

Presence and Hope

Friday, May 14, 2021

Registration

REGISTRATION

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the May 14-16, 2021 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered three webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that will require decision making at the annual meeting.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE – Appendix A

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

Regrets

REGRETS – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

Gathering

GATHERING

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 6:00pm for members to gather and to test connections.

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Peggy Johnson, welcomed everyone to the third annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President noted what a joy it is to gather together, and for her to be chairing this meeting of the regional council. The President noted that we are joined together through this technology and also through our shared faith and spirit.

Quorum

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Constitution of
the Council**

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

**Acknowledging
the Land**

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the territory in which we gather. The island of Newfoundland is the ancestral homeland of the Mi'Kmaq and Beothuk. We also recognize the Inuit and the Innu as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

**Opening
Worship**

OPENING WORSHIP

Gneid Lackey of the Liturgy Team, opened the meeting with scripture, and prayer. President Peggy Johnson offered prayer. President-Elect, Rev. Grant Stuckless introduced the theme *Presence and Hope* and welcomed Dr. Erin Powell to help animate this theme. Dr. Powell is an oncologist, and offered particular insight into God's hope and presence, even in these most difficult pandemic times. Bill Matchem, Peter MacDonald Music, and Wayne Blackwood provided music leadership.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM – Appendix C

The in memoriam prayer and slideshow presentation was led by Rev. Heather Sandford, Regional Minister.

MODERATORModerator

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, shared opening remarks via video message. He spoke of the challenges of this pandemic year, but thanked those gathered for finding ways to ensure that we continued to reach out and support one another through it all. It will be a different year ahead, and a different General Council 44 (GC44) gathering, but there will also be opportunities in connection, learning and worship. The Moderator invites everyone to take the time and energy to make GC44 the best experience it can be. He asks also that we continue to gather and celebrate one another.

GENERAL SECRETARYGeneral Secretary

The General Secretary, Michael Blair, shared opening remarks via video message. He thanked the region for its mission and ministry in the past year. In particular, the General Secretary expressed gratitude for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador for offering support to Ontario as they still grapple with this pandemic. The General Secretary expressed thanks and gratitude for the work of the church in this difficult time, but also expressed excitement for what lies ahead.

WELCOMEWelcome

The President introduced John Young, Executive Minister of Theological Leadership, joining the meeting as representative of the General Council Office, and Cameron Trimble, theme speaker.

CHECK-INCheck-In

Using breakout rooms, members of the Region took time to check-in with each other and share their feelings and experiences about the focus question where have you experienced *Presence and Hope* this year?

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND STUDENTSIntroduction of New Ministers and Students**Introduction of Students**

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister, welcomed the students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to admissionand Limon Daka, and to Rebecca Pike, being commissioned as a Diaconal Minister, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries Service. Andrew Richardson also introduced to the council admission applicant Edison Wiltshire; candidate for ordered ministry Stephanie Rose; and Designated Lay Ministerial candidates Heather Cronhelm, James Martin-Carter, and Keith Wiseman.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONProcedural Motion

Stephanie McClellan and Cecil Noseworthy of the Program Team presented the opening procedural motion.

MOTION: (Stephanie McClellan/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2021 C.1.1 and C.1.2):

The members of the Order of Ministry and other Ministry Personnel who are:

- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their Community of Faith.

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2021;

“The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and that there be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose.”

“That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space.”

“That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council.”

“That the agenda as printed and distributed be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined, by the Council.”

That the business table be Cecil Noseworthy, Stephanie McClellan and Grant Stuckless.

That the minute secretary for the Third (3rd) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People’s Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2021 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. Bourinot’s Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix.

Speakers will:

- Start by identifying them self (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- All discussion should be directed to the President.
- Each person may address the President only once about a motion, except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- That the initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three minutes.
- That all subsequent speakers limit their time to two minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
- All discussion should be clear and concise and deal only with the motion.

