to approve them prior to our Committee meeting so the following motion was passed by our committee "that we approve the Camp Abegweit by-laws pending the receipt of a motion of approval from the Board and the membership and then forward them on to the Regional Council Executive for approval."

Respectfully submitted by Jack Spencer
Chair Incorporated Ministries Committee

Appendix H

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Maritime United Church Women
Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Water March 27, 2021 report

The purpose of the United Church Women is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. The purpose of Maritime UCW is to provide support to the UCW throughout the region so they can do just that.

The pandemic has provided many challenges for UCW groups in how they usually meet, and do their work. Some groups are meeting in person, and over Zoom, but many have not been meeting in person. Some groups have hardly missed a beat in the work they do. There is always the yearly challenge to gather statistics. In order for a group to call themselves UCW, they need to pay the district (if they have one), Maritime and National dues. We need to know the number of women in each group, the number of units in the community of faith, and any lifetime memberships given out, and the names of members who have died in the past year. Numbers are shrinking but small groups can still have an effective ministry within and beyond their church.

Our 60th anniversary committee continues to work behind the scenes meeting once a month to plan for the July 11-15 2022 event in Sydney, NS. On January 29th we met with staff from the National office and National UCW to discuss online registration, finance, special guests, and other shared aspects of the event. There is lots to do, but things are coming together under the leadership of Ruth Kennedy. The committee is looking for help from people in the Cape Breton area with the event. We have nearly enough communion glasses for the closing communion service. They will be engraved and there will be a description of where the glasses came from to give to everyone who is at that service. A letter of request for financial assistance for meals and lodging for Leona Laundry who will set up and host the "Book Room" has been sent to the executive minister and the two financial divisions for consideration. Region 15 responded with a cheque.

The Maritime UCW newsletter continues to be published and has put on the regional website where it can be printed off. There is still a subscription of \$7.00 for those who would like a printed copy mailed to them. The "Keeping in Touch" newsletter is being replaced with one that will be produced by the National UCW.

I have taken part in the Archival (Jan. 21) and the Artifact (Jan. 28) Zoom workshops offered by the Archives and Records committee for the region. On Feb. 18 I took the anti-racism workshop led by Adele Halliday, the Anti-Racism Officer of the United Church of Canada, and the Becoming an Anti-Racist Church led by the Justice, Mission and Outreach committee for the region which was on March 10th.

Our next MUCW executive meeting is scheduled for March 22 over Zoom.

Elaine Burrows
MUCW representative to FSLDW
MUCW president
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Appendix I**FAITH AND EDUCATION FORMATION**

Faith, Education and Formation Committee – report to Executive – March 27, 2021

The Faith, Education and Formation Committee met via Zoom meetings on January 13 and February 10.

We held 1 discussion webinar in February with individuals working with Sunday Schools and youth groups in both our region and region 15 to share ideas, particularly for Lent and Easter, and to give support to each other. The next thing we are planning on offering is a 1-day session for the leaders themselves.

We conducted a survey and are looking at how to address the topics that were specifically identified as needs from the region.

We have had updates from the camping community and also on the various programs being offered in our region such as ukulele church, soup nights, and biblical story telling. We are working with the Worship team for the annual meeting on an idea to connect all communities of faith, in keeping with the theme of the meeting.

One item we would like to bring to the Executive today for action:

Given that:

- Intermediates at Conference (IAC) and Youth Forum had a place in the Maritime Conference structure but had not been accounted for in the FSLDW structure,
- the reality that the former planning committees are not active and many have moved on, and
- the reality of COVID fatigue among youth online events such that this year they will not occur at the annual meeting.

We propose the following motion: **That the Faith, Education and Formation committee ask that for this year (2021) a focus group be set up to discuss and dream the future of IAC and Youth Forum.**

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Ramsay
Chair - Faith, Education and Formation Committee