CARRIED

Consent Motion

CONSENT MOTION

MOTION: (Stephanie McClellan/Cecil Noseworthy)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, September 16-18, 2020 (RC101-RC114) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Regional Executive Minister
 - c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
 - d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
 - e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
 - f. Division of Human Resources
 - g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
 - a. Atlantic School of Theology
 - b. Emmanuel College
 - c. Office of Vocation
 - d. General Council Commissioner

CARRIED



BREAK

Break

YOUTH FORUM

Youth Forum

The Youth Forum joined the meeting for the Theme presentation. The President welcomed the youth to the regional council.

THEME I

Theme I

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, introduced the theme speaker, Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO of Convergence. Rev. Trimble used examples from her aviation background to illustrate perspective, and how we see things differently from different levels. She asks us to question our assumptions and the way we do things; to develop the eyes to see and the ears to hear the opportunity that is before us. In recent times, we have witnessed financial meltdown, entertainment shutdown, climate breakdown, Covid lockdown, racial throwdown, and Christian letdown. The hope is that we have woken up and are hopefully shaken up to see that rules, systems and institutions are shaping new values, beliefs and religion. "When the old way of life becomes unbearable, a new way of life emerges". The presentation concluded with several theories, including one that online church is here to stay; church closures will accelerate; our funding models need to be reimagined; we will seek new skills and greater connection to communities; and that we will create new stories and songs to carry us forward. The theme presenter left us with the challenge to grant one another the openness and curiosity to say yes to new ideas and to "just try".

CLOSING VESPERS

Closing Vespers

Closing vespers were led by Gneid Lackey, with Peter MacDonald Music, Catherine Stuart, and St. Matthew's United Church Choir, Lewisporte, offering music leadership.

Saturday, May 15, 2021

GATHERING

Gathering

The meeting opened at 9:30am for members to gather and to test connections.

MUSIC

Music

Gneid Lackey led the gathering with music. Music was offered by Larry Noseworthy, Yvonne Milley, and Peter MacDonald Music.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order and thanked members of the regional council for gathering together.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging the Land

The President acknowledged the land on which we gather. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

OPENING WORSHIP

Opening Worship

The opening worship was led by Liturgy Team Convenor, Gneid Lackey, who offered prayer, words and song to help centre those gathered. Bill Matchem shared the scripture reading from Psalm 139. Members gathered were moved into breakout rooms to further reflect on the theme and scripture.

THEME II

Theme II

The President welcomed Cameron Trimble, theme presenter, back to the regional council meeting. The theme presenter continued to focus on the patterns of life that we are seeing in the world now, and the principles of leadership that we need to move forward.

In this period of deconstruction, we are seeing a move from organized religion to organizing religion, unprecedented questions of human identity and meaning, and faith as spirit-focused; in search of deeper wisdom. If we come to understand that God's love is always there for us, and that we share that love with one another, then we want to work for our communities, and show that the quality of life and the community as a whole is better when the United Church is present. We are challenged to ask ourselves why? Why the United Church? What do we stand for, as opposed to what do we stand against? Covid provides the opportunity to challenge all the ways "we used to be" and how "we can be". If so, we will come out the other side more whole; more awakened. Ask your congregations what is our adventure? What is our journey? As leaders, we are challenged to not let control limit creativity. Open space allows the spirit to flow through and lead us forward. Failure is a part of the process. It is scary to make these investments, but out of failures can come great successes. Cameron concluded her presentation with the thought that maybe our best days are ahead! Keep being faithful to the ministry and the work, and to the willingness to stay in this change together. A new Christianity is emerging in our midst; as faith on the move; kind, generous and brave and embracing the ancient faith.

The Executive Minister thanked Cameron Trimble for joining us, and for sharing so much that will challenge us to think deeply.

Music and
Break

MUSIC AND BREAK

As the meeting moved to the break, the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parly introduced a video to bring awareness to the Guaranteed Livable Income Network.

Elections –
Part I

ELECTIONS – Part I

President-Elect

President-Elect

Bruce Rideout, Chair of Nominations, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The nominee for President-Elect attended a webinar on May 12, 2021, and was given five minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

MOTION: (Bruce Rideout/Grant Stuckless)

That Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher be acclaimed as President-Elect of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

CARRIED

Ukulele Church

UKULELE CHURCH

Catherine Stuart, Children, Youth and Young Adult Minister, and Linnea Good, biblical storyteller and musician, introduced the council to Ukulele Church, a new ministry for children ages 5-12 in the regions, which offers bible stories, crafts and music each Sunday afternoon. This initiative was developed as a response to "how to be the church with children during these pandemic times". It is growing into a musical and spirit-filled way of being church together. More details are available on the regional website, through the minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults. The ministry has also received a grant through *Embracing the Spirit*, and encourages members to invite youth in the region to join.

Mission and
Service

MISSION AND SERVICE

The President welcomed Roger Janes, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for the eastern regions of the United Church. Roger shared a presentation asking members to imagine what we would do if money was not an issue? If money is getting in the way of your congregation's dreams, then there are resources available for your ministry and mission through stewardship. *Called to be the Church: The Journey* is a new program that is finding a way to help pastoral charges to focus on their ministry. This program includes detailed analysis, individualized coaching, and staff support. We are all invited to consider making Mission & Service a part of our givings. Donations are used to help make a huge difference in living out our faith in the world. A video presentation thanked everyone for their gifts and for helping the United Church change lives through donations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Heather Sandford reminded members of the kitchen party, scheduled after the Milestones in Ministry celebration. All those who would like to participate are invited to sign up.

LUNCH

Lunch

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

Music for gathering was offered by Peter MacDonald music, Chloe Gale, and Myles Vardy.

PROPOSAL – Appendix D

Proposal

Paula Gale introduced the proposal *A call for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, through its Executive, to begin discussions with Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs) to address issues being felt by them, especially as it pertains to policy around sacraments and licensing, and how First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might best represent DLMs at the General Council level.* (Appendix D), received from Alice Moores, Designated Lay Minister, DLM, William Matchem, DLM, James Martin Carter, DLM-NR, Susan Sheppard, DLM, Georgina Parsons, DLM, Ray Case, DLM, and Emma O'Rourke, DLM. The proposal asks for action by the regional council to begin discussions with DLMs on the issues stated to clarify and understand the frustrations that are being felt in the region, and on policy around sacraments and licensing and how best the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might represent DLMs at the General Council level. Alice Moores provided background for the motion, and members were invited to ask any questions for clarification.

Designated Lay Ministry

MOTION: (Alice Moores/Bill Matchem)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, through its Executive, begin discussions with Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs), on the issues stated above, in order to clarify and understand the frustrations that are being felt in the Region; and that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council begin discussions with DLMs on policy around sacraments and licensing and how best the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might represent DLMs at the General Council level.

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Executive Minister

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, offered her remarks to the members gathered. The Executive Minister expressed gratitude for everyone who has given so much of themselves to the living out of the Gospel in this time and place in our history; to members of the region, ministry personnel, communities of faith, staff, executive. The Executive Minister also shared a parable, which animated how the difficulties we have faced were hardships, but have also given us new possibilities. We have what it takes within us to be the church; to answer the call to discipleship; and to answer God's call to be open to the spirit and ask what next? If we all work together, the best might be yet to come.

(Grant Stuckless assumed the chair)

PRESIDENT

President

The President, Peggy Johnson, addressed the council. She expressed sincere gratitude to the region for their support. She shared her deep appreciation for the clergy who found ways of ministering throughout the pandemic. The President reflected on the professions that led to her call to ministry, and her time with the United Church. The President thanked all the members gathered for their support, and offered special thanks to the Executive Minister and the regional council staff. The President graciously offered thanks to the region for allowing her to have this experience. The Executive Minister thanked the President for going above and beyond, and serving this region for two years.

(Peggy Johnson reassumed the chair)

Go Project**GO PROJECT**

The President welcomed Oliver Dingwell and Rebecca Pike to the council to speak to the GO Project. A slide show presentation was used to educate the council on the mission and vision of this national incorporated ministry for children and youth. Inclusivity, community building and justice are at the core of the program. This summer, the GO Project will operate youth day camps, with one program offered from Cowan Heights United Church.

Stella's Circle**STELLA'S CIRCLE**

Lisa Browne, CEO of Stella's Circle, was introduced to the regional council by the President. The vision *a home, a job and a community* is the foundation of Stella's Circle in the community. The programming of Stella's Circle offers a hand up, not a hand out. The past year has been a challenge, however, within two weeks of the pandemic being declared, programs were developed to bridge the technology divide with participants; bringing counselling programs to those in need of support. A real source of pride this year is the establishment of JEDI: justice, equity, diversity and inclusivity committee. In closing, Lisa Browne expressed gratitude to the United Church and for all of their support.

Sing 2025**SING 2025**

The President introduced Kevin Parks, a member of *Sing 2025*, the development team working on the church's new digital hymn and worship resources. Kevin presented a background of the future forward plan for Worship United; the umbrella for *Gathering* online and the *Let Us Sing* portal for online resources that are easy to access, simplify copyright issues, and are readily searchable. These resources are planned to be available for the church's 100th anniversary. Church music leaders are invited to connect through Music United for mutual support and encouragement. The network is currently looking for a convenor from the First Dawn Eastern Edge region.

Break**BREAK**General Council
Executive
Representative**GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

The President welcomed, John Young, Executive Minister of Theological Leadership, who joins the meeting as representative of the General Council Office. John Young shared that the United Church is currently working on its strategic plan. As was stated by the theme presenter, we need to know where we want to go as a church in the days ahead. Over 500 (five hundred) participants have taken part in town halls. After additional consultation, a draft plan will be presented to General Council Commissioners, laying out our vision as the United Church.

Financial
Statements
2020**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020**

Roy West, chair of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the 2020 audited financial statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on May 6, 2021. The auditor, MNP, reported that the statements *present fairly the financial position of the regional council*. It was also noted that the reports outline the restricted and unrestricted funds of the region very clearly, and that the region is in a stronger financial position after 2020 than it was after 2019. The chair offered thanks to the regional staff for their work on the audit.

MOTION: (Roy West/Sharon Collins)

That the 2020 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIEDBudget 2022**BUDGET 2022**

The First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council budget for 2022 was presented by Roy West. An information webinar for the 2022 budget took place on May 6, 2021. It was noted that, since entering the new structure in the church, that there has been no "normal" fiscal year to gauge regular operating expenses.

The budget for 2022 therefore shows very few changes from 2021, and is considered conservative, given the uncertainty of these pandemic times. The noted changes in the budget are an increase in salaries due to cost of living increases, and an increased contingency for legal expenses. Also noted was that the budgeted amount for divisions and teams are based solely on previous years, but will be refined as we develop some financial history as a region. The Division of Finance and Administration is therefore presenting a balanced budget for 2022, with Mission Support Grant payments remaining the same.

MOTION: (Roy West/Danny Button)

That the budget for 2022 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

ELECTIONS – Part II

General Council Commissioners

Gneid Lackey, Secretary of Nominations, introduced the council to the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 44 (GC44). Those nominated for General Council Commissioners attended a webinar on May 12, 2021, and were each given three minutes to speak to introduce themselves. It was noted that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council is eligible to have 13 (thirteen) Commissioners to GC44. One position is held for the youth pilgrim, eight (8) commissioners were elected in October, 2020, leaving four (4) commissioners to be elected today.

MOTION: (Gneid Lackey/Grant Stuckless)

That Hannah Sheppard (Young Adult), Miriam Bowlby, Simbarashe Mazhara, and Bruce Rideout be acclaimed as the 2021 elected Commissioners to the 44th General Council.

CARRIED

FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS

Laura Hunter presented information about *Faithful Footprints*, and asked congregations to embrace the work to address climate change and help reduce the carbon footprint in our buildings. Resources and tools are available to help.

WORSHIP

Worship was offered by Youth Forum participants gathered at regional council. The youth led the regional council in prayer, scripture readings, and a video presentation as illustration of the effects of climate change in the context of the theme *Presence and Hope*.

BREAK

GATHERING

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY

Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, hosted the Milestones in Ministry event, celebrating significant milestones in the lives of some of our ministry personnel. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events.

Retirements

Mr. William Matchem and the Rev. Rachel Robinson.

Elections -
Part II

General
Council
Commissioners

Faithful
Footprints

Worship

Break

Gathering

Milestones in
Ministry

Retirements

Anniversaries**Anniversaries**

The Rev. Hubert A. Mercer	65 Years	The Rev. Joseph G. Burton	62 Years
The Rev. Boyd L. Hiscock	61 Years	The Rev. Theodore C. (Clem) Rodgers	61 Years
The Rev. C. Jack Mercer	55 Years	The Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Sellars	50 Years
The Rev. Karen E. Bursley	40 Years	The Rev. David Guzzwell	40 Years
The Rev. Eric G. Hillier	40 Years	The Rev. Ernest H. Feltham	35 Years
The Rev. Lee E. Michelin	30 Years	The Rev. Nancy L. Warder	30 Years
The Rev. William N. Williams	30 Years	Mr. Raymond L. Clouter	25 Years
The Rev. Joan Y. Conrad	25 Years	The Rev. Wendy N. Cronhelm	25 Years
Ms. Lorraine Jarvis	25 Years	Mr. Thomas Russell Lodge	25 Years
The Rev. Lisa Potter	25 Years		

Leaving**Leaving the Region**

Goodbye to those who have left the region, with thanks for your ministry among us; Rev. Sharon Earle-Marshall, Rev. Gordon Flint, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint, and Rev. Myles Vardy.

Acknowledgement and Farewell**Acknowledgement and Farewell**

Rev. Dr. John Young was acknowledged for his retirement from his ministry with The United Church of Canada. Farewell and thanks were offered to Laura Hunter, Justice Mission and Outreach Minister for the eastern regions, as she follows a call to her new ministry as Executive Director with Open Sky.

Courtesies**COURTESIES**

Stephanie McClellan offered thanks and acknowledgements to all who participated in the regional council meetings. She presented a “punny” thank you to those who attended, presented, planned, and inspired. Gratitude was also expressed to the theme speaker, the youth forum participants, general council commissioners, president-elect, division chairs, program team, and all the members who attended. The President then thanked Stephanie McClellan for her leadership on the Program Team.

Closing Motion**CLOSING MOTION**

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Stephanie McClellan)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2021; and

That the third annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 16, 2021; and

That the fourth annual meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council will be held in the spring of 2022, at a date and place to be determined.

CARRIED

Closing Prayer**CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer was offered by Gneid Lackey of the Liturgy Team.

Kitchen Party**KITCHEN PARTY**

President-Elect, Grant Stuckless hosted a relaxing and entertaining “kitchen party”. Members signed up to participate and offered to share their songs, stories, poems and laughter to conclude the day of meetings.



Sunday, May 16, 2021

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE

Celebration of
Ministries
Service

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Wesley United Church, St. John's, on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 2:00pm. There were a limited number in attendance (in person) at the service, but the service was live streamed so that all members were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Rev. Peggy Johnson, was the preacher. Rev. Limon Daka was admitted to The United Church of Canada, and Ms. Rebecca Pike was commissioned as a Diaconal Minister. Rev. Grant Stuckless was installed as the new President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

Rev. Peggy Johnson
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